

Sharon Solwitz

GENERAL INFORMATION

A. EDUCATION

Ph.D. English, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1991.
M.A. Creative Writing, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1981.
M.F.A. Printmaking, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1980.
B.A. English, *cum laude*, Cornell University, 1968.

B. ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Professor of English, Purdue University, 2017-present. Associate Professor of English, 1999-2017; tenured 2003. Visiting Assistant Professor, 1998.
Adjunct Professor of English, Loyola University, Chicago IL, 1993-1998. Lecturer, 1991-3.
Lecturer, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 1984-1991.
Lecturer, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1981-4.

C. AWARDS AND HONORS

Honorable Mention, *Craft Magazine*, for novel excerpt from *Book of Harrison*, 2022.
First prize for a short story, William Faulkner Literary Competition, 8/24/2021, "Sex and History," \$600.
Special Mention Best American Short stories, 2021???
Shortlist, *Disquiet* Literary contest, "Scan," summer, 2020: *Our readers were incredibly moved by your nuanced, insightful portrait of parents struggling through the pain, guilt and helplessness of caring for a severely sick child. We look forward to seeing much more of your work in the future.*
Special Mention, Pushcart Prize Anthology, 2020, "Six Lectures in Normal," published in *The England Review*.
Notable, *Disquiet* Literary Contest, 3/15/2021, "We Enter History": *Our readers thought your entry was an outstanding account on the longing to belong in a time of political tipping point. Kay's birth into activism was brilliantly and palpably captured.*
Second place winner, Rick Demarinis fiction contest, "A Small Bright Room," *Cutthroat Magazine*, \$250, Dec. 2018.
First place winner, Katherine Anne Porter Prize for Fiction, *Nimrod*, \$2000 plus publication, June 2018.
Winner, Christopher Doheny Prize from the Center for Fiction. \$10,000 plus audio publication of *Abra Cadabra*, 4/20/18.
Shortlist, Balcones Fiction Prize, 4/14/18, *Once, in Lourdes*.
Shortlist, *Fiction Collective Two* innovative fiction prize, *Altered Eagle and Other Stories*, 4/14/18.
Third Place in *Glimmer Train's* Fiction Open, "We Enter History," \$600, summer 2017.
Fellowship, Artistic Endeavor Center, CLA, Purdue University, spring 2017.
First place, for adult fiction, Society of Midland Authors, *Once, in Lourdes*, \$500, 4/5/2018.
Finalist, Sherwood Anderson Fiction Contest, *Mid-American Review*, "Vibrato," March 2017.
Finalist, *Mississippi Review* contest, "Vibrato." Feb 2017.

Selected for inclusion in *Best American Short Stories 2016*, "Gifted."
 Selected for inclusion in *Best of Cutthroat*: "Sex and Death Fight it Out," 2016.
 Named "Distinguished" in *Best American Short Stories 2015*, "Imposter."
 Finalist, AWP Novel contest, judge Paul Harding, *Once, in Lourdes*, 2015.
 Honorable Mention, *New Millenium Writings*, "Gifted," 2015.
 Finalist, Family Matters, *Glimmer Train*, "Korach," 2015.
 Honorable Mention, *Nimrod Magazine's* Katherine Anne Porter short story contest, "Vibrato," 2015.
 Winner, *American Literary Fiction* contest, \$1000 and publication, "Magnify, Sanctify," Spring 2015.
 Finalist, *American Short Fiction* contest, "Magnify, Sanctify," 2014.
 2nd place, *Florida Review* Jeanne M. Leiby chapbook contest, "Magnify, Sanctify," 2013.
 Finalist, McGlinn Fiction Contest, "Kaddish," 2012.
 Selected for inclusion in *Best American Short Stories 2012*, "Alive."
 Named "Notable" in *Best Non-Required Reading 2012*, "Alive."
 Finalist, Flannery O'Connor Short Fiction Contest, *Blood on the Door*, 2009.
 Finalist, *American Fiction* "The Snow, the Girl," 2009.
 Finalist, Dana Award for novel *4EVER* (revised as *Once, in Lourdes*), 2005.
 Winner of Karma/*Moment Magazine* short fiction contest, judge Dara Horn—travel, publication, \$1000—for "After Talking, What?" December, 2004.
 Special Mentions in *Pushcart Prize Anthology*, "6 Lectures in Normal," 2020; "Persistence of Memory" 2001, "Fossilized," 1995; "Or Live So Long," 1993; "Small Talk," 1992; "Her Perfect Life," 1991.
 Finalist, Drue Heinz Literature Prize for story collection *The Universal Daughter*, 2000, judge: Tony Ardizzone.
 Winner of Midland Author's Award, best adult fiction, for story collection *Blood and Milk*, 1998.
 Winner of Carl Sandburg Prize, best book of fiction, for *Blood and Milk*, Chicago, 1997.
 Finalist, National Jewish Book Award, for *Blood and Milk*, 1997.
 Winner of Pushcart Prize for story "Mercy," 1997.
 Illinois Arts Council literary awards, \$1000: "Mercy," 1996; "Editing," 1987; \$500 "High Horse," 1984.
 Winner of the Daniel Curley Award, for "Mercy," story highest ranked among the Illinois Arts Council award winners, \$1000, 1996.
 Nelson Algren Short Story Award (runner up) from the *Chicago Tribune*: \$1000: "Polio," 1995; "The Country of Herself," 1992; "Castling, 1990.
 Winner of Hemingway Days Festival, \$1000, the story "Mercy," July, 1993; Honorable Mention, 1992.
 3rd prize, *Stand Magazine* Fifth International Fiction Contest, judges Iain Crichton-Smith and Emma Tennant, 150L and publication, for "Small Talk," 1991.
 2nd place, Katherine Anne Porter Fiction Prize from *Nimrod Magazine*, for "Altered Eagle," \$500 and publication, 1986.
 Winner of *Kansas Quarterly*/Kansas Arts Commission First Fiction Award, \$250, 1986.
 University of Illinois at Chicago University Fellowship, \$6000, 1985-6.
 Cited in *Who's Who Among Students at American Universities*, 1986.
 University of Illinois at Chicago University Fellowship \$2000, 1980-1.

D. MEMBERSHIPS

AAUP

PEN American Center

Associated Writing Programs

National Writers Union

Society of Midland Authors

SECTION A: DISCOVERY/CREATIVE ENDEAVOR

Professor Solwitz has published close to seventy stories and essays in nationally recognized literary magazines. Her novel *Once, in Lourdes*, the only finalist in the AWP novel contest, was published by Random House (Spiegel and Grau) in 2017, a New York publisher ranked among the top five in literary fiction. A second completed book, *Abracadabra*, a novel in stories, is comprised of thirteen short stories, of which twelve been published. That book was selected for a national award and is scheduled for audio publication.

Many of her stories and essays have received additional honor in the form of prizes, literary awards and republication. Two were selected by world-renowned writers for inclusion in the prestigious *Best American Short Stories*, an anthology of stories that arguably represents the best magazine work in the calendar year. Three others have been reprinted in creative writing textbooks, in current use in creative writing classrooms. Two won first prize in national competitions.

Professor Solwitz's fiction renders the lives of women and men as they encounter good and bad fortune, love, illness, and death. Her primary characters want and love and fear to excess, inclining them to break from their socialized roles. Her books have been reviewed enthusiastically in such magazines as the *New York Times*, the *Nation*, and the *Chicago Tribune*. [See below for excerpts from reviews.]

1. Published Work

a. Novels

Once, in Lourdes, New York NY: Random House (Spiegel and Grau), May 30, 2017, 302pp. ISBN 9780812989236.

Bloody Mary, Louisville KY: Sarabande Books, August 2003. 290 pp. ISBN 1-889330-93-0.

b. Story collection

Blood and Milk, Louisville KY: Sarabande Books, May 1997. 236 pp. ISBN 1-889330-02.

c. Short stories

"Six Lectures in Normal," *New England Review*, vol. 40, no. 4, 2019: 132-145.

"A Small Bright Room," *Cutthroat*, issue 4, vol. 1, 2019: 116-128.

"Violation," *Greensboro Review*, No. 105, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, spring, 2019: 24-39.

"Tremblement," *Nimrod*, #40, vol. 62, no. 1, University of Tulsa, Tulsa OK, Oct. 2018: 8-22.

"Camp Happiness," *Tikkun* online

<https://www.tikkun.org/nextgen/camp-happiness>. Sept. 7, 2018.

"Vibrato," *Mississippi Review*, 46, #1 & 2, University of Southern Mississippi,

- Hattiesburg, MS, summer 2018: 148-158.
- "Gifted." *New England Review*, ed. Carolyn Kuebler. Vol. 36, no. 2, 2015: 145-56.
- "Magnify, Sanctify." *American Literary Review*, ed. Bonnie Friedman, spring 2015: www.americanliteraryreview.com. Republished online by *Great Jones Street* <https://goo.gl/NmBmnK>, fall 2016.
- "Imposter." *Alaska Quarterly Review*. ed. Ronald Spatz. Vol. 31, nos. 3 & 4, fall-winter 2014: 55-70.
- "Korach." *Jewishfiction.net*, ed. Nora Gold, April 2014.
<http://www.jewishfiction.net/index.php/publisher/articleview/frmArticleID/346>
- "The Place of No Pain." *Chicago Quarterly Review*, ed. John Blades, winter, 2014: 159-168.
- "The 12th Tablet." *Chicago Tribune, Printers Row, the Journal*, ed. Elizabeth Taylor, June 30, 2013: literary supplement as chapbook, 18pp.
- "La Petite Mort." *Cimarron Review*, ed. Toni Graham, issue 183, spring, 2013: 65-78.
- "Sex and Death Duke it Out." *Cutthroat*, ed. Pamela Uschuk, vol. 14, issue 1, winter, 2013: 127-41.
- "Castling." *Chicago Tribune, Printers Row: the Journal*, ed. Elizabeth Taylor, reprint, Oct. 13, 2012: literary supplement, as chapbook, 22 pp.
- "Alive." *Fifth Wednesday*, guest ed. Carolyn Alessio, issue 8, spring 2011: 178-188. Republished online by *Great Jones Street*, <https://goo.gl/Ji6WnS>, fall 2016.
- "What Doesn't Kill Me." *Superstition Review*, issue 6, fall 2010.
<https://superstitionreview.asu.edu/>.
- "The Snow, the Girl." *American Fiction*, guest ed. Clint McCown, vol. 11, 2010: 275-288.
- "After Talking, What?" *Moment*, ed. Harvey Grossinger, Dec. 2004: 64-8; 92-3.
- "The Pure Moment." *Rattapallax* 8, ed. Alan Cheuse, 2002: 86-111.
- "The Universal Daughter." *TriQuarterly*, September, 2001: archived,
<http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-80176021.html>.
- "7 Lectures." *The Crescent Review*, ed. J. Timothy Holland, vol. 16, no. 2, 2001: 156-65.
- "Bloody Mary." *Crazyhorse*, no. 59, ed. Ralph Burns, winter, 2000: 79-98.
- "The Persistence of Memory." *Crazyhorse*, ed. Ralph Burns, no. 57, vol. XXV, 1999: 144-160.
- "The Weight of Love." *Crazyhorse*, ed. Ralph Burns, no. 57, 1999: 126-143.
- "The Fairy's Gift." *Boulevard*, ed. Richard Burgin, vol. 14, nos. 1&2, fall 1998: 151-166.
- "Girls with Red Hair." *Fiction*, ed. Mark Mirsky, vol. 15, no. 1, 1998: 69-82.
- "The Color of the Sky Just before Sunset." *Bellingham Review*, ed. Robin Hemley, vol. XX, no. 1, spring 1997: 111-120.
- "My Sister Is Not as Pretty as I Am." *Georgetown Review*, ed. Victoria Lancelotta, vol. 4, no. 2, fall, 1996: 62-77.
- "Space Options." *Midwesterner Magazine*, ed. David Schabes, Nov-Dec., 1996: 56-60.
- "Polio." *Chicago Tribune*, Oct. 1, 1995. Literary supplement: 9, 18, 19.
- "Voodoo Sonata," *The Chicago Review*, ed. David Nicholls, vol. 41, nos. 2&3, 1995: 120-128.
- "After Image," *Sequoia*, vol. 36, ed. Mark Clevenger, 1994/1995: 27-39.
- "Mercy." *TriQuarterly* 92, ed. Susan Hahn, winter 1995: 181-88.
- "Cuddling the Harlot." *Fiction*, vol. 12, no. 1, ed. Mark Mirsky, spring, 1994: 155-168.
- "Fossilized." *Manoa*, vol. 6, no. 1, ed. Ian MacMillan, spring, 1994: 1-13.
- "Blood on the Door," *The Chicago Tribune Magazine*, March 6, 1994: 20-1, 24-5.
- "Grace, in Fact," *Illinois Review*, vol.1, no. 2, spring 1994: 35-41

- "Dinner," selected for Pen Syndicated Fiction Project, 1993-6, for publication in periodicals and broadcast on The Sound of Writing, National Public Radio; published in *Witness*, vol. 7, no. 1, 1993: 88-97.
- "If You Step on a Crack." *Tikkun*, ed. Melvin Jules Bukiet, March-April, 1993: 25-7; 69-71.
- "Blood." *Chicago Tribune Magazine*, November 29, 1992: 19, 20, 22.
- "Obst Vw." *Ploughshares*, ed. Tobias Wolff, vol.18 nos. 2&3. Sept. 1992: 151-162.
- Shorter version rpt. in *Sassy*, ed. Christina Kelly, as "Daddy, Can't You Hear Me?" April, 1993: 70, 72, 77.
- "The Country of Herself." *The Chicago Tribune*, Sept. 27, 1992. Literary supplement: 10, 11, 17.
- "Or Live So Long." *Boulevard*, ed. Richard Burgin, vol. 7, nos. 2-3. Sept., 1992: 252-265.
- "Private Lives," *The Indiana Review*, ed. Allison Joseph, vol. 15, no. 1. 1992: 97-104.
- "The Hand Is Not Ironical." *American Short Fiction*, no. 5, ed. Laura Furman, spring 1992: 91-107.
- "Small Talk." *Stand*, vol. 32, no. 3, 1991: 29-38.
- "The Real World." *Sassy*, ed. Jane Pratt, May, 1991: 72-3.
- "Castling." *The Chicago Tribune*, Sept. 16, 1990. Literary supplement: 12, 13, 21.
- "Her Perfect Life." *Other Voices* 12, ed. Lois Hauselman vol. 4, no. 12. 1990: 88-98.
- "Milk." *Playgirl*, ed. Mary Ellen Strote, vol. XVII, no. 4. Sept., 1989: 74-5, 90-5.
- "You Ask Me to Plow the Ground." *Carolina Quarterly*, ed. Paul Lyons, vol. 40, no.2. 1988: 71-90.
- "All The Men She Loved and Lost." *Mademoiselle*, ed. Amy Levin Cooper, Nov., 1987: 162, 164, 170, 292.
- "On Time." *New American Writing* 2, ed. Maxine Chernoff, 1987: 125-34.
- "Altered Eagle." *Nimrod*, ed. Francine Gold, vol. 30, no. 1, 1986: 25-38.
- "Editing." *Other Voices*, ed. Dolores Weinberg, vol. 1, no. 4, 1986: 55-66.
- "On the Second Sting," *Northern Lit Quarterly*, vol. 87, no. 10, 1986: 3-4.
- "Joshua Alexander." *Telescope*, ed. Julia Wendell, vol. 4, no. 3. 1985-6: 59-65.
- "Cold Fries." *Kansas Quarterly*, ed. Harold Schneider, vol. 17, no. 4. 1985: 25-47.
- "High Horse." *Another Chicago Magazine*, no. 9, ed. Barry Silesky, 1983: 82-97.
- "Amazing Grace." *Playgirl*, ed. Mary Ellen Strote, July, 1983: 85-8.
- "Eggshells." *Playgirl*, ed. Mary Ellen Strote, June, 1982: 83-6.

d. Novel Excerpts

- "The Prince of Wales" from *Boy, in Exile*. In *Story Quarterly*, ed. M.M.M. Hayes, 2007. Online; archive available.
- "Angst," from *Karen and Me*. In *Attencion*, San Miguel de Allende, Gto., Mexico, July 2005: 35.
- "Kalifornia," from *4EVER*, retitled *Once, in Lourdes*. In *Crazyhorse*, no. 59, ed. Ralph Burns, winter, 2000: 99-113.
- "High and Low," from *4EVER* retitled *Once, in Lourdes*. In *Crazyhorse*, no. 59, ed. Ralph Burns, winter, 2000: pp. 114-129.
- "Kay," from *Allegiance*, retitled *Once, in Lourdes*. In *Crab Orchard Review*, ed. Carolyn Alessio, vol. 2, no. 1, 1996: 130-139.
- "Miriam, 1946," from *Castling*. In *Other Voices*, ed. Lois Hauselman, vol. 7, no. 20, spring, 1994: pp. 46-51.

e. Essays

lithub.com/why-write-a-novel-about-teenage-suicide/LitHub, online, July 21, 2017.

www.signature-reads.com/author/ssolwitz/Latest article by Sharon Solwitz: "The Appeal of the Teenage Experience in Writing, Explained." *Signature*, online, spring, 2017.

"Alice Munro, Secrets and Lies," *Writer's Chronicle*, ed. Supriya Bhatnagar, May, 2015: 82-90.

"Jennifer Egan's *Visit from the Goon Squad*, Literary Hijinks with the Notion of Time," *World Literature Forum*, ed. Zhuo Wang vol. 6, no. 4, Dec. 2014: 599-607.

"Days and Nights with MS: the Witness Complains." *The Missouri Review*, ed. Speers Morgan, vol. 33, no. 2, summer, 2010: 76-95.

"The Gospel According to Gordon Lish." *Chicago Reader*, June 10, 1988: 8, 9, 16, 18; Rpt. *City Paper*, Washington D.C., Aug. 5-11, 1988.

f. Stories in Anthologies

"Gifted," *Best American Short Stories 2016*, ed. Junot Diaz. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: Oct. 2016: 241-255. ISBN 978-0-544-58275-0.

"Sex and Death Duke It Out," *The Best of Cutthroat*, ed. Pamela Uschuk. *Cutthroat* vol. 20, Issue 1, Spring 2016: 180-192. ISBN 978-0-9795634-9-2.

"Alive," *New Stories from the Midwest*, eds. Jason Brown and Rosellen Brown. New American Press, 2013: 215-230. ISBN 978-0-9849439-7-5.

"Castling," *Short Stories from Printer's Row*, vol. 1 (Agate), Aug. 22, 2013. Ebook: ISBN-10 1-57284-462-0.

"Alive," *Best American Short Stories 2012*, eds. Heidi Pitlor and Tom Perrotta. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Oct. 2012: 268-280. ISBN 978-0-547-24210-1.

"Abracadabra," *In the Middle of the Middle West*, ed. Becky Bradway. Indiana University Press, 2003: 101-116. ISBN 0-253-21657-5.

"Ballerina," *What Are You Looking at? The First Fat Fiction and Poetry Anthology*, eds. Jarrell and Sukrungruang. Harcourt-Brace, 2003: 213-221. ISBN 0-15-602907-3.

"Mercy," *Pushcart xxi*, ed. Bill Henderson. Pushcart Press, 1997: 430-437. ISBN 1-8888889-00-4.

"The Country of Herself," *The Country of Herself*, ed. Karen Osborne. Third Side Press, 1993: 199-231. ISBN 1-879427-14-1.

g. Stories/Essays in Textbooks

"Abracadabra," *Creating Nonfiction*, Becky Bradway. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2009: 671-685. ISBN 13: 9780312447069.

"Obst Vw," *Three Genres*, Stephen Minot and Diane Thiel 9th ed, Longman, 2012: 224-232. ISBN-13: 978-0-13-403800-1; Pearson, 2012. ISBN-10: 0205012752; ISBN-13: 978-0205012756.

"If You Step on a Crack," *Turning Life into Fiction*, Robin Hemley. Story Press, 2006: 245-258. ISBN-13: 978-1555974442.

h. Book Reviews

Dream House by Barbara Bean (Center for Literary Publishing). *ACM*, spring, 2003.

Days of Awe by Achy Obejas (Random House). *Shofar*, fall, 2002.

The Last Studebaker by Robin Hemley (Graywolf). *Chicago Tribune*, Jan. 4 1993.

Where Is Here? by Joyce Carol Oates (Ecco Press). *Chicago Tribune*, Nov. 1, 1992.

i. Quality of Venues

Tri-Quarterly, *Ploughshares*, the *New England Review* and *American Short Fiction* are top tier literary magazines, paying good rates and widely read in the writing/ reading community. *Mademoiselle*, *Playgirl* and *Sassy* no longer publish fiction, and the latter two no longer publish at all, but they are known for having published good literary fiction. *Moment* and *Tikkun* are national magazines with a Jewish cultural and political orientation.

Regarding work published in anthologies, *Best American Short Stories* and The Pushcart Press are two of the top three. The textbooks *Creating Nonfiction* and *Three Genres* have been for many years and continue to be in wide use in creative writing classes.

2. Work in Press

Novel *Abra Cadabra*, as audiobook, Center for Fiction.

3. Work Submitted

a. Books

Alive (novel in stories that, formerly entitled *Abra Cadabra*, won the Christopher Doheny Prize 2018) 270pp. After revision, I will be sending to agents.

b. Stories

“We Enter History,” culled from *Once, in Lourdes* and reimagined.

4. Work in Progress

Novel, *Boy, in Exile*. A mother seeks her lost son in Eretz Yisrael while his brother gets in trouble in Chicago. A 500-page draft has been completed.

Novel, *Book of Harrison*. New since the epidemic. Ruth Zelman’s best friend from childhood is found dead at the foot of her condo. This is a tribute to a dear friend of mine who died and also a murder mystery. 75K words and growing.

5. Presentations

a. Invited Readings

St. Croix Library, St Croix Falls, WI, June 16, 2022.

Medical Humanities Festival, “Mental Health and Creative Writing,” Purdue University, Fowler Hall, Feb 12, 2019.

Literary Sala, San Miguel de Allende, GTO, Mexico, July 12, 2018.

Loyola University, Chicago IL, April 19, 2018.

Sunday Salon, January 28, 2018.

Yale-NUS University, Singapore, November 8, 2017.

Columbia College, October 10, 2017.

Purdue University, September 14, 2017.

BookWoman, Austin TX, August 12, 2017.

The Book Stall, Glencoe IL, with Baird Harper, August 10, 2017.

Women and Children First Bookstore, Chicago IL, June 16, 2017.

Literary Sala, San Miguel de Allende, June 8, 2017.

Valparaiso University, “Welcome Project,” Sept. 7 2016.

Chicago Quarterly Review, Celtic Knot, Evanston IL, May 17, 2015.
American Literary Review, for prize winners, O'Donovan's Irish Pub, Minneapolis MN, April 9, 2015.
 Sunday Salon, a Chicago IL series run by Christine Sneed, Riverview Tavern, Nov. 23, 2014.
Chicago Quarterly Review, Chicago issue reading, Chicago IL, May 7, 2014.
 Northwestern University Master's Program, Chicago IL, March 19, 2010.
 University of New Orleans, San Miguel de Allende, Gto. Mexico, July 2008.
 Women and Children First Bookstore, Tribute to Grace Paley, Chicago IL, Feb. 21, 2008.
 Illinois Book Fair, reading and signing, Springfield IL, Nov. 18, 2006.
 IUPUI, Indianapolis IN, reading and workshop Oct. 12, 13, 2006.
 Oakton Community College, March, 2006.
 San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, "Writer's Sala," July 15, 2005.
 Printer's Row Book Fair, Chicago IL, June 5, 2004.
 AWP conference, reading and signing, March 2004.
 Borders, Norris Books, reading and signing, Northwestern University, 2003.
 Books-on-Vernon, reading and signing, 2003.
 River Oak Arts, reading and signing, Oak Park Library, 2003.
 Barbara's Books, reading and signing, Oak Park, IL, 2003.
 Woman and Children First, Chicago, IL, reading and signing, 2003.
 Artstour, selected for talks and readings; director, Charles Harris, Illinois Arts Council, 2001-2004.
 Loyola University, Chicago IL, April 3, 2003.
 Illinois State University, Bloomington IL, March 28, 2003.
 Milliken University, Decatur IL, March 4, 2002.
 Women and Children First Bookstore, Chicago IL, "Dangerous Passages," with S.L. Wisenberg and Rosellen Brown, March, 2000.
 National Writers Union Conference, March 19, 1998.
 Oklahoma Fall Arts Institute, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater OK, Oct. 23-6, 1997.
 Reading and workshops.
 University of Nebraska at Lincoln, reading and lecture, Oct. 9, 1997.
 Borders Books, Evanston IL, Sept. 17, 1997.
 Guild Complex, Chicago IL, Sept. 3, 1997.
 Women and Children First Bookstore, Chicago IL, July 9, 1997.
 Good Thunder Reading Series, Mankato State University, Mankato MN, May 18, 1997.
 Unabridged Bookstore, Chicago IL, Nov. 30, 1993.
 Women and Children First Bookstore, Chicago IL, Oct. 26, 1993.
 Bradley University, Peoria IL, Oct. 21-22, 1993. Plus workshop and discussion.
 Writers Harvest, National Reading for the Hungry, Chicago IL, 5, 1993.
 University of Wisconsin at Green Bay, reading and panel, Apr. 28, 1992.
 Guild Complex NEA Poetry/Fiction series, Chicago IL, Feb. 19, 1992.
 The Poetry Center, New York City, Nov. 21, 1988.

b. Conference Panels; Lectures; Literary "Conversations"

Conversation with Rosellen Brown, Volumes Books, Evanston IL, Dec. 4, 2018.
 Panel, "How Do I Know When I'm Done?": Strategies for Revision," Conference for Readers and Writers, Tulsa OK, Oct. 20, 2018.

A Conversation with Eric May, Sharon Solwitz, and Michael Zadoorian, Printer's Row Book Fair, The Chicago Tribune, Chicago IL, June 9, 2018.

Panel, publishing, University of Chicago Graham School, Gleacher Center, Chicago IL, July 15, 2017.

Conversation with S.L. Wisenberg, Women and Children First Bookstore; reading. June 16, 2017.

Conversation with Rosellen Brown, with Nickolas Butler, Printers Row Book Fair, Chicago IL, June 11, 2017.

"Alice Munro, Keeper of Secrets," OLLI Lifetime Learning Institute, capstone speaker, Northwestern University, Chicago IL, May 9, 2014.

"The Art of the Short Story," Chicago Book Expo: with Garnett Kilberg-Cohen and Jac Jemc, Chicago IL, Dec. 7, 2014.

"Voice in Fiction." Presenter San Miguel Writers Conference, San Miguel de Allende, Gto. Mexico, Feb. 13, 2013.

"Neither Fish nor Fowl," Printer's Row Book Fair, Chicago IL, June 9, 2012.

25th anniversary of Purdue MFA program, Chicago IL, panel, AWP Conference, Chicago IL, Mar 2, 2012.

"A Conversation with Lincoln Park Authors," DePaul University, Chicago IL, June 8, 2010.

"Fact and History in Fiction," AWP panelist, AWP conference, Denver, CO, April 9, 2010.

"How to Read Literary Fiction," St. Charles Library, St. Charles IL, March 15, 2006.

Illinois Book Fair, Springfield IL, includes signing. Nov. 17-18, 2006.

"How an Editor Reads a Submitted Fiction MS," Northwestern University M.A. Program in Creative Writing, May 2005.

"Family Life," Printers Row Book Fair, Chicago IL, June 5, 2004.

"Voice in Fiction," Indiana University Writers' Conference, Bloomington IN, June 21-6, 1998.

"Imagination Intersection: Women Writing Self, Spirit, Community," Guild Complex third annual Women Writers Conference: Oct.17-19, 1997.

"Help Your Creativity Blossom," principal speaker, National League of American PEN Women, Evanston IL, Oct. 23, 1993.

6. Involvement in Graduate Program

a. Chair: M.F.A. Committees

2022-3 Suraj Alva, novel, *Nothing More Human*
Shannon Campbell, stories, *The Color of a Haunting*, June 12, 2023.

2021 Audrey Hollis, novel, *A Beautiful Place to Live*
Carly Rae Zent, novel, *Devoted*

2020 Andrew Nellis, novel, *Linger*
Kristyn Childres, novel, *Digitally Intimate*

2019 Aaron Dell, stories, *Vicious Children and Other Stories*
Kelsey Lefever, novel, *The Tenth Daughter*

2017 Gabriela Garcia, novel in stories, *Of Women and Salt*

2016 Samantha Atkins, stories, *How Savagely They Loved*
Robert Powers, stories *The Light Seller*

2015 Munib Khan, stories, *Defenders of Patrimony*.

2014 Bethany Leach, novel, *Savage Girlhood*.

- 2013 Terrance Manning, stories, *Dynamo Sideways*.
 2012 Natalie Van Hoose, short stories *How to Tie a Blood Knot*.
 2011 Geordie Flantz, novel *Monster Heart*.
 Kelsey Sandy, novel *The Looking-Glass House*.
 2010 Tony Cook, *The Espada*.
 2009 Michael X Wang, stories, *Further News of Defeat*.
 Daniel Tyx, novel, *The Sir*.
 2008 Jessica Mehr, novel, *What You Can Live With*
 Benjamin Kolp, stories, *Partial Map of the Known Universe*
 2007 James Tadd Adcox, novel, *The Caprichos*.
 Theresa Martin, novel, *Skin Deep*.
 2005 Cassander Smith, novel *Fruit of the Magnolia*.
 2004 Lisa Summers, stories *World's Fair*.
 Jeff Bealls, stories *The Prayer Chain*.
 2003 Nicholas Reading, stories *The Oddity of Human Failure*.
 Aaron Morales, linked stories *Drowning Tucson*.
 2002 Barbara Lawhorn-Haroun, stories *Dark Eels and Water Songs*.
 Joseph Barbato, novel *Brother Lamb, Brother Lion*.
 Ricky Davis [did not complete].
 2001 Rebecca Rauve, stories *You Turn It Off like That*.
 Lily Fisher, stories *The Teays River*.
 2000 Alicia Bennett, stories *Marked Women*.
 1999 [as visitor] Wungi Lau, novel, *Untitled*
 Gretchen Gize, stories *Three Names*

b. Co-chair or Member: M.F.A. Committees

- 2022-3 Blake Chernin, stories, "Light from a Strange and Unverifiable Source"
 2021 Amina Khan, stories, *Difference, a Midnight*
 Paul Riker, novel,
 2018, Diana Clarke, *Thin Girls*
 2018, Summer, Laura Lee, stories, *History of Scars*.
 2017 Jeffrey Amos, novel, *We Sing the Children Out*
 2016 Hannah Rahimi, stories, *The Animals Inside Us*
 2015 Wendy Wallace, stories, *Believe Me When I Tell You* (co-chair).
 Jacob Zucker, novel, *House in Winter*.
 2014 Natalie Lund, novel *All in Spin*.
 Katie McClendon, stories *Where the Birds Rise Higher* (co-chair).
 2013 Kelsey Ronin, connected stories *Chevy in the Hole*.
 Michael Campbell, novel *Inheritance*.
 Tiffany Chiang, novel *Beyond the Imperial Walls* (co-chair).
 2012 Shavonne Clarke, novel *The Marrow*.
 2011 Kristin Griffin, novel *The Left-Over Room*.
 2009 Katie Connor, stories *The Boundaries of Water*.
 Christopher Arnold, novel *Shadow Life*.
 2008 Tamara Minks, stories *Hardscape*.
 2005 Rita Rud, stories *Love Me Do*.

- Patrick Kelly, novel *Toroweap*.
 Kevin Vandevoorde, stories *Standing Count*.
 2004 David McClure, stories *After Pleasure*.
 Lindy Patterson, novel *The Time of their Migration*.
 2003 William Meinert, *Swinging Low: Eleven Stories of Sin and Redemption*.
 Jacob Knabb, novel *Beacon*.
 Chielozone Eze, novel *Near to the Gate of Heaven*.
 2002 Trystan Lindquist, novel *Northern Famine*.
 2001 Scott Campbell, novel *As When a Prowling Wolf*.
 2000 Steve Edwards, stories *Cicadas Rising*.
 Launa Hall, novel *Sisters in Arms*.

7. Grants Related to Research

Fellowships, Center for the Creative Arts, Purdue University: 2017, 2012, 2006.
 Finalist, Illinois Arts Council fellowship, "The Universal Daughter," \$700, 2000.
 Illinois Arts Council fiction fellowships: \$5000 "Fossilized," 1996, 1991; \$2000 "Altered Eagle," 1987.
 Tara Fellowship in short fiction from The Redman Foundation, "7 Lectures," \$1500, 1996.

8. Evidence of National Recognition and Creative Excellence

a. Selected Reviews:

STARRED REVIEWS: *Once, in Lourdes*

Booklist

Shelf Awareness

Library Journal

Nationalbookaward.com

PREPUBLICATION BLURBS

What makes *Once, in Lourdes* such a moving read is how deeply and finely [The Author] has observed and portrayed her characters. They are recognizable teenagers with recognizable desires and miseries and hardships, but they are so well rendered in their particulars that we follow them less and less as familiar types and more and more as the actual friends with whom we attempt to struggle through this part of life, making promises and pacts, breaking and keeping them, living and dying by them.

—Paul Harding, National Book Award winner

This astonishing novel dives deep into the minds and bodies of four teenagers at the height of the sixties. Self-loathing Kay, ethereal but deformed Vera, precariously balanced CJ and stoic Saint are self-declared outcasts from what passes for normal in their school and families. Bonding through sexual awakening and confusion, love of each other and dismissal of the world's intrusion on their freedom, the 4Ever friends decide on a suicide pact – and the reader is hooked into their intensity, on tentacles to find out who, how, and whether they will carry out their pledge. This is a story that reads achingly true to young angst, then, now and always. It's an achievement of remarkable empathy – and gorgeous prose.

—Janet Burroway, author of *Writing Fiction*

REVIEWS, *Bloody Mary*

After her debut with the widely praised stories in *Blood and Milk*, Sharon Solwitz offers up her first, darkly radiant, full-length novel. *Bloody Mary*, which takes its title from the childhood game, tells the story of socially adept, 12-year-old Hadley and her protective mother. They live a privileged life in the Chicago neighborhood of Lakeview, but soon find themselves in a state of chaos and flux.

—Starred review in *Booklist*

[Bloody Mary] is a book with a very big heartbeat. Either you'll want not to put it down or you'll want to savor it slowly, sentence by sentence.

—Marilyn Krysl, *Prairie Schooner*

REVIEWS, *Blood and Milk*

Solwitz's debut collection is trenchant and unnerving. She specializes in dislocation, dysfunction, and distress as she writes about the imperfect emotional fit between men and women, cultural displacement, and madness both personal and societal. . . . Indeed, as Solwitz traces the jagged edges of our collective soul, she reminds us that even home can become a foreign country.

—Starred Review in *Booklist*

A flair for dark comedy and the ability to turn on a dime are prized qualities for these unpredictable characters; time and again, their intrepid investigations lead them into uncharted territory where bizarre dramatic action seems to be the only possible move. Solwitz's fine-toothed examinations of complex emotional states are dead on.

—*The New York Times Book Review*

[In] *Blood and Milk*, Sharon Solwitz's extraordinary first collection of short stories... her characters are brave, vulnerable, funny and totally recognizable. Reading the intimate details of their struggles—against breast cancer, parental violence, loneliness, adultery—is like snooping in the diaries of soldiers.

—*The Nation*

Sharon Solwitz's stunning first collection of short stories, "Blood and Milk," has a three-dimensional quality. Her characters jump out at you, from a story in the funny, horny voice of a woman who works in a blood bank, to the final scene in "Milk," in which a strip tease dancer, still nursing her twin sons, gets revenge on a leering spectator.

—*Chicago Tribune*

b. Selected articles about Sharon Solwitz

THIMK Magazine, Purdue University, 2019

BLOOM-SITE.COM. Interview, 6.7.18.

"Literary Sala Presents Work in Progress," *Atencion*, San Miguel de Allende, Gto., Mexico, Carole Schor, June 2, 2017.

"Postgrad: up next," *The Writer*, Hillary Casavant. Sept. 30, 2014.

<http://www.writermag.com/2014/09/30/postgrad/>

"What Can We Steal from Sharon Solwitz's 'Alive'?" Apr. 13, 2013.

[http://www.greatwriterssteal.com/2013/04/02/what-can-we-steal-from-sharon-solwitzs-](http://www.greatwriterssteal.com/2013/04/02/what-can-we-steal-from-sharon-solwitzs-alive/) alive/

"Local Lit: Sharon Solwitz's Troubling Experiences," *The Chicago Reader*, Cara Jepsen. 1997.

<http://www.chicagoreader.com/chicago/local-lit-sharon-solwitzs-troubling-experiences/Content?oid=893833>

"Character Studiers," Carolyn Alessio, *Chicago Tribune*, June 29, 1997: 3.

“Authors at the Show: Sharon Solwitz Intersperses Writing with Chauffeuring Duties,” Sally Lodge, *Publishers Weekly*, May 31, 1997.

“Unraveling the Short Story,” Rebecca Hyland, *Illinois Quarterly, University of Illinois Alumni Association Magazine*, Jan/Feb 1996: 42-43.

“Algren winners eye family life,” John Blades, *Chicago Tribune*, sec. 5, June 23, 1992: 1-2.

SECTION B: LEARNING/TEACHING

Professor Solwitz teaches courses in story and novel writing, the craft of writing, and the teaching of creative writing. Her classes, both graduate and undergraduate, are rigorous and at the same time friendly, encouraging students to extend their imaginations and the terrain of their investigations beyond habit and even at times beyond what they might have deemed their comfort levels. Reading is a strong component of every course, and stories and novels are analyzed in depth as to how they are constructed and how they achieve their effects. Revision is important as well, in classroom discussion and in private conferences, entailing a close line by line, scene by scene examination of student writing.

Mentoring of individual students plays a large part of Solwitz’s teaching. In addition to weekly conferencing on the book-length manuscripts of her third year MFAs, she has worked with numerous graduate and undergraduate students in independent studies, and with University Scholars—selected freshmen—on year-long writing projects. In 2015-16 she worked with a CLA senior on his Honors Thesis for the entire school year.

An important aspect of her teaching is her belief in the value of a class that combines graduate students with undergraduates. Undergraduates are spurred to heights of achievement and productivity that they might not have dreamed for themselves with only the examples before them of famous writers’ published work. There is something unreal and unreachable to many undergraduates in this work, and even, to an extent, in the encouraging suggestions of the professor, while the work and words of the graduate student—positioned midway between professor and undergraduate—make them not only see their limitations but make them believe they can surpass them, and thus they fly. And the graduate students are spurred to continue to impress them. Her spring ’16 course “The Long Form” included graduates and undergraduates, and she is designing two more hybrid courses, one in Voice/Point of View/Distance and another in translation.

That her teaching is appreciated is evidenced by her course evaluations, scores averaging 4.7. She won undergraduate teaching awards in 2011, 2015, 2017, 2018, and 2019, and an excellence in graduate teaching award in 2010. Her graduate students have shown success in the profession, publishing books, winning awards, and securing academic jobs, while many of her undergraduate students have gone to graduate school. [See #8 for specifics]

1. Courses Taught at Purdue

ENGL 205 Introduction to Creative Writing

ENGL 396 The Craft of Fiction (undergraduate)

ENGL 408 Honors Capstone

ENGL 409 Introduction to Fiction

ENGL 502N Teaching Creative Writing
 ENGL 505F Practicum in Teaching CW
 ENGL 509 Fiction Writing Workshop
 ENGL 596 The Long Form (new course)
 ENGL 596W Novel Writing (new course)
 ENGL 596 Magical Realism (new course)
 ENGL 607 The Craft of Fiction (graduate)
 ENGL 609 Graduate Fiction Workshop

2. Evidence of Teaching Effectiveness—Course Evaluation Ratings

The English Department requires seven items to be included on all course evaluations:

Item 1. Course requirements are clear.

Item 2. My instructor seems well-prepared for class.

Item 3. When I have a question or comment, I know it will be respected.

Item 4. This course effectively challenges me to think.

Item 5. My instructor shows respect for diverse groups of people.

Item 6. Overall, I would rate this course as

Item 7. Overall, I would rate this instructor as

The table that follows reports Professor Solwitz's scores for these seven items from PICES teaching evaluations:

Items	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	responses
Fall 2017 Engl 408	4.8	5.0	4.8	4.8	5.0	4.3	5.0	3/10
Engl 409	4.5	4.5	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4/15
Artistic Endeavor Fellowship Spring 2017								
Fall 2016 Engl 609	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	4/8
Fall 2016 Engl 409	4.4	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.9	4.8	4.6	9/17
Spring 2016 Engl 596	4.8	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.0	6/8
Spring 2016 Engl 409	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.7	4.3	4.3	10/16
Fall 2015 Engl 409	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	7/17
Engl 509	3.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	2/8
Spring 2015 Engl 509	4.8	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.9	4.7	4.8	8/14
Spring 2015 Engl 609	4.8	5.0	4.0	4.8	3.8	4.3	4.8	3/8
Spring 2015	4.1	4.3	4.5	4.0	4.8	4.2	4.3	6/12

Engl 502								
Fall 2014 Engl 408	4.5	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.7	5/9
Fall 2014 Engl 409	4.4	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.9	4.9	9/15
Spring 2014 Engl 409	4.9	5.0	4.7	4.9	5.0	4.7	4.7	5/16
Spring 2014 Engl 409	4.1	3.8	4.9	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.8	9/16
Fall 2013 Engl 408	4.8	4.8	4.7	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.8	4/12
Fall 2013 Engl 609	4.9	4.4	4.9	4.9	4.6	4.8	4.9	7/10
Artistic Endeavor Fellowship Spring 2013								
Fall 2012 ENGL 408	5.0	5.0	4.8	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.8	4/11
Fall 2012 ENGL 409	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.1	12/17
Sabbatical Spring 2012								
Fall 2011 ENGL 409	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.5	4.7	8/17
Fall 2011 ENGL 609	5.0	4.5	4.2	4.8	3.5	4.2	4.5	6/8

3. Contributions to Course and Curriculum Development

Recrafted the Craft of Fiction ENGL 607 combining classical, pop, contemporary, international and multi-ethnic books.

Designed new course, “Magical Realism,” for grads and undergrad, combining reading and writing, to teach fabulism in creative writing, fall 2019.

Designed and team-taught, with Patricia Henley, a course in novel writing.

Designed new course, “The Long Form,” writing novels, novellas and novels-in-story.

4. Independent Studies

Engl 589 Spring 2022, Alayla Baker, *Shadows in the Tide*, novella

Engl 590, spring 2021, Andrew Nellis, Intensive on Fiction Craft.

Engl 590 summer 2020, Lydia Cyrus, Structuring a Novel.

Engl 589 fall 2019, Andrew Wade, Writing Realist Fiction.

Engl 589 summer 2018, Jacob Nolley, “Greener Grass,” series of linked stories.

Engl 590 spring 2016, Samantha Atkins, The Best of the Best—Great Novels.

Engl 589 fall, 2015, Samantha Atkins—Engendering Fiction.

Engl 589 fall, 2011, Danielle Gilbert—Interconnected Stories.

Engl 589 fall, 2010, Christopher Schaffer—Writing Historical Fiction.
 Engl 589 fall, 2009, Samuel Pape Brooks—Seminar of Critical Reading: studies in grammar, diction, syntax and figures of speech.
 Engl 590 summer, 2009, Michael Hoover—Stories: Magical Realism.
 Engl 590 fall, 2008, Alan Mizimakoski—Directed Writing: comedy.
 Engl 589 summer, 2008, Michael Wang—Writing Magic Realism.
 Engl 589 summer, 2008, R.J. Talyor—reading and writing from travel.
 Engl 589 spring, 2008, Daniel Tyx—translation from Spanish.
 Engl 589 spring, 2008, Benjamin Kolp—translation from French.
 2004 Cassander Smith, research on 19th c speech and writing.
 2003 Allegra Mather, Carolina Miller, Landon Vine, Steven Halstead.
 2002 Leanna Blicher, Jenny Hobson, Jenny Schuster.
 2001 Ricky Davis, Joseph Barbato.
 1999-2001 Greg Hurst, Nick Giordano, Brendan Wiley, David McClure, Tammy Minks.

5. Mentoring of Undergraduates

INDEPENDENT STUDIES

Alayla Baker

HORIZONS FACULTY MENTOR APPOINTMENT

Lisette Lendeborg, Fall 2018.

HONORS THESES

Antonia Roach, 2017, *Zeranthemum* (novella): Decisions: Navigating Race and Role Models.

Timothy Bolton, 2016, *Lightning Ridge* (novel).

UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Rebecca Luthy, 2006-7.

Joseph Celizec, 2003-4.

Bethany Robison, 2000-1.

6. Teaching with Purdue Colleagues

Yearly classroom visits to Purdue University Professor Tom Adler's Short Story and Film course (until 2017) to discuss story and film "If You Step on a Crack."

7. Teaching Awards

Nominated for Kofmehl Award for Undergraduate Teaching, Jan. 2018.

Excellence-in Teaching, Undergraduate, 2017-2019; 2015; 2011.

Excellence-in Teaching, Graduate, 2010.

Excellence-in-Teaching, Graduate, Honorable Mention, 2002.

8. Other Evidence of Effectiveness with Students

Many of Professor Solwitz's students are doing extremely well in their writing and teaching, and Solwitz is willing to take some credit for it.

--Worked with individual students outside the classroom

Engl 590, Andrew Nellis, spring, 2021, “Craft Intensive”
 Engl 589, Lydia Cyrus, summer, 2020, “Novel Structure”
 Engl 589 Andrew Wade, fall 2019, “Writing Realist Fiction” (undergraduate)

Other Evidence of Effectiveness with Students

Purdue’s fiction alumni are excelling in their writing and teaching after they graduate, and Solwitz is willing to take some credit for it.

- Gabriela Garcia ('17), Solwitz’s thesis student, sold her MFA thesis *Of Women and Salt* to Ecco Books in a ten-house auction, March 2019. Dorany Pineda (dorany.pineda@latimes.com) interviewed me about our work together (Wed 3/24/2021 11:17 AM):
<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/books/story/2021-03-23/a-debut-novel-about-migration-family-and-survival-is-everything-american-dirt-wasnt>
- Michael Wang ('09), another thesis student, published his thesis *Further News of Defeat* with Autumn House Press, 2020. He is an Assistant Professor of English at Arkansas Tech.
- Diana Clarke ('17)’s thesis *Thin Girls* will be published summer 2021 by Harper Collins. She is a PhD candidate at the University of Utah.
- Natalie Lund ('14) received a two-book contract for her MFA thesis *We Speak in Storms* 2019. The first book is out, the second completed. She read at Second Flight Books in 2019.
- Jeffrey Amos ('18) was accepted with funding to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville PhD program.
- Robert Powers ('17) accepted with funding to UM Milwaukee Ph.D. Program and Florida State. He is currently at FSU.
- Samantha Atkins ('16) is a PhD student in English at the University of Michigan at Kalamazoo.
- Munib Khan ('15) was accepted with funding to several PhD programs and selected Florida State University at Tallahassee.
- Terrance Manning ('13) won first place in Iowa Review’s short fiction contest. He also received first place in *Boulevard's* Short Fiction Contest for Emerging Writers, The David Nathan Meyerson Prize for Fiction, and *Crab Orchard Review's* John Guyon Literary Nonfiction Prize. His work appears or is forthcoming in prestigious literary magazines *Witness*, *Ninth Letter*, *Southwest Review*, *Hunger Mountain*, *The Carolina Quarterly*.
- Natalie Van Hoose ('12) edits and writes for Purdue’s Agriculture School magazine.
- Tony Cook ('10), an Indianapolis Star reporter, was named Indiana Journalist of the Year in 2014 by the Indiana Society of Professional Journalists.
- Chris Arnold ('09) won an NEA and has published a book with Macmillan (Picador) and is currently assistant professor at San Francisco State University.
- Daniel Tyx ('09) published a recent essay in *Gettysburg Review* and has work published or forthcoming in *Cutbank*, *Blue Mesa Review* and *Gulf Coast*. He teaches at South Texas College.
- Michael X Wang ('09) Received his PhD from FSU at Tallahassee. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *New England Review*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Cimarron Review*, *Prick of the Spindle*, *Day One*, *Driftwood Press*, and *Juked*, among others. His chapbook, *A Minor Revolution* (StoryFront, 2013), is available from Amazon. He taught at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. Currently tenure track assistant professor at Arkansas

Tech. Published his thesis *Further News of Defeat* in 2021. Another novel is forthcoming centered on the Communist revolution in China.

--James Tadd Adcox ('07) received a PhD at UIC and has published two books of fiction—one of them by Curbside Splendor Press, founded by Purdue MFA Jacob Knabb ('03), formerly visiting assistant professor at Lake Forest College. Taught two years at Purdue as a visiting assistant professor.

--Cassander Smith ('05) received her PhD from Purdue and is an associate professor of English at Alabama University. New book 2018.

--Aaron Morales ('03)'s MFA thesis *Drowning Tucson* was published by prestigious Coffee House Press in 2010, and called the "bleakly human debut of the new Bukowski." He was an assistant professor of English at Indiana State University.

--Barbara Harroun ('02) has published widely, and is assistant professor of English at Western Illinois University.

--new books by Dallas Woodburn and Steve Edwards.

SECTION C: SERVICE/ ENGAGEMENT

Since her promotion to associate professor Professor Solwitz has been fully engaged with the school and the community. At Purdue she has presented at Books and Coffee, the Artistic Endeavor Center and Writers Harvest, while her outreach activities include university promotion reviewer and literary contest judge as well as fiction editor of the well-respected *Another Chicago Magazine*. She teaches a regular writing workshop in Glencoe, Illinois, for serious, published adult writers, and for three years taught at a living-learning center in Kissos, Greece.

For the English department she has served primarily on the Excellent-in-Teaching and the Literary Awards Committees. As a member of the Creative Writing committee, she participates in the selection of the new graduate students and also selects and hosts one of the program's visiting writers.

Her service to Purdue extends beyond the department, as she has served a total of thirteen years on various School and University Committees. These include the Artistic Endeavor Selection Committee, Faculty Affairs, Grade Appeals, Readmission, and the Faculty Censure and Dismissal Committee. She worked six years with the Cancer, Culture, Community Colloquium, a group of individuals from all over the university—from English to Visual and Performing Arts to Nursing to Physical Education—working together to bring artists and writers to campus for a two-day conference on the arts and cancer. Members of the community were not only welcomed to the conference, but at times their own expressive work was integrated into the programs.

1. Service to the Profession

a. Referee work for university promotion cases

In my role as Chair of the University of Mississippi's Department of English, I am writing to see if you would be willing to serve as an external reviewer. We are evaluating the academic and professional record of creative writer **Dr. Matt Bondurant** who is standing for promotion to the rank of full professor this coming fall.

Jennifer Irish, promotion to Professor of English, Arizona State University, 2022.

Irina Reyn's promotion to Professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh,

Sept. 15, 2020.

Jac Jemc, University of California, San Diego, 7/4/2019.

Charlotte Holmes, promotion to Professor of English, Penn State University, 9/1/17.

Whitney Terrell, tenure and promotion, University of Missouri at Kansas City, 9/1/17.

Thrity Umrigar, tenure and promotion, Case Western Reserve, Cleveland OH, 2007.

Barbara Bean, for selection as a University Professor, DePauw University
Greencastle IN 2002.

Judith Slater's promotion to full professor of English, University of Nebraska at
Lincoln, 2000.

b. Literary judge: nomination and selection for awards and prizes

Chicago Literary Hall of Fame, selection committee, May 2018.

Yale-NUS fiction writing contest, spring, 2018.

Crook & Folly, DePaul literary magazine, spring, 2017.

Rebecca Pitts Fiction Contest, IUPUI, Feb. 2008.

Union League Civic & Arts Foundation's Fiction Writing Competition, August 31,
2004.

The Nick Adams Short Story Contest, Associated Colleges of the Midwest, 2001.

Oregon Literature Advisory Council of Literary Arts, 1996.

Carl Sandburg Literary Awards, 1993.

c. Editorship

Another Chicago Magazine, fiction editor, 1984-2011.

d. Writing workshops

Nimrod Conference, Tulsa OK, Oct. 20, 2018. W/ Ellen Rhudy: "Breaking the Boundaries:
Magic Realism."

The Writers (Glencoe) 3-6 sessions, 1990-present.

San Miguel de Allende Writing Conference, private sessions with attendees, Feb., 2013.

Kalikalos Centre, a Living-Learning Community. Faculty-in-residence, 2-3 weeks in the
summer, Kissos, Greece, 2010-2012.

The Critical Connection, Ann Arbor MI, 6 sessions, June, 2001.

The Barrington Writers, Barrington IL, 2 sessions, May and August, 2000.

Third Coast Writers' Conference, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI, Apr. 30-
May 2, 1998.

River Oak Arts, Oak Park/River Forest, 6-week weekly sessions, 1995-1999.

The Off Campus Writers, Evanston IL, 4-week weekly sessions, 1993; 1999.

Illinois Writers, Inc., Writers' Fest, Monticello IL, Apr. 15-16, 1994.

Blooming Grove Writers Workshop, Bloomington IL, July, 1993-6.

Double Vision workshop series, Chicago IL, July, 1992.

e. Promotion of fellow writers

Wrote blurbs for Jacob Appel, Michael Wang, Rob Davidson, Linda Gartz, and others 2019-20.

Interview of Maggie Kast, author of story collection *Side by Side But Never Face to Face*,
(Orison Books); <https://fictionwritersreview.com/> summer 2020.

2. Service to Purdue University

a. Department of English (current):

Assistant Professor Reviews, Kaveh Akbar and Terese Mailhot, 2021.

Literary Awards 2019-21. Judge, Kneale Award, graduate poetry.

Undergraduate Studies Committee 2019-20.

Assistant Professor Review, Kaveh Akbar, Terese Mailhot, 2019-20.

Creative Writing Committee, since 2000. Hosted visiting writer Amina Gautier; Robt Olen Butler (Zoom). Selected new candidates for admission till 2022.

(past):

Undergraduate Studies Committee 2019-20.

Assistant Professor Review, Kaveh Akbar, March 2019.

Advisor, Sycamore Review, Fall 2018.

Search Committee, Department Head, 2017-18.

Associate Professor Review committee, 2017-21.

Excellence-in-Teaching, 2015-6. On and off for a total of five years; head, 2008-9. Selected among faculty members for departmental, school, and university awards. Helped to edit their applications. This year three of the five we selected won awards.

Literary Awards, since 2000. Selected award winners in graduate poetry, 3-7 poems on a single subject; Kneale Award.

Search Committee, 2013-4, selected CW program head Brian Leung and Associate Professor (fiction) Roxane Gay.

Search Committee, selected Porter Shreve as Associate Professor (fiction), 2005.

Head Search Committee, selected Irving Weiser as English Department Head, 2002.

Undergraduate Studies Committee. 2000-2002.

b. College of Liberal Arts

Faculty Affairs 2013-15.

Artistic Endeavor selection committee, 2014-5; 2007-9.

Cancer, Culture, Community Colloquium, 2006-2012 – planning of yearly lecture and conference.

Grade appeals, 2002-3; co-chair, 2003-4: adjudication of CLA student-faculty grading conflict.

c. University

Readmission Committee—evaluation of petitions for readmission of Purdue students who have been dropped twice, 2011.

Faculty Censure and Dismissal Committee, 2004-9.

3. Engagement and Outreach

a. Purdue

Reading, Purdue University, Fowler Hall, Medical Humanities Collective: "Coming out of the Fire: Mental Health and Well-Being," a series of campus events focused on solutions for coping with mental illness. Feb. 12, 2019.

Performance: "Almost the End," a dance choreographed by Purdue Visiting Assistant Professor Renee Murray, inspired by Solwitz's *Blood and Milk*. Purdue University, Nov. 21, 2014.

Presentations for Artistic Endeavor Center Fellowships. 2018; 2014; 2007.

Books and Coffee, Purdue University, "Pauses in Jennifer Egan's *Visit from the Goon Squad*," Feb 14, 2014.

Writer's Harvest, benefit readings, Purdue University, Wells Center, 2013; 2008; 2003.

Books and Coffee, Purdue University, "Metonymy in Alice Munro's *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*," Feb. 6, 2003.

b. Chicago

Zoom reading and panel discussion of Rochelle Distelheim's posthumous novel, *Jerusalem as a Second Language*, Oct. 4, 2020.

Radio broadcast, WBEZ, "Blood," December 12, 2004.

Performance, Stories on Stage, of story "Blood," by actor Martie Sanders, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago IL, April 4, 2004.

Performance, Stories on Stage, commissioned story "You Get One Chance," Vittum Theater, Chicago IL, April 1, 2002.

Performance, Stories on Stage, of story "Dinner," by actor Rengin Altay, Organic Theater, Chicago IL, May 1, 1995.

c. National

Story optioned for motion picture use by Jennifer Atkins, Seesaw Films, Inc, and made into an experimental film shown in independent film festivals: "If You Step on a Crack," 2001.

Radio broadcast, The Sound of Writing, America's Short Story Magazine of the Air, a National Public Radio series hosted by writer and literary critic Alan Cheuse. Broadcast on more than 100 affiliates nationwide, each 30-minute program features readings of two original short stories: "Dinner," 1995-98.

d. Interviews with Sharon Solwitz

Emily Kerman, DePaul, 2022.

Midwestern Gothic, on-line, on *Once, in Lourdes*, 9/18/17.

WDST-FM/Woodstock Booktalk. LIVE BY PHONE Monday, June 19th 2017 9:50am

Eastern; Martha Frankel, marthafrankel@me.com; Phone: 845/750 2299.

Press kit, Random House, on *Once, in Lourdes*, 2017.

Atencion, San Miguel de Allende, Gto, Mexico: July 8, 2005.

Emerging Writer's Network, on-line, with Dan Wickett, 10/26/2003.

Radio interview, WBEZ "848," with writer Elizabeth Berg and host Steve Edwards, March, 2002.

e. Professional consulting activities

Work with Purdue Professor Charles Ross on modernizing and clarifying the prose in *Arcadia*, 2013-15. **Sharon Editing2.mp4.**