
Mary Biddinger, MFA, Ph.D.
Professor of English
Assistant Chair and Undergraduate Advisor
Department of English
The University of Akron, Olin Hall 342
Akron, Ohio 44325-1906
Tel (330) 972-6960
marybid@uakron.edu

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. in English, Department of English, Program for Writers, The University of Illinois at Chicago.

Degree: Ph.D. in English received May 2003.

M.F.A. in Poetry, Department of English, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH.

Degree: Master of Fine Arts in poetry writing received June 1998.

B.A. in English, Department of English, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

Degree: Honors B.A. in English and creative writing received May 1996.

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS:

- Editorial accomplishment: editor's choice selection for the Akron Poetry Prize, *The Book of Endings* by Leslie Harrison, named a finalist for the 2017 National Book Award in poetry.
- Finalist for the 2017 Cleveland Arts Prize, May 2017.
- National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship in Poetry. \$25,000, January 2015.
- Promoted to Professor, The University of Akron, effective August 2014.
- Awarded Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor, The University of Akron, effective August 2010.
- Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award in Creative Writing: Poetry. \$5,000, April 2010.
- Ohio Arts Council Arts Access Grant for *Barn Owl Review*, July 2008.
- Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences Service Award. The University of Akron, Spring 2008.
- Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award in Creative Writing: Poetry. \$5,000, April 2007.
- Chairs' Award for Outstanding Achievement in Professional and Community Service, The University of Akron, Spring 2006.

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

Biddinger, Mary and Jay Robinson. *The Czar: Poems*. Black Lawrence Press. Pittsburgh, PA. August 2016, 100 pages.

- Biddinger, Mary. *Small Enterprise*. Black Lawrence Press, Pittsburgh, PA. August 2015, 96 pages.
- Biddinger, Mary. *A Sunny Place with Adequate Water*. Black Lawrence Press. Pittsburgh, PA. June 2014, 79 pages.
- Biddinger, Mary. *O Holy Insurgency*. Black Lawrence Press. Pittsburgh, PA. January 2013, 91 pages.
- Biddinger, Mary. *Saint Monica*. Black Lawrence Press. Pittsburgh, PA. May 2011, 42 pages.
- Biddinger, Mary, Editor (with John Gallaher). *The Monkey and the Wrench: Essays into Contemporary Poetics*. The University of Akron Press. Akron, OH. January 2011, 128 pages.
- Biddinger, Mary. *Prairie Fever*. Steel Toe Books, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY. February 2007, 88 pages.

Selected Recent Poetry and Flash Fiction Publications (Journals):

- “Dregs Week.” *The Laurel Review*. Northwest Missouri State University. Maryville, MO. 50.1 (2017): 120.
- “Partial Credit Syndrome.” *Five Points: A Journal of Literature and Art*. Georgia State University. Atlanta, GA. 17.3 (2016): 10.
- “Most Unique, Mint Condition,” “Horizon-Free Living,” “A Little Action,” “Conspicuous Consumption,” and “Consolation Prize.” *Gargoyle*. Arlington, VA. 64 (2016): 79-83.
- “High Concepts” and “Ordinary Citizens.” *jubilat*. University of Massachusetts. Amherst, MA. 27 (2015): 63-65.
- “Some Truths,” “Sacre Coeur,” and “Notre Dame de Paris.” *The Laurel Review*. Northwest Missouri State University. Maryville, MO. 48.1 (Spring 2015): 19-21.
- “I Was on the Line” and “Deep History.” *Green Mountains Review*. Johnson State College. Johnson, VT. 27.2 (2014): 1-2.
- “Risk Management Memo: Liquid, Fragile, Potentially Hazardous.” *Denver Quarterly*. The University of Denver. Denver, CO. 49.1 (2014): 63.
- “The Summer of Electronic Monitoring.” *Sentence: A Journal of Prose Poetics*. Issue #10 (2013): 40-41.
- “Risk Management Memo: A Star is Born.” *Crazyhorse*. The College of Charleston. Charleston, SC. 83 (Spring 2013): 34-35
- “Risk Management Memo: Stockholm Syndrome and You.” *Pleiades*. University of Central Missouri. Warrensburg, MO. 33.1 (Winter 2013): 85-86.
- “Fight or Flight,” and “Risk Management Memo: Small Enterprise.” *Gulf Coast: A Journal of Literature and Fine Art*. The University of Houston, Houston, TX. 25.1 (Winter/Spring 2013): 12-15.
- “Picturesque Rendering of Butterfly Factory Strike” and “Picturesque Rendering Inspired by Previous Picturesque Rendering.” *The Laurel Review*. Northwest Missouri State University. Maryville, MO. 46.1 (2012): 104-106.
- “Pick Your Own.” *Crab Orchard Review*. Southern Illinois University. Carbondale, IL. 17.2. (Summer/Fall 12): 9-10.

- "A Coin-Operated Paramour and a Half," "Coin-Operated Rattle without a Snake," "Some Dead Magic." *Blackbird*. Virginia Commonwealth University. Richmond, VA. 11.1 (Spring 2012).
http://www.blackbird.vcu.edu/v11n1/poetry/biddinger_m/index.shtml
- "Risk Management Memo: Position Available." *Bat City Review*. University of Texas. Austin, TX. 8 (2012): 43-44.
- "Risk Management Memo: Your Best Work" and "My Goodness." *Forklift, Ohio: A Journal of Poetry, Cooking, and Light Industrial Safety*. Cincinnati, OH. 24 (Winter 2012): 104-105, 231-233.
- "Picturesque Rendering of a Two-For-One" and "Picturesque Rendering that Defies Laws of Cleanliness." *iO: A Journal of New American Poetry*. 2.2. <http://iopoeetry.org/archives/1153>
- "A Coin-Operated Button-Down Collar" and "Picturesque Rendering that Attempts to Chill." *The National Poetry Review*. Aptos, CA. 11 (Winter 2012): 24-25.
- "A Coin-Operated Arboretum" and "Inside Every Vending Machine it's 1979." *Redivider*. Emerson College. Boston, MA. (Fall 2011). 9.1 (Winter 2011): 3, 112-113.
- "Disturbance Near an Unnamed Creek." *Barrelhouse*. Washington, DC: 10 (Winter 2012): 117.
- "Coin Operated Engine Finds its Steam," "An Elm Tree Will Never Be the One You Love," and "A Bravery." *South Dakota Review*. University of South Dakota. Vermillion, SD. 49.1/2 (Spring/Summer 2011): 14-19.
- "A Pact," "Naturalism," "Committee of the Whole," and "Fragments Addressing My Clavicle." *Puerto del Sol*. New Mexico State University. Las Cruces, NM. 46.1/2 (Summer 2011): 126-133.
- "A Coin-Operated Railroad" and "Some Dead Ingenuity." *Anti* (<http://anti-poetry.com/feature66/>)
- "A Genesis." *Waccamaw: A Journal of Contemporary Literature*. Coastal Carolina University. Conway, SC. 7 (Spring 2011). <http://www.waccamawjournal.com/pages.html?x=330>
- "Some Discipline" and "A Rough Landing." *Devil's Lake*. University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI. (Spring 2011). <http://english.wisc.edu/devilslake/issues/spring2011/biddinger.html>
- "Occupation: Hazard," "The Fate of the Old Mill is Still Undecided," "A Woodland Childhood." *Midwestern Gothic*. Ann Arbor, MI 1 (Spring 2011).
- "A Coin-Operated Gentrification Zone of the Heart," "A Coin-Operated Apple Pie," "A Coin-Operated Neighbor to the North," "We Invent the Opposite of Vegas, Then Take it All Back." *Diode*. Virginia Commonwealth University Qatar. 4.2 (Spring 2011). http://www.diodepoetry.com/v4n2/content/biddinger_m.html
- "A Diorama." *The Minnesota Review*. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA. 76 (Spring 2011): 15-16.
- "A Poverty," "A Trick Knee," and "In Which We Sense that We Are Not Alone." *The National Poetry Review*. Aptos, CA. 10 (Spring 2011): 5-10.
- "Confabulations," "Confluence," and "Forensics." *The Journal*. Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 34.1 (Spring/Summer 2010): 45-49.
- "A Drapery" and "O Holy Insurgency." *Center: A Journal of the Literary Arts*. The University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 9 (2010): 63-66.

- “Cooperative Efforts” and “Ode to Your Innocence.” *Passages North*. Northern Michigan University. Marquette, MI 31.1(Winter/Spring 2010): 11-13.
- "Metropolis" and "Prelude to Our Escape." *Copper Nickel*. The University of Colorado at Denver. Denver, CO 13 (Spring 2010): 190-193.
- “Portrait of Myself as a Piece of Red Candy in Your Mouth.” *The Collagist: Online Literature from Dzanc Books*. <http://www.dzancbooks.org/the-collagist/portrait-of-myself-as-a-piece-of-red-candy-in-your-mouth.html>
- “Heresy,” “Live Girls in Dead Wood Boxes,” “My God,” “Route 31,” “Where You Store the Gun at Night.” *Diode*. Virginia Commonwealth University Qatar. 3.1 (Fall 2009). http://www.diodepoetry.com/v3n1/content/biddinger_m.html
- “The Velvet Arms.” *32 Poems*. Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 7.2 (Fall/Winter 2009): 5.
- “Craftsman” and “Shipwreck.” *Gulf Coast: A Journal of Literature and Fine Art*. The University of Houston, Houston, TX 22.1 (Fall 2009): 59-62.
- “Other Countries” and “Treaty Line.” *Valparaiso Poetry Review*. Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN <http://www.valpo.edu/vpr/cover/v11n1.html> (Fall 2009 10th Anniversary Issue).
- “Saint Monica Takes Communion Twice.” *Fifth Wednesday Journal*. Fifth Wednesday Books. Lisle, IL. 4 (Spring 2009): 92-93.
- “The Cure.” *The Mayo Review*. Texas A&M University-Commerce. Commerce, TX (Spring 2009): 40.
- “Saint Monica and the Devil’s Place.” *New Ohio Review*. Ohio University, Athens, OH 5 (Spring 2009): 102.
- “Saint Monica Composes a Five Paragraph Essay on Girard’s Theory of Triangular Desire.” *Third Coast*. Western Michigan University. Kalamazoo, MI. (Spring 2009): 121.
- “Downdraft” and “Population 41,685.” *Memorious: A Journal of New Verse and Fiction*. 11 <http://www.memorious.org/?issue=11> (December 2008).
- “Dyes and Stitchery.” *North American Review*. The University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA 293.5 (September-October 08): 28.
- “Saint Monica Gives it Up.” *North American Review*. The University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA 293.3/4 (May-August 2008): 47.
- “Saint Monica and the Itch.” *The Laurel Review*. Northwest Missouri State University. Maryville, MO 42.2 (Summer 2008): 20-21.
- “The Way it Happened.” *Crab Creek Review*. Rolling Bay, WA (Spring/Summer 2008): 5.
- “Saint Monica Stays the Course.” *Ninth Letter*. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL 5.1 (Spring + Summer 2008): 98.
- “The Last Man She Ever Knew” and “Saint Monica Burns it Down.” *Valparaiso Poetry Review*. Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN <http://www.valpo.edu/english/vpr/v9n2.html> (April 2008).
- “Outside Howell” and “Toughskins.” *Anti-*. <http://anti-poetry.com/anti/biddingerma> (April 2008).
- “Saint Monica of the Thaw” and “Habeas Corpus.” *Caffeine Destiny*. <http://www.caffeinedestiny.com/> ,

Fall 2007.

“The Flyers” and “Driving Away from Your Body.” *Salt Hill*. Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY (Winter 2007): 41-44.

“Saint Monica of the Gauze.” *Wicked Alice*. <http://www.sundress.net/wickedalice/>, Spring 2007.

“It’s All Too Much” and “The New Math.” *Harpur Palate*. SUNY Binghamton, Binghamton, NY 6.2 (February 2007): 53-55.

“Brick Dust.” *The Iowa Review*. The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA (December 2006).

Poems in Anthologies:

“My Upper Peninsula” and “Copper Harbor.” *Here: Women Writing on Michigan’s Upper Peninsula*. Michigan State University Press, East Lansing, MI. 2015: 39, 63.

“The Business of it,” “A Coronation,” “Fortitude,” and “An Incarceration.” *Fire on Her Tongue: An E-Book Anthology of Women’s Poetry*. Two Sylvias Press. 2012.

“Population 41,685.” *Dzanc Books Best of the Web 2010* (print anthology). Dzanc Books, Westland, MI. 2010: 74-75.

Essays and Nonfiction:

Biddinger, Mary. “Love Song for an Enormous Pair of Lips; Or, The Key to the City Isn’t Always a Key.” *Waccamaw: A Journal of Contemporary Literature*. Coastal Carolina University. Conway, SC. 9 (Spring 2012). <http://www.waccamawjournal.com/pages.php?x=390>

Biddinger, Mary. “Deviant Beach Reads: Review of Banana Yoshimoto’s *Goodbye Tsgumi*.” *Delirious Hem*. <http://delirioushem.blogspot.com/>, Curated by Danielle Pafunda. June 2009.

Biddinger, Mary. “How I Learned that Feminism Wasn’t for Me, and Then Learned Better.” *Delirious Hem*. <http://delirioushem.blogspot.com/>, Curated by Danielle Pafunda. May 2009.

EDITORIAL POSITIONS:

2009-present: Editor of the Akron Series in Contemporary Poetics.

2008-present: Editor of the Akron Series in Poetry.

POETRY BOOKS EDITED (University of Akron Press, Akron Series in Poetry)

Vasectomania, Matthew Guenette (September, 2017)

Further Problems with Pleasure, Sandra Simonds (January, 2017)

The Book of Endings, Leslie Harrison (January, 2017)

Groundspeed, Emilia Phillips (March 2016)

Pictures at an Exhibition: A Petersburg Album, Philip Metres (February 2016)

The Veronica Maneuver, Jennifer Moore (July, 2015)

Girl-King, Brittany Cavallaro (March, 2015)

Post Subject: A Fable, Oliver de la Paz (August, 2014)

Fat Jersey Blues, John Repp (February, 2014)

Signaletics, Emilia Phillips (August, 2013)

Theivery, Seth Abramson (March, 2013)

Little Black Daydream, Steve Kistulentz (October, 2012)
Carnival, Jason Bredle (August, 2012)
Prop Rockery, Emily Rosko (January, 2011)
Hurricane Party, Alison Pelegrin (October, 2011)
American Busboy, Matthew Guenette (July, 2011)
Le Spleen de Poughkeepsie, Joshua Harmon (January, 2011)
Orphan, Indiana, David Dodd Lee (2010)
Nothing Fatal, Sarah Perrier (2010)
Requiem for the Orchard, Oliver de la Paz (2010)
The Wild Rose Asylum, Rachel Dilworth (2010)
A Letter to Serafin, John Minczeski (2010)
Map of the Folded World, John Gallaher (2009)

- Spring 2007: Editor of *The Best of the AWP Pedagogy Papers 2008*.
- Spring 2007-2013: Member of Cleveland State University Poetry Center Open Book Competition jury.
- 2007-2015: Editor-in-Chief and founder of *Barn Owl Review*, an independent nonprofit literary magazine.
- 2004-2007: Associate Editor, *RHINO*. Read and evaluated submissions, helped coordinate readings, represented the journal at conferences and events, and worked on marketing strategies.

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT, COLLEGE, AND PROFESSION:

- 2014-2016: Member of the University of Akron Hearing Board
- 2013-present: Assistant Chair and Undergraduate Advisor, Department of English
- 2013-present: Faculty Fellow, UA Center for Conflict Management
- 2012-present: Member of the UA Women's Studies Program Advisory Committee
- 2013-2014: Chair, UA Women's Studies Director Search Committee
- 2012, 2016: Chair, Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor Committee, Department of English
- Fall 2011: Judge, Best of the Net Anthology 2011
- Fall 2011: Judge, James Wright Poetry Award, Bowling Green State University.
- Spring 2009: Judge, Academy of American Poets Prize, California State University Northridge.
- 2009-2012: Served as program director of the NEOMFA: Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts program.
- Spring 2008: Appointed Editor of the Akron Series in Poetry.
- Spring 2008: Poetry contest judge, *Ellipsis* magazine, The University of New Orleans.
- Spring 2008: Judge of the Selina Terry Poetry Award, The University of Northern Iowa.
- Spring 2008: Chair, Association of Writers and Writing Programs Pedagogy Team

2005-2009: NEOMFA Campus Coordinator and Executive Committee member, University of Akron.

COURSES TAUGHT:

University of Akron, Department of English, 2005-present

Creative Writing

English 277: Introduction to Poetry Writing (Fall 2005, Fall 2006, Fall 2007, Fall 2008, Summer 2009, Summer 2010, Fall 2010, Fall 2011, Fall 2012)

English 278: Introduction to Fiction Writing (Fall 2006)

English 377: Advanced Poetry Writing (Spring 2006, Spring 2007, Spring 2008, Spring 2009, Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016)

English 689: NEOMFA Graduate Workshop in Poetry Writing (Fall 2005, Spring 2007, Spring 2008, Spring 2009, Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Fall 2016, Spring 2017)

English 689: Craft & Theory of Poetry: Poetry of the Body (Spring 2007, Fall 2017), First Books (Fall 2007, Fall 2015), Poetry of the Unexpected (Fall 2008), Publishing Poetry (Spring 2013)

Literature

Women Writers (Summer 2008), Modern American Poetry (Spring 2006, Summer 2007), International Poetry (Fall 2006, Fall 2008, Fall 2009, Fall 2015), World Literatures (Summer 2012, Summer 2013, Summer 2014, Summer 2016, Summer 2017), Theory & Practice of Modern Poetry (Fall 2012), New Poetry (Fall 2007, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Spring 2016, Fall 2017), British Fiction 1925- Present (Spring 2013), English Romantic Fiction (Fall 2013), American Women Poets (Fall 2014), Senior Seminar (Spring 2015), Writers on Writing (Spring 2017)

Composition

English 112 (H): Honors English Composition II (Fall 2005, Spring 2006)

* Extended teaching list available upon request

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS:

April 2017: Poetry reading at Penn State Erie (The Behrend College), Erie, PA.

March 2017: Lecture at Ball State University In Print Festival, Muncie, IN.

February 2017: Panel presentation: *Don't Stop the Presses: On the Enduring Value of the University Press*. The Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference (AWP), Washington, DC.

February 2017: Panel presentation: *Stars to Steer By: Rethinking Creative Writing Curriculum for the 21st Century*. The Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference (AWP), Washington, DC.

April 2016: Wordsmiths reading for Bucks County Community College, Newtown, PA.

March 2015: Poetry reading and discussion, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.

April 2014: Craft talk and poetry reading, Saint Lawrence University, Canton, NY.

January 2014: Poetry reading and lecture, University of Tampa, Tampa, FL.

- September 2013: “4 under 40” poetry reading, Notre Dame University of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD.
- September 2013: Distinguished alumni lecture, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH.
- March 2013: Visiting writer at The University of Findlay, Findlay, OH.
- February 2013: Headliner at Prairie Gate Literary Festival, University of Minnesota. Morris, MN.
- November 2012: Visiting writer at Ashland University, Ashland, OH.
- March 2012: Panel presentation: *Out of the Stacks and onto the Market: The MFA Poetry Thesis Gets Serious, and Faculty Members React*. The Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference (AWP), Chicago, IL.
- February 2012: Offsite poetry reading for *Ninth Letter* magazine (University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana). The Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference (AWP), Chicago, IL.
- May 2011: Visiting Writer and Lecturer, Hathaway Brown School, Shaker Heights, OH.
- April 2011: Featured reader, The Sunday Roast Reading Series at Arts Collinwood, Cleveland, OH.
- November 2010: Reading, craft talk, and radio appearance (Mississippi Public Broadcasting) for Millsaps College, Jackson, MS.
- April 2010: Panel presentation: *The 21st Century MFA Student*. Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference (AWP), Denver, CO.
- April 2010: Poetry reading for *diode* literary magazine, Jones Theatre in the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Denver Performing Arts Complex, CO.
- October 2009: Poetry reading and craft lecture at Point Park University, Pittsburgh, PA.
- September 2009: Poetry reading at John Carroll University, University Heights, OH.
- July 2009: Panel moderator and participant: Women in Publishing. Small Press Festival, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA.
- April 2009: Poetry reading at the Northside Tavern, sponsored by literary magazines *Forklift Ohio*, *Memorious*, *Post Road*, and *Smartish Pace*, Cincinnati, OH.
- April 2009: Poetry reading at Cleveland State University, with appearance on 90.3 WCPN’s Around Noon with Dee Perry, Cleveland, OH.
- February 2009: Poetry reading at the Fine Arts Building for *diode* magazine, Chicago, IL.
- November 2008: Featured Reader at Winter Wheat literary festival, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH.
- October 2007: Visiting Writer reading and craft lecture, SUNY Fredonia. Four classes adopted *Prairie Fever* in anticipation of this visit.
- March 2007: Invited poetry reading, Switchback Books, AWP 2007 Conference, Atlanta, GA.

March 2007: Panel presentation and moderation: *One Program, Four Universities: The Making of the NEOMFA*, AWP 2007 Conference, Atlanta, GA.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Poetry writing: beginning to graduate level.
- Craft and theory of poetry.
- Publishing, editing, and literary citizenship.
- Modern and contemporary poetry and poetics.
- Women in literature, women writers, intersectional feminism.

LANGUAGES: Proficiency in French; reading and some speaking ability in German and Spanish.

REFERENCES: By request.