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Professor of English
Interim Chair, Department of English
Interim Chair, Department of Modern Languages
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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:

- Cleveland Arts Prize, Midcareer Award in Literature. \$10,000, September 2019.
- Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award in Creative Writing: Poetry. \$5,000, April 2018.
- 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.
- 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.

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

Biddinger, Mary. *Department of Elegy*. Black Lawrence Press. Mount Vernon, NY. January 2022, 68 pages.

Biddinger, Mary. *Partial Genius: Prose Poems*. Black Lawrence Press. Mount Vernon, NY. August 2019, 84 pages.

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 Publications (Journals):

“Heaven and Its Teenage Riot” and “Heaven and Its Dead Lake.” *Allium: A Journal of Poetry and Prose*. Columbia College. Chicago, IL. (Winter 2002): 3-4.

“A Radical Notion” and “Sometimes a Ghost is Just a Ghost.” *The Laurel Review*. Northwest Missouri State University. Maryville, MO. 54.2 (2021): 124-125.

Five flash fiction stories in *DIAGRAM*. 21.5 (October 2021). https://thediagram.com/21_5/biddinger.html

“Antique Filament” and “Heaven and Its Orange Flowers.” *Bennington Review*. Bennington College, Bennington, VT. 9 (Summer 2021): 266-269.

“Department of Elegy” and “Mission Statement.” *Crazyhorse*. College of Charleston, Charleston, SC. 99 (Spring 2021): 91-92.

“Book of Mild Regrets” and “Open Letter on Absent Friends.” *Southern Indiana Review*. University of Southern Indiana. Evansville, IN. (Spring 2020): 9-10.

“Heaven and Its Choppy Water” and “Gray Horse.” *The Laurel Review*. Northwest Missouri State University. Maryville, MO. 53.1 (2020): 136-137.

“Boost Post” and “Terms of Agreement.” *Sugar House Review*. 19 (Fall 2019): 6.

“Book of Disclosures.” *Poetry*. 214.3 (June 2019): 250.

“The Slimness of Our Chances” and “Untamed Thickets.” *Court Green*. 15 (May 2019).

“Fantasy Sports,” “Instant Courage,” “History Town,” and “Returning to Dirt.” *Waxwing*. XV (Summer 2018). http://waxwingmag.org/items/issue15/28_Biddinger-Fantasy-Sports.php

“Heaven and Dirt.” *Tupelo Quarterly*. 15 (June 2018). <http://www.tupeloquarterly.com/heaven-and-dirt-by-mary-biddinger/>

- “Breakout Session,” “Hard Living,” and “The Haunted Minute.” *Tinderbox Poetry Journal*. 4.6 (February 2018).
<http://tinderboxpoetry.com/previous-volume?volume=4&issue=6>
- “Trouble Shirt.” *Border Crossing*. Lake Superior State University. 7 (Fall 2017). ISSN: 2380-811X.
<http://bcrossing.org/trouble-shirt-mary-biddinger/>
- “Skill Games” and “Open Search.” *Diode*. Virginia Commonwealth University Quatar. 11.1 (October 2017).
http://diodepoetry.com/biddinger_mary/
- “Mock Cleanse,” “Spinsters of Flint,” and “The Craft.” *Grimoire*. 4 (October 2017).
<http://www.wearegrimoire.com/poetryarchive/3-poems-by-mary-biddinger-yj2pc>
- “Bone Concept.” *Glass: A Journal of Poetry*. (April 2017). ISSN: 1941-4137. <http://www.glass-poetry.com/journal/2017/april/biddinger-bone.html>
- “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.

"A Coin-Operated Button-Down Collar" and "Picturesque Rendering that Attempts to Chill." *The National Poetry Review*. Aptos, CA. 11 (Winter 2012): 24-25.

Poems in Anthologies:

"The Czar declares it is too early," "The Czar has nicknamed himself Frankie Machine," and "The Czar is a little worried," with Jay Robinson. *They Said: A Multi-Genre Anthology of Contemporary Collaborative Writing*. Simon Muench and Dean Rader, eds. Black Lawrence Press, 2018.

"My Upper Peninsula" and "Copper Harbor." *Here: Women Writing on Michigan's Upper Peninsula*. Ronald Riecki, ed. Michigan State University Press, 2015.

"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.

EDITORIAL POSITIONS:

2009-present: Co-editor, with John Gallaher, of the Akron Series in Contemporary Poetics.

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

Spring 2018: Judge, Intro Journals Award project, Association of Writers and Writing Programs.

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.

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT, COLLEGE, AND PROFESSION:

2022-present: Interim Chair, Departments of English and Modern Languages

2013-2021: Assistant Chair and Undergraduate Advisor, Department of English

- 2013-2021: Faculty Fellow, UA Center for Conflict Management
- 2012-2021: Member of the UA Women's Studies Program Advisory Committee
- 2014-2016: Member of the University of Akron Hearing Board
- Fall 2011: Judge, Best of the Net Anthology 2011
- Fall 2011: Judge, James Wright Poetry Award, Bowling Green State University.
- Spring 2010: Poetry Fellowship Panel member, Kentucky Arts Council.
- Spring 2009: Judge, Academy of American Poets Prize, California State University Northridge.
- 2009-2012: Served as Director of the NEOMFA: Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts program.
- Spring 2008: Appointed Editor of the Akron Series in Poetry.
- 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, Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021)

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, Spring 2019, Spring 2021, Spring 2022)

English 457/554: Writers on Writing (Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019)

English 689: NEOMFA Graduate Workshop in Fiction Writing: Flash Fiction and Hybrid Flash Prose (Fall 2020)

English 689: NEOMFA Graduate Workshop in Poetry Writing (Fall 2005, Spring 2007, Spring 2008, Spring 2009, Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2014, Spring 2017, Fall 2018, Spring 2021)

English 689: Craft & Theory of Poetry: Poetry of the Body (Spring 2007, Fall 2017), First Books (Fall 2007, Fall 2015, Fall 2021), Poetry of the Unexpected (Fall 2008), Publishing Poetry (Spring 2013), Poetry Saves Lives (Spring 2020)

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, Summer 2018, Summer 2019, Summer 2020, Summer 2021), Theory & Practice of Modern Poetry (Fall 2012, Spring 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2022), New Poetry (Fall 2007, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Spring 2016, Fall 2017, Spring 2020), British Fiction 1925- Present (Spring 2013), English Romantic Fiction (Fall 2013), American Women Poets (Fall 2014, Fall 2016, Fall 2018, Fall 2020), Senior Seminar (Spring 2015)

Composition

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

SELECTED RECENT PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS:

- October 2021: Poetry reading for the Rufus & Louise Reiberg Reading Series at IUPUI, University Library Lilly Auditorium.
- October 2019-February 2020: Served as Florida Literary Arts Council touring poet, visiting seven different Florida colleges and universities to read poems and lecture on poetry and creativity.
- January 2020: Poetry reading at Literati Bookstore, Ann Arbor, MI, with fellow University of Michigan creative writing alum Matthew Thorburn.
- November 2019: Lecture for the Winter Wheat Literary Festival at Bowling Green State University: “The Manuscript Whisperer: Advice for Creating and Publishing Your Poetry Collection.”
- November 2019: Poets in Print Reading Series, Kalamazoo Book Arts Center, Kalamazoo, MI.
- March 2019: Panel presentation: *Season of the Witch: Feminism, Ritual, and Independent Publishing*. The Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference (AWP), Portland, OR.
- March 2019: Panel presentation: *Maintaining Beginner’s Mind in Your Own Classroom: A Poetry Reading*. The Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference (AWP), Portland, OR.
- October 2018: Visiting writer and lecturer on literary publishing at the College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, sponsored by *Crazyhorse* magazine.
- March 2018: Panel presentation: *Dispatches from Flyover Country: Building Literary Community in Far Off Places*. The Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference (AWP), Tampa, FL.
- April 2017: Visiting writer at Penn State Erie, Erie, PA.
- March 2017: Panelist for the In Print Literary Festival at Ball State University, 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.
- 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.
- 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.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Writing of poetry: craft, theory, revision, sequencing.
- Flash fiction and hybrid flash prose.
- Literary editing and publishing.
- Modern and contemporary American poetry and poetics.
- World literatures.
- History of the novel, with a focus on British fiction.
- Women writers and depictions of women in literature.

REFERENCES: By request.