

**Sean Frederick Forbes**  
**Director of the Creative Writing Program**  
**Assistant Professor-in-Residence, Department of English**  
**University of Connecticut, Storrs**

First appointed 2016

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## **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., 2011 University of Connecticut, English  
M.A., 2005 University of Connecticut, English  
B.A., 2003 The City University of New York, Queens College, English, with Departmental Honors

## **PROFESSIONAL HISTORY**

2016-present, Assistant Professor-in-Residence, University of Connecticut  
2012-present, Director of the Creative Writing Program, University of Connecticut  
2013-2014, Associate Director for Humanities House, University of Connecticut  
2011-2016, Adjunct Professor, University of Connecticut  
2003-2011, Graduate Instructor, University of Connecticut

## **AREAS OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING**

Poetry and poetics, creative nonfiction, twentieth-century American and World literature, Afro-Caribbean literature, queer literature, African American literature, Ethnic American literature, American autobiography.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Monographs**

*Providencia: A Book of Poems* (2Leaf Press, 2013).

### **Reviews of Published Works and Interviews**

*Providencia: A Book of Poems*

*Pennsylvania Literary Journal*. Volume 7, Issue 2, (2015): 25-46.

## **Collections**

*The Beiging of America: Personal Narratives About Being Mixed Race in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, co-edited with Cathy J. Schlund-Vials and Tara Betts. (2Leaf Press, 2017).

*What Does It Mean to Be White in America? Breaking the White Code of Silence: Personal Narratives by White Americans*, co-edited with Gabrielle David. (2Leaf Press, 2016).

## **Poems in Journals**

*The Willimantic Chronicle*, (August 18-19 2018) “Rumpelstilzchen,” 7.

*The Midwest Quarterly*, (Summer 2014) “La Voz del Mano” and “Desire,” 64-65.

*The Midwest Quarterly*, (Fall 2013) “Discovery” and “Survivals,” 38-39.

*The Chagrin River Review*, (Issue 1, Fall 2012) “Haiku: Winters in Southside Jamaica, Queens.”  
Online archive: <http://www.chagrinriverreview.com/seanforbes.html>

*Crab Orchard Review*, (Fall 2012) “Truce,” 98.

*Sargasso, A Journal of Caribbean Literature, Language, and Culture*, (2011) “Ritual,” 221.

*Long River Review*, (2009) “Isla Providencia,” 51.

*Crab Orchard Review*, (Fall 2008), “Beauty Salon,” 68.

*Poetic Journeys*, (2007), “Kahlonian Night.”

*Long River Review*, (2007), “Gnosis,” 113.

*The Lumberyard: A Radio Journal of the Spoken Word*, (2005), “Found.”

*The Lumberyard: A Radio Journal of the Spoken Word*, (2005), “Enchantment.”

*Long River Review*, (2005), “Enchantment,” 29.

*Long River Review*, (2004), “Shango and Me” and “Man’s Worth,” 105-107.

## **Poems Reprinted in Anthologies, Online Poetry Sites or Special Series**

“An Oracle Remembering Providencia’s Formation.” *Poetic Journeys* (2018).

“Double Dutch Champion.” Connecticut Poetry Society. Online archive:  
<http://ctpoetry.net/al-savard.html>, 2017.

“Haiku: Winters in Southside Jamaica, Queens.” *Selected Works from Chagrin River Review, Issues 1-9. Chagrin River Review*, 2017, pp. 36-38.

*Poem-A-Day* online Academy of American Poets feature, “Cashel Man,” March 17, 2014.  
Online archive: <https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/cashel-man>

### **Critical Essays**

“Series Editor’s Note.” *Substance of Fire: Gender and Race in the College Classroom*. Ed. Claire Millikin. New York: 2Leaf Press, 2018, pp. vii-xii.

“Series Editor’s Note.” *The Beiging of America: Personal Narratives About Being Mixed Race in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Eds. Cathy Schlund-Vials, Sean Frederick Forbes and Tara Betts. New York: 2Leaf Press, 2017, pp. xi-xii.

Introduction. “What We Are: Three Perspectives on Being Mixed Race in America.” *The Beiging of America: Personal Narratives About Being Mixed Race in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Eds. Cathy Schlund-Vials, Sean Frederick Forbes and Tara Betts. New York: 2Leaf Press, 2017, pp. 1-17.

“Series Editor’s Note.” *Black Lives Have Always Mattered: A Collection of Essays, Poems and Personal Narratives*. Ed. Abiodun Oyewole. New York: 2Leaf Press, 2017, pp xii-xv.

Preface. “The Making of ‘What Does It Mean to Be White in America.’” *What Does It Mean to Be White in America? Breaking the White Code of Silence: Personal Narratives by White Americans*. Eds. Gabrielle David and Sean Frederick Forbes. New York: 2Leaf Press, 2016, pp. xiii-xxx.

“Through Afro-Caribbean Eyes: Another Way of Interpreting the Works of Michelle Cliff.” *Mellon Minority Undergraduate Journal*, (2003),” 63-65.

### **CONFERENCE AND COLLOQUIA PRESENTATIONS**

“Living and Writing as Queer and Racially Ambiguous,” The Fifth Annual Critical Mixed Race Studies Conference. University of Maryland, March 1, 2018.

“Living and Writing as Queer and Racially Ambiguous,” (invited speaker). The Loving v. State of Virginia Discussion Panel. University of Connecticut, sponsored by the College of the Liberal Arts and Sciences Fund for Interdisciplinary Research Endeavors, November 30, 2017.

“Narrative as the Most Essential Aspect of James Baldwin’s Legacy,” (invited speaker). The James Baldwin Project Conference. Quinebaug Valley Community College, 2015.

“The Great Change in the Room: James Baldwin’s *Giovanni’s Room*.” The Seventh Annual

Women's Rights Conference. University of Connecticut, Storrs, 2005.

"Through Afro-Caribbean Eyes: Another Way of Interpreting the Works of Michelle Cliff." Senior Honors Seminar in English Conference. The City University of New York, Queens College, 2002.

"Imagined Communities and Junot Diaz." The Bornstein Conference on the Politics of Migration. The City University of New York, Queens College, 2000.

### **Personal Narrative Readings**

"Living and Writing as Queer and Racially Ambiguous." Porter Square Books, Boston, Massachusetts, February 4, 2019.

### **Poetry Readings**

Select poems from *Providencia*. Alumni Reading/*Long River Review* Reading Series. University of Connecticut-Storrs, February 7, 2019.

Select poems from *Providencia*. Benefit Reading for The Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES), Book Culture Bookstore, Long Island City, New York City, September 20, 2018.

Select poems from *Providencia*. Here in Windham: A Gathering of Local Poets, Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, Connecticut, February 27, 2018.

Select poems from *Providencia*. The Charter Oak Reading Series, Charter Oak Cultural Center, Hartford, Connecticut, November 5, 2017.

Select poems from *Providencia*. Poetry Rocks! Reading Series, Arts Center East, Vernon, Connecticut, September 24, 2017.

Select poems from *Providencia*. Arm Your Voice Poetry Series, Hygienic Art Gallery, New London, Connecticut, March 15, 2017.

Select poems from *Providencia*. West End Poetry Series at Metro Café, Hartford, Connecticut, October 22, 2016.

Select poems from *Providencia*. Poor Mouth Poetry Reading at An Beal Bocht Café, Bronx, New York City, May 11, 2016.

Select poems from *Providencia*. Frequency Writers. The Providence Athanaeum-Providence, Rhode Island, April 2016.

Select poems from *Providencia*. Long River Reading Series-University of Connecticut-Storrs, October 2014.

Select poems from *Providencia*. Quinebaug Valley Community College Willimantic Center. Willimantic, October 2014.

Select poems from manuscript. *9<sup>th</sup> Poetry in the Park Series*. Curbstone Foundation-Julia de Burgos Park-Willimantic, 2012

Select poems from manuscript. *Long River Live!, A Celebration of National Poetry Month*. University of Connecticut-Storrs, 2010

Select poems from manuscript. *The Long River Reading Series*. University of Connecticut Storrs, 2008

Select poems from manuscript. *Café Con Leche Poetry Exposition*. University of Connecticut Law School, Hartford, 2007

Select poems from manuscript. *The Long River Reading Series*. University of Connecticut Storrs, 2005

Select poems from manuscript. *The Long River Reading Series*. University of Connecticut Storrs, 2003

### **Radio Interviews**

June 2, 2014 WNPR Connecticut, Where We Live, with John Dankosky: “The Art and Power of Poetry.”

### **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

First Prize, The Nutmeg Poetry Award, Connecticut Poetry Society, 2017

Woodrow Wilson Mellon Mays University Fellows Travel and Research Grant, for travel to Providencia, Colombia, 2009

Multicultural and Outstanding Scholars Summer Fellowship, University of Connecticut, awarded by the Graduate School, 2004-2010

First Prize in the Wallace Stevens Poetry Contest, University of Connecticut, 2009

Covenant Insurance Company Summer Fellowship, external research and writing grant, 2008

Aetna Graduate Creative Works-in-Progress Award, University of Connecticut, 2008

Social Science Research Council, Mellon Mays Dissertation Completion Grant, 2009-2010

The *Long River Review* Graduate Writing Award, University of Connecticut, 2007

Social Science Research Council, Mellon Mays Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant, 2007-2008

Andrew W. Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellowship, 2001-2003

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

*University of Connecticut*

Small Magazine Editing Course: *Long River Review*

Introduction to Poetry, Honors level, (Renaissance through twenty-first century)

Independent Study in: Advanced Poetry and Fiction Writing

Independent Study in: Modern Afro-Caribbean Poets

Independent Study in: Exploration of Poetic Forms

Introduction to Creative Writing (Poetry, Fiction, and Flash Fiction)

Introduction to Academic Writing through Literature: American Autobiography

Introduction to Academic Writing

## **ADVISING OF STUDENT RESEARCH**

### **Honors Students, Major Advisor**

Siobhan Dale. Senior Honors Thesis. To be completed in May 2019.

Brianna McNish. Senior Honors Thesis. To be completed in May 2019.

Dimitri Papasian, "I Am A Nephilim: Short Stories." Senior Honors Thesis. Completed May 2018.

Alan Polozov, "Drifters: A Novella." Senior Honors Thesis. Completed May 2015.

Abigail Skinner, "And That Feels Like Magic To Me: A Memoir." Senior Honors Thesis. Completed May 2018.

### **University Scholars, Associate Advisor**

Ryan Glista. Individualized and Interdisciplinary Studies Program. Completed May 2016.

## **SERVICE**

### **University Service**

*University of Connecticut*

Chair, The Mark Twain Distinguished Writer-in-Residency, 2018-present

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Member, 2018-present

Chair, The 55<sup>th</sup> Wallace Stevens Poetry Program, 2017-2018

Chair, Edward R. and Frances S. Collins Literary Prizes, 2012-present

Aetna Chair Advisory Board member, 2012 to present

Chair, Creative Writing Committee, 2012-2018

Wallace Stevens Poetry Program Committee, 2009-present

Judge, Connecticut Writing Project Teacher Consultant Writing Contest, Nonfiction, 2012

Judge, Wallace Stevens Early College Experience Poetry Contest, 2007-present

Assistant Director for the Connecticut Writing Project, 2010-2011

Director of Poetic Journeys, 2009-2010

Judge, Connecticut Writing Project Teacher Consultant Writing Contest, Poetry, 2009-2011

Assistant Director of Creative Writing, 2008-2010

### **Tenure and Promotion Review**

Southern Illinois University (Carbondale)

### **Other Service Activities (since 2013):**

Judge, Fiction Panel, The Connecticut Book Award, The Connecticut Center for the Book, 2018

Judge for the National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Out Loud regional competition, The Pomfret School, January 21, 2018

Poetry reader for the literary journal *Westview*, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, 2013-present

### **Editorial Work and Boards**

Poetry Editor, *New Square*, 2018-present.

Series Editor, *2LP Explorations in Diversity Series*. 2Leaf Press, 2016-present.

Board of Directors, The Intercultural Alliance of Artists & Scholars, New York City, 2013-2016

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DELIVERED**

- July 21, 2016          Poetry Writing Workshop, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
- December 18, 2012    Poetry Writing Workshop, Hartford Classical Magnet High School,  
Hartford, CT
- June 25, 2012          Advanced Poetry and Flash Fiction Workshop, University of Connecticut,  
Storrs, CT
- October 29, 2011      Writing and Teaching in the Creative Genres Workshop, Woodstock  
Academy, Woodstock, CT
- May 21, 2011          Prose Sketch Writing Workshop, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
- June 28, 2010          Advanced Poetry Writing Workshop, University of Connecticut, Storrs,  
CT

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Associated Writing Programs, Modern Language Association, The Sancho Panza Literary Society, American Association of University Professors

## **LANGUAGES**

Spanish (Advanced reading, writing, and speaking)