

FRED DINGS

e-mail: dings@mailbox.sc.edu

EDUCATION

PhD in English (Creative Writing), University of Utah (1991)

- Concentrations: creative writing, 20th C American poetry
- Dissertation: *After the Solstice* (poetry)

MFA in Creative Writing, University of Iowa Writer's Workshop (1985)

MA in English, University of Delaware (1981)

BS in Secondary Education/ English, Millersville University (1975)

*Completed seminars in the teaching of writing (creative, business, and expository) in all graduate programs.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS (poetry)

The Four Rings: New & Selected Poems. Nacogdoches, Texas: Stephen F. Austin University Press, 2020.

Eulogy for a Private Man. Chicago: TriQuarterly Books, fall 1999.

After the Solstice. Washington: Orchises Press, 1993
(Finalist for Walt Whitman Award)

CHAPBOOKS (poetry, fine arts printing)

Vespers. West Chester, PA: Lestat Press, 1991.

The Bruised Sky. West Chester, PA: Aralia Press, 1988.

PERIODICALS (poetry)

Antioch Review "Odysseus on the Cote d'Azur"

Bloomsbury Review "Paper Bridge"

Carolina Quarterly "Swallows at a Quarry Lake"

Chicago Quarterly Review "After Picking Up My Son from Kindergarten"

Context South "The Concession"
"Grammar of Hope"
"Post Copernican"
"Renaissance"

<i>Denver Quarterly</i>	“After the Solstice”
<i>High Plains Literary Review</i>	“At a Cemetery in the Smoky Mtns.” “Dissertation on Dogs” “Planes” “Transitory Music”
<i>Ironwood</i>	“Padre Island”
<i>James Dickey Newsletter</i>	“The Image”
<i>Jasper</i>	“West of Eden”
<i>The Midnight Lamp</i>	“A Loving Distance” “Waterberries”
<i>Miramar</i>	“La Farge: Entrance to the Tautira River, Tahiti, Fisherman Spearing a Fish” “The Great Plain” “Word Cairn” “The Mind’s Body”
<i>The New Republic</i>	“Matthew 6: 9-13” “Redwing Blackbirds” “Riva Looking Towards Sirmione” “Sycamores”
<i>The New Yorker</i>	“Late Marsh”
<i>The Packinghouse Review</i>	“Words for My Wife” “The Fish” “The Gentle Fire”
<i>Paris Review</i>	“Dido” “The Evening After” “The Migrant Couple”
<i>Poetry Northwest</i>	“Blackbirds Flocked in Evergreens”
<i>Poet Lore</i>	“Old Men Fishing” “The Piano Player” “The Season of Memory”
<i>Poetry</i>	“Chains of Change” “The Fire” “Letter to Genetically Engineered Super Humans” “The Man and the Cemetery Effigy” “Migratory Flight” “The Past” “Revelations”

	“Words for a Perfect Evening”
<i>Quarterly West</i>	“Japanese Screen” “Ode to my Tongue”
<i>SALT</i>	“The Moment” (forthcoming)
<i>Shenandoah</i>	“Crabbing”
<i>Southern Florida Review</i>	“One Reason for This”
<i>Spillway</i>	“A Genetically Engineered Superhuman Laments”
<i>TriQuarterly</i>	“The Bodily Beautiful” “The Case Against Daedalus” “Claims of the Past” “Eulogy for a Private Man” “Two Sketches of Solitude” “The Unlived” “The Woman with Gravititas”
<i>U. S. Catholic</i>	“Spheres”
<i>Wallace Stevens Journal</i>	“Sunday Evening” “The Bridge” “Children and Death”
<i>Western Humanities Review</i>	“The Glowing Coal” “The Last Voyage”
<i>World Literature Today</i>	“Independence Day” “The Blue Whale” “Meditation Caves of Tibet” “Making Soap Bubbles with My Daughter” “Late Autumn” “Stage IV” “Stopping at a T-Intersection in Late Autumn”

POEMS FIRST PUBLISHED IN BOOKS

“That Day.” In *One for the Money: The Sentence as a Poetic Form*. Lynx House Press, 2012.

“The Divers.” In *Literature: Reading and Writing with Critical Strategies* by Steven Lynn. New York: Longman, December 2003.

ESSAYS

“The Late Vision of Larry Levis.” *Quarterly West* 53 (2002): 213-216

“Partisans and Fundamentals: The Debate on Poetic Form.” *High Plains Literary Review* 10.2 (1995): 65-78. Nominated for Pushcart Prize, 1995.

“For Tennyson’s *Ulysses*.” In *Teaching Composition with Literature*. Ed. Dana Gioia. New York: HarperCollins, 1994. 117-120.

REVIEWS

Review of *The Pre-Eternity of the World* by Christopher Buckley. *World Literature Today*. Summer 2021. Forthcoming.

Review of *Studying with Miss Bishop: Memoirs from a Young Writer’s Life* by Dana Gioia. *World Literature Today*. Spring 2021. Forthcoming.

Review of *From There to Here: Selected Poems and Trnaslations* by Ciaran Carson. *World Literature Today*. Spring 2020. 94.

Review of *The Catholic Writer Today* by Dana Gioia. *World Literature Today*. Winter 2020. 98.

Review of *Looking for Dragon Smoke: Essays on Poetry* by Robert Bly. *World Literature Today*. Autumn 2019. 112.

Review of *Only As the Day Is Long: New and Selected Poems* by Dorianne Laux. *World Literature Today*. Summer 2019. 92.

Review of *Live Streaming* by Conor O’Callaghan. *World Literature Today*. Nov/Dec18. 84.

Review of *Collected Poems* by Galway Kinnell. *World Literature Today*. May/Jun18. 90.

Review of *James Wright: A Life in Poetry* by Jonathan Blunk. *World Literature Today*. Jan/Feb18. 90.

Review of *The Last Shift* by Philip Levine. *World Literature Today*. Mar/Apr 17. 83.

Review of *Odes* by Sharon Olds. *World Literature Today*. Jan/Feb17. 85.

Review of *Dothead* by Amit Majmudar. *World Literature Today*. Mar/Apr16. 84.

Review of *The Road to Ballyvaughan* by Gibbons Ruark. *World Literature Today*. May/Aug16. 105.

- Review of *Shanghai Redemption* by Qui Xiaolong. *World Literature Today*. Mar/Apr16. 84.
- Review of *One Thousand Things Worth Knowing* by Paul Muldoon. *World Literature Today*. Jan/Feb16. 73.
- Review of *Favorite Bedtime Stories* by John Fitzgerald. *World Literature Today*. Jan/Feb15. 74.
- Review of *Darkness Sticks to Everything* by Tom Hennen. *World Literature Today*. Mar/Apr15. 69.
- Review of *Ask Me: One Hundred Essential Poems* by William Stafford. *World Literature Today*. Mar/Apr15. 72.
- Review of *Once in the West* by Christian Wiman. *World Literature Today*. May/Aug15. 124.
- Review of *This Day: Collected and New Sabbath Poems* by Wendell Berry. *World Literature Today*. Sep/Oct15. 70.
- Review of *Selected Poems 1988-2013* by Seamus Heaney. *World Literature Today*. Nov/Dec15. 73.
- Review of *Caribou*, by Charles Wright. *World Literature Today*. Sept/Oct14. 91.
- Review of *Selected Translations*, by W.S. Merwin. *World Literature Today*. May/Aug14. 116.
- Review of *Sailing through Cassiopeia*, by Dan Gerber. *World Literature Today*. May/Aug14. 113.
- Review of *No Need of Sympathy*, by Fleeta Brown. *World Literature Today*. Mar/Apr14. 66.
- Review of *Varieties of Religions Experience*, by Christopher Buckley. *World Literature Today*. Jan/Feb14. 67.
- Review of *Come, Thief*, by Jane Hirschfield. *World Literature Today*. Jul/Aug12, 74.
- Review of *Waking*, by Ron Rash. *Jasper* 1(2012): 57.
- Review of *All the Whiskey in Heaven*, by Charles Bernstein. *World Literature Today*. Mar/Apr12, 72.
- Review of *Every Riven Thing*, by Christian Wiman. *World*

Literature Today. Mar/Apr12, 74.

Review of *Crossing State Lines: An American Renga*. Sept/Oct11, 69.

Review of *One with Others*, by C. D. Wright. *World Literature Today*. Nov/Dec11, 74.

Review of *The Poets Laureate Anthology*, ed. Elizabeth Hun Schmidt. *World Literature Today*. May/Jun11, 74.

Review of *Human Chain*, by Seamus Heaney. *World Literature Today*. May/Jun11, 72.

Review of *Wait*, by C. K. Williams. *World Literature Today*. Jan/Feb11, 72.

Review of *Rain*, by Don Paterson. *World Literature Today*. Nov/Dec10, 72.

Review of *White Egrets*, by Derek Walcott. *World Literature Today*. Sep/Oct10, 75.

Review of *The Apple Trees at Olema*, by Robert Hass. *World Literature Today*. Sep/Oct10, 72.

Review of *A Village Life*, by Louise Glück. *World Literature Today*. Jul/Aug10, 74.

Review of *Shannon*, by Campbell McGrath. *World Literature Today*. Nov/Dec09, 73.

Review of *Sestets*, by Charles Wright. *World Literature Today*. Sep/Oct09, 75.

Review of *The Ghost Soldiers*, by James Tate. *World Literature Today*. May/Jun09, 75.

Review of *Staying Blue*, by Gibbons Ruark. *World Literature Today*. Jul/Aug09, 74.

Review of *Modern History*, by Christopher Buckley. *World Literature Today*. Mar/Apr09, 72.

Review of *House Held Together By Winds*, by Sabra Loomis. *World Literature Today*. Jan/Feb09, 74.

- Review of *Behind My Eyes*, by Li-Young Lee. *World Literature Today*. Sep/Oct08, 74.
- Review of *Seven Notebooks*, by Campbell McGrath. *World Literature Today*. Jul/Aug08, 72.
- Review of *The Kitchen Sink*, by Albert Goldbarth. *World Literature Today*. May/Jun08, 71.
- Review of *Mars Being Red*, by Marvin Bell. *World Literature Today*. May/Jun08, 69.
- Review of *Averno*, by Louise Glück. *World Literature Today*. Mar/Apr08, 72.
- Review of *Incomplete Knowledge*, by Jeffrey Harrison. *World Literature Today*. Jan/Feb08, 72.
- Review of *Thirst*, by Mary Oliver. *World Literature Today*. Nov/Dec07, 72.
- Review of *The Strange Hours Travelers Keep*, by August Kleinzahler. *World Literature Today*. Aut/Online07, 20.
- Review of *Strong Is Your Hold*, by Galway Kinnell. *World Literature Today*. Jul/Aug07, 73.
- Review of *Man and Camel*, by Mark Strand. *World Literature Today*. Jul/Aug07, 71.
- Review of *Scar Tissue*, by Charles Wright. *World Literature Today*. Mar/Apr07, 75.
- Review of *My Sentence Was a Thousand Years of Joy*, by Robert Bly. *World Literature Today*. Jan/Feb07, 73.
- Review of *The Niagara River*, by Kay Ryan. *World Literature Today*. Nov/Dec06, 73.
- Review of *Danger on Peaks*, by Gary Snyder. *World Literature Today*. May/Jun06, 76.
- Review of *The Cuckoo*, by Peter Streckfus. *World Literature Today*. Jan/Feb06, 58.
- Review of *Sky*, by Chris Buckley. *World Literature Today*. Sep/Dec05,

89.

Review of *The Women Who Loved Elvis All Their Lives*, by Fleda Brown. *World Literature Today*. May/Aug05, 88.

Review of *The Voice at 3:00 a.m.*, by Charles Simic. *World Literature Today*. Jan/Apr05, 90.

Review of *Peripheral Light*, by John Kinsella. *World Literature Today*. Jan/Apr05, 86.

Review of *Famous Americans*, by Loren Goodman. *World Literature Today*. Sep/Dec04, 99.

Review of *Sparrow*, by Carol Muske-Dukes. *World Literature Today*. Sep/Dec04, 101.

Review of *One Kind of Faith*, by Gary Soto. *World Literature Today*. Sep/Dec04, 102.

Review of *Dumb Luck*, by Sam Hamill. *World Literature Today*. Oct/Dec03, 97.

Review of *You Never Know*, by Ron Padgett. *World Literature Today*. Apr/Jun0303, 105.

“Drowned Voices.” Rev. of *Raising the Dead*, by Ron Rash. *Quarterly West* 54 (2002): 124-26.

“Forms of Light.” Rev. of *Palma Cathedral*, by Michael White. *Quarterly West* 50 (2000): 233-36.

“A View of the Lethe.” Rev. of *Dark Harbor*, by Mark Strand. *Quarterly West* 37 (1993): 232-36.

REPRINTS IN ANTHOLOGIES/ TEXTBOOKS

“At the Grand Canyon.” In *Going Down Grand: Poems from the Grand Canyon*. Lithic Press. 2015.

“Sunday Evening.” In *The Wallace Stevens Journal* 50.2(2012): 263-64.

“Letter to Genetically Engineered Super Humans.” In *The Winter’s Tale: Evans Shakespeare Edition, 1st Edition*, 2012.

“Mathew 6: 9-13” and “Redwing Blackbirds.” In *One for the Money: The Sentence as a Poetic Form*. Lynx House Press, 2012.

- “The Blue Whale.” In the *Alhambra Poetry Calendar* (English Edition) [an internationally published and distributed calendar in English, German, French, Italian, and Spanish]. Belgium: Alhambra Publishing, 2013 (forthcoming). (Also, to be published in book form this year.)
- “Words for My Wife.” In the *Alhambra Poetry Calendar* (English Edition) [an internationally published and distributed calendar in English, German, French, Italian, and Spanish]. Belgium: Alhambra Publishing, 2012. (Also, to be published in book form this year.)
- “The Divers.” In the *Alhambra Poetry Calendar* (English Edition) [an internationally published and distributed calendar in English, German, French, Italian, and Spanish]. Belgium: Alhambra Publishing, 2011 (forthcoming). (Also, to be published in book form this year.)
- “The Poetry Stone.” In the *Alhambra Poetry Calendar* (English Edition) [an internationally published and distributed calendar in English, German, French, Italian, and Spanish]. Belgium: Alhambra Publishing, 2010. (Also, published in book form this year.)
- “At the Grand Canyon.” In the *Alhambra Poetry Calendar* (English Edition) [an internationally published and distributed calendar in English, German, French, Italian, and Spanish]. Belgium: Alhambra Publishing, 2009. (Also, published in book form this year.)
- “The Man and the Cemetery Effigy.” In the *Alhambra Poetry Calendar* (English Edition) [an internationally published and distributed calendar in English, German, French, Italian, and Spanish]. Belgium: Alhambra Publishing, 2008. (Also, published in book form this year.)
- “A Last Request.” In the *Alhambra Poetry Calendar* (English Edition) [an internationally published and distributed calendar in English, German, French, Italian, and Spanish]. Belgium: Alhambra Publishing, 2007.
- “Letter to Genetically Engineered Super Humans.” In the *Alhambra Poetry Calendar* (English Edition) [an internationally published and distributed calendar in English, German, French, Italian, and Spanish]. Belgium: Alhambra Publishing, 2006.
- “Chains of Change” and “The Divers.” In *Literature: Reading and Writing with Critical Strategies* by Steven Lynn. New York: Longman, December 2003.
- “Chains of Change” and “Letter to Genetically Engineered Super Humans.” In *Anthology of Magazine Verse & Yearbook of American Poetry*. Palm Springs, CA: Monitor Book Company, 1996.
- “Redwing Blackbirds.” In *What Will Suffice: The Ars Poetica in Contemporary American Poetry*. Layton, UT: Peregrine Smith Books, 1995.

REPRINTS

Essays:

“The Late Vision of Larry Levis.” Originally in *Quarterly West* 53 (2002): 213-216. Forthcoming in a festschrift to be published this year by Eastern Washington University Press.

Poems:

“Letter to Genetically Engineered Super Humans” reprinted in *Cutting-Edge Bioethics*. Ed. Kilner, John; Hook, Christopher; and Diann B. Uustal. Grand Rapids/ Cambridge: Eerdmans, 2002.

“Aspen Grove in Autumn Snow,” “Claims of the Past,” “The Force of Intent,” “Letter to Genetically Engineered Super Humans,” and “Matthew 6: 9-13” reprinted in Jean Bethke Elshtain’s *Who Are We?: Critical Reflections and Hopeful Possibilities*. Grand Rapids/Cambridge: Eerdmans, 2000.

“Matthew 6: 9-13” was reprinted in Jean Bethke Elshtain’s “Shame and Public Life.” In *Trauma and Self*. Ed. Flynn, Michael and Charles Strozier. New York: Rowan & Littlefield, 1996. 279-286.

“Redwing Blackbirds” was reprinted in Dana Gioia’s “Notes Toward a New Bohemia.” *Grantmakers in the Arts* 5.1 (1994): 1-5.

PAPERS

“What We Have Learned.” Original poetry and prose remarks delivered in the PEW Forum in New York City on September 10, 2002, in commemoration of 9/11. Other participants included E.J. Dionne of the *Washington Post*, Jean Bethke Elshtain of the University of Chicago, James Forbes of The Riverside Church, Aasma Khan of Muslims Against Terrorism, and Rabbi Visotsky of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

“Poetry and Music.” Panel with composers Libby Larsen and Stephen van Wye. James Dickey Conference, University of South Carolina, 2001.

“Partisans and Fundamentals: The Debate on Poetic Form.” American and British Conference on Poetic Form, West Chester University, 1995.

TELEVISION

“Interview with Fred Dings.” *Ex Libris*. Host Ellen Arl. SC Educational Television. WRJA, Sumter, SC. 4 Nov. 2001.

MUSIC

Choral setting of “Letter to Genetically Engineered Superhumans” by Steven van

Wye, UCLA. Premier performance in Columbia, SC, February, 2003.

Orchestral setting of “The Density of Silence” and “The Times Between.” Music by Steven van Wye, UCLA. Premier performance (forthcoming).

AWARDS, HONORS

- * PEW Forum invitation to commemorate 9/11 in New York on the evening of 9/10/02.
- * Wesleyan Writers Conference Teaching Fellowship in Poetry, 1995
- * Charles B. Wood Award for best publication in *Carolina Quarterly* in 1989
- * Residency Fellowship at Karolyi Foundation in Vence, France, 1988
- * Finalist in Walt Whitman Competition 1992
- * Research Fellowship, 1998, College of Arts & Sciences, Wichita State Univ.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of South Carolina, (fall 2000—present, tenured Associate)

Creative Writing

Graduate

- Teach MFA students in poetry workshops (all workshops but one 2000-2010).
- Direct MFA student theses; serve as thesis reader fiction/poetry.
- Write and evaluate comprehensive MFA examinations.
- Serve or have served on Creative Writing Committee, Placement Committee, Graduate Committee, Teaching Committee, Faculty Senate.
- Co-Directed MFA Program (2005-2010).
- Revised MFA (poetry) reading list (2009).
- Revised MFA comprehensive exam with Professors Hospital & Blackwell (2009).
- Directed Fall Writers Festival in 2007; co-directed in 2005.
- Organized and conducted MFA retreat (2001).
- Organized National Poetry Month readings (2003).

Undergraduate

- Teach interdisciplinary course on religion and poetry which I created for the College in 2009.
- Teach beginning, intermediate, and advanced poetry writing workshops; introductory courses include short fiction.
- Teach Honors College courses.
- Advise twenty-five majors per semester.

Literature

- Teach advanced poetry courses to graduate students (Ph.D. / M.F.A.)
- Teach introduction to poetry (majors and non-majors).

Wichita State University, (Assistant, tenure-track: fall 1997—June 2000)

Creative Writing

Graduate

- Taught MFA students in poetry workshops.
- Directed MFA students on theses.
- Wrote and evaluated comprehensive MFA examinations.
- Served on Creative Writing Committee & Steering Committee.

Undergraduate

- Taught introduction to creative writing (poetry & fiction).
- Taught intermediate and advanced poetry writing workshops.

Literature

Graduate

- Taught seminars on major literary figures, e.g., Elizabeth Bishop and Wallace Stevens (spring '98), 20th C Major Poets (spring 2000).

Undergraduate

- Taught modern short fiction.
- Taught survey literature courses.
- Taught introduction to poetry (academic majors).

Widener University (adjunct: Sept. 1996--June 1997)

Literature & Composition

Undergraduate

- Taught modern short fiction and modern poetry.
- Taught analytical essay writing about literature.

West Chester University (adjunct: Sept. 1993--June 1996)

Creative Writing (1994--1995 sabbatical replacement; summer 1988)

Graduate

- Taught poetry workshops.
- Lectured on issues of form and theory.
- Taught close reading of 20th C poetry.

- Served as graduate thesis advisor.
- Served as graduate defense examiner.
- Co-coordinated reading series/ PA Arts Council:
 - ⇒ introduced all visiting poets at readings,
 - ⇒ made travel arrangements,
 - ⇒ arranged dinners and receptions,
 - ⇒ produced advertisements for readings.

Undergraduate

- Taught poetry workshops (upper & lower division).
- Taught fiction workshops (lower division).
- Lectured on issues of form & theory.
- Taught modern poetry and modern short fiction.

Business Writing (1993--1996)

Undergraduate

- Taught upper division business writing courses.
- Taught rhetorical and structural approaches to proposals, reports, and shorter business forms.

Composition (1993--1996)

Undergraduate

- Taught rhetorical and across-the-disciplines approaches.
- Taught expository writing and grammar to remedial students.
- Taught special course on MCAT exam essay writing for pre-med students.
- Taught courses in research paper writing.

Wesleyan University (summer conference, 1995)

Creative Writing

- Edited manuscripts for conferees.
- Advised conferees in individual sessions.
- Lectured on selected poems & issues of form.
- Read original work to conferees.

University of Utah (adjunct: 1991--1993; fellow: 1986--1991)

Undergraduate

- Taught beginning and intermediate undergraduates in fiction and poetry writing.
- Served as thesis advisor in poetry for majors.
- Completed seminars on teaching creative writing.

University of Delaware (teaching fellow / adjunct: 1977--1981)

Undergraduate

- Taught upper division business writing courses.
- Taught rhetorical and structural approaches to proposals, reports, and shorter business forms.
- Taught expository writing and grammar

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Business

Editor

- Edited and revised geological reports for Chevron, USA, Salt Lake Refinery.
- Edited and revised geological reports for Earthfax Corporation (UT).
- Edited and revised contractor specifications document (500 pages) for Campus Planning Department at University of Utah.
- Edited and revised annual report for Davis County Public Health Department (UT).
- Edited book for Life Enrichment International, Inc.

Consultant

- Lectured to staff writers of Earthfax Corporation and senior geologists of Chevron, USA.
- Lectured on letters of application and resumes to women in New Choices Program (volunteer).

Poetry

Judge

- Served as preliminary judge for Randall Jarrell Poetry Prize (fall 1999).
- Served as judge for Daedalus Poetry Contest at West Chester University (1994).

TEACHING INTERESTS

Primary

- Poetry writing courses
- Literature (poetry and modern short fiction)
- Short fiction writing courses

READINGS

I have given many readings over the years on campuses and at bookstores. These are too numerous to list; however, of special note are the following:

Spoletto Festival (June 2019)

Critics Forum Poetry Society of South Carolina (May 2019)

PEW Forum, New York City Commemoration of 9/11 (evening of 9/10/02)

University of Delaware
California College of Arts & Crafts (also taught two-week workshop)
University of California—Riverside
University of North Carolina—Wilmington
University of Chicago
Wesleyan Writers Conference
The Writer's Center, Bethesda, MD
Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA