James F. Nicosia, PhD



EDUCATION

PhD. New York University. May 2003.

Specialization: American literature, colonial to present

Dissertation: “Between Two Great Darks: Reading Mark Strand”

Advisor: Harold Bloom

Combining phenomenological ideals with rigorous close reading and antithetical criticism, this study assesses the career evolution of the Pulitzer Prize-winning former U.S. Poet Laureate, while providing a methodology for analyzing other poetic careers.

MA. MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY, Upper Montclair, NJ. August 1994.

GPA: 4.0

BA. SUMMA CUM LAUDE. MONTCLAIR STATE COLLEGE. August 1987.

Majors: English and economics



**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Full-time Instructor. (Adjunct 1992-1996, 2009-14, 2016+).** 1992–1999, 2009+

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY.

Subject Supervisor, English teacher education candidates.

• American Poetry to 1940— 3 sections

• American Poetry, WWII to Present— 1 section

• American Literature I: Beginnings to 1890— 5 sections

• American Literary Realism— 2 sections

• Art of Poetry— 3 sections

• Art of Fiction— 2 sections

• Basic Composition and Freshman Composition— 19 sections

• Contemporary American Fiction— 1 section

• Contemporary British Fiction— 1 section

• Creative Writing: Fiction, Poetry, Drama— 3 sections

• Creative Writing: Nonfiction— 3 sections

• Grammars of English— 8 sections

• Independent Studies— 8 sections

• Introduction to Literature (general and utopia/dystopia)— 8 sections

• Literature of the American Renaissance— 2 sections

• Teaching Writing in the Public Schools— 1 section

• Young Adult Literature— 10 sections

• World Literature— 1 section



Professor of English. 2006-2007

BERKELEY COLLEGE. Woodland Park, NJ.

• American literature— 1 section

• English composition I, II, III— 7 sections

• Persuasive communication— 1 section



Assistant Professor. (Adjunct 2005-2006). 2003-2006

WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY.

• Methods of Teaching English: Secondary/High School— 1 section

• Reading strategies courses: elementary/secondary— 7 sections

• Graduate Reading Strategies— 2 sections

• Field experience supervision— 3 sections/9 students

• Independent studies— 1 section



English Teacher. 1999–2001

INDIAN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL. OAKLAND, NJ.

• Advanced Placement English IV— 1 section

• Honors English II— 1 section

• College Preparatory English II, III— 4 sections

• Writing (journalism, workshops, writing center)— 4 sections

• Advisor to award-winning newspaper



Adjunct Instructor.

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY. 2005-2006

NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY. 1995–1996

BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE. 1995

ST. PETER’S COLLEGE. 1993–1994

PASSAIC COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE. 1993–1995

• Composition I & II (literature)— 18 sections



Instructor. EOF Summer Program. 1994–1996

Instructor. Gifted and Talented Program. 1996–1997

Graduate Assistant/Computer Writing Project Manager. 1990–1992

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY.

• Creative writing— 3 sections

• Basic Composition— 6 sections

• Trained and managed a staff of seven undergraduates



PUBLICATIONS

# *BOOKS*

*Examining Images of Urban Life: A Resource for Teachers of Young Adult Literature.* (Introduction and coedited with Laura Nicosia). Myers Educational P, 2020.

*Notable American Women Writers*Vols. 1 & 2 (Introduction and coedited with Laura Nicosia). Salem/Gray House, 2020.

*Critical Insights: John Steinbeck's*The Pearl (Introduction and coedited with Laura Nicosia). Salem/Gray House, 2019.

*Reading Mark Strand: His Career, the Collected Works, and the Poetry of the Privative.* Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

*Marathon.* YA Novel. Under consideration.

*Notes from the Janey Forthright Affair.* YA Novel. Under consideration.

*Chameleon George.* Middle-grade novel. Under consideration.

# *ARTICLES—PEER REVIEWED*

“VOYA Top-Shelf Committee Release (Nonfiction)” (with others). *VOYA Magazine* April 2019.

“VOYA Top-Shelf Committee Release (Nonfiction)” (with others). *VOYA Magazine* April 2018.

“Young Adult Literature: Resurrecting Reading for 21st Century Students.” *New Jersey English Journal* vol. 1, no. 1 (Spring 2012): 3-4.

“Fairy Tales Redux: Jon Scieszka’s Revitalization of a Genre for the 21st Century Kid. *New Jersey English Journal* vol. 1, no. 1 (Spring 2012): 48-56.

“The Misfits Bear It Away: Liminality and Comeuppance in the Short Fiction of Flannery O’Connor.” *Southern Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the South* vol. 7, nos. 2-3 (1996): 129-146.

“Bivocality, Identity and Unreliable Narrators in Vargas Llosa’s *The Storyteller.” Revista de Estudios Hispanicos* vol. 26, no. 2 (1999): 137-150.

“‘Still I am not sure what is real and what my mind invented’: The Southern Tradition of (Re)creating the Past in Lewis Nordan’s *Music of the Swamp.”* *Southern Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the South* vol. 4, no. 1 (1993): 67-81.

***BOOK CHAPTERS—PEER REVIEWED***

“Dear Ms. DeVos.” *Letters to Betsy DeVos.* Sense, 2020.

“Marsyas in *Dark Harbor.”*  *Bloom’s Major Poets: Mark Strand.* Chelsea House, 2003. 76-84.

“Lane Smith.” Entry in *Encyclopedia Virginiana.* 2009.

“Cynthia Rylant.” Entry in *Encyclopedia Virginiana.* 2009.

# *JOURNALS EDITED*

*New Jersey English Journal.* New Series. Young Adult Issue vol. 1, no. 1 (Spring 2012).

Editorial Board: *New Jersey English Journal.* (2011-2013).

# *SELECT BOOK REVIEWS—PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS*

“*The 57 Bus,* by Dashka Slater.” *VOYA Magazine.* Fall 2017.

“*Bound by Ice., by* Sandra Neil Wallace and Rich Wallace.” *VOYA Magazine.* Summer 2017.

“*Supreme Power: 7 Pivotal Supreme Court Decisions That Had a Major Impact on America,* by Ted Stewart.” *VOYA Magazine.* Summer 2017.

“*Want,* by Cindy Pon.” *VOYA Magazine.* Summer 2017.

“*Captured History* series, by Michael Burgan, Don Nardo, Danielle Smith-Llena, *et al.*” *VOYA Magazine.* Fall 2016.

“*Great Falls,* by Steve Wallace*.”* *VOYA Magazine.* Spring 2016.

“*The Churchill Club: Knud Pederson and the Boys Who Challenged Hitler,* by Phillip Hoose. *VOYA Magazine.* Summer 2015.

“*The Rise & Fall of the Gallivanters,* by M.J. Beaufrand.” ALAN Picks. *The ALAN Review.* April 2015.

“*Ferals*, by Jacob Gray.” *VOYA Magazine.* Winter 2015.

“*Hellhole*, by Gina D’Amico.” *VOYA Magazine.* Winter 2015.

“*Guy in Real Life,* by Guy Brezenoff.” *VOYA Magazine.* Fall 2014.

“*War of the World Records*, by Matthew Ward. *VOYA Magazine.* Fall 2014.

“*Another Whole Nother Story*, by Dr. Cuthbert Soup.” *VOYA Magazine.* Summer 2014.

“*Between the Spark and the Burn*, by April Tucholke.” *VOYA Magazine.* Spring 2014.

“*The Teen Money Manual,* by Kara McGuire.” *VOYA Magazine.* Spring 2014.

“*What I Thought Was True*, by Huntley Fitzpatrick.”  *VOYA Magazine.* Winter 2013.

“ALAN Picks.” *The* *ALAN Review.* February 2009-June 2010.

***OTHER PUBLICATIONS***

CliftonRoadrunners.com. Newsletter editor and column contributor (“Notes from the Middle of the Pack”). 2012+.

“Boy Book of the Month.” Website. Monthly Recommendations for Boys, Reluctant Readers, and Everyone Else. www.BoyBookoftheMonth.com.

NJCTE Fall Conference Program Designer, Writer and Editor. 2010-2019.

“Everything You Wanted to Know About the Clifton Mustang Marching Band (But Were Afraid to Ask: FAQ’s for Parents.” Pamphlet. 2014, 2016.

“Middle School Band Member FAQs.” Flyer for Clifton High School Marching Band. 2013+.

Bylaws. School Thirteen Elementary School PTA. 2011.

“(un)Common (non)Sense.” (bi-weekly column). *Capuchinomics.* 2004-2005. Capuchinomics.com.

Poetry published in *The Advocate, Sunday Suitor, Spirit: Journal of the E.E. Cummings Society, Eclectic Rainbows, Poetry Motel, Seasons of the Heart, Literal Latte, Sensations.*

“People: Tom Marotta.” *Morris County* Spring 1991: 14-15.



HONORS

Montclair Alumni Association Graduate Citation Award, 1994

Mary Bondon Graduate Scholarship, 1994

Third prize, *Eclectic Rainbows* Poetry Contest, 1995

Second prize, National Writers Club Poetry Contest, 1991

Outstanding Achievement Award for Economics, 1988

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, 1987



TEACHING INTERESTS

American literature. Poetry/poetics. Young Adult Literature. Grammars. Reluctant Readers. Gender Preference and Reading. Teacher education. Transactional criticism. Writing. Southern fiction.



**SELECTED PRESENTATIONS: PROFESSIONAL**

• Presentation. “Cager Messer as Postmodern Huck Finn in Andrew Smith’s *Rabbit & Robot.”* American Literature Association. Boston, 5/19.

• Panel Moderator. “The YA Phenomenon: Gayle Forman and Arvin Ahmadi.” conversation between a public scholar, award-winning author and new writer.” Montclair Literary Festival. Montclair, NJ. 3/19.

• Panel Moderator. “Reinventing the YA Sci-Fi/Fantasy Genre” (with Laura Nicosia, Alex London, Yvonne Ventresca, Sarah Beth Durst, *et al*.). Montclair Literary Festival. Montclair, NJ. 3/18.

• Presentation (with Laura Nicosia). “Books You Will Love.” Presented to Jefferson Middle School students and teachers. Lyndhurst, NJ. 11/17.

• Presentation (with Laura Nicosia). “Are There Boy Books and Girl Books.” Presented to members of NJ Education Association. Barnes & Noble, Clifton. 11/17.

• Master of Ceremonies. New Jersey Council of Teachers of English (NJCTE) Conference, Introduced Andrew Smith and A. S. King. Montclair State U, 4/16.

• Presentation. “Where the Boys Are: A Reasonable Approach to Boys’ Literacy. Caldwell

University Literary Conference, 10/15.

• Master of Ceremonies. NJCTE Conference, Introduced David Lubar, Jeff Baron and others. Montclair State U, 3/15.

• Presentation. “You Don’t Want to Hear this Information.” Speaking Through Silence Writer’s Conference. Montclair State U, 4/14.

• Master of Ceremonies. NJCTE Conference. Montclair State U, 4/16.

• Presentations (2). “There’s No Such Thing as a Good Book.” NJCTE Conference, 3/14.

• Address. “Alexander London’s *Proxy*.” Guest speaker for Young Adult Literature Course.

Montclair State U, 11/13.

• Master of Ceremonies. NJCTE Conference. Montclair State U. Introduced Stewart O’Nan, Christopher de Vinck, and others. NJCTE Conference, 3/13.

• Presentation. “Hot YA Fiction for the Classroom. NJCTE Conference, 10/12.

• Address. “Paulo Bacigalupi’s *Ship Breaker*.” Guest speaker for Young Adult Literature Course. Montclair State U, 5//12.

• Presentation. “Turning on the Reading Switch.” NJCTE Conference, 3/12.

• Presentation. “Finding Contemporary Poetry classics.” NJCTE Conference, 10/11.

• Introduction. “Philip Beard.” NJCTE Conference, 3/11.

• Presentation. “Books for Boys (and Girls).” NJCTE Conference, 3/11.



• Presentation. “Re-igniting Interest in Reading: Solve for X.” NJCTE Conference, 3/10.

• Presentation. “Judy Moody, Clarice Bean and Franny K. Stein: Redefining Girls in Middle-

Grade Literature.” Society for the Study of American Women Writers National

Conference, 10/10.

• Presentation. “Boys Aren’t Reluctant Readers.” New Jersey Council for the Humanities

(NJCH). Stockton State College, 7/10.

• Presentation. “Reading for Boys.” NJCH. Monmouth U, 7/09.

• Presentation (with M. Jerry Weiss). “Boys + Books = X: Solve for X.” New Jersey City University, 11/08.

• Presentation. “Coming of Age Literature for Middle-Grade Readers.” NJCH. Monmouth

U, 7/08.

• Workshop leader. “Sarcasm and the American Voice: The Development of the Smart Aleck.” Humanities in the Schools Day: The Satirical Spirit. Montclair State U, 12/07.

• Presentation (with M. Jerry Weiss). “Young Adult and Children’s Literature.” New Jersey City University, 11/07.

• Presentation. “Fairy Tales Redux: Jon Scieszka’s Revitalization of a Genre for the New Generation.” American Literature Association. Boston, 5/07.

• Introduction. “Mark Strand and the Poet’s Role in Contemporary Society.” Introduction for Mark Strand Appearance at Montclair State U, 4/07.

• Workshop leader. “Carpe Momentum: Living in the Moment.” Humanities in the Schools

Day. Montclair State U, 12/06.



• Lecture. “The Way In: The Five ‘Senses’ of Poetry Instruction.” Montclair State U English

Education symposium, 04/05.

• Speaker. “*The Giver:* It’s About Language.” Montclair English Education symposium, 3/05.

• Speaker. “Teaching Poetry: The Transactional Approach.” Montclair State U, 11/04.

• Workshop leader. Academic Decathlon. Indian Hills, 2/99-2/04.

• Speaker. “The End of the World as We Know It: Edwin Muir’s ‘The Horses.’” New Jersey State Mission Decathlon. Oakland, NJ, 1/00.



• Speaker. “On Eliot’s ‘The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock.’” New Jersey State Mission Decathlon. Oakland, NJ, 12/98.

• Workshop leader. Thinking poetry. Indian Hills, 4/96.

• Speaker. English Major Career Night. Montclair State, 3/96.

• Presentation. “Highwater’s Hopes, Gates’ Monkey and the Search for Self in Vargas Llosa’s *The Storyteller.”* New Jersey College English Association (NJCEA) Conference,

Seton Hall U, 3/95.

**• Presentation.** “Bivocality and identity in Vargas Llosa’s *The Storyteller.”* Theoretical

Approaches to Marginalized Literatures National Conference, U of Montana, 3/95.

**• Presentation.** “(Re)creating the South in Lewis Nordan’s *Music of the Swamp.”*

NEMLA, 4/94.

**• Presentation.** “‘I’ve suddenly arrived out of the middle of nowhere completely

deranged’: Manipulative Moms, Impotent Dads, Buried Children and the Death of

the American Family in Albee and Shepard.” NJCEA Conference, Seton Hall U, 3/94.

**• Presentation.** “Responding to Student Writing for Fun & Profit.” Faculty Development Day. Passaic CCC, 4/93.



# PUBLIC SERVICE

• Award Committee Member. Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) Top Shelf Committee for Nonfiction Merit Awards, 2017+

•  Children’s & Young Adult Co-coordinator. Montclair Literary Festival. Spring 2018+

Organize panels and discussions for annual conference.

• Co-chair. New Jersey Council of Teachers of English Spring Conference.

Designed and printed promotional materials and program; procured meeting rooms; established schedule; promoted conference; communicated with speakers Walter Dean Myers, A.S. King, Gayle Forman, Gordon Korman, Andrew Smith, Alex London, Philip Beard, Sergio Troncoso, et al. 2011-2019

• Web designer, webmaster and newsletter editor. Clifton Roadrunners Running Club

• President. Woodrow Wilson Middle School Home and School Association. Clifton,

2011-13

• Speaker. “What to Make of a Diminished Thing: Mark Strand and the Modern Tradition.” Belleville Public Library, 10/99

• PTA Executive Board member. Clifton, NJ, 2006-10

• Chairperson. School 13 Book Fairs, Clifton, NJ, 2006-10

• Technician. Macintosh systems certified troubleshooter

• Certified Coach. Youth Sports Research Council, Rutgers U

• Consultant. Certified Olive Oil Consultant, Society of La Cucina Italiana

