

Cynthia Shearer

Writing Consultant & Assistant Director

W.L. Adams Center for Writing

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Work

2005-present: **Writing Consultant & Assistant Director**, W.L. Adams Center for Writing, Texas Christian University; Fort Worth, Texas. Teaching specialties: expository writing, creative writing, multimodal composition

2000-2003: Instructor of English, Department of English, University of Mississippi (freshman composition, including developmental courses, sophomore literature surveys, advanced composition, creative writing workshops at graduate and undergraduate levels)

1994-2000: Curator of Rowan Oak, Home of William Faulkner, University of Mississippi

1992-94: Program coordinator/ Grant writer, Oxford Conference for the Book, Center for the Study of Southern Culture, University of Mississippi

1985-90: Teaching Assistant, Department of English, University of Mississippi

1980-85: Instructor in English, Grant writer for Center for International Strategic Studies, Mississippi State University

Education

Completed all coursework requirements for Ph.D. in English, University of Mississippi, 1985-90

M.A. English, University of Mississippi 1979

B.A. English (honors), Valdosta State University; Valdosta, Georgia, 1977

Grants Authored or Co-Authored

Proposal to Plan Transition to Museum Standards for Rowan Oak, Home of William Faulkner. Phil Hardin Foundation, 1994, (architectural and landscape assessment)

Proposal to Conduct Dehumidification Research at Rowan Oak, UM Associates, 1994

Survey of Collections at Rowan Oak, Museum Assessment Program, 1994,

Self-Guided Tour of Rowan Oak, Oxford Tourism Council, 1994

Database of Rowan Oak Inventory, UM Associates, 1995,

Proposal for Acid-Free Storage System at Rowan Oak, 1996,

Mississippi Legislative Appropriation 643 for Rowan Oak, 1998 (with Senator Gray Tollison)

Novels/Editions

The Wonder Book of the Air. New York: Pantheon, 1996

The Wonder Book of the Air. New York: Vintage, 1997 (paperback)

The Wonder Book of the Air. London: Bloomsbury, 1996

The Wonder Book of the Air. London: Bloomsbury, 1997 (paperback)

The Celestial Jukebox. Washington, D.C: Avalon/Shoemaker & Hoard, 2005

The Celestial Jukebox. University of Georgia Press, 2006. (paperback)

Honors/Awards/Activities

Presentation, "Cosette Faust Newton's Garden Ship of Dreams," Dallas Historical Society; Dallas Texas, January 25, 2014.

Inclusion in anthology, *Oxford American Book of Great American Music Writing, 2008*

Pushcart Prize Anthology selection, 2006.

Fiction judge for Sarabande Books Mary McCarthy Prize for Short Fiction, 2005

Public reading, Georgia Center for the Book series, Jimmy Carter Center, Atlanta, 2006.

Poets & Writers new novel excerpt series, February 2005

Booksense Pick, February 2005 for *The Celestial Jukebox*

Cordell Lecturer, Abraham Baldwin College, Georgia, November, 2004

Mississippi Arts Commission Literacy Project reviewer 2004

Inclusion in anthology of Georgia writers, *After O'Connor*, ed. Hugh Ruppersberg, University of Georgia Press, 2003.

Inclusion in *The Best of the Oxford American*, 2002

Utne Reader Writer's Café discussion series, online, fall 2001

National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship/Fiction/2000

National Endowment for the Arts Program Grants Panelist, Washington, D.C., Dec. 1998

Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Fiction Prize, 1996

Oxford American Southern Bestseller list, June 1996

Honorable Mention, *Best American Short Stories*, 1993

Pushcart Prize Nominations, 1992, 1999

Short Stories

"Catalogue," *The Quarterly*, Winter 1992

"Flight Patterns," *The Oxford American*, Winter 1992. Reprinted in *The Best of the Oxford American: Ten Years from the Southern Magazine of Good Writing*, Hill Street Press, 2002. Also reprinted in anthology of Georgia writers, *After O'Connor*, ed. Hugh Ruppersberg, University of Georgia Press, 2003.

"Radioland," *Tri-Quarterly*, Fall 1993

"After He'd Gone," *Ladies Home Journal*, Spring 1993

"The Sea of Dames," *Missouri Review*, Winter 1994

"The Womanly Art of Breastfeeding," *Santa Monica Review*, Fall 1995

"Field's Guide to Amerikan Houses," *Reckon*, Summer 1995

"Still Life With Shotgun and Oranges," *Oxford American*, March 1999; Reprinted in *Into the Flat Land*, Kathleen Robbins, ed. PhotoNola, 2012; also reprinted in *Into the Flat Land*, Kathleen Robbins, ed. University of South Carolina Press, 2014 (forthcoming).

"The Celestial Jukebox," *Oxford American*, July 2000

"Introit," *American Literary Review*, Fall 2001

"Conjunto," *Cedars*, Issue 2, Spring 2012.

Essays

"Barbershop Duet: Looking for Janis Joplin in Port Arthur," *Oxford American*, March 1997. Reprinted as "Janis Joplin," *The Oxford American Book of Great Music Writing*, 2008.

“Planet Absurdo,” *Hungry Mind Review*, Spring 1998. Reprinted in: Elizabeth Quintero and Mary Kay Rummel, eds., *Becoming a Teacher in the New Society: Bringing Communities and Classrooms Together*. Peter Lang, Inc., 2003, pp. 34-37.

“The Impediment of Ancestors,” *Hungry Mind Review*, Fall 1999

“Stop the Invisible Pogrom,” *Hungry Mind Review*, Fall 2000

“The Cat With the Fiddle,” *Oxford American*, Summer 2000

“Beyond the Circle,” *The View from the Loft*, Fall 2001

“In the Beginning was the Movie,” *The View From the Loft*, Spring 2001

“The Cat, The Quilt, The Writers, the Fix,” *Speakeasy*, Fall 2002

“The Famous Writer’s School for Scandal,” *Speakeasy*, Spring 2005; Pushcart Prize winner.

“Stocking the Celestial Jukebox,” *Beatrice*, February 27, 2005

“Barry Hannah’s Mixtape,” *The Oxford American*, Fall 2011.

“Cosette Faust Newton’s Garden Ship of Dreams” *Legacies: A History Journal for Dallas and North Texas*, (forthcoming Spring 2014).

Reviews and Literary Criticism About

Lisa Henricksen, “Trauma Studies and the Literature of the U.S. South.” *Literature Compass* 10, no. 8, (August 2013) 605-617. doi: 10.1111/lic3.12079 .

Wendy Braun, “Mestizas in a Global South: Cynthia Shearer’s *The Celestial Jukebox*,” in *Southern Bellas: The Construction of Mestiza Identity in Southern Narratives*. Dissertation, Louisiana State University, August 2013, pp. 101-120.

Citation of *Celestial Jukebox* in Martyn Bone, “Southern Fiction.” *The Cambridge Companion to American Fiction After 1945*, ed. John N. Duvall. Cambridge, UK: University of Cambridge Press, 2012.

Karyn H .Anderson, “Dangerously Smooth Spaces in Cynthia Shearer’s *The Celestial Jukebox*,” in MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the US 30, no. 1 (Spring 2012) 199-217. Oxford University Press (DOI 10.1353/mel.2012.0008) (pdf retrievable at Project Muse Database: <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/melus/v037/37.1.anderson.html>)

Martyn Bone, “Narratives of African Migration to the U.S. South: Dave Eggers’ *What Is the What* and Cynthia Shearer’s *The Celestial Jukebox*.” *New Centennial Review* 10, no. 1, (Spring 2010) 65-76.

Karyn H. Anderson, Smoothing Out the Rough Edges: Post-colonial spaces and post colonial subjectivities in *Le Petit Prince de Belleville* and *The Celestial Jukebox*. M.A. Thesis. Florida Atlantic University. 2009.

Neil Segars, "How to Be Chinese in Mississippi: Representations of a Chinese Grocer in Cynthia Shearer's *The Celestial Jukebox*." *The Global South*, Vol. 3, No. 2 (Fall 2009), 50-63.

Julia Merkel "Hereditary Misery: The Dysfunctional Family and Multigenerational Transmission in Jonathan Franzen's *The Corrections* and Cynthia Shearer's *The Wonder Book of the Air*." Academic paper. GRIN Verlag, 200

Kathryn McKee & Annette Trefzer. "Global Contexts, Local Literature: The New Southern Studies." *American Literature*

Michael Meckna, "Musicians in Novels: Good Reading for Teachers and Students," *American Music Teacher*, April/May 2006. 26-29

Elena Osipova, Some Notes on the American Novel at the Turn of the 21st Century. *Interlitteraria* 9/2004, 49-61

Alison Owings, *Hey Waitress: the USA from the Other Side of the Tray*. University of California Press, 2002.

Beverly Jones, "The Wonder Book of the Air," *New York Times* vol 1, no 1, p. 21 1996

Julia Merkel, *Writing Against the Odds: The South's Cultural and Literary Struggle Against Progress & Modernity*. M.A. Thesis.

Gail Caldwell, "Power Dive: *The Wonder Book of the Air* by Cynthia Shearer," *Boston Globe*, February 25, 1996 B41.

"*The Wonder Book of the Air* by Cynthia Shearer," "Briefly Noted." *New Yorker*, February 1996.

Michael Upchurch, "Parts Add Up to a Wondrous Whole," *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* 2-25-96

"*The Wonder Book of the Air* by Cynthia Shearer" *Publisher's Weekly*, Dec. 4, 1995. 51

Lisa Jensen. "A Century of Unhappy Love in a Small Georgia Town," *San Francisco Chronicle*, 1996.

Frederic Koeppel "The Wonder Book of the Air by Cynthia Shearer," *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, Feb. 11, 1996.

Cynthia Shearer's *The Wonder Book of the Air*, *Kirkus Reviews*, Dec. 1, 1995.

Sarah Midori Zimmerman, "The Wonder Book of the Air by Cynthia Shearer" *Bookpage*, Sept. 30 1996.