

WILL BOAST

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EDUCATION AND POST-GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

American Academy in Rome – Rome, Italy (Sept. 2015-July 2016)

John Guare Writer's Fund Rome Prize Fellowship, awarded by the American Academy of Arts and Letters

University of East Anglia – Norwich, United Kingdom (Oct. 2011-March 2012)

Charles Pick Fellowship, fully funded post-graduate fellowship in Creative Writing

Stanford University – Stanford, CA (Sept. 2008 – June 2010)

Stegner Fellowship (fiction), fully funded post-graduate fellowship in Creative Writing

Advisors—Elizabeth Tallent, Tobias Wolff

University of Virginia – Charlottesville, VA (Sept. 2005 - June 2007)

M.F.A. in Creative Writing (fiction), fully funded as a Henry Hoyns Fellow

Thesis advisors—Ann Beattie, Christopher Tilghman

Knox College – Galesburg, IL (Sept. 1997 - June 2001)

B.A. in English, *magna cum laude*

PUBLISHED WORK

Short story collection, *Power Ballads* - University of Iowa Press (Sept. 2011)

Winner of the 2011 Iowa Short Fiction Award, judged by Yiyun Li

Finalist for 2011 California Book Award in First Fiction

Memoir, *Epilogue* - W.W. Norton/Liveright (Sept. 2014); Granta Books (Jan. 2015)

Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers selection, Autumn 2014

BBC Book of the Week, 2015

A *San Francisco Chronicle* Book of the Year, 2014

New York Times Bestseller

Winner of 2015 John Guare Writer's Fund Rome Prize Fellowship, American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Academy in Rome

Outstanding Achievement, 2014, Wisconsin Library Association Literary Awards

Novel, *Daphne* - W.W. Norton/Liveright, Granta Books (forthcoming, Feb. 2018)

Fiction

"The Girl Behind the Wall," *Heck*, Spring 2016

"The Tastemaker," *The Pinch*, Spring 2012

"Sitting In," *Narrative*, Oct. 2011

"Lost Coast," *ZYZZYVA*, Fall 2011

(also appeared in *California Prose Directory, 2013*, anthology, Outpost 19 Books)

"Power Ballads," *The Literarian/Center for Fiction*, Sept. 2011

"Beginners," *The American Scholar*, Fall 2011

(listed as a Notable Story in *Best American Short Stories 2012*)

"Mad Dog's Daughter," *Salon.com*, Aug. 29th, 2011

"Dead Weight," *Storyglossia 46*, July 2011

"Mr. Fern, Freestyle," *Five Points*, July 2011

"At the Center of the Sailing World," *Narrative*, April 2011

"Coda," *Narrative*, November 2010

"Sidemen," *Fivechapters*, Winter 2009

“Diplomats,” *Glimmer Train* 69, Winter 2009
“Weather Enough,” *Best New American Voices 2009*, Harcourt
(also appeared in *Mississippi Review*, Autumn 2007)
“In the Leaves,” *The Southern Review*, Autumn 2006
“Rations” and “The Man on Am Street,” *The Ninth Letter*, Fall/Winter 2005
“As Is,” *Alaska Quarterly Review*, Spring/Summer 2004

Non-fiction

Long-form article on nomadic sports in Kazakhstan, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, Summer 2017
“The Back Way and the Way Back,” article on Gambian politics and culture, *Granta.com*, March 28, 2017
“Across the Line,” *The New York Times Magazine*, 6/24/16
“Letter to a Stranger” (personal essay), *Off Assignment*, 12/22/16
“Reading Lessons” (criticism), *The American Scholar*
“Book of a Year” (essay on Lionel Trilling), *Granta.com*, 1/2/16
“The Allure of Ugliness” (essay/criticism on the novels of Peter Stamm), *The New Republic*, 12/17/14
“Five Tips for Writing a Memoir” (essay on writing), *Publisher’s Weekly*, 12/5/14
“After the Green Death” (feature on spirit possession festivals in Burma), *Guernica*, Nov. 15, 2014
“Lost and Found” (personal essay), *Parade*, Oct. 19, 2014
“Overdue” (personal essay), *Narrative*, Sept. 15, 2014
“I Couldn’t Finish My Brother’s Story” (personal essay/essay on writing), *Salon.com*, Sept. 15, 2014
“Archeology,” (personal essay/fiction hybrid), *Gulf Coast*, Spring 2014
“Pain” (personal essay), *Virginia Quarterly Review*, Winter 2014
(also published in *The Guardian*, 1/4/15
listed as a Notable Essay in *Best American Essays 2015*)
“A School for Brooklyn’s Youngest Hipsters” (article on music education), *newyorker.com*, May 12, 2014
Critical piece on Edward P. Jones, *New American Canon* anthology, University of Iowa Press, forthcoming
“Where It All Went Wrong” (personal essay), *The Paris Review Daily*, Nov. 15, 2012
“England, Why England?” *New Writing* (University of East Anglia), Winter 2011
“Enduring Thanksgiving,” (personal essay/op-ed), *The New York Times*, Nov. 24, 2011
“Cutting Out the Bad Bits” (essay on writing), *Glimmer Train/Writer’s Ask*, Sept. 2011
“Girl Power Goes to the Beach?” (essay, cultural criticism), *iris*, Fall 2005
“Interview with Lydia Davis” (interview), *Meridian*
Various reviews and criticism have appeared in *Outside*, *Salon*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the *New York Times Book Review*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, University of Chicago (Sept. 2014-June 2015)

Music in Fiction: Improvisation, Composition, Obsession, Fall 2017
Embarrassing Fiction, Ecstatic Truth, Alternative Facts (on inter-genre work), Fall 2017
Minor Portfolio Fiction Workshop, Winter 2017
Fundamentals of Fiction Writing, Creative Writing Track, Winter 2017
Advanced Fiction Writing: The Short Story in Context, Fall 2016, Spring 2015
Honors Beginning Fiction Writing, Spring 2015
Introduction to Fiction Writing, Winter 2015
Thesis/Major Projects, Fiction, Winter 2015
Intermediate Fiction Writing, Fall 2014

Instructor, Sackett Street Writer’s Group, New York, New York (Oct. 2013-June 2014)

Fiction III (workshop of adult students), Fall 2013
Fiction III, Winter 2014
Creative Non-Fiction III, Spring 2014

Instructor, Grub Street, Boston, MA (May 2014)

“Setting and Emotion in Fiction” (lecture and intensive discussion)

Instructor, Department of English, San Francisco State University (Jan. 2013-June 2013)

CW512, Craft of Fiction (undergraduate reading course)

Instructor, MFA Writing Program, University of San Francisco (August 2012-Dec. 2012)

MFA 612-03, Nonfiction Workshop I

Instructor, Department of Continuing Studies, Stanford University (Sept. 2010-Sept. 2012)

EGL113, Introduction to Creative Non-Fiction: Gathering Material

EGL172, Introduction to Creative Non-Fiction: The Essay

EGL201W, Creative Nonfiction: Time, Structure, and Working Toward a Final Draft

Instructor, Department of English, University of Virginia (Sept. 2006 - June 2007)

ENWR 250, Introduction to Fiction Writing (Two sections: Spring 2007, Fall 2006)

Instructor, Department of English, Indiana University (Sept. 2003 - June 2005)

W103, Introductory Creative Writing (Two sections: Spring 2004, Fall 2003)

W131, Freshman Composition (Two sections: Fall 2004, Spring 2005)

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

Committee on Creative Writing, University of Chicago – (Sept. 2014 – current)

I help to oversee all creative writing curriculum and events planning on U. Chicago’s campus, including organizing and hosting a successful, highly diverse reading series, and I’ve been deeply involved in designing a proposal to the College for a new Creative Writing major. My service in the program also includes general mentoring, advising minors and BA thesis students on their final portfolios and Honors projects, and judging several year-end student contests.

Instructor, ESL and Storytelling Workshop, Joel Nafuma Refuge Center – (Sept. 2015 – current)

Over my year as a Fellow at the American Academy in Rome, I volunteered at a refugee and migrant resource center, where I taught ESL and led an ongoing storytelling project. My work with the JNRC continues, as I’ll be returning to teach in December and am working with the US Embassy in Rome on an effort to revamp and reorganize the Center’s ESL curriculum.

Application Board, Bread Loaf Writer’s Conference – (Spring 2014)

I evaluated work-study (“waiter”) applications for the Bread Loaf Writer’s Conference. My association with Bread Loaf continues, and I was an invited guest at their 2015 conference in Sicily.

Levinthal Tutorial mentor, Stanford University – Stanford, CA (Winter 2010)

Writer’s Studio mentor, Stanford University – Stanford, CA (Winter 2010)

I mentored several Stanford undergraduates and supervised an independent study on Latin American “Boom” authors.

Director, M.F.A. Student Reading Series – Charlottesville, VA (Sept. 2006 – Dec. 2006)

I organized a well-attended weekly reading series for University of Virginia MFA students, coordinated venues and scheduling, and organized publicity.

Fiction Board, *Virginia Quarterly Review* – Charlottesville, VA (Sept. 2005 – June 2009)

I reviewed solicited and unsolicited manuscripts for publication, both fiction and non-fiction.

Fiction Editor, *Indiana Review* – Bloomington, IN (Sept. 2004 - June 2005)
I selected content for publication, organized a staff of seven, and ran editorial meetings.

Intern and Reader, *StoryQuarterly* – Chicago, IL (Oct. 2001 – Feb. 2003)
I began as a volunteer, unpaid intern and subsequently worked as a reader on the journal's staff.

Assistant to Professor John Casey – Charlottesville, VA (June 2006 - present)

HONORS AND PRIZES

John Guare Writer's Fund Rome Prize Fellowship, American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Academy in Rome

Fellow, MacDowell Colony, June 2017

Essay, "Pain," listed as a Notable Essay in *Best American Essays 2015*

John Farrar Fellow in Fiction, Bread Loaf Writer's Conference 2013, taught under Antonya Nelson

Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers selection, Autumn 2014

Mary Tannenbaum Award, 2012, grant from the San Francisco Foundation, selected by Ishmael Reed

Short story, "Beginners," listed as a Notable Story in *Best American Short Stories 2012*

Finalist for 2011 California Book Award in First Fiction

Bernard O'Keefe Tuition Scholar, Bread Loaf Writer's Conference 2011

Short story collection selected by Yiyun Li for the Iowa Short Fiction Award

Story selected by Mary Gaitskill for *Best New American Voices 2009* anthology (Harcourt)

Tennessee Williams Scholar, Sewanee Writer's Conference 2007

Emily Clark Balch Prize for best short story by a graduate student, UVa, 2007

Finalist for *Glimmer Train* Family Matters contest, 2007

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Presenter, Ithaca College Writer's Festival, March 2015

Presenter, "Sounds Through the Wall: Writing About Music and Musicians," AWP Panel, AWP Seattle Conference, Feb. 2014

Presenter, Cork International Short Story Festival, Sept. 2012

Guest and Presenter, Iowa City Festival of the Book, June 2011

Guest speaker at various universities, including Columbia University, Stanford University, New York University, St. Mary's College, and American University

