

# JEFFREY THOMSON

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Creative Writing, University of Missouri Creative Writing – Poetry Twentieth Century American Literature & Environmental Literature	1996
M.A., English, University of Missouri, English & Creative Writing – Poetry	1993
B.A., Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois English & Creative Writing – <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	1989

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor of Creative Writing, University of Maine Farmington	2008-
Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, University of Maine Farmington	2005-8
Assistant Professor of English & Director, MA/MFA in Writing, Chatham College	2000-2005
Visiting Assistant Professor, Whitman College	1997-2000
Visiting Assistant Professor, Emporia State University	1996-7
Graduate Teaching Fellow, University of Missouri	1993-6

## HONORS AND AWARDS

2008 Individual Artist Fellowship in the Literary Arts from the Maine Arts Commission  
Poet of the Month, October, 2008: PoetryNet ([www.poetrynet.org](http://www.poetrynet.org))  
Teaching Fellowship in Poetry, Wesleyan Writers Conference, June 15-20<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
“Achilles in Jasper, Texas” (poem) won the Split this Rock! Poetry Festival Poetry Contest, 2008  
*Celestial Emporium of Benevolent Knowledge*, finalist for the 2008 Maine Book Award  
2006 Individual Creative Artists Fellowship from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts  
“Amazon Parable” (poem) appeared on Verse Daily ([www.versedaily.org](http://www.versedaily.org)): 10/10/06  
2005 Literature Fellowship in Poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts  
“Fabulous Ones” (poem) appeared on Verse Daily ([www.versedaily.org](http://www.versedaily.org)): 2/9/05  
Tennessee Williams Scholarship to the Sewanee Writers Conference, July 2003.  
Summer Fellow, Summer Institute in Literary Studies, “The Poetry of W.B. Yeats,” National Humanities Center, July 2003.  
“Temptation” won the Master’s Poetry Contest, 2002.  
Full Scholarship to the *West Chester Poetry Conference*, West Chester, PA. June 2002.

“Rothenberg's Horses” (*Connecticut Review* 18, no. 1 (1996): 177) was nominated for a *Pushcart Prize*, 1997.

Teaching Fellowship, 1996 *Writers @ Work* Conference.

“The Halo Brace” won the Academy of American Poets Prize, UMC, 1995.

“Scars” won the Academy of American Poets Prize, UMC, 1993.

“Peninsula State Park” won the Academy of American Poets Prize, Bradley University, 1989.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*Birdwatching in Wartime*. Forthcoming from Carnegie Mellon University Press, 2009  
*From the Fishhouse: An Anthology of Poems that Sing, Rhyme, Resound, Syncopate, Alliterate, and Just Plain Sound Great*. Co-edited with Camille Dungy and Matt O'Donnell. Forthcoming from Persea Books, 2009

*Many Ways to Dig a Tunnel*, translated from the Spanish of Juan Carlos Flores with Marta Hernandez Salvan. Forthcoming from Green Integer Books, 2009.

*Celestial Emporium of Benevolent Knowledge* (chapbook). RopeWalk Press (University of Southern Indiana), 2007

*Renovation*. Carnegie Mellon University Press (Pittsburgh), 2005

*Blind Desire* (limited edition artist book in English and Braille with photographs by Dennis Marsico): Dionysus Press (Pittsburgh), 2005

*The Country of Lost Sons*: Parlor Press (Purdue Univ.) 2004

*The Halo Brace*: Birch Brook Press: (New York), 1998

*The Halo Brace* (chapbook): A Small Garlic Press: (Chicago), 1997

### Poems

“Jokes.” Forthcoming in *Subtropics*.

“Stalin on Stage.” Forthcoming on *Drunken Boat*.

“Landscape with Pigeons and the Tree of Heaven.” Forthcoming in *The Fourth River*.

“What is the State of Poetry Today?” Forthcoming in *32 Poems*.

“Underwhelmed” and “Quo Vadis?” *Image*, 59 (Fall 2008): 53-4.

“Personal.” *Blue Mesa Review*, 20 (Fall 2008): 38-9.

“Mermaids.” Reprinted on *Sea Stories*: Estival 2008 ([www.seastories.org](http://www.seastories.org))

“This is a test of the emergency broadcast system,” “Night Herons,” “Higher Math,” and “The Town Called Cliché.” *Diode* Vol. 1 # 3 (Spring 2008)

(<http://www.diodepoetry.com/v1n3/index.html>)

“Achilles in Jasper, Texas.” *Split this Rock!* ([www.splitthisrock.org/contests.html](http://www.splitthisrock.org/contests.html))

“Ain't Misbehavin',” “Bitches Brew” and “Epistrophe.” *Brilliant Corners* Vol. 12, # 1 (Winter 2007): 5-9

“Landscape with Swelling and Hives.” *Cimarron Review* # 161 (Fall 2007): 8-9

“mermaids” and “those drawn with a very fine camel's hair brush.” *Southern Indiana Review* Vol. 14, # 1 (Spring 2007): 16-17

“those that are not included in this classification.” *Sea Stories*: Estival 2007

([www.seastories.org/indexEstival07.html](http://www.seastories.org/indexEstival07.html))

- “Dantalion.” *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007
- “American Pastoral.” *The Café Review*. (Spring 2007): 43-4
- “Against Prognostication,” “Imaginary Numbers,” “fabulous ones,” “innumerable ones,” and “those that just have broken a flower vase.”  
*From the Fishhouse* ([www.fishhousepoems.org](http://www.fishhousepoems.org))
- “Landscape with Urban Elephants” and “Amazon Parable.” *Quarterly West* # 62 (Spring/Summer 2006): 125-6
- “Landscape with Flooded Forest.” *The Café Review* (Summer 2006): 14-16
- “First Days in Maine” and “The Songs Orpheus Sings.” *Crosscut* #14: 34-36
- “innumerable ones.” *Indiana Review*. Vol. 27, # 2: 137
- “Birdwatching in Wartime” and “My Own Desire.” *The Ginko Tree Review* # 2:11-15
- “Twin.” *Ginger Hill*, Fall 2005: 31
- “Imaginary Numbers” and “Fucking on the Confederate Dead.” *Flint Hills Review* Vol. 9 (2004-5): 80-83
- “Cursing the Sleeping World.” *Eclipse*. Vol. 16 (Fall 2005): 112
- “Message from Lefkosa” and “Narrative.” *Southeast Review*. 2004
- “those that belong to the Emperor.” *The Sycamore Review*. 17: no 1 (Winter/Spring 2004): 31
- “Fabulous Ones.” *32 Poems*. Fall 2004: 14
- “Goodnight Nobody” (prose poem essay). *New Delta Review*. 20: no. 1 (Fall/Winter 2002): 25-31
- “Terrible Gestures.” *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, September 16, 2001
- “The Coffeehouse War.” *Willow Springs* # 48 (June 2001): 96
- “Paris” & “Lastica: Kosovo: May 13, 1999.” *Crab Creek Review* (Summer 2000)
- “The Country of Lost Sons” and “Kosovo.” *Natural Bridge* #4 (Fall 2000)
- “Television in Another Language.” *Blue Moon* (Spring 1999): 3-5
- “Light Through Glass,” *Faultline* (Spring 1999): 45-6
- “Fermata: Madison, Wisconsin” (“Renovation iii.”); “Autumn and Spring, Madison, Wisconsin” (“Renovation iv”) and “Theft Elegy, St. Louis, Missouri, 1990” (“Renovation viii”). *Quarterly West* (Spring/Summer 1998): 59-62
- “Learning the Dead by Name” & “Tables.” *Flint Hills Review* #3 (1998)
- “Scars.” *Poetpurri* (Spring 1998): 82-3
- “Cosmography.” *Blue Mesa Review* # 8 (1997): 2-6
- “The Other Side.” *Antithesis* (Australia) 8, no. 2 (1997): 303-6
- “Picasso's Portrait of Gertrude Stein” and “Rothenberg's Horses.” *Connecticut Review* 18 (1996): 176-7
- “South Chicago: An Ode” and “Shadows in The Rain.” *Many Mountains Moving* 2, no. 1 (1995): 144-5
- “Avenue of Chance Ascent” and “Ode to My Mother's Sunflowers.” *Poems & Plays* #2 (1995): 7-11
- “Plato's Expulsion.” *Puerto del Sol* 30, no. 1 (1995): 216-7
- “Danzan Solas.” *Whiskey Island* (Fall 1994): 27
- “Elegy for the Living in Early Spring.” *Puerto del Sol* 28, no. 1 (1993): 10 - 12
- “Ed Abbey's Funeral” and “Still Life with Rain and Rilke.” *Whiskey Island* (Spring/Summer.1992): 75
- “The Length of Saturday Night.” *Mississippi Valley Review* 20, no. 2 (1991): 101-3.

### Translations

- “Totem,” “The Diamond of Lourdes,” “Chinese Shades,” “Picture of An (other) Woman,” “Ibar Syndrome,” and “Dinner (Diptych).” By Juan Carlos Flores (translated with Marta Hernández Salván) *Golden Handcuffs Review* 1 no. 10 (Summer-Fall 2008): 164-7.
- “Set,” “NASA,” “For the Puppets,” “K the Cyclist,” “Encased in Gé,” and “The Chair” by Juan Carlos Flores (translated with Marta Hernández Salván) *From the Fishhouse* ([www.fishhousepoems.org](http://www.fishhousepoems.org))
- “The Coffeepot,” “The Dryer,” “Parched,” “Road Signs,” and “The Grasshopper” by Juan Carlos Flores (translated with Marta Hernández Salván) *The Green Integer Review*, # 9 ([www.greeninteger.com](http://www.greeninteger.com))

### Creative Nonfiction

- “This Thing of Beauty.” *Watershed* # 4: vol 1(Winter 2007): 44-51
- “Turbulence.” *Isotope*. Vol 5: no. 1 (Spring/Summer 2007): 18-20
- “The Rich Coast.” *ISLE* (Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment) Vol 10: no. 2 (Summer 2003): 155-170
- “A Town That Sounds Like Leaving.” *Gulf Coast* 11 no. 1(Winter 1999): 133-6
- “The Soul Beyond the Wall.” *Gulf Coast* 8, no. 1 (Winter 1996): 107-110

### Critical Essays

- “The House from the Trees: Away from a Definition on the Poetic Image.”  
Submitted to *Southern Indiana Review*
- “Quietly American: The Ambivalent Landscape of Derek Walcott’s Caribbean.”  
Submitted to *Callaloo*
- “James Wright’s Murderers.” *Schuylkill Valley Journal of the Arts* 15 (Fall 2003): 73-81
- “Everything Blooming Bows Down in the Rain’: Nature and the Work of Mourning in the Contemporary Elegy” in *Ecological Poetry: A Critical Introduction*, ed. Scott Bryson (Salt Lake City: U of Utah Press, 2002): 153-61
- “Necessary Work: The Artist in Derek Walcott's ‘Tropic Zone.’” *Journal of Caribbean Studies* 13, no. 3 (Winter 1998 & Spring 1999)
- “The Politics of the Shuttle: Wole Soyinka's Poetic Space.” *Research in African Literatures* 27, no.2 (Summer 1996): 94-101
- “What is Called Heaven’: Identity in Sandra Cisneros's Woman Hollering Creek.” *Studies in Short Fiction* 31 (1994): 415-24. Reprinted in *Reading Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*, Robert DiYanni: McGraw Hill (2000)

### Multimedia Projects

- “Renovation” (Flash/Hypertext Poetry Sequence) appeared on *Beehive: Hypertext Hypermedia Literary Journal* (v 02:03) --  
[http://beehive.temporalimage.com/content\\_maps/23b.html](http://beehive.temporalimage.com/content_maps/23b.html)
- “The Halo Brace” (Flash/Hypertext Poetry Sequence) appeared on *Beehive: Hypertext Hypermedia Literary Journal* (v03:01) –  
[http://beehive.temporalimage.com/content\\_maps/32d.html](http://beehive.temporalimage.com/content_maps/32d.html)

### Recent Readings

Vermont College, Low-Residency MFA Program, Montpelier, VT, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008  
Wesleyan Writers Conference, Middletown, CT, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
Words from the Frontier, Poetry in Maine (Maine Festival of the Book); Portland  
ME, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
Space Gallery, Portland, ME, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
Split this Rock! Poetry Festival, Washington D.C., March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008  
Wagner College, Staten Island, NY, Jan 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
“An Evening with Maine Poets.” *Responding to Longfellow: The Poet in American  
Culture, A Festival and Forum*, Portland, ME, Nov 9-10<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Poetry Series at the Brockton Public Library, Brockton, MA, Oct 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Cary Memorial Library, Wayne, ME, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Poetribe Poetry Series, East Bridgewater, MA. May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Southern Indiana University, Evansville, IN, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007  
WORD II, Farmington, ME, Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Assumption College, Worcester, MA, Oct 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
Brunswick Peace Festival, Brunswick, ME, Aug 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
NEW-CUE Writers Conference, Boothbay Harbor, ME, June 13-16<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
Portland Public Library, Portland, ME, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
Unity College, Unity, ME, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
Center College, Pella, IA, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006  
Knox College, Galesburg, IL, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006  
Bradley University, Peoria, IL, Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006  
Westfield State University, Westfield, MA, Oct. 19, 2005  
Belfast Public Library, Belfast, ME, Sept. 27, 2005  
Ligioneer Valley Writers Conference, Ligioneer, PA, July 9-11, 2005  
Montevallo Literary Festival, University of Montevallo, AL, April 8-9, 2005  
2005 AWP Conference, Poets from the 2005 CMU Press Poetry Series. Vancouver,  
BC, March April 1, 2005  
Slippery Rock University, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
Emporia State University, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
River Styx Reading Series, St. Louis, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
Purdue University, October 5<sup>th</sup> 2004  
Columbia College, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
Stephens College, September 16<sup>th</sup> 2004  
William Woods University, September 15, 2004  
Choice Cuts, The Slaughterhouse Reading Series, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004.  
CAPA (Pittsburgh) March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
Chatham College, Book Launch for *The Country of Lost Sons*, March 24, 2004  
Sewanee Writers Conference, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

### Conference Papers

“Who’s in Charge Here Anyway?: Everything You Need to Know About Running  
a Writing Program.” (Chair) Associated Writers and Writing Programs  
Conference, March 8-11, 2006. Austin, TX.

- “How to Eat a Termite: Chatham College Sophomores Abroad” (Roundtable). NEMLA, Pittsburgh, PA March 4-7<sup>th</sup>, 2004.
- Poets from Pittsburgh* (Chair and Organizer): 2003 AWP, Feb 26--March 2, Baltimore, MD.
- “The Fit Seems Natural; A Roundtable Exploration of Science, Literature, and Ecocriticism” (Roundtable). Society for Literature and Science, 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Pasadena, California: October 10-13<sup>th</sup>, 2002.
- Quietly American: The Post-Colonial Landscape of Derek Walcott’s Caribbean.” 20<sup>th</sup> Century Literature Conference, Louisville, Kentucky. February 21-23, 2002
- “*Solvitur Ambulando*: The Open Road and the Sheltered Hearth.” Marking a Start out of Particulars, Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona. June 19-23, 2001.
- “Perilous Crossing: Eavan Boland, Li-Young Lee, and the Failure of History.” The 1996 Conference on Poetry and History, University of Stirling, Stirling Scotland. June 27-30, 1996
- “Prophet of Chaos: Wallace Stevens and Fractal Geometry,” 1996 PAMLA Conference, Irvine, California, November 1996
- “Land Ethic: Wilderness and American Identity.” The 7th Annual North American Interdisciplinary Wilderness Conference, Reno, Nevada. Feb. 29-Mar 2, 1996.
- “Elizabeth Bishop & Robinson Jeffers: Towards a Poetic of Nature.” 24th Annual 20th Century Literature Conference, Louisville, Kentucky. Feb 22-24, 1996.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### *University of Maine Farmington*

**Creative Writing:** Advanced Poetry Writing; Writing Poetry; Seminar in Writing (capstone course for all BFA majors); Environmental Writing in Costa Rica;

**Other:** 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Poetry; Contemporary American Poetry; English Composition; Myth and Modern Imagination (First-Year Seminar)

### *Chatham College*

**Creative Writing:** Writing Poetry (graduate workshop); Space: Writing the Domestic and the Exotic (graduate nonfiction workshop); Islands (graduate literature seminar); Writing Creative Nonfiction (graduate workshop);

**Other:** Nature and Culture (cross-listed with Environmental Studies); American Multicultural Literature; Myth and the Modern Imagination; Hypertext Autobiography; Chatham Abroad: Costa Rica & Peru (Environmental Writing)

### *Whitman College*

**Creative Writing:** Advanced Creative Writing (Poetry & Creative Nonfiction); Introduction to Creative Writing (Poetry & Fiction)

**Other:** Nature and Culture (Two-semester seminar in Environmental Studies);  
Antiquity & Modernity (Two-semester interdisciplinary course in the formation and  
transformation of western world views.)

*Emporia State University*

**Creative Writing:** Graduate Writers Workshop (Poetry & Fiction); Writing of  
Poetry II; Writing of Poetry I

**Other:** Contemporary Literature; Modern Poetry; Myth, Metaphor, and the  
Sublime; Environmental Literature; Composition

**ACADEMIC SERVICE**

**University of Maine at Farmington**

Director, Visiting Writers Series, 2006-present  
Member, Committee on Teaching and Learning Support, 2006-7  
Planning Committee, Calderwood Conversations (2005-6)  
Planning Committee, ASLE Symposium, "Maine's Place in the  
Environmental Imagination," June 2-4<sup>th</sup>, 2006

**Chatham College**

Director, Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing  
Director, Visiting Writers Series  
Editor, *The Fourth River: Nature and Culture* (print journal devoted to  
Literature and photography – <http://fourthriver.chatham.edu/>)  
Conference Director: "ReWriting Landscape: Imagination and the  
Urban Environment" (an interdisciplinary conference in writing and  
the environment) June 2001.  
Graduate Programs Committee (Chair, 2004-5)  
Environmental Studies Committee  
Information Technology Committee

**Whitman College**

Director, Visiting Writers Series  
Selection Committee, Student One Act Competition  
Faculty Advisor, *Blue Moon*, student literary magazine.

**Emporia State University**

Co-Chair, Creative Writing Program  
Director, *Bluestem* Book Prize (National Poetry Competition).  
Director, Visiting Writers Series

## REFERENCES

Terrance Hayes  
Professor of Creative Writing  
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Pittsburgh, PA 15206-1404  
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