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Professor and Chair, Department of English
Director, Northeast Ohio MFA in Creative Writing
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EDUCATION:

PhD in English, Department of English, Program for Writers, The University of Illinois at Chicago.
Degree: PhD in English received May 2003.

MFA in Poetry, Department of English, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH.
Degree: Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing received June 1998.

BA in English, Department of English, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
Degree: Honors BA in English and creative writing received May 1996.

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS:

- Cleveland Arts Prize, Midcareer Award in Literature. \$10,000, September 2019.
- Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award in Creative Writing: Poetry. \$5,000, April 2018.
- National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship in Poetry. \$25,000, January 2015.
- Promoted to Professor, The University of Akron, effective August 2014.
- Awarded Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor, The University of Akron, effective August 2010.
- Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award in Creative Writing: Poetry. \$5,000, April 2010.
- Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences Service Award. The University of Akron, Spring 2008.
- Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award in Creative Writing: Poetry. \$5,000, April 2007.

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

Biddinger, Mary. *The Girl with the Black Lipstick* (novella, forthcoming). Black Lawrence Press. Mount Vernon, NY. July 2025, around 125 pages.

Barbour, Julie Brooks and Biddinger, Mary, Editors. *A Mollusk Without a Shell: Essays on Self-Care for Writers*. Akron Series in Contemporary Poetics. University of Akron Press. Akron, OH. March 2024.

Biddinger, Mary. *Department of Elegy*. Black Lawrence Press. Mount Vernon, NY. January 2022, 68 pages.

Biddinger, Mary. *Partial Genius: Prose Poems*. Black Lawrence Press. Mount Vernon, NY. August 2019, 84 pages.

Biddinger, Mary and Jay Robinson. *The Czar: Poems*. Black Lawrence Press. Pittsburgh, PA. August 2016, 100 pages.

Biddinger, Mary. *Small Enterprise*. Black Lawrence Press, Pittsburgh, PA. August 2015, 96 pages.

Biddinger, Mary. *A Sunny Place with Adequate Water*. Black Lawrence Press. Pittsburgh, PA. June 2014, 79 pages.

Biddinger, Mary. *O Holy Insurgency*. Black Lawrence Press. Pittsburgh, PA. January 2013, 91 pages.

Biddinger, Mary. *Saint Monica*. Black Lawrence Press. Pittsburgh, PA. May 2011, 42 pages.

Biddinger, Mary, Editor (with John Gallaher). *The Monkey and the Wrench: Essays into Contemporary Poetics*. The University of Akron Press. Akron, OH. January 2011, 128 pages.

Biddinger, Mary. *Prairie Fever*. Steel Toe Books, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY. February 2007, 88 pages.

Selected Recent Publications (Journals):

“Everyone Take Cover, the Bombers are on Display.” *Florida Review*. University of Central Florida. Orlando, FL. 48.1. (Fall 2024): 79.

“Everyone Thinks True Love is Overrated Until It Happens to Them” and “Everyone Has a Lingering Teenage Heartbreak.” *Cherry Tree*. Washington College. Chestertown, MD. 10 (February 24).

“Everyone Believes a Nightmare Only Lasts as Long as the Night” and “Everyone Has a Story About the Corner Bar.” *Under a Warm Green Linden*. 17 (2023). <https://www.greenlindenpress.com/issue17-mary-biddinger>

“Story About the Sea,” “Sweat Equity,” and “Green and Infinite” (flash fiction). *Southern Indiana Review*. 29.2 (2022): 94-96.

“Lady of the Canal,” “A Very Decent Life,” “Adventures of Mary Van Pelt,” and “The Problem of Summer” (flash fiction). *Always Crashing*. 5 (2022): 123-127.

“Heaven and Its Teenage Riot” and “Heaven and Its Dead Lake.” *Allium: A Journal of Poetry and Prose*. Columbia College. Chicago, IL. (Winter 2022): 3-4.

“A Radical Notion” and “Sometimes a Ghost is Just a Ghost.” *The Laurel Review*. Northwest Missouri State University. Maryville, MO. 54.2 (2021): 124-125.

Five flash fiction stories in *DIAGRAM*. 21.5 (October 2021). https://thediagram.com/21_5/biddinger.html

“Antique Filament” and “Heaven and Its Orange Flowers.” *Bennington Review*. Bennington College, Bennington, VT. 9 (Summer 2021): 266-269.

- “Department of Elegy” and “Mission Statement.” *Crazyhorse*. College of Charleston, Charleston, SC. 99 (Spring 2021): 91-92.
- “Book of Mild Regrets” and “Open Letter on Absent Friends.” *Southern Indiana Review*. University of Southern Indiana. Evansville, IN. (Spring 2020): 9-10.
- “Heaven and Its Choppy Water” and “Gray Horse.” *The Laurel Review*. Northwest Missouri State University. Maryville, MO. 53.1 (2020): 136-137.
- “Boost Post” and “Terms of Agreement.” *Sugar House Review*. 19 (Fall 2019): 6.
- “Book of Disclosures.” *Poetry*. 214.3 (June 2019): 250.
- “The Slimness of Our Chances” and “Untamed Thickets.” *Court Green*. 15 (May 2019).
- “Fantasy Sports,” “Instant Courage,” “History Town,” and “Returning to Dirt.” *Waxwing*. XV (Summer 2018). http://waxwingmag.org/items/issue15/28_Biddinger-Fantasy-Sports.php
- “Heaven and Dirt.” *Tupelo Quarterly*. 15 (June 2018). <http://www.tupeloquarterly.com/heaven-and-dirt-by-mary-biddinger/>
- “Breakout Session,” “Hard Living,” and “The Haunted Minute.” *Tinderbox Poetry Journal*. 4.6 (February 2018). <http://tinderboxpoetry.com/previous-volume?volume=4&issue=6>
- “Trouble Shirt.” *Border Crossing*. Lake Superior State University. 7 (Fall 2017). ISSN: 2380-811X. <http://bcrossing.org/trouble-shirt-mary-biddinger/>
- “Skill Games” and “Open Search.” *Diode*. Virginia Commonwealth University Quatar. 11.1 (October 2017). http://diodepoetry.com/biddinger_mary/
- “Mock Cleanse,” “Spinsters of Flint,” and “The Craft.” *Grimoire*. 4 (October 2017). <http://www.wearegrimoire.com/poetryarchive/3-poems-by-mary-biddinger-yj2pc>
- “Bone Concept.” *Glass: A Journal of Poetry*. (April 2017). ISSN: 1941-4137. <http://www.glass-poetry.com/journal/2017/april/biddinger-bone.html>
- “Dregs Week.” *The Laurel Review*. Northwest Missouri State University. Maryville, MO. 50.1 (2017): 120.
- “Partial Credit Syndrome.” *Five Points: A Journal of Literature and Art*. Georgia State University. Atlanta, GA. 17.3 (2016): 10.
- “Most Unique, Mint Condition,” “Horizon-Free Living,” “A Little Action,” “Conspicuous Consumption,” and “Consolation Prize.” *Gargoyle*. Arlington, VA. 64 (2016): 79-83.
- “High Concepts” and “Ordinary Citizens.” *jubilat*. University of Massachusetts. Amherst, MA. 27 (2015): 63-65.
- “Some Truths,” “Sacre Coeur,” and “Notre Dame de Paris.” *The Laurel Review*. Northwest Missouri State University. Maryville, MO. 48.1 (Spring 2015): 19-21.
- “I Was on the Line” and “Deep History.” *Green Mountains Review*. Johnson State College. Johnson, VT. 27.2 (2014): 1-2.

“Risk Management Memo: Liquid, Fragile, Potentially Hazardous.” *Denver Quarterly*. The University of Denver. Denver, CO. 49.1 (2014): 63.

Poems in Anthologies:

“Everyone Knows a Killdeer Means No Harm.” *Light Enters the Grove: Exploring Cuyahoga Valley National Park through Poetry*. Kent State University Press, 2024.

“The Czar declares it is too early,” “The Czar has nicknamed himself Frankie Machine,” and “The Czar is a little worried,” with Jay Robinson. *They Said: A Multi-Genre Anthology of Contemporary Collaborative Writing*. Simon Muench and Dean Rader, eds. Black Lawrence Press, 2018.

“My Upper Peninsula” and “Copper Harbor.” *Here: Women Writing on Michigan's Upper Peninsula*. Ronald Riecki, ed. Michigan State University Press, 2015.

EDITORIAL POSITIONS:

- 2009-present: Co-editor, with John Gallaher, of the Akron Series in Contemporary Poetics.
- 2008-present: Editor of the Akron Series in Poetry, University of Akron Press.
- Spring 2018: Judge, Intro Journals Award project, Association of Writers and Writing Programs.
- Spring 2007: Editor of *The Best of the AWP Pedagogy Papers 2008*.
- Spring 2007-2013: Member of Cleveland State University Poetry Center Open Book Competition jury.
- 2007-2015: Editor-in-Chief and founder of *Barn Owl Review*, an independent nonprofit literary magazine.

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT, COLLEGE, AND PROFESSION:

- 2024-present: Director, Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program (three year term).
- 2023-present: Chair, Department of English.
- 2022-2024: Interim Chair, Department of Modern Languages.
- 2022-2023: Interim Chair, Department of English.
- 2013-2021: Assistant Chair and Undergraduate Advisor, Department of English.
- 2013-2021: Faculty Fellow, UA Center for Conflict Management.
- 2012-2021: Member of the UA Women’s Studies Program Advisory Committee.
- 2014-2016: Member of the University of Akron Hearing Board.

- Fall 2011: Judge, James Wright Poetry Award, Bowling Green State University.
- Spring 2010: Poetry Fellowship Panel member, Kentucky Arts Council.
- Spring 2009: Judge, Academy of American Poets Prize, California State University Northridge.
- 2009-2012: Served as Director of the NEOMFA: Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts program.
- Spring 2008: Appointed Editor of the Akron Series in Poetry.
- Spring 2008: Chair, Association of Writers and Writing Programs Pedagogy Team.
- 2005-2009: NEOMFA Campus Coordinator and Executive Committee member, University of Akron.

COURSES TAUGHT:

University of Akron, Department of English, 2005-present

Prior teaching record available upon request

Creative Writing

English 277: Introduction to Poetry Writing (Fall 2005, Fall 2006, Fall 2007, Fall 2008, Summer 2009, Summer 2010, Fall 2010, Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2023)

English 278: Introduction to Fiction Writing (Fall 2006)

English 377: Advanced Poetry Writing (Spring 2006, Spring 2007, Spring 2008, Spring 2009, Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2019, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2024)

English 457/554: Writers on Writing (Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019)

English 689: NEOMFA Graduate Workshop in Fiction Writing: Flash Fiction and Hybrid Flash Prose (Fall 2020)

English 689: NEOMFA Graduate Workshop in Poetry Writing (Fall 2005, Spring 2007, Spring 2008, Spring 2009, Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2014, Spring 2017, Fall 2018, Spring 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023)

English 689: Craft & Theory of Poetry: Poetry of the Body (Spring 2007, Fall 2017), First Books (Fall 2007, Fall 2015, Fall 2021), Poetry of the Unexpected (Fall 2008), Publishing Poetry (Spring 2013), Poetry Saves Lives (Spring 2020), Prose Poem Studio (Spring 2023)

Literature

Women Writers (Summer 2008), Modern American Poetry (Spring 2006, Summer 2007), International Poetry (Fall 2006, Fall 2008, Fall 2009, Fall 2015), World Literatures (Summer 2012, Summer 2013, Summer 2014, Summer 2016, Summer 2017, Summer 2018, Summer 2019, Summer 2020, Summer 2021), Theory & Practice of Modern Poetry (Fall 2012, Spring 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2022), New Poetry (Fall 2007, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Spring 2016, Fall 2017, Spring 2020), British Fiction 1925- Present (Spring 2013), English Romantic Fiction (Fall 2013), American Women Poets (Fall 2014, Fall 2016, Fall 2018, Fall 2020), Senior Seminar (Spring 2015), NEOMFA Lit for Creative Writers (Spring 2024)

SELECTED RECENT PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS:

- February 2024: “(More than) Crisis and Loss: Writing Female Mid-life” poetry reading at AWP conference bookfair stage.
- March 2023: Poetry reading and class visit for the Theodore Dreiser Reading Series at Indiana State University.
- October 2022: Poetry reading at Baldwin Wallace University, Berea, OH.
- October 2021: Poetry reading for the Rufus & Louise Reiberg Reading Series at IUPUI, University Library Lilly Auditorium.
- October 2019-February 2020: Served as Florida Literary Arts Council touring poet, visiting seven different Florida colleges and universities to read poems and lecture on poetry and creativity.
- January 2020: Poetry reading at Literati Bookstore, Ann Arbor, MI, with fellow University of Michigan creative writing alum Matthew Thorburn.
- November 2019: Lecture for the Winter Wheat Literary Festival at Bowling Green State University: “The Manuscript Whisperer: Advice for Creating and Publishing Your Poetry Collection.”
- November 2019: Poets in Print Reading Series, Kalamazoo Book Arts Center, Kalamazoo, MI.
- March 2019: Panel presentation: *Season of the Witch: Feminism, Ritual, and Independent Publishing*. The Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference (AWP), Portland, OR.
- March 2019: Panel presentation: *Maintaining Beginner’s Mind in Your Own Classroom: A Poetry Reading*. The Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference (AWP), Portland, OR.
- October 2018: Visiting writer and lecturer on literary publishing at the College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, sponsored by *Crazyhorse* magazine.
- March 2018: Panel presentation: *Dispatches from Flyover Country: Building Literary Community in Far Off Places*. The Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference (AWP), Tampa, FL.
- April 2017: Visiting writer at Penn State Erie, Erie, PA.
- March 2017: Panelist for the In Print Literary Festival at Ball State University, Muncie, IN.
- February 2017: Panel presentation: *Don’t Stop the Presses: On the Enduring Value of the University Press*. The Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference (AWP), Washington, DC.
- February 2017: Panel presentation: *Stars to Steer By: Rethinking Creative Writing Curriculum for the 21st Century*. The Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference (AWP), Washington, DC.
- April 2016: Wordsmiths reading for Bucks County Community College, Newtown, PA.

March 2015: Poetry reading and discussion, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.

April 2014: Craft talk and poetry reading, Saint Lawrence University, Canton, NY.

January 2014: Poetry reading and lecture, University of Tampa, Tampa, FL.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- Writing of poetry: craft, theory, manuscript development and sequencing.
- Writing flash fiction and hybrid flash prose.
- Literary editing and publishing.
- Modern and contemporary American poetry and poetics.
- Creative writing pedagogy and program administration.

REFERENCES: Available by request.