

NANCY OWEN NELSON
ACADEMIC VITA

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in English Literature

Auburn University, August 1979. Dissertation title: "Smollett's Quest for Character: A Study of His Use of Types of the Feminine."

M.A. in American Literature

Auburn University, June 1972. Thesis title: "James' View of the Artist: A Qualification of the Hawthorne Aesthetic."

B.A. in English and French

Birmingham-Southern College, June 1968.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Most Distinguished Advisor Award, Michigan Region of Phi Theta Kappa, 2002–2003.

Horizon Award (advisor), Michigan Region of Phi Theta Kappa, Alpha Xi Mu Chapter, 2001

Who's Who Among American Teachers, 1996, 1998.

First Place, Professional Category (essay), Dakota History Conference, 1990.

Faculty Lectureship Award-Henry Ford Community College, 1986.

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Auburn University, 1972.

Henry Shanks Humanities Award, Birmingham–Southern College, 1968.

Phi Beta Kappa, Birmingham–Southern College, 1968.

Mortar Board, Birmingham–Southern College, 1965.

ACADEMIC / PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Springfed Arts

Western Literature Association

Michigan College English Association

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

Detroit Women Writers (past)

Liberal Arts Network Development (HFCC Representative) (past)

Prescott Writers (past president)

PRESENTATIONS

"Smollett's Young Maidens: A Quest for Character through the Feminine Archetype." Comparative Literature Conference, Florida State University, January 1979.

"Elof Lofblom: The Eighteenth Century Hero in a Twentieth Century Context." Popular Culture Conference, Detroit, Michigan, April 1980.

Yearly presentations at the Western Literature Conference: 1981–1985, 1987–2010.

“Literature as Life: The Manfred Letters and Socialism.” Faculty Lecture at Henry Ford Community College, 1986.

Keynote Address for the Fall Festival of the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League: “Yin and Yang: In Search of a Healthy Blending,” October 26, 1990.

Presentations at Dakota History Conference, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1997–2001, 2007.

Keynote Address for the John R. Milton Memorial Conference, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, February 2000.

PUBLICATIONS

Numerous book reviews for *Western American Literature*, *Christianity and Literature*, *Texas Studies in Literature*, *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*.

“Manfred's Elof Lofblom.” *Western American Literature*, August 1981.

“Frederick Manfred: Twentieth Century Western Writers. St. James Press, London (Gale Research, Detroit), 1982. (revised edition 1991).

“Frederick Manfred: Bard of Siouxsland.” *The Prairie Frontier*. Eds. Sandra Looney, Arthur R. Huseboe, Geoffrey Hunt. Nordland Heritage Foundation, 1984.

“Frederick Manfred and the Anglo-Saxon Oral Tradition,” *Western American Literature*, February 1985.

The Selected Letters of Frederick Manfred: 1932–1954. Co-editor with Arthur R. Huseboe. University of Nebraska Press, May 1989.

“‘Sweet Dakota Land’: The Manfred Letters and the Inception of The Golden Bowl.” *South Dakota Review*, Spring 1992.

“Wakan Places in Some Novels by Frederick Manfred.” *Heritage of the Great Plains*, Spring/Summer 1995.

“Land Lessons in an ‘Unhistoried’ West: Stegner’s California.” *San Francisco in Fiction*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1995.

Private Voices, Public Lives, Women Speak on the Literary Life. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 1995. Editor and contributor.

The Lizard Speaks: Essays on the Writings of Frederick Manfred. Sioux Falls: Center for Western Studies, 1998. Editor and contributor.

Flowers for Bobbie: Writings in Memory of Bobbie Jo Komisar, 1957–1996. Dearborn: Henry Ford Community College, 1998.

“Frederick Manfred.” *Updating the Literary West*. TCU Press, 1997.

“Frederick Manfred and the Nonexistence of Time.” *South Dakota Review*. Fall 2000.

Poetry, “Heat, Night, and Dusty Roads.” *Graffiti Rag*, Fall 2001.

Poetry, “On Finding Lord Grizzly in Hemingway’s Library.” *South Dakota Review*, Fall 2005.

Poetry, "Coyote Love Music." *What Wildness is This: Women Write About the Southwest*, University of Texas Press, 2007.

Creative nonfiction, "The Arrow that Flies." *Mom Writer's Literary Journal*, Fall/Winter 2008.

Creative nonfiction, "The Long Goodbye." *Lalitamba* 3, April 2009.

Creative nonfiction, "Fertility," *Roll: An Anthology*. Telling Your Stories Press, Spring 2012.

Poetry, "Thank you, Johnny." *Lyceum*, Fall 2012.

Creative nonfiction, "Grandma's Buttons." *Birmingham Arts Journal*, October 2013.

Creative nonfiction, "Carpe Diem." Online magazine, *Reconceiving Loss*, October 2013.
<http://reconceivingloss.com/carpe-diem/>

Memoir, *Searching for Nannie B.: Three Generations of Southern Women*. Ardent Writer Press, 2014.

Poetry (four poems). *Dead Mule Southern Literary Journal* (online), December, 2017.

Poetry chapbook, *My Heart Wears No Colors*. FutureCycle Press, 2018.

Poetry, "At the Matrix Theater, Mexicantown Detroit" and "Beckett in Paris, December 1948: Rue des Favorites." *Call and Response 2, Poets and Artists in Dialogue*, Grosse Pointe Congregational Church Ministry, 2018.

Poetry, "Yggdrasil," *Oberon: a Poetry Magazine*, 2018.

Poetry, "Hair," *The MacGuffin*, 35.2, 2019

Poetry book, *Portals: A Memoir in Verse*. Kelsay Books, 2019.

TEACHING BACKGROUND

January 2014–present: Adjunct Instructor, English Department; Marygrove College, Detroit, MI.

September–December 2012: Lecturer I, Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts Department; University of Michigan, Dearborn.

April 2011–present: Memoir workshop facilitator, Springfed Arts; Detroit Metropolitan area.

August 2010–2014: Adjunct Instructor of English, Henry Ford Community College; basic composition.

February 2008–2010: Adjunct Instructor and Writing Specialist, Prescott College; taught Residential College writing workshop, advanced online class in Writing Across the Competence, worked with Masters students online and in person at the Master of Arts Program Colloquium.

August 2004–2006: Adjunct Instructor of English, Yavapai College; taught freshman composition (English 102) and Women's Literature.

1981–May 2004: Instructor of English, Henry Ford Community College; taught remedial and freshman composition, American literature, women's literature, the novel, technical writing, honors colloquium, honors composition, honors directed studies.

Summer 1986: Instructor at Mellon Institute, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S.D.; taught composition/literature to master's candidates (high school and junior high teachers).

1979–80: Assistant Professor, Albion College; taught freshman composition, American literature, business writing, worked in the writing lab.

1970–74, 1976–79: Graduate Teaching Assistant, Auburn University; taught composition, business writing, sophomore literature.

1974–76: Part-time Instructor, University of Alabama in Birmingham; taught composition.

OTHER ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Curriculum Planning. Auburn University, Albion College, and Henry Ford Community College.

Handbook Committee and Honors Council. HFCC.

Hiring Committee, English Division. HFCC, for five separate hirings.

Henry Ford Community College Honors Colloquium Instructor. A seminar for honors students, Fall 1988 and Fall 1989. Topic: “The American Character: Myths of Power, Success, and Independence.” An editor of the Division’s reader, *The Mermaid’s Head and the Dragon’s Tail* (later, *Sanctuaries: Readings for College Writers*, Kendall-Hunt).

NEH Grant Steering Committee. HFCC, 1991. Topic of “Work and Community: Japanese and American Cultures.”

Faculty participant in NEH Self-Study Seminar. HFCC, Summer 1994.

Editor, Honors Notes and Letters. Alumni newsletter for Honors Program, HFCC, 1996–1998.

Co-Advisor, Alpha Xi Mu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, HFCC, 1996–2004.

Director of Cultural Activities-English and Fine Arts. HFCC, 1995–1999.

Coordinator of Cultural Activities. HFCC, 1999–2003. Involved in networking to bring cultural programming to HFCC; working with directors to plan and implement the program.

Program Chair for the Sixth Annual Land Student Research Conference. HFCC, September 29, 2001. Involved networking with representatives of the LAND committee as well as faculty on other community college campuses to solicit student papers and participation in the conference; working with faculty of four-year institutions to act as judges during the conference presentations.

Director of the Cranbrook Writers’ Institute. Summer 2002. Involved seeking writers in the area to study with professional writers; meal and room arrangements, coordinating activities such as student readings around the seminars, and producing a book of the conference writings for the students.

Assistant Director of Hassayampa Institute for Creative Writing. Yavapai College, Prescott, AZ. March 2005–December, 2007. Assisted in implementation of the Southwest Writers Series and the Hassayampa Institute. Duties included travel arrangements and creating promotional and marketing materials for authors, management of database, enrollment and accommodations for attendees.

Co-Producer of Cable Access program “I Believe: Conversations with Progressive Activists.” Prescott, AZ, August 2006–2009.

WRITING CONFERENCES ATTENDED

August 2000: Vermont College Writers' Seminar

August 2003–2007: Hassayampa Institute for Creative Writing

July 2008: Taos Writers' Conference

July 2009: Antioch Writers' Workshop

June 2011: 826 Writers' Conference, Ann Arbor, MI

October 2012: Auburn University Writers' Conference

May 2013: Creative Nonfiction Conference

April 2015: AWP Conference, Minneapolis, MN

October 2016: Long Lakes (Springfed) Writing Conference, Alcona County, MI

Ongoing: Detroit Working Writers Conferences, annual

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

Assistant to Public Information Officer. 1975–76. Jefferson County Commission, Birmingham, AL.
Worked on writing and research of local facilities in the county governmental agency.

Senior Technical Assistant. 1974–75. Birmingham Regional Planning Commission, Birmingham, AL.
Compilation and editing of *A Historical Site Survey of Blount, Chilton, St. Clair, and Walker Counties*.