

CURRICULUM VITAE
ROBIN HEMLEY

Business Address:

Nonfiction Writing Program
Department of English
425-B EPB
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EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Higher Education:

University of Iowa, Iowa City
Master of Fine Arts in Fiction: 1982

Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana
Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature, Minor: Film Criticism: 1980

Professional and Academic Positions:

Director/Nonfiction Writing Program, University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA, 2004 - Present
Full Professor, University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT , 2001-2004
Faculty Chair, Vermont College Low-Residency MFA
Montpelier, VT, 2002-2005
Faculty Member, Vermont College Low-Residency MFA
Montpelier, VT, 2000-2005
Viebranz Distinguished Visiting Chair, St. Lawrence University
Canton, NY Spring/2001
Full Professor, Western Washington University
Bellingham, WA, Fall/1999 - 2001
Associate Professor, Western Washington University,
Bellingham, WA, 1996 - 1999
Assistant Professor, Western Washington University,
Bellingham, WA, 1994 - 1996
Associate Professor, University of North Carolina at Charlotte,
Charlotte, NC, 1992 -1994
Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Charlotte, NC 1986-1992
 Visiting Artist, School of The Art Institute of Chicago
 Chicago, IL 1983-1985

Honors, Grants, and Awards:

John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship. 2008.

Founder, Nonfiction Now Conference, University of Iowa, November 10th-12th, 2005.
 This conference, the first of its kind, was attended by over 400 writers and now, thanks to
 a generous pledge from Barbara Bedell, will be an ongoing conference, every other year.

Obermann Scholar, Fall, 2005, Spring/2006 University of Iowa

Editor's Choice Award from the American Library Association for *Invented Eden*, 2003

Winner Governor's State Award for Washington State, 1999, for *Nola: A Memoir of
 Faith, Art, and Madness* (Graywolf Press)

Winner 1998 Independent Publisher's Book Award for *Nola. A Memoir of Faith, Art, and
 Madness* (Graywolf Press).

Winner 1998 Book of the Year Award in Biography/Memoir for *Nola: A Memoir of
 Faith, Art, and Madness* (Graywolf Press) from *Foreword Magazine*.

Keynote Speaker, Associated Writing Programs Pedagogy Forum, AWP Annual
 Conference, Washington, DC, March, 1997.

The Nelson Algren Award, 1st prize, 1996, from *The Chicago Tribune* (judges: George
 Plimpton, Rosellen Brown, and Richard Russo).

Pushcart Prize for story "The Big Ear," 1994 Pushcart Anthology, Pushcart Prize XIX

Hugh J. Luke Award for Fiction, *Prairie Schooner*, 1994

George Garrett Award for story "The Big Ear." 1993, *Willow Springs*

Syndicated Fiction Award for story "Letters to the Editor." 1993

1st Place, *Story Magazine's* Humor Competition for story "A Printer's Tale," Summer
 1991 issue of *Story*

Pushcart Prize for story "Installations," 1990 Pushcart Anthology, Pushcart Prize X V

PEN Syndicated Fiction Award, 1991

North Carolina Fiction Syndicate Competition, 1988

1986 Word Beat Press Fiction Book Award

Walter Rumsey Marvin Award for Prose, The Ohioana Library Association, 1984

MEMBERSHIPS

Associated Writing Programs, Vice President, Fall, 1998 - 2000

Associated Writing Programs, Board of Directors, June, 1997 - 2001

Co-chair of AWP Annual Conference, Portland, OR March 24th - 28th, 1998

Author's Guild

Poets and Writers, Listed Writer

National Book Critics Circle

SCHOLARSHIP

BOOKS:

DO OVER, Little, Brown Publishers, forthcoming, May 1, 2009.

Invented Eden, (nonfiction, paperback) University of Nebraska Press, November, 2006 345 pages

Turning Life into Fiction (new and expanded edition), Graywolf Press, April, 2006. 340 pages

Extreme Fiction: Fabulists and Formalists (an anthology, co-edited with Michael Martone), Longman, 2004. 402 pages.

Invented Eden (nonfiction), Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2003. 339 pages

Nola (a memoir), Graywolf Press, Fall/1998, 365 pages

The Big Ear (stories), John F. Blair, 1995, 197 pages.

Turning Life Into Fiction, Story Press, F & W Publications, 1994, 191 pages.

The Last Studebaker (novel), Graywolf Press, 1992, 326 pages

All You Can Eat (stories), Atlantic Monthly Press, 1988, 180 pages

The Mouse Town (stories), Word Beat Press, 1987 97 pages

Essays:

“Field Notes for the Graveyard Enthusiast,” *New Letters*, December, 2008.

“Survivor Stories” in *Hunger Mountain*, Fall, 2007

“Reading History to My Mother” in *The Touchstone Anthology of Contemporary Nonfiction*. This essay will be included in an anthology compiled after the editors surveyed 2000 freelance writers, editors, workshop teachers, and program directors to nominate works of nonfiction they would most like their students to read and discuss in their classes and workshops. Forthcoming.

“Imagining the Future” *Creative Nonfiction*, Spring, 2007

“If You’re Happy and You Know It,” *Chicago Tribune Magazine*, February 25th, 2007

“Control Issues” in *Living Blue in the Red States*, University of Nebraska Press, David Starkey, Editor (2007).

“A Reincarnation Just When I Didn’t Need One,” January, 2007 in *THE BEST OF MODERN LOVE*, Daniel Jones, Editor.

“Painful Howls from Places that Undoubtedly Exist: A Primer of Deceit” in *AWP Writers Chronicle*, December, 2006.

“Jonathan Franzen Shows a Preference for the Unexamined Life,” a review in *The Chicago Tribune*, September 10, 2006.

“Big Man on Camp” in *NEW YORK MAGAZINE*, August 21st, 2006

Review essay of *Short Stories*, September, 1895 in *The Believer*, August, 2006

“The Storeroom of Playboy Males” in *Columbia: A Journal of Arts and Literature*, Summer, 2006

“A Simple Metaphysics” in *Conjunctions*, May, 2006.

“Reading History to My Mother,” in *Five Years of Fourth Genre*, an anthology, Spring, 2006.

“Jim’s Corner” in *Fourth Genre*, April, 2006.

Review essay of *The Partisan Review*, 1949 in *The Believer*, March, 2006.

“Sage Advice From An Acknowledged Master of the Form” in *Rules of Thumb*, February, 2006. *Writers Digest Books*.

“Reading History to My Mother” reprinted in *The Truth of the Matter: Art and Craft in Creative Nonfiction* (Longman). February, 2006.

“Prince Valiant,” *Creative Nonfiction*, #27, “The Best of Brevity.” 2005.

“A Reincarnation, Just When I Didn’t Need One,” *New York Times*, “Modern Love,” Style Section, November 6th, 2005

“Prince Valiant” in *Brevity*, Spring, 2005

“Borges in Indiana” *Tampa Review*, #29, Fall 2005.

“The Moment Juste,” in *Boulevard*, number 61, Fall 2005

“No Pleasure But Meanness,” *Ninth Letter*, University of Illinois, Champagne/Urbana (Spring/Summer, 2004).

“Mercy” in *Hayden’s Ferry Review*, Tempe, AZ (Spring/Summer 2004, Issue 34).

“Reading History to My Mother” in *Tell It Slant, Writing and Shaping Creative Nonfiction*, (McGraw Hill) Edited by Brenda Miller and Suzanne Paola. 2003.

“Letter to J.D. Salinger” in *Letters to J.D. Salinger*, Edited by Chris Kubica and Will Hochman, (University of Wisconsin Press), 2002.

“Jinx” in *Best of Prairie Schooner, Personal Essays*, Edited by Hilda Raz and Kate Flaherty, Bison Books, 2000

“Sympathy For the Devil, What to Do About Difficult Characters” in *Creating Fiction*, Story Press, Edited by Julie Checkoway, Spring, 1999.

“Roy Underwater,” *Manoa*, Fall/1999.

“Reading History to My Mother,” *Fourth Genre*/ Spring 1999.

“Teaching Our Uncertainties,” *Writers Chronicle*, January/2000 – delivered as keynote address at AWP Pedagogy Forum, Washington, DC, 1997.

“The Silver Sword Society,” *Hawai’i Review*, #51, Summer, 1998.

“Jinx,” in *Prairie Schooner*, Spring/1997

“Family Legends: It’s Impossible to Please the Gods and Relatives,” in anthology, *Homeground: The American Literatures Series*, Before Columbus Foundation/Blue Heron Press, 1996

“Details,” *The Writer’s Journal* (Dell, Sheila Bender, Ed.).

“Letting Life Into Your Fiction,” *Writer’s Yearbook*, ‘95.

"Any Resemblance to Person Living or Dead is Purely Intentional," *AWP (Associated Writing Programs) Chronicle*, March, 1994

“Lord, It’s Just Like Livin’ in a Poem: My Life as a Juror,” *Creative Loafing* (Charlotte, NC) Sept., 1993.

“Death Trip: A Voyage Into the Camp, Morbid World of St. Augustine,” *Creative Loafing* (Charlotte, NC), Feb., 1991

“Baby, You Can Drive My Car: Learning to Drive at age 33,” *Creative Loafing* (Charlotte, NC), December, 1991

"Why I Keep a Journal: Autobiographical Versus True Fiction," *AWP (Associated Writing Programs) Chronicle*, March 1990

“Where Authors Fear to Tread: Life in the Marginal Lane at the Frankfurt Bookfair,” *Creative Loafing* (Charlotte, NC), December, 1990.

"The Five Stages of Writing," *Fiction Writers Market*, 1987, Cincinnati, Ohio

"All That’s Fair: A walking tour of what to do - without knowing why - at the Illinois State Fair." *Chicago Magazine*, August 1986

"Independent Bookstores in Chicago." *Small Press*, July 1985, New York NY

"Hidden Treasures of Chicago." *Chicago Magazine*, January 1985

Short Stories

“All Good Things Are Surprises” in *Narrativemagazine.com*, January, 2007

“Devotion” in *20 Over 40*, University of Mississippi Press, September, 2006.

“The Warehouse of Saints,” in *9th Letter*, #5, April, 2006.

“All Good Things Are Surprises” nationally broadcast on National Public Radio’s Chanukah Lights Program, 2005, December, 2005.

- “Local Time” in *The Southern Review*, Summer, 2005.
- “Reply All” in *ACM* 43, Spring, 2004
- “Magellan Stew” in *ACM* 42, Summer/2003
- “The Genius of Our House,” and “Behind-the Scenes Man” in *Kestral*, Summer/1999.
- “Exchange Students,” *The Sun, A Journal of Ideas*, May, 1998
- “The 19th Jew,” *Chicago Tribune*, September 29th, 1996 (Winner of the Nelson Algren Award -- Judges: George Plimpton, Rosellen Brown, Richard Russo)
- “The Underwater Town,” *Shenandoah*, Spring, 1996
- “Redemption,” *ACM*, 31
- “The Perfect Word,” *North Dakota Quarterly*, Fall, 1995
- “Independence Boulevard,” *Boulevard*, Fall/1994
- “Letters to The Editor,” *Creative Loafing*, June, 1994
- “Sleeping Over,” *North Carolina Literary Review*, Spring, 1994
- “The Liberation of Rome,” *North Carolina Humanities*, Spring/Summer 1994
- “An Intruder” and “The Employee’s Head, Witness,” Spring 1994
- “My Father’s Bawdy Song,” *Ploughshares*, Fall 1993
- “The Holocaust Party,” *Prairie Schooner*, Summer 1993
- “The Big Ear,” Winner of George Garrett Award, *Willow Springs*, Summer 1993
- “Rainwalkers” in the German magazine *Freundin*, June 1993
- “Hobnobbing with The Nearly Famous,” *Manoa, A Pacific Journal of the Arts*, Fall 1992
- “Saint of the Roof Rats,” *Beloit Fiction Journal*, Fall 1992
- “Shinsaibashi,” *Mississippi Valley Review*, Spring 1993, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL
- “Wernher Von Braun’s Last Picnic,” *ACM (Another Chicago Magazine)*, Fall 1992

- “Dropping the Baby,” in German Magazine *Freundin*, July, 1992
- “Serenade,” *North American Review*, Spring 1992
- “A Printer’s Tale,” (Winner of Story Magazine Humor Competition), *Story*, Summer/1991
- “All You Can Eat,” in *The Shincho*, large circulation Japanese magazine, 1990
- “Installations,” *ACM (Another Chicago Magazine)*, #19, May 1989, Chicago, IL
- A Chapter from *The Last Studebaker*, *Shankpainter* # 28, Spring 1988.
- “The Paris Cafe,” North Carolina Fiction Syndicate
- “Looking for Kin,” *ACM* # 15, June 1986, Chicago, IL
- “The Maggie May,” *The Apalachee Quarterly*, #25, Tallahassee, Florida
- “What’s That in Your Ear?” *Shankpainter*, #26, April 1986, Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Provincetown, MA
- “Clues,” *The Wisconsin Review*, #20, April 1986, The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
- “Digging A Hole,” *Telescope*, Spring 1984, Galileo Press, Baltimore, MD
- “All You Can Eat,” *New Letters*, Spring 1984, University of Missouri-Kansas City
- “Riding the Whip,” *ACM (Another Chicago Magazine)*, #11, Chicago, IL
- “The Mouse Town,” *New Letters*, Winter 1982-1983, University of Missouri-Kansas City
- “Dropping The Baby,” *Telescope*, Spring 1983, Galileo Press, Baltimore, MD

ANTHOLOGIZED SHORT STORIES:

- “All You Can Eat,” in *Not Normal, Illinois*, edited by Michael Martone (Indiana University Press). Forthcoming.
- “Reply All” in *The Conscious Reader*, 2008 (Pearson, Longman).
- “The Warehouse of Saints” in *Best American Fantasy* 2007.

“The Holocaust Party” and “Riding the Whip” in *Strategies For Reading and Arguing About Literature*, Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2007.

“Reply All” in *New Sudden Fiction*. WW Norton, January, 2007.

“Riding The Whip,” *Blueprint B*, (Almqvist & Wiksell, 2003), Stockholm, Sweden.

“Time Machine” in *Sudden Stories*, *The Mammoth Book of Miniscule Fiction*. Edited by Dinty W. Moore, Mammoth Books, 2003

“The 19th Jew,” *American Jewish Fiction: A Century of Stories* (Nebraska, 1998)

“The Liberation of Rome,” *Sudden Fiction, Continued*, 1996 (Norton)

“The Big Ear,” *The Pushcart Prize XIX*, October, 1994, (Pushcart Press)

“An Intruder” and “The Employee's Head,” *Best American Humor*, 1994 (Touchstone)

“Installations,” *Cape Discovery*, *The Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center Anthology*, 1994 (Sheep Meadow Press).

“All You Can Eat,” *A Literary Feast* (Atlantic Monthly Press) 1993. Anthology including works by Tobias Wolff, Isaac Singer, Isak Dinesen, James Joyce, Nadine Gordimer, and others.

“Dropping the Baby,” *German Anthology* Sommer, Sonne, Sand Und Mehr . . . GoldmannVerlag. (Contributors include Amy Tan, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Milan Kundera, Isabel Allende, Paul Bowles, Tobias Wolff, and Sandra Cisneros)1993

“Installations,” *The Pushcart Prize XV*, 1990-91, Pushcart Press

“Riding the Whip,” *20 Under 30 Best Stories by America’s New Young Writers*, Debra Spark/Editor, 1986, Scribners/New York, NY

“The Mouse Town,” *Stories About How Things Fall Apart. . . .* Allen Woodman/Editor May 1985. Word Beat Press, Flagstaff, AZ

RADIO

“All Good Things are Surprises,” a story recorded for Chanukah Lights, National Public Radio, 2005

“The Liberation of Rome,” a short story, was recorded on November 9th, 1996 at The J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu and broadcast by NPR Stations for the Radio series, “Selected Shorts.”

Essayist/commentator on KZAZ-FM (Bellingham, WA) 1995 -- 1996

Essayist/commentator on WFAE-FM (Charlotte, NC) from 1992-1994.

"Letters to the Editor," a short story, broadcast on NPR's "Sound of Writing," May, 1994

GRANTS FUNDED:

Internal:

AHI Grant for NONFICTIONOW Conference at University of Iowa, November 10th-12th
University of Iowa, 2005.

Excellence and Innovation Grant, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, for
NONFICTIONOW Conference, November 10th – 12th, University of Iowa

INVITED LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION:

International:

Lecture on Contemporary Trends in CNF at Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea, May 18th,
2007.

Panelist, International Creative Nonfiction Writers Workshop, Dumaguete, Philippines, May
20th-21st, 2005.

Panelist on "Narrative Fixed Forms: Artificial Constraints as an Aid to Invention and
Instruction," April 1st, 2005, Vancouver, BC

Panelist on "Jazzing the Muse" panel, Thursday, March 31st, 2005, Associated Writing
Programs Annual Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia

National:

Panelist, "Truth and Taboo in the Memoir," AWP Conference, New York City, February, 2nd,
2008.

Panelist, "Bending Genres," AWP Conference, New York City, February 1st, 2008.

Reading at Bennington College, Bennington, VT January 8th, 2008

Reading at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, October 29th, 2007

Reading at The New School, NYC, September 24th, 2007

Reading at Beloit College, Beloit, WI, March 27th. 2007.

Reading at SUNY Brockport, March 21st, 2007

Panelist, “Do’s and Don’t of Literary Gossip,” AWP Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, March 2nd, 2007.

Panelist, “Toward a Theory of Slippery Nonfiction,” AWP Conference, Atlanta, Georgia. March 1st, 2007

Reading at Penn State University, State College, PA, February 15th, 2007.

Reading at College of Dupage February 12, 2007

Reading at University of Alaska, Anchorage, February 5th, 2007

Reading at University of Alaska-Kachemak, Homer, Alaska, February 3rd, 2007

Reading at Trinity College, Hartford, CT, October 30th, 2006.

Reading at College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA. October 26th, 2006.

Reading at Columbia University, New York, NY. October 25th, 2006.

Reading at St. John’s University, New York, NY October 24th, 2006

Reading and Workshops, Marist University, Poughkeepsie, NY, October 9th-14th, 2006.

Reading and Workshop, The Writers’ Garrett, Dallas, TX, September, 28- Oct. 1, 2006

Reading and Workshops, Vermont College Postgraduate Writers Conference. Montpelier, VT, August 11th-17th.

Reading and Workshops, Rainer Writers Workshops, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington. August 6-10th

Reading and Workshops, Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, July 9th – 26th, 2006, Provincetown, MA.

Reading and Workshops, Vermont College, Montpelier, VT June 26th – July 7th, 2006

Northwoods Writers Conference, Reading and workshop, June 18-23rd, Bemidji, MN

Reading, University of Dubuque Arts Week, April 25th and 26th, 2006

Panelist, "The Formlessness of form in Fiction, AWP annual conference, March 9th, 2006
Austin, Texas.

Reading, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS, February 23rd, 2006

Reading, University of Illinois, Champagne/Urbana, February 9th, 2006

Reading, Ripon College, Ripon, Wisconsin, November 15th, 2005

Panelist, Nonfiction Now Conference November 10th, 2005 University of Iowa, "Family
Secrets."

Faculty, Vermont College Postgraduate Writers Conference, August 10th-20th, 2005

Faculty, NYU Summer Writing Institute Faculty, Ireland House, Washington Mews, June 15th –
26th, 2005

Reading, Western Illinois University, March 23rd, 2005

Reading, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, March 13th, 2005

Reading, University of Utah, March 3rd, 2005

TEACHING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Teaching Assignments:

Fall/2004 8N:355 Graduate Nonfiction Workshop, 15 students enrolled

Spring/2005 8N:350, Essay Writing Workshop, 18 Students enrolled

Summer/2005 8N:365 Overseas Writers Workshop, Dumaguete, Philippines, 10 students
enrolled.

Fall/2005 8N:262, Readings in Nonfiction, 17 students enrolled

Spring/2006 8N:155 Undergraduate Nonfiction Workshop, 16 students enrolled.

Summer/2006, 8N:365, Overseas Writers Workshop, La Muse Inn, France, 9 students enrolled,

Fall/2006 8N:262 Readings in Nonfiction, "The Fake Memoir" 16 students enrolled.

Fall/2006 8N:350 (003) Essay Writing Workshop, 13 students enrolled.

Summer, 2007 8N:365, Overseas Writers Workshop, Hong Kong and Macau. 12 students enrolled.

Fall/2007 8N:262 "Readings in Nonfiction: The Image and Nonfiction

Spring/2008 8N:350 Essay Writing Workshop, 11 Students enrolled.

Students Supervised:

MFA: Angela Balcita, 2005, degree awarded.

MFA: Bonnie Rough (Chair), 2005, degree awarded.

MFA: Marge Murray, 2005, degree awarded.

MFA: Andrew Douglas, 2005, degree awarded.

MFA: Marilyn Knight, 2006, Degree Awarded

MFA: Rebecca Sheir, 2006, Degree Awarded

MFA: Maggie Mcknight (Chair) 2006.

MFA: John Bresland (Chair) 2006, Degree Awarded.

MFA: Jynelle Gracia, 2006, Degree Awarded

MFA: Angela Autry Gorden, 2006, Degree Awarded

MFA: Jessica Harriman, 2007. Degree Awarded

MFA: Kirsten Giebutowski, 2007. Degree Awarded

MFA: Brian Goedde (Chair) 2007. Degree Awarded.

MFA: Rebecca Butorac (Chair) 2007. Degree Awarded.

MFA: Steven McNutt (Chair) 2007. Degree Awarded.

MFA: Riley Hannick, 2007.

MFA: Ashley Butler, 2007

MFA: June Melby, 2008

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MFA: Jay Vithalani (Chair) 2008.

SERVICE:

Profession:

Final Judge for Southern Review's Cleanth Brooks Prize in Nonfiction, 2008

Chief Organizer and Founder of the NonfictionNow Conference (attended by approximated 400 writers) at the University of Iowa, November 1-3, 2007.

Final Judge for Ohio State University's William Allen Creative Nonfiction Competition, The Journal, April, 2007.

Outside Evaluator, Departmental Assessment English Dept. Iowa State University, IA, April, 2006

Chief Organizer and Founder of the NonfictionNow Conference (attended by approximated 400 writers) at the University of Iowa, November 10th – 12th, 2005

Final Judge for Associated Writing Programs Book Award in Nonfiction, 2005

Contributing Editor, The Pushcart Prize Anthology

Contributing Editor, Fourth Genre

Contributing Editor, ACM

Department:

Executive Committee: Fall, 2007

MFA Application Informational Meeting for Undergrads: October 23, 2007

Chair, Assistant Professor in Nonfiction Search Committee, 2007

English Department Undergraduate Writing Major Committee 2006-2007

Chair, Assistant Professor in Nonfiction Search Committee, 2005. John D'Agata Hired.

Chair, Promotion Committee, Patricia Foster, 2006

Chair, Nonfiction Writing Program Advisory Committee

Member, Graduate Committee

University:

Lennis J. Holm Scholarship Committee 2007, 2008

Study Abroad Scholarship Committee, 2006- present

Arts and Humanities Initiative Committee, 2006 - Present

Member, Writing University Task Force, 2006

Member, Virtual Writing University Advisory Panel, 2006