

ROBERT DUFFER

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Education:

- May 2005 Master of Fine Arts, Creative Writing
Columbia College Chicago
600 S. Michigan Ave
Chicago, IL 60605 1996
- June 1998 Bachelor of Arts, Economics
Illinois State University
Normal, IL 61790
- June 1998 Bachelor of Arts, Business Administration
Illinois State University
Normal, IL 61790

Recent Accomplishments

- * Winner, Chicago Public Library's *One Book, One Chicago* flash fiction writing contest, 2011.
- * Nominated for Excellence in Teaching Award 2010.
- * Feature articles in the Chicago Tribune's Printers Row Literary Journal, and Time Out Chicago.
- * Program Coordinator for Creative Nonfiction Week 2009.
- * Editor and content developer of father-focused e-mag, [Experiments in Manhood](#)

Professional Writing Experience

- * Ad copywriter for Vivaki, a division of Publicis, www.vivaki.com
- * *Chicago Reader* (ed. Tony Adler): Features, review, www.chicagoreader.com
- * *Chicago Tribune* (ed. Amy Guth): Features, service pieces, www.chicagotribune.com
- * *Chicago Scene*, ed. Kira Coplin, articles, interviews: www.chicagoscene.com
- * *Chicago Parent*, ed. Tamara O'Shaughnessy, essay, article: www.chicagoparent.com
- * *848*, Chicago Public Radio, ed. Aurora Aguilar, essays: www.chicagopublicradio.org
- * *Time Out Chicago*, ed. Jonathan Messenger, articles, reviews: www.timeoutchicago.com
- * *New City*, ed. Brian Higgelke, Alternative Chicago weekly, articles: www.newcity.com
- * *Rain Taxi*, ed. Eric Loberer, Independent press book reviews, www.raintaxi.com
- * Centerstage Chicago, ed. Dana Kavan; articles, reviews:
<http://centerstagechicago.com/writers/details.cfm?ID=214>
- * *New Pages*, ed. Denise Hill; interviews, literary reviews: www.newpages.com
- * B2B writer for Fashion Fair Cosmetics, BG&H, Wight Residential Construction
- * Staff writer for *The Tap*, Chicago's Bar Journal

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Professional Editing Experience

- *Founding researcher and content developer for the Literary section on the Chicago Artists Resource (www.chicagoartistsresource.org)
- *Lead Copy Editor of the award-winning student anthology, *Hair Trigger*, Vols 31-35.
- *Project Manager and Lead Copyeditor for *Hair Trigger 33*.
- *Proficient with the Chicago Manual of Style and competent with AP Style.
- * Editor and content developer of father-focused e-mag, [Experiments in Manhood](#)
- *Copy and stylistic editor for several novel-length manuscripts.
- *Created, designed, and copy edited the High School Summer Institute Anthology.
- *Created and copy edited various student anthologies for after-school programs using Photoshop, Microsoft Windows, and other programs.

Creative Writing Publications

- * “What They’re Saying” anthologized in *The Way We Sleep*, Fall 2012
 - * “Blindspot” in *Curbside Splendor*, Issue 3, Spring 2012
 - * “Good Night,” winner of the One Book, One Chicago flash fiction contest, 2011
 - * *Hypertext*, Spring 11, Fall 11
 - * “Tag Sale” in *Amsterdammed: An Anthology of Place*, Spring 11, Chicago Center for Literature and Photography
 - * “Running” in *Knee-Jerk Magazine*, Winter 10
 - * “El Bigote” in *Monkey Bicycle*, Winter 10
 - * “Afterglow” *Make Magazine*, Fall 09
 - * “Colorado” in *Annalemma*, Spring 08; “Stella: A Death in the Family,” Summer 09
 - * “Condotown” in *The 2nd Hand*, Spring 08
 - * “Boots” in *Word Riot*, Fall 07
 - * “The S.S. Stella” in *No Touching Magazine*, Spring 07
 - * “Heart, Dick, and Ego Argue Over Dinner” reprinted in the *Taj Mahal Review*, Fall 06
 - * “Heart, Dick, and Ego Argue Over Dinner” *Pindeldyboz*, Spring 06
 - * “The Hugger” in *Flashquake*, Fall 05; “Teach” in Winter 06
- Other publications in Blue, This is Grand, Hair Trigger 26

Media

- * [The Nick D Show, WGN720AM](#) 8/6/11
- * [We Who Are About to Breed](#) 10/7/11
- * [View from the Keyboard](#) 6/7/11
- * [You, Me, Them, Everybody \(YMTE\)](#) 8/10/10

Readings

- *Come Home Chicago, Printer’s Row Book Fair, Bookcellar’s Local Author Night, Two Cookie Minimum, Tamale Hut, 2nd Story, Windy City Story Slam, Literary Gangs of Chicago, Orange Alert
- *Cofounder, RUI: Reading Under the Influence, Chicago Reader-rated best reading series 2008, 2009

Teaching/Academia

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9/2004—Present **Adjunct Faculty**, Columbia College Chicago

The Writer's Portfolio: Capstone course for graduating BFA candidates ranges over the student's body of work developed during their academic career to cull for the best material to showcase on website and in a print portfolio. Emphasis on rewriting, editing, platform creation, website development, interviewing, and networking.

Fiction Writers and Publishing: Advanced level specialty course emphasizing the connection between writers and the publishing industry. Introduced students to: literary markets, ranging from flash-fiction e-zines to glossy nationally distributed journals; independent publishers, including an in-depth report on the publisher's catalog; guests and speakers representing a cross section of the industry. In addition students created mock magazines to prepare, edit and critique student manuscripts to be submitted during the semester.

Prose Forms: Mid-level core writing course developing autobiographically-based material and the art of the essay. Extensive rewriting of final project, which is whittled down from 100+ pages to form a singular, publishable narrative.

Fiction II: Critical analysis of classic short stories and writers is tied to developing student's own process and experimentation. Form, structure, style, movement and point of view are emphasized.

Fiction I: Assigned two novel-length works, and demanded two full movements with equal emphasis on story generation and rewriting. Through consistent journal work, oral reading of student and published work, and an introduction to forms that ranged from dream-like tellings to dialogue workshops, students identified the link between voice, story, and audience.

Introduction to Fiction: Students wrote and read fiction, nonfiction, and plays to acquaint themselves with story and basic techniques of storytelling in media such as film, theater, and oral storytelling. Instruction included a basic exposure to forms, guest speakers, and field trips into the broader literary community.

Critical Reading & Writing I: Introductory-level critical reading and deconstruction of novels such as Nami Mun's *Miles From Nowhere*, Richard Wright's *Native Son*, Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and dozens of short stories ranging from classic to contemporary. Students read 75 pages/week and developed journal entries exhibiting critical analysis on the elements of writing.

Fiction and Film International: Introductory-level general elective emphasizing elements of storytelling in assigned short story reading and film previews in class. Course work consisted of reading quizzes, journal responses to international films from five continents, and a final comprehensive paper

High School Summer Institute, Program Coordinator: Developed curriculum, created syllabus template, enumerated student expectations and outcomes, organized and implemented final showcase performance for students and teachers, and served as lead teacher in the nationwide summer bridge creative writing program. Also designed, copyedited, and published the HSSI Anthology *Flight*.

Adjunct Faculty duties beyond the course curriculum include:

- *Completed Portfolio Development series offered by Center for Teaching Excellence
- *Completed InDesign workshop offered by Center for Instructional Technology
- *Three four-hour long faculty training and developmental meetings per semester
- *One hour one-on-one conferences with each student every semester
- *Clearing and advising students for upcoming semesters
- *Attending readings/performances outside of class

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- *Submitting student pieces to Hair Trigger, the award-winning student anthology
 - *Judging manuscripts for Young Authors competition
- Subbed** for: Fiction Writing II, Small Press Publishing, Writing for Young Adults.

1/2005-2009 **Project Manager**, Fiction Writing Dept., Columbia College Chicago
Served as a general liaison between the Department Chair, faculty, and administration in communicating and organizing opportunities for the student body.

*Worked with Assistant to the Chair to develop and maintain Fiction Writing course booklet.

*Trained work-study students on various office duties.

*Created database, coordinated outreach, and follow-up calling to prospective students.

*Implemented case-by-case projects e.g. table listing all minors offered by the college, invitations to alumni to attend readings and events, et al.

1/03-12/06 **Instructor**, Story Workshop Institute, Schultz Group Institute
Used Story Workshop Method in partnership with Crane Metro High School to instruct at-risk high school freshman in developing their communication skills through story telling. Additional assignments took me as far out as Crystal Lake and Naperville to teach summer bridge programs for entering high school students.

1/04-12/06 **Instructor**, Act/Write, Center for Community Arts Partnership
Paired with a theater/dance teacher, we taught after-school programs to middle school students in Chicago's Wicker Park and Garfield Park neighborhoods, emphasizing body and voice to create story, performances, and student anthologies.

9/03-6/05 **Instructor**, After School Matters
Paired with another creative writing teacher, we taught ingenious after-school programs to at-risk high school students. Duties included promoting, recruiting, curriculum development, program implementation, monthly status meetings, final performance development, teaching creative writing. School locations included Paul Robeson High School in Bronzeville and Roberto Clemente in Humboldt Park.

8/02-6/04 **Publishing Lab Researcher**, Columbia College Chicago
As a founding member of the Publishing Lab, I helped launch a student-run resource bridging student work with the publishing community at large. In addition to submission drives, I compiled databases listing over 300 reviews of literary journals both print and online, as well as cataloging independent press reports, pertinent articles for emerging writers, quick-hit lists of must-visit websites and magazines. Today, as a distinctive part of the fiction writing department experience, the lab is thriving.

Service Industry Experience

4/02-9/2007 **Bartender**, Higgins Tavern, Chicago, IL 60657
Bartend one night a week at a local, family-owned tavern in Chicago's Wrigleyville neighborhood. During grad school and now that I am a father, this laid-back job is more like a

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night out for me. Though I tire of bartending, I've met some of my closest friends and culled some of the best stories out of my employment there.

9/01-3/03 **Manager**, Kingston Mines, Chicago, IL

Managed Chicago's oldest and most popular blues club, featuring two live bands per evening until 4 a.m. Oversaw over fifty employees, including sound technicians, security, gift shop and door sales, as well as waitresses and bartenders.

11/99-5/00 **Bartender, Waiter, Snow Shoveler**, Vail Associates; Avon, Colorado

As part of the two person staff (the manager was also the chef), I shoveled snow from the tiered decks, bartended, and waited tables at twin mountaintop yurts, where the members of the exclusive Arrowhead Club would dine.

Investment Business Experience

2/99-11/99 **Options Specialist**, Options Clearing Corporation, Chicago, IL

Clerk position monitoring price fluctuations in closing options, a financial derivative. Produced weekly reports and managed communications between all options exchanges to ensure accurate, timely end-of-day information. Created training manual.

Honors and Awards

* Winner, Chicago Public Library's One Book, One Chicago flash fiction writing contest, 2011. Judged by Stuart Dybek.

* Nominated for Excellence in Teaching Award, 2010.

* Semifinalist Guild Fiction Writing Contest.

*Two-time 2nd Place winner, John Schultz/Betty Shiflett Creative Writing Award.

*Student Ambassador 2002 AWP Conference New Orleans, 2004 AWP Conference Chicago.

*Top Ten Graduating Seniors Award, Economics Dept. Illinois State University.

Skills/Languages

*Proficient in MS Office, Photoshop, MAC, SEO, blogging, social media, website development and maintenance.

*Built and run the emag, Experiments in Manhood, on Wordpress.

*Built and run www.robertduffer.com

*Speak and understand conversational Spanish

References

*Randall Albers, Department Chair, Creative Writing Department, Columbia College Chicago. 312-369-7616

*Patty McNair, Author of *Temple of Air*, Thesis Advisor, Associate Chair, Creative Writing Department, Columbia College Chicago. 312-369-7145

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