

LESLEY OWENS-PELTON

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor, Law

June, 2007

Syracuse University College of Law, Syracuse, NY

- focus on Education and Disability Law
- Certificate of Specialization in Law and Social Policy
- Mediation Certified for NYS through New Justice Center and SUCOL
- Thurgood Marshall National Trial Team
- co-founding member, OUTLaw (LGBTs Law Society)
- member of the Disability Law Society and Beyond Compliance Committee

Master of Science in Education, Cultural Foundations of Education

June, 2007

Syracuse University School of Education, Syracuse, NY

- Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS), Disability Studies
- focus on education of non-traditional and under-represented students
- co-authored chapter on disabilities in *Ordinary Lives, Extra Ordinary Needs: Assuring Family Life for Children with Complex Health Needs*
- ADA Coordinator for Syracuse University Conferences
- ADA Researcher and Investigator for “Project Accessible Syracuse”

Bachelor of Arts, Literatures in English

June, 1998

University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA

- Phi Beta Kappa, *summa cum laude*
- university and departmental Highest Honors
- Honors Thesis: “Deconstructing Images of Black Women, 1865-1900”
- notetaker for Disability Services; driver for mobility-impaired student
- tutor for Disability Services in Math, Biology and Spanish

Associate of Arts, General Arts

June, 1994

Cuyamaca Community College, El Cajon, CA

- Phi Theta Kappa, recipient of multiple scholarships for transfer
- “Award of Merit” – Given to the highest ranked Liberal Arts Division student with unanimous faculty approval
- “All-USA Academic Team” awarded by *USA Today*
- Volunteer writer and worker, “Cuyamaca Chaparell Biome Project” – sent results of one year of work on 7 acres of biome rehabilitation to CA State Senate, erasing \$9M fine cause by accidental destruction of nesting Knat-Catchers during a building project

EXPERIENCE

Director

Cazenovia, NY
12/2009 – 7/2013

Office of Extended Learning (OEL), Cazenovia College

- developed and managed all extended learning and part-time programs at college, responsible for 20% of total student enrollment
- assessed and counseled all OEL Students with Disabilities (SWDs), equipping them with resources and knowledge to successfully navigate challenges

- arranged appropriate services, providing specialized consultations to faculty
- recruited notetakers and provided necessary accommodations for SWDs
- evaluated student learning outcomes, adjusted strategies as needed
- analyzed quantitative and qualitative metrics for assessments and compliance
- wrote successful reaccreditation for Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), Standard 13
- tracked department performance and outcomes, successfully adjusted weak points and improved on strengths
- in charge of a stand-alone budget, consistently exceeding net revenue goals
- liaison between college and agencies, presenting at events, gaining community support for programs
- hired and mentored adjunct faculty across multiple departments
- designed all course schedules including online formats
- served in ex-officio capacity on Faculty Counsel and Advisory Board

Program Supervisor

Model Transition Program (MTP) for Students with Disabilities

Newark, NY

2/2008 – 12/2009

Wayne Finger Lakes (WFL) Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES)

- implemented and oversaw the WFL portion (budget \$1.9M) of the largest transition grant in the history of the US (\$41M) for Students with Disabilities (SWDs)
- transitioned SWDs into higher education or vocational education
- coordinated efforts and reported to Cornell University's Employment and Disability Institute for assessment; deemed one of the top sites
- presented conference lectures to stakeholders and agencies, garnered outside support for the program
- supervised team members and interactions at 25 component districts
- wrote reaffirmation and successful reports for grant; 100% compliance

Research Assistant – Disability Law Clinic

Syracuse University College of Law, under Director Alma Lowry, Esq.

Syracuse, NY

2005 – 2006

- assisted with research and preparation for educational disability hearings representing low income and under privileged SWDs and families
- counseled disabled students and families on 504, IDEA, ADA and 508

Research Assistant - Legislative Policy and Reform

Syracuse University College of Law, for Professor Arlene Kanter

Syracuse, NY

2005 - 2006

- researched Pennsylvania Foster Care Laws for children with disabilities, recommended legislative policy reforms which were enacted
- published research findings and policy reform in co-authored book chapter

Homemaker

Harbison Canyon, CA

El Cajon, CA

2001 - 2003

- after son was diagnosed with a learning disability, took two years off from work
- tutored son, worked on his learning skills and academics
- prepared for law and graduate school, specifically focused on Disability issues
- chose Syracuse University because of focus on Social Model Disability Studies, Center on Human Policy and dual degree in Disability Ed. and Law
- son graduated from University of Southern California in summer of 2014

Administrator, Marketing, Player Development
Barona Indian Reservation and Casino

Lakeside, CA
1998 - 2001

- rose to administration of Platinum and Diamond Clubs, exclusively serving high-end players
- co-controlled a monthly budget in the six-figures
- wrote Policy and Procedure manuals for multiple departments to assure compliance with Federal Gaming Regulations

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES

Presentations, Speaking Engagements:

- “Othered Populations and Rural Spaces,” Arkansas State University at Jonesboro, “Rural Freaks: Marginalization, Limitations and Queerness,” invited presenter, 2/2016
- “Cultural Diversity in Education and the Workforce,” Finger Lakes Workforce Conference, Presenter, 11/2009
- “Employment or College: The Nuts and Bolts of Disabled Populations,” MTP NY State Conference, Presenter, 6/2009
- Transfer Orientations Presenter, Hudson Valley Community College, 2009 – 13
- Disability in Higher Education,” Syracuse University College of Law, Panel Speaker, 2007

Certificates, Trainings, Conferences:

- “Specialized Counseling Techniques for Students with Disabilities,” WFL Board of Cooperative Education Services
- Adult Education Certification, State of NY
- “Navigating Education Systems,” University at Buffalo
- “Righting Educational Wrongs: Disability Studies in Education, Policy and Law,” Syracuse University
- “Disability Culture, Faith and Secularism: Creating Spaces for Inclusion,” Syracuse University
- “Disability as Ways of Knowing: A Series of Creative Writing Conversations,” Syracuse University
- “Krip-Hop Nation: Disability in the Hip-Hop Mix,” Syracuse University
- Disability Studies Conference: Disability in an Intersectional Lens,” Syracuse University

Research and Office Skills:

- Expert level on LexisNexis, Westlaw, PACER, and research data bases
- Superior level with Datatel (now known as Ellucian), NonProfitEasy, Novell, Wincap, Word, Outlook, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and other software
- Thorough understanding of assessment and documentation methods for determining accommodations
- Proven successful grant writing and implementation skills
- Excellent “soft-skills”
- Determination to go “above and beyond” for students

Daniel A. Gutstein

OBJECTIVE

A seasoned higher education professional with a wide array of administrative, teaching, and publishing credentials seeks a senior staff position with advising, services, and campus leadership focus. Willing to relocate.

EDUCATION

M.F.A. in Creative Writing, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1994.

B.A. in Economics, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C., 1990.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Director of Writing Studio & Learning Resource Center, Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), (2007 to 2017).

General duties: Oversaw the staff, budget, programming, hiring, strategic planning, learning outcomes assessment, and daily operations of the Writing Studio, the sole campus program and instructional space devoted to expository writing, and the Learning Resource Center, an office that provides a complete array of disability support and academic skills services. Served on institutional committees that addressed dismissals and appeals of dismissal, threat assessment, judicial activity, health and wellness, internationalization, English language learner (ELL) support, writing program development, diversity, faculty training, and the campus-wide provision of academic services. Worked cross-departmentally with senior staff, peer directors, department chairs, faculty, and student government.

Strongest accomplishments: Rebuilt both offices, including policies, web sites, forms, and best practices. Completed campus-wide accessibility audit of all MICA buildings. Initiated embedded tutoring program in large lecture sections. Created “red flag group” to bolster the College’s retention efforts with at-risk students. Argued successfully for regular contact with College counsel. Managed three juried arts exhibitions and led a fiction and poetry literary reading series. Launched a joint

venture to increase the prospects of Fulbright applicants. Oversaw a 100 percent jump in registration of students who have disabilities. Initiated cutting-edge professional development activities for staff, including year-long contact with visiting writer and speaker's series on relevant topics. Consistently provided 70 to 100 hours of tutoring services per week, despite challenges in staffing. As part of a program sponsored by a national association, mentored three writing center directors at other institutions.

Areas of personal growth: Staff and budget management, awareness of institutional governance, dedication to underserved groups and diversity, listening skills, appropriate routines for sharing information, cross-departmental collaboration, creative agenda as applied especially to staff professional development, familiarity with needs of international students, deeply valued working relationships with peer directors and supervisor, sage advisor to students, families, staff, and faculty.

Counselor, Academic Support Center, American University, Washington, D.C. (2004 to 2005). Worked with undergraduate, graduate, and adult students, some of whom had disabilities, on exam preparation, reading comprehension, research papers, academic planning, time management, studying, and other skills. Led presentations and workshops on academic skills and participated in a range of professional development activities that centered on disabilities, anxiety disorders, psychiatry, and co-morbid disorders.

Learning Specialist, Office of Disability Support Services, The George Washington University (2000 to 2004). Assisted undergraduate, graduate, and adult students who have disabilities with research papers, study skills, time management, academic planning, reading, and other challenges. Helped the director with a variety of additional functions: orientation sessions, correspondence, and publications. Worked on the Universal Design for Learning initiative, networking widely with faculty and other university professionals.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Part-time faculty member, The George Washington University (1995-2003; 2005; and 2008-2012), Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, Md. (2009), and Corcoran College of Art and Design, Washington, D.C. (2014). Led 22 sections of introductory creative writing, two sections of intermediate poetry writing, two sections of intermediate fiction writing, and 10 sections of composition and literature. Taught four sections of Internet-based introductory creative writing. Served as advisor for creative writing theses.

Community teaching experience includes Seminar Leader, The Smithsonian Institution Campus on the Mall, Washington, D.C. (2001; one course) and Workshop Instructor, The Writer's Center, Bethesda, Md. (2001 to 2002, 2005 to 2008, 2010; and 2015; seven fiction courses and five poetry courses.)

Visiting Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, The George Washington University (2005-2007).

Teaching duties: Maintained a full-time 3-3 course load per semester. In sum, taught five sections of English 81 (Introduction to Creative Writing), five sections of English 103 (Intermediate Fiction Workshop), and two sections of English 104 (Intermediate Poetry Workshop). During Summer 2006, taught Internet (distance) version of English 81.

Service activities: Directed three semester-length independent study sections per term, for students completing senior theses in poetry writing, fiction writing, and literature. Chaired a national search for the Jenny McKean Moore Writer-in-Washington position, an academic hire. Advised English majors. Published poems, stories, essays, and other writing. Led the Jenny 2 literary reading series, bringing 12 authors to campus. Conducted office hours five days per week.

Areas of personal growth: Lecturing skills, academic advising abilities, development of programming to support an academic major, collaboration with other faculty members on curriculum development and other matters, mentoring student writers.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Michigan (1992 to 1994). Taught two sections of English 223 (Introduction to Creative Writing) and graded papers for two upper division literature courses.

SELECTED PROGRAMMING EXPERIENCE AND INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Curator, *Dis/Order* (2011), *Dis/Order 2* (2013), and *Dis/Order 3* (2016), Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). Managed three juried exhibitions that focused on the representation of disability. Recruited judges, created promotional materials, organized submissions of artwork, collaborated with Exhibitions department in organizing the exhibition in campus gallery space.

Director, LitLive Reading Series, MICA, (2011 to 2012). Founded a series that brought six authors to campus during the academic year.

Chair, national search for academic hire, The George Washington University (GWU) (2006). Led a national search for the Jenny McKean Moore Writer-in-Washington position, an academic hire in fiction. Managed more than 125 applications, facilitated search committee deliberations, organized and oversaw campus visits for three finalists.

Director, Jenny 2 Literary Reading Series, GWU (2000 to 2002; 2006-07). Founded a series that brought 36 authors to campus over a three year period.

Faculty Advisor, *GW Review*, The George Washington University (1998 to 2002). Assisted students with editing, fundraising, production, and solicitation of writing.

EDITORIAL, ARTS, CONSULTING, AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Co-Producer (2017 to present), *Li'l Liza Jane: A Movie About A Song*, Washington, D.C. Developing a full-length documentary feature about the traditional African American and Appalachian tune. For more information, see www.lizajanemovie.com

Cooperative Member (2011 to 2013), Washington Writers' Publishing House, Washington, D.C. Evaluated manuscripts and assisted in management of press.

Associate Editor (2001 to 2004), *StoryQuarterly*, Northbrook, Ill. Directed the journal's submission/review process. Also assisted with solicitation of work and production.

Editor, Association of Science-Technology Centers, Washington, D.C. (1998 to 2000). Conceived of, developed, managed the design of, created, edited, wrote for, and produced *Dimensions*, a news journal focusing on science museums.

Arts Educator, Arena Stage, Washington, D.C. (1998). Assisted in the production of a one-act play festival for inner city high school students.

Economist, Arthur Andersen & Co., Economic Analysis Group, Washington, D.C. (1990 to 1992). Led client engagements in transfer pricing studies and other areas.

Other experience: Capitol Hill Reporter, Washington Federal News Service, D.C., (2000); Farmhand, for Mr. Peacock and Mr. Porter, Marianna, Fla. (1995). Tae kwon do Instructor, Studio of Korean Karate, Laurel, Md. (1984 to 1986).

PUBLICATIONS

Alt Tk. (poetry, chapbook) Dusie Kollektiv (Zurich, Switzerland: 2013).

Bloodcoal & Honey (poetry, book) Washington Writers' Publishing House (Washington, D.C.: 2011)

non/fiction. (prose, book) Edge Books (Washington, D.C.: 2010).

A Craft and Edge Primer. (mixed genre, chapbook) The Tangent Press (2003)

Poetry (163 pieces), short fiction (32 pieces), and drama (1 piece) have appeared or will appear in the following journals: *580 split*, *The Alembic*, *Altered Scale*, *American Letters & Commentary*, *American Scholar*, and/or, *Apt*, *Arts & Letters*, *Barrelhouse*, *Barrow Street*, *Bateau*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Beltway Poetry Quarterly*, *Boog City*, *Coe Review*, *Colorado Review*, *The Cossack*, *Court Green*, *The Cream City Review*, *Del Sol Review*, *Delirious Hem*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Diagram*, *Dislocate*, *Eleven Eleven*, *Fiction*, *Gargoyle*, *The Good Men Project Magazine*, *The Greensboro Review*, *Hawai'i Pacific Review*, *Interim*, *The Iowa Review*, *J Journal*, *The Journal*, *Knock*, *Lilies* and

Cannonballs Review, The Literary Review, Mad Hatters' Review Mad Hat Lit, Map Literary, Midwest Quarterly, Moment, New Delta Review, New Orleans Review, Newport Life, NightBlock, Ninth Letter, Open Letters Monthly, Other Voices, Pacific Review, Pank, Passages North, Perihelion, Permafrost Magazine, Phoebe, The Pinch, Ping Pong, The Pink Line Project, Ploughshares, Poet Lore, Prairie Schooner, Prose-Poem Project, Quarter After Eight, RealPoetik, Redivider, Rhino, River City, Sakura Review, Saranac Review, Seneca Review, Shenandoah, South Loop Review, Split Lip Magazine, Spork, StoryQuarterly, storySouth, Sundog Lit Blog, The Tangent, Third Coast, TriQuarterly, ucity review, Upstairs at Duroc (France), Verse, voicemail poems, Washington Review, Washington Square, West Wind Review, Zoland Poetry, and Zone 3.

Poetry (29 pieces) and short fiction (1 piece) have also appeared or been reprinted in the following anthologies or journals: *Beltway: A Poetry Quarterly, Best American Poetry, Cabin Fever, DC Poetry Anthology, Del Sol Review Anthology, Full Moon on K Street, Ilanot Review (Israel), Morpheme, New Orleans Review, The Penguin Book of the Sonnet, and Verse Daily.*

Interviews (7 articles), reviews (4 articles), and literary criticism (1 article) have appeared in *Altered Scale, Altered Scale Blog, Beltway: A Poetry Quarterly, Delphi Quarterly, Poet Lore, and Washington Review.*

SELECTED READINGS, PRESENTATIONS, AND APPEARANCES

Heterodyne improvisational music collective, An Die Musik, Baltimore, Md., The Crown, Baltimore, Md., Dewdrop Inn, Washington, D.C., VisArts, Rockville, Md., Four Day Lutherie, Baltimore, Md., Velvet Lounge, Washington, D.C., Rhizome, Washington, D.C., and other locations (guest performer, 2018 and 2017). Association of Writers & Writing Programs Annual Convention, Washington, D.C. (reading, 2017). Bewilder Sensation: Surrealism and Poetry Today, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C. (reading, 2016). Lost Civilizations + Duo Exchange, part of Songwriters & Poets series, Rhizome and other locations, Washington, D.C. (performance with experimental musicians, 2014, 2015, and 2016). Three Tents Reading Series, Washington, D.C. (reading, 2013). House Reader, Ruthless Grip Experimental Poetry Series (read at every event, 2011-2012). Association of Writers & Writing Programs Annual Convention, Chicago (reading, 2012). Agitprop Series, San Diego (reading, 2012). University of Tennessee-Chattanooga (presentation, 2011). Chenoweth/Halligan Studios, Chattanooga, Tenn. (reading, 2011). Fall for the Book, Fairfax, Va., (reading, 2011). Writer's Center, Bethesda, Md. (reading, 2011). Politics & Prose Bookstore, Washington, D.C. (reading, 2011). Association of Writers & Writing Programs Annual Convention, Washington, D.C. (reading, 2011). Goldwithoutwarning, DC Poetry Festival, Washington (reading, 2010). State University of New York at Plattsburgh (presentation, 2010). Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore (reading, 2010). California State University San Marcos (reading, 2008). Loyola University of Chicago (presentation, 2007). Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pa. (presentation, 2007). National

Geographic, Washington, D.C. (television appearance on *Rat Genius*, 2006). Modern Language Association Conference, Washington, D.C. (reading, 2005). Stockton College, Pomona, N.J. (presentation, 2005). California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, Calif. (presentation, 2005). George Washington University Experimental Writing Forum (DVD presentation, 2005). District of Columbia Arts Center (staged reading of play, 2005). Cameron University, Lawton, Okla. (presentation, 2004).

SELECTED GRANTS, AWARDS, HONORS, COLLABORATIONS

- 2017 to present Guest Performer (poetry, spoken word) with Heterodyne improvisational music collective
- 2014 to 2016 “Duo Exchange” (two poets) plus Lost Civilizations experimental music project (two or more musicians) performing together as part of a continuing project in Washington, D.C.
- 2015 Co-writer for “Interview With...”, a one-act comedy of ‘interview vignettes’ performed at the DC Fringe Festival
- 2012 to 2013, “Duo Exchange” (two poets) plus Argos (two bass players) performing together at various locations, including Galaxy Hut in Arlington, Va. and the Black Squirrel in Washington, D.C.
- 2011 and 2013 Selected to collaborate with printmakers as part of the Corcoran College of Art and Design Printmaking Portfolio; a poem, “Vacancy Blvd.”, was printed on an image created by the artist, and included in the 2011 annual showcase; a second poem, “Prayer” appeared in the 2013 annual showcase
- 2011 On the lighter side of things: Declared the 2010-2011 “hottest” professor in America by the web site Rate My Professors. Reported by media outlets such as the Huffington Post, MTV Press, and local CBS affiliate WUSA TV Channel 9 in Washington, D.C.
- 2011, This year, or in other years, was runner up or finalist for Cleveland State University Poetry Center First Book Competition, Academy of American Poets Walt Whitman Award, Alice James Books Beatrice Hawley Award, Bread Loaf Writer’s Conference Bakeless Prize, Sentence Book Award, and University of Wisconsin Press Poetry Series, among other competitions
- 2011, Winner, Washington Writers’ Publishing House Poetry Prize: manuscript read anonymously; book publication plus cash award. Winner becomes a member of the cooperative, with responsibility for assisting in the management of the press
- 2010 Honorable Mention, Anna Davidson Rosenberg Awards for Poems on the Jewish Experience, San Francisco Jewish Community Center
- 2007 Twice nominated for Pushcart Prize
- 2006 Nominated for Bender Teaching Award at George Washington University
- 2003-04 Individual Artist Grant in Playwriting, Maryland State Arts Council
- 2003-04 Fellowship in Literature, Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, Maryland, in poetry

2003 Winner, Moving Words Contest, Cultural Affairs Division, Arlington County, Va.
(Part of the award: A poem, "Birdshadows bank," was printed on broadsides and placed
on Metrobuses circulating throughout Northern Virginia)

2001 Nomination for Pushcart Prize

1998 and 1999 Work-Study Scholarships, Bread Loaf Writers' Conference

1992 to 1994 Colby Fellow, University of Michigan

1990 Ruth Lilly Collegiate Poetry Fellowship Finalist