

**Ray McManus**  
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**Education:**

**Ph.D. Rhetoric and Composition (With Creative Dissertation)**, University of South Carolina, May 2006. Specialization: Creative Writing Pedagogy  
Dissertation: *Someone Won't be Coming Back: Three Chapbooks of Poems Exploring Death, Religion, and Divorce*  
Dr. Kwame Dawes and Dr. Christy Friend, Co-Chairs

**M.F.A., Creative Writing**, Poetry, University of South Carolina, 2001.

**B.A., English**, Writing Intensive, University of South Carolina, 1997.

**Publications:**

**Books**

Driving through the country before you are born, poetry, University of South Carolina Press, April 2007.

**Poems**

“Red Barn,” “Toilet,” and “Things to tell my son” The Southern Poetry Anthology, Texas Review Press, forthcoming 2007.  
“Artifact” commissioned by the The State Newspaper January 12, 2006.  
“Negatives” Jabberwock Review Winter 2006  
“Fist” Los Angeles Review Spring 2005  
“Go,” “Orientation,” “Burning Caterpillars” A Millennial Sampler of SC Poets Ninety-Six Press: Furman University, Spring 2005  
“The long way home” Natural Bridge Spring 2005  
“Things to tell my son” and “Post Partum” White Marsh Review Winter 2004  
“Black” and “White” The Recorder Summer 2004  
“Main Street at Eighty,” “Gridlock,” “Pavement,” Traffic Life Winter 2003  
“Go” Borderlands Spring 2003  
“Trenches” Ellipsis Spring 2003  
“Red Barn” Nimrod Spring 2003  
“Orientation,” Crazy Horse Fall 2002  
“A Short History of the Movies,” Interdisciplinary Humanities Spring 2002  
“Oceans” and “Settlement,” Illuminations Spring 2002  
“Stumps,” Cold Mountain Review Spring 2002  
“Shores,” Natural Bridge Spring 2002  
“Fallen,” Oakland Review XXVII Spring 2000  
“Partition,” Yemassee VII Summer/Fall 1999

### **Academic and Textbook**

- “What it takes to start a community outreach project,” The Scott Foresman Handbook for Writers 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Longman, 2003
- “Like Father, Like Son: Fear and Fatherhood,” in The Emergence of Man into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, ed. Munhall, Madden, Fitzimmons. Jones and Bartlett: Sudbury, Massachusetts, 2002
- “Service learning and the community,” in The Scott Foresman Handbook for Writers 6<sup>th</sup> edition, Longman, 2001

### **Selected Honors and Awards**

- The South Carolina Poetry Book Prize, USC Press, 2006
- Two Thumbs Up Award, The Office of Student Disability Services, 2006
- South Carolina Academy of Authors Fellowship, SC Academy of Authors, 2002-2003
- Most Exciting Classroom Presence Award, Graduate English Association, USC, 2001-2002
- Graduate Student Day, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Cultural Awareness category, USC, 2001-2002
- Cile Moise Teaching Award for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina, 2001-2002
- Montgomery Award for Writing Center Excellence, University of South Carolina, 2001-2002
- Sumter County Cultural Arts Commission Prize in Poetry 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Sumter SC, 2001-2002
- James Dickey Writing Award in Poetry, USC, 2001-2002
- Academy of American Poets Prize, University of South Carolina, 1997-1998

### **Conferences, Presentations, and Readings**

#### **Conferences**

- “Down in the Ditch: The Farm as Contradictory Metaphor in Death of a Naturalist” American Conference for Irish Studies, Southern Region, University of South Carolina, Columbia SC, February 23-25, 2006.
- “Creative Writing in the Composition Classroom” Virginia State University Conference on Composition, National Conference, Virginia State University, Fredericksburg Virginia, May 20-21, 2004.
- “Will the Real Michael Collins Please Stand Up: Blurring the myth and the man in Neil Jordan’s Michael Collins,” American Conference for Irish Studies, Southern Region, Emory University, Atlanta Georgia, March 4-7, 2004.
- “Johnny can write, all you have to do is ask: and exploration of the overlap between creative writing and composition.” Co-presented with Lindsay Green, Conference of College Composition and Communication (CCCC), New York City, March 19-23, 2003.
- “Rising to the Tick of Two Clocks: the Persistence of Memory in Modern Ireland.” American Conference for Irish Studies, Southern Region, Chattanooga Tennessee, February 21-23, 2003.
- “From One Bog to Another, This Sucks – Cultural Memory and the Politics of History in Seamus Heaney’s North” The Future of Cultural Memory National Conference, University of South Carolina, Columbia SC, February 14-16, 2002.
- “Catch You Leda – Leda and the Swan as an Anglo-Irish Aisling, or a Recipe for Disaster.” American Conference for Irish Studies, Southern Region, Columbia SC, February 21-23, 2002.

#### **Presentations**

- “Why Write?” South Carolina Lieutenant Governor’s Writing Award Ceremony, Shandon Baptist Church, June 4, 2007.
- “Writing Through Poetry: Exploring Ways Poetry Can Enhance Language Arts Standards in the Classroom,” Lexington/Richland School District Five Teacher In-Service, February 19, 2007.

- “Why I can do anything I want ... as a writer.” South Carolina Lieutenant Governor’s Writing Award Ceremony, Brooklyn Cayce Baptist Church, June 5, 2006.
- “Whittling away at your poems: the art of editing poems.” South Carolina Poets Summit. Columbia Museum of Art, April 9, 2005.
- “Poetry in the Schools: The Split P Soup Project.” South Carolina Poets Summit. Columbia Museum of Art, September 11, 2004.
- “So you’re a writer ... now what?” South Carolina Lieutenant Governor’s Writing Award Ceremony, Newberry Opera House, June 8, 2004.
- “Teaching Poetry with Poets: The Split P Soup Project.” Workshop for the Midlands Writing Project. Irmo, SC, March 30, 2004
- “Towards A Poetry Friendly School” Literacy and Learning at Your Library Presented with Dr. Kwame Dawes, South Carolina Association of State Librarians Annual Conference, Greenville, SC. March 24-26, 2004.
- “How to Excite Young People About Poetry.” South Carolina Book Festival, February 28, 2004.
- “The Fine Art of Collaboration: Enriching Your Classroom with Guest Artists.” Richland School District Two Teacher Forum Instructional Fair, February 16, 2004.
- “Poetry in the Everyday World.” Presentation and Workshop for the Governor’s School of Science and Mathematics, January 13, 2004.
- “Thinking Outside the Box: Using Poetry Writing to Enhance 6 Traits plus 1 Writing Curriculum” Batesburg Middle School Teacher In-Service Day, January 5, 2004
- “Art in the Community: How Writing Helps Youth Develop a Sense of Community” Leadership Columbia Alumni Association, May 8, 2003.
- “Building Poetry Readers and Writers,” with Dr. Ed Madden, Richland School District Two Teacher Forum Instructional Fair, February 14, 2000.

### **Media Appearances**

- “Authentic Voices: A Showcase of South Carolina Poets,” South Carolina Educational Television, March 25, 2004.
- “Connections: Spoken Word Poetry,” South Carolina Educational Television, January 11, 2004.
- “Your Day: National Poetry Month Series,” South Carolina Educational Radio Network, April 3, 2001.
- “Speaking of Schools: Poetry Writing in High School,” South Carolina Educational Radio Network, February, 19, 2000.

### **Selected Performances**

- Brimming*: Poems by Kwame Dawes Written for Four Voices, a Soprano and Cello, Inspired by Brian Ruttenberg’s Art, SC State Museum, August 26, 2006.
- Authentic Voices: St. Patrick’s Day Celebration 2005, poetry and music, Sumter Opera House, March 17, 2005
- Twelve Piece Order: The Power Company Performance, “Type A: Internal Resistance,” choreographed by Lindsay Green, Columbia, SC, February 25-26, 2005

### **Selected Readings**

- Frisson: American Vision on Art, *Julie Heffernan* Exhibit, Columbia Museum of Art, Reading, June 2, 2006
- South Carolina Council of Teachers of English, Luncheon Reading, January 29, 2005
- University of South Carolina Writer’s Festival, MFA Bistro Reading, October 22, 2004
- Frisson: American Vision on Art, Columbia Museum of Art, Reading, April 2, 2004
- Authentic Voices: A selection of the best SC Poets, Sumter County Opera House, March 25, 2004

Sumter Fringe Arts Festival, September 27, 2003  
 South Carolina Book Festival Late Night Reading, February 22, 2003  
 The Graduate Poets Circle, SAML A Atlanta GA, November 10, 2001  
 The Sumter County Cultural Arts Commission Writer's Festival, Sumter SC, April 2001  
 The University of South Carolina Bicentennial Writers Festival, Columbia SC, March 21-23, 2001  
 "Shape of Words," poetry reading and ceramics exhibit at the McKissick Museum, Columbia SC, fall 1998  
 "RE: Visions," poetry reading and photography exhibit at the McKissick Museum, Columbia SC, spring 1998

## **Teaching Positions**

**University of South Carolina, Department of English** 2006-2008  
**Visiting Assistant Professor**

**University of South Carolina, Department of English** 2005-2006  
**Lecturer**

### **Courses**

English 464 Poetry Workshop  
 English 463 Business Writing and Communication:  
 English 460 Advanced Composition  
 English 360 Introduction to Creative Writing  
 English 286 Poetry  
 English 285 Themes in American Literature  
 English 101 Composition  
 English 101 Honors (Expository Prose and Creative Non-Fiction)  
 English 102 Composition and Literature  
 English 102 Honors (Irish Literature)

**Palmetto Center for the Arts (Richland Northeast High School)** 2003-2006  
**Writer in Residence**

Taught advanced poetry and fiction writing classes for grades 10-12; coordinated readings; assisted with curriculum development; coordinated field studies; assisted with judging applicants during the audition process; facilitated internships with seniors.

### **Courses**

Advanced Poetry  
 Advanced Fiction Writing  
 Senior Seminar

## **Administrative Positions**

### **Split P Soup: Poetry for the Community Co-Founder and Associate Director**

**2000-Present**

Split P Soup is a Poetry Writing Initiative based under the umbrella of the SC Poetry Initiative serving approximately 2000 students per year, in which I conducted poetry workshops, presentations, and teacher in-service sessions at K-12 schools, public libraries, nonprofit agencies, and other community sites. Other duties included weekend, after-school, and summer residencies; mentoring poets employed by the program; composing and revising workshop materials, brochures, and publicity materials. [www.splitp.org](http://www.splitp.org)

### **Tri-District Arts Consortium Creative Writing Director**

**2002-Present**

Tri-District Arts Consortium is an annual summer art institute for gifted students in the Richland 2, Lexington-Richland 5, and Lexington 2 school districts. I create a three-week intensive study on poetry and fiction writing for forty-five participants ranging from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade; coordinate judging for the audition process, facilitate communication with instructors, participants, and parents; teach classes; hire guest artists; coordinate final publication; create final reading during the arts festival showcase.

### **South Carolina Young Poet's Prize Coordinator**

**2004-Present**

Created and distributed promotional materials throughout the state; secured funding for prize money; coordinated judging; created the South Carolina Young Poet's Conference and award distribution; located and secured a poet of national standing to be the final judge; coordinated workshops for the conference; oversaw the production of an anthology containing the top thirty finalists.

### **Carolina Master Scholars Adventures in Writing Coordinator**

**2004-2005**

Created and facilitated an intensive week-long workshop in fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction; staffed and coordinated guest artists to work with students in several classes; created publication; emceed reading.

## **Academic and Professional Service**

### **Guest Artist Positions:**

Carolina Master Scholars Adventures in Writing, June 18 and 20, 2007

E.L. Wright Middle School, September – December 2005

Dutch Fork High School, October 21-23, 2003, April 5-6, 2004 and April 5-6, 2005

Rosewood Elementary School, March 14-17, 2005

L.E.E.R., The Columbia Museum of Art, March 15, 2005

Dutch Fork Elementary School, February 16, 2005

Oak Grove Elementary School, February 11, 2005

Lexington Middle School, January 11, 2005

H.E. Corley Elementary School, January 6, 2005

Hand Middle School, November 16, 2004

South Carolina Statewide Writer's Conference, University of South Carolina, August 7, 2004

The State of the Art of Creative Writing, Columbia Museum of Art, July 12-July 16, 2004  
 Clarendon County Public Library, April 3, 2004  
 South Carolina Book Festival, February 27, 2004  
 Batesburg Middle School, Teacher In-Service, January 12, 2004  
 Sarah Nance Community Center, December 20, 2003  
 Girls and Boys Club of America, Columbia Museum of Art, October 7 and October 9, 2003  
 Pelion Elementary School, January 3, 2002 and August 18, 2003  
 African American Writer's Conference, University of South Carolina, August 15-16, 2003  
 SC Young Writer's Conference, Ballentine Elementary School, April 12-13, 2003, April 14, 2003 and  
 March 25, 2006  
 Cardinal Newman High School, March 12, 2003  
 Richland County Public Library, Main Branch, February 17, March 24, April 28, July 12-20,  
 November 4,11,18, 2002  
 Brockman Elementary School, October 13-14, 2002  
 Richland County Public Library, St. Andrews Branch, October 8,15,22,29, 2002  
 Dreher High School, September 14 and 21, 2001, October 3 and 10, 2001, April 15, 2002  
 AC Moore Elementary School, April 6,13,20,27, 2002  
 Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, March 10, 2002  
 Heathwood Hall, December 5, 2001  
 Richland County Public Library, Southeast Branch, May 3,10,17,24, 2001

### **Academic Positions**

Assistant Editor, Yemassee, Literary Magazine of the University of South Carolina, 2000-2002  
 Chair for Poetry and Prose readings, Graduate English Association 1999-2002  
 Poetry Editor, Yemassee 1999-2000

### **Community Activities**

Recycled Words: Sumter County Cultural Commission Poetry Contest, Judge, October 13, 2007  
 Charlotte Young Contest: Poetry Society of NC poetry contest, Judge, September 22, 2007  
 Poetry Out Loud Recitation Contest: Regional Qualifier, Judge, February 25, 2007  
 Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Gardens Poetry Contest, Judge, September 9, 2006  
 Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest, Regional Coordinator, January-April, 2006  
 Tri-District Summer Arts Consortium, Judge, 2002-Present  
 Palmetto Center for the Arts, Judge, 2002-2006