

John S. O'Connor

**EDUCATION: M.A.T., English,
The University of Chicago**
Degree received in December, 1987.

**A.B., Philosophy and English,
The University of Chicago**
Degree received in June 1986.

EXPERIENCE: Teacher, New Trier High School

-- Taught the following courses:
* Senior Writers Seminar
* Senior English
* Sophomore English
(August 2004 to the present)

Teacher, The University of Chicago Laboratory Schools

--Taught the following courses:
* Analysis and Composition (Juniors)
* English I (Freshmen)
* English II (Sophomores)
* 8th grade English
* American Studies -- an interdisciplinary course for 8th graders
* Advisor (Freshmen and Sophomores)
--Created and directed the school's first Writers' Center
--Served on High School Steering Committee, Student Assistance Team, Advisory Committee, Admissions Committee
--Coached Girls' Tennis Team
--Faculty Sponsor of Poetry Club, Collage Club, Haiku Club, Middle School Chess Club (August, 1994 to 2004).

Teacher, Morton West High School

--Taught the following courses:
* Contemporary Literature (Seniors)
* College Composition (Seniors)
* General English (Freshmen)
* American Studies (an interdisciplinary, team-taught course (Juniors)
* American Musical Theatre (Seniors)
--Chaired the District Writing Assessment and Evaluation Committee (August, 1992 to August, 1994).

Director of Adult Literacy, The Blue Gargoyle

--Recruited students and volunteer tutors
--Trained volunteer literacy tutors
--Wrote grants and public service announcements
--Developed literacy curriculum and library
--Taught literacy level reading and writing classes

**Lecturer, The Department of Rhetoric and Composition,
Pennsylvania State University**

--Taught the following courses:
* Introduction to Rhetoric and Composition

* Developmental Writing
* Writing in the Social Sciences
(September, 1988 to August, 1991).

English Teacher, Holy Cross School, Brooklyn, New York

-- Taught English and Social Studies in grades 6-8
-- Supervised and edited the literary magazine
(September, 1987 to June, 1988).

AWARDS: Honorary Diplomae, The University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, 2004, 2000.
Golden Apple Excellence in Teaching Finalist, 1999
Golden Apple Nominee 1999, 2001
University of Chicago Fellow in the Social Sciences, 1987
S.K. Wilson Fellowship Recipient, 1984

ACTIVITIES: -- Poetry and Non-fiction writing (Publications list attached)
-- Tennis Instructor/Varsity collegiate tennis player
-- Folk singer and guitarist
-- Improvisational comedy player
-- Member, Hyde Park Storytelling Guild
-- Writing Judge, National Peace Essay Contest 1997-2001

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS:

2004 Illinois Association of Teachers of English Conference, Oak Brook, IL. Presented "Poemsinging: Incorporating Poetry and Music in the Classroom."

1999 University of Chicago Conference on English Education: Teacher as Reformer, Chicago, IL. Presented "Life Lessons: Learning to Analyze Characters and Ourselves through Story" (Grades 7-12).

1997 National Council for the Teachers of English Conference in Charlotte, NC. Delivered a paper called "StoryFrames: Using Student Narrative to Improve Comprehension" (Grades 7-12).

1996 IMSA "Nuts and Bolts" Conference in Aurora, IL. Presented "History on Trial" (Grades 7-12).

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

Wordplaygrounds: Reading, Writing and Performing Poetry, NCTE Press
Urbana, IL (2004)

Room Full of Chairs, Deep North Press, Evanston, IL, 2000.

Education Articles:

"Seeking Truth in Fiction: Teaching Unreliable Narrators" appeared in the Feb., 1994 English Journal and in McDougall-Littell's Language of Literature series in 1997.

“History on Trial” appeared in Illinois Schools Journal in 1997 and in Magazine of History in 1998.

“Playing with Subtext: Using Groucho to Teach Shakespeare” appeared in the September, 1998 issue of English Journal and on the Shakespeare Magazine webpage in February, 1999.

“New Splash, Same Pond: Teaching and Writing Modern Haiku” appeared in Nota Bene, 1999.

Poetry:

Evenings and Other Beginnings, a CD of poems I set to music. Secret Gardens Records, 2001.

I have published over sixty poems in magazines such as Poetry East, Rhino, Spin, Frogpond, Penumbra, Modern Haiku, Black Bough, South by Southeast.

Poetry Awards:

2001 Honorable Mention, Joanne Hirschfeld Poetry Contest
1999 1st Place, the Midwest Buddhist Temple Haiku Contest
1998,1999 Heinemann Foundation Grants
1997 1st Place, The Penumbra Poetry Contest
1997 2nd Place, The Mainichi Daily News (Tokyo) International Haiku Contest