

John S. O'Connor

EDUCATION: **Ph. D., English ,**
The University of Illinois-Chicago
Degree received in May, 2010.

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:

- * Literature and Film
 - * Senior Writers Seminar
 - * Senior English
 - * AIS (American Integrated Studies), a team taught for juniors combining English and Social Studies
 - * Sophomore English
 - * Sophomore, Junior, Senior Advisory

-- Course Committee Chair, Senior Writers Seminar

-- Served on Literary Festival Committee

-- Faculty sponsor of Logos Literary magazine, Poetry Slam and Philosophy Club.

(August 2004 to the present)

Teacher, The University of Chicago Laboratory Schools

--Taught every English class the school offered for grades 8-12.

--Created and directed the school's first Writers' Center

--Served on Steering Committee, Substance Abuse Team, Admissions Committee

--Coached Boys and Girls' Tennis Teams

--Faculty Sponsor of Poetry Club, Collage Club, Haiku 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, team-taught with History (Juniors)

Chaired the District Writing Assessment and Evaluation

(August, 1992 to August, 1994).

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:**
- * Parents Choice Award for designing WGBH poetry website, 2009
 - * Golden Apple Teacher of Distinction, 2007
 - * Named National Poetry Consultant for
NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English)
 - * Advisor to Poetry Foundation and *Poetry* magazine
 - * Recipient, Board of Trustees Fellowship, University of Illinois-
Chicago, 2005
 - * Honorary Diplomae, The University of Chicago
Laboratory Schools, 2004, 2000.
 - * Who's Who in Education, 2001-2, 1997-8

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS:

2008 National Council of Teachers of English, San Antonio, TX. Presented "New Voices on the Poetry Playgrounds."

2007 National Endowment for the Humanities Institute, DePaul University
"How to teach a poem (and learn from one, too)."

2007 CASE Conference, Chicago, IL. Co-presented (with Spiro Bolos)
"Reaching Underachieving Students"

2006 National Council of Teachers of English Conference, Nashville,
Tennessee. Presented "Poetry Playgrounds: New Voices in the
Classroom."

2004 Council of Teachers of English Conference, Indianapolis,
Presented "Poemsinging: Incorporating Poetry and the Arts
into the English Classroom."

2002 Keynote Address: Illinois Association of Teachers of English, Oak
Brook, IL . "Poemsinging."

2003 University of Chicago Conference on English Education: Teacher
as Reformer, Chicago, IL. Presented "Life Lessons: Learning
to Analyze Characters and Ourselves through Story"

1997 National Council for the Teachers of English Conference in Charlotte, NC. Co-wrote
paper called "StoryFrames: Using Student Narrative to Improve Comprehension."

1996 IMSA "Nuts and Bolts" Conference in Aurora, IL. Presented "History on Trial."

Poetry Awards:

2008 Parents Choice Award for WGBH Poetry Everywhere website

2005 *Wordplaygrounds* named Poetry Pick by VOYA (Voices of Young Authors)

2001 Honorable Mention, Joanne Hirschfeld Poetry Contest

1999 1st Place, the Midwest Buddhist Temple Haiku Contest

1998,1999 Heinemann Family Foundation Grants

1997 1st Place, The Penumbra Poetry Contest
1997 2nd Place, The Mainichi Daily News (Tokyo) International Haiku Contest

Recent Readings/Performances:

2008 Poetry Readings at UIC, DePaul, Palatine H.S.
2007: Reading and Performing poetry, DePaul University, UIC,
2006: DePaul University, University of Illinois-Chicago, College of Lake County
WBEZ's 848
2005: University of Chicago Laboratory Schools Arts Fest, Tellebration
2004: Berwyn Library, Indianapolis (NCTE Convention)
2003: Phoenix Young Writers Group at Morton College, WLS-TV *Sunday Morning*
2002: Chicago Humanities Festival, City of Chicago Office of Special Events
2001: Featured speaker at Harold Washington Library's "City of Big Readers"

Writing Judge:

-- Illinois State High School Journalism Competition, 2010
-- University of Chicago Alumni Magazine Haiku
Contest, 2006
-- National Peace Essay Contest, 1997-2002

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

This Time It's Personal : Teaching Creative Nonfiction, NCTE Press (scheduled for November, 2010).

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

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

Radio Essays:

Education Contributor for WBEZ's 848. Wrote personal essays, including the following:

"Enlightenment" December, 2007
"The Promised Land" September, 2007
"The Business of Education" April, 2007
"The Numbers Game in Education" February, 2007
"Meet the Parents" aired November 7th, 2006
"Starting an Explosion" aired September 8th, 2006

Education Articles:

"Once More to the Ocean," appeared in *Schools*, 2010.

“Lifting the Lids of the Leaden-Eyed” appeared in *Schools* 2006.

“The ABC’s of Poetry” was the featured lesson on the ReadWriteThink website in August, 2005.

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

“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.

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

“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.

Blogging:

Guest Blogger for the Poetry Foundation, 2009-2010. Wrote over 20 articles on the intersection of poetry and education.

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 Rhino, Poetry East, River Oak Review, Willow Review, Frogpond, Penumbra, and Modern Haiku