

Heather Altfeld

Contact Information:

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EDUCATION

California State University, Chico CA

MFA, Creative Writing, Emphasis in Poetry
Thesis: "The Other Mother"
Committee: Professors Jeanne E. Clark and Carole Simmons Oles

Columbia University, New York

B.A., Double Major, Anthropology and Writing

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

California State University, Chico CA

Academic Advisor, Honors Program
Thesis Advisor, Honors Program
Course Coordinator, Honors Program, Beauty Seminar

Fall 2005-Present

Currently teaching:

Humanities 222: Arts and Modern Ideas
Honors 203: Seminar in Virtue
Humanities 220: Arts and Ideas, Ancient/Medieval
Humanities 281: Food and Film.
Honors 399: Senior Thesis Seminar

Courses Taught:

Honors 201: Seminar in Beauty
Honors 399/499: Senior Thesis Seminar
English 342: Literature of the Child
English 220: Introduction to Creative Writing
English 252: American Indian Literature
English 130: Academic Writing (ten years). For all courses, designed original lectures, readings, syllabi, and assignment sequences.

Butte Community College, Oroville CA

Spring 2009-Spring 2016

Lecturer in English

Courses taught:

English 21: Mythology

English 4: Introduction to Literature

English 6: Creative Writing

English 11: Communication and Critical Thinking

English 2: Composition and Writing.

Designed course-specific textbook (coursepacks) and curriculum for each of the above courses.

Upward Bound Projects

Summer 2005-2007

English Teacher

Prepared college preparatory curriculum and provided instruction for six weeks during summer to a diverse high school student population from low income and first-generation families.

TEACHING INTERESTS

- Humanities and Western Civilization
- General courses in Religion
- Modern and Contemporary Poetry
- Creative Writing (Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry)
- Women Writers
- World Literature
- Literature and Film

BOOK AND AWARDS

Poetry Book, *The Disappearing Theatre*, Winner of the inaugural Poets at Work prize, judged by Stephen Dunn.

Spring 2016

Winner, Robert H. Winner Memorial Award, Poetry Society of America for poem, "903."

Spring 2017

Winner, Iron Horse Literary Review, Micro Chapbook Competition for poem, "Helpless Intruders in a Strange World"

Spring 2017

Winner, 2015 Pablo Neruda Prize for Poetry, *Nimrod Literary International*, includes publication, award money, and trip/reading in Tulsa OK.

Jan 2016

Finalist, Backwaters Press Prize, for second book, "Helpless Intruders in a Strange World"

Fall 2016

- Semi-Finalist**, Orison Prize, for second book, “Helpless Intruders in a Strange World” Fall 2016
- Semi-Finalist**, T.S. Eliot Prize, for second book, “Helpless Intruders in a Strange World” Spring 2016
- Pushcart Nomination**, “Two Pockets” published October 2015 in *Nimrod International Poetry and Prose* Fall 2015
- Pushcart Nomination**, “Notes for the Epilogue” published July 2015 in *Rat’s Ass Review* Fall 2015
- Finalist**, *Mudfish Poetry Prize*, for poem, “Belated Remittance at the End of Yom Kippur,” Ed Hirsch, judge Fall 2015
- Finalist**, *Lascaux Review*, for poem, “User” Fall 2015
- Third Prize**, Neil Shepard Poetry Contest, *Green Mountain Review* for poem, “Which One, The World?” Fall 2015
- Finalist**, for poem, “Adolescence” in Fifth Annual Poetry Contest, *Narrative Magazine* Fall 2015
- Second Prize**, Dora and Alexander Rayes Award in *Jewish Currents Magazine* (Gerald Stern, judge) Summer 2014
- Pushcart Nomination** by *The Arroyo Review* for poem, “From the Desk of the Night-Clerk: Confidential” Spring 2013
- Finalist**, *Sow’s Ear Poetry Review*, for “The Children’s Parliament Tries My Father for a Lack of Joy” and “Letter to Dick from Time” Spring 2013
- Second Place**, Robert Watson Literary Prize, *Greensboro Review*, for “Psalm for the Last Benjamin of Tudela” Spring 2013
- Finalist**, *The Knightville/New Guard Poetry Contest*, for “Annals of the Orphelines” Winter 2013
- Scholarship**, *Columbia University*, New York \$11,100 awarded for academic excellence Fall 1994-96

EXHIBITIONS

- “Ishi and the River of Time” at *Viewpoint Photographic Art Center*, Chico CA, Sacramento CA, San Luis Obispo. Collaboration with photographer Byron Wolfe, sculptor Sheri Simons, and writer Troy Jollimore. January 2017 and November 2017

PUBLICATIONS, BOOK CHAPTERS

- Book Chapter, "The Behemoth of Loss: Man, Mammoth, and Melancholy" for book *Vanished: A Chronicle of Loss and Discovery Over Half a Million Years* ed. Byron Wolfe Winter 2016
- Book Chapter, "Modernity Explains Unfortunate Events" in *Anthro/Poetics*, ed. Tara Westmor Winter 2016
- Cornell University Press Book Chapter, "The Business: A Ferret's Guide to the Lab Life for book, *Living with Animals: Bonds Across Species*. Ed. Natalie Porter and Ilana Gershon. Winter 2016
- Book Chapter, "Ordinary to Extraordinary: Walter White and the American Dream" in *The World as A Text*, ed. Dean Rader and Jonathan Silverman Fall 2017

PUBLICATIONS, POEMS

- Poem, "Interview Questions for Death" in *Grist* Winter 2017
- Poems, "The Island to Remind You of Your Childhood" and "In the Republic of Sleep and Mercy" in *Plume Poetry Journal* Winter 2016
- Poems, "Letter to Hugo from Titan II" and "Planet of the Aged" in *Blackbird* Winter 2016
- Poem, "Meditations in an Emergency Room" in *Forklift OH* Winter 2016
- Poem, "Pliny's Traveling Apothecary Visits the Bleeker St. Clinic" in *Rattle*
- Poem, "The Study of Flight" in *Los Angeles Review* Spring 2016
- Poems "Two Pockets" and "Blueprint for the Infinite" in *Nimrod International Magazine of Poetry and Prose* Fall 2015
- Poem, "Letter to Galway from Tahoe" in *ZYZZYVA* Fall 2015
- Poems, "Arch Enemy Self Portrait" and "A Stop at Willoughby" in *The American Journal of Poetry* Winter 2016
- Poems, "The Pathology of Poetry" and "The Strange Lullaby of Dr. Lennart Nilsson" in *Two Thirds North* Winter 2016
- Poem, "Belated Remittance at the End of Yom Kippur" in *Mudfish Magazine* Winter 2016
- Poems, "Letter to Levis from Winnemucca Lake," "Snowdrop" and "Beautiful Massacre" in *Easy Street* Winter 2016

Magazine

Poem, "Assignment: Describe the Uses of Beauty in Death" in <i>River Styx</i>	Fall 2015
Poem, "Letter to Hugo from Carson Pass" in <i>Asheville Poetry Review</i>	Fall 2015
Poem, "A Walk to Caesarea," in <i>Spoon River Poetry Review</i>	Fall 2015
Poems, "Notes for the Epilogue" and "Horse Girl" in <i>Rat's Ass Review</i>	Summer 2015
Poem, "Summer Solstice at 43" in <i>Tahoma Literary Review</i>	Spring 2015
Poem, "To Akhmatova" in <i>Printer's Devil Review</i>	Spring 2015
Poem, "Indian, Wild" in <i>West Marin Review</i>	Spring 2015
Poems, "The Drowning," and "Sinkhole" in <i>Okey Panky</i>	Winter 2015
Poem, "Faberge in Lausanne," in <i>Copper Nickel</i>	Winter 2015
Poem, "Yearly Astral Visit to My First Real Boyfriend" in <i>Miramar Poetry Journal</i>	Summer 2016
Poem, "The Arithmetic of Memory" in <i>Cimarron Review</i>	Summer 2014
Poem, "A Pair of Raccoons" in <i>Jewish Currents</i>	Spring 2014
Poems, "The Pogrom," "The Agreement," and "Which One, The World?" in <i>Green Mountain Review</i>	Summer 2014
Essay, "On The Feeble Attempt to Teach Beauty" in <i>North American Review</i>	Summer 2014
Poem, "Henry Ford's Dream" in <i>Watershed Review</i>	Spring 2014
Essays, "The Poet as Anthropologist" and "The Poetics of Taxidermy" in <i>Poetry Northwest</i>	Spring 2014
Poems, "Orphan's Kaddish" and "The Magazine" in <i>Superstition Review</i>	Fall 2013
Poem, "Adolescence" in <i>Narrative Magazine</i> as poem of the week	Fall 2013
Poem, "From the Last Will and Testament of the Orphelines" in <i>Narrative Magazine</i>	Fall 2013
Poem, "A Letter to Saxton Pope" in <i>ZYZZYVA</i>	Fall 2013
Poem "Dear Interpreter of Atoms and Molecules,"	Fall 2014

Crazed Glass and Dreams” in <i>Clade Song</i>	
Poems, “American Taxidermy” and “American Matryoshka” reprinted in <i>The One Blue Thread</i>	Spring 2013
Poem, “Poem Written After Being Lost in the Rice Fields” in <i>Watershed Review</i>	Spring 2013
Poems, “Snapshot,” “Litany on the 9 th Day of Awe,” and “A Manual for Winter” in <i>Poetry Northwest</i>	Fall 2013
Poems, “American Taxidermy” and “American Matryoshka” in <i>Jewish Currents</i>	Spring 2013
Poem, “The Children’s Parliament Tries my Father for a Lack of Joy” in <i>Sow’s Ear Poetry Review</i>	Winter 2013
Poem, “The Railway Chumps” in <i>Squaw Valley Review</i>	Summer 2013
Poem, “Travelogue of the Orphelines” in <i>Zone 3</i>	Spring 2013
Poem, “Psalm for the Last Benjamin of Tudela” in <i>The Greensboro Review</i>	Spring 2013
Poem “In the country of fallen things” in <i>The Laurel Review</i>	Spring 2013
Poems “Side Road, Oltenia” and “Almanac” in <i>Superstition Review</i>	Winter 2012
Poem “The Curfew” in <i>Squaw Valley Review</i>	Summer 2012
Poem “The Endurance” in <i>Pleiades</i>	Winter 2012
Poems: “From the Desk of the Night-Clerk,” “Athlete,” “Letters to my Father, the Vizier” and “Valentine to the Ministry of Justice” in <i>Arroyo Literary Review</i>	Winter 2012
Poem “Weaving Spiders” on <i>99 Poems for the 99 Percent</i> website	Winter 2012
Poem “Annals of the Orphelines” in <i>The New Guard</i>	Winter 2012
Poem, “Houdini at 40” in <i>ZZYZYVA</i>	Summer 2011
Poem “Snow in April” in <i>The Tule Review</i>	Winter 2011
Poems “”Dreaming the Romany” “The Rabbi’s Whore” and “Tasha’s Possum” in <i>Antique Children</i>	Spring 2010
Poems “Dare” and “Butte Lightning Fires, Complex” in <i>Squaw Valley Review</i>	Spring 2009

Editor, "Foolsgold" by Susan G. Wooldridge Fall 2006

Poem: "Renga" in *Watershed Literary Journal* Winter 2005

Poem: "What Laura Ingalls Wilder Didn't Say" in
Clackamas Literary Magazine Winter 2004

COMMUNITY SERVICE

**CSUC Academic Senate, HFA Representative
(elected)** Fall 2018

Board Member, Humanities Center, CSU Chico Fall 2014-present
Primary work to date: University Film Series introductions to films "The Salt of the Earth," "Wings of Desire," "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" and "The Last of the Unjust." Assistance with events, guest speakers, committee work and tertulias.

Faculty Mentor, CSU Chico Aug 2012-present
Assisting Resident Advisor in planning events and programming for campus residents.

Blue Oak Charter School, Chico CA June 2010-Aug 2013
Chair, Charter Council Board of Directors

Served two terms as elected official at Chico's Waldorf Methods Charter School, Board Chair 2010-2012 and co-chair 2012-2013. Grant writing, charter writing and revision, author of educational plan. Member Academic Achievement Committee, Vision Committee, Search Committee. Directed community outreach, budgeting, and educational pedagogy

1078 Gallery, Chico CA January 2007-January 2009
*Literary Consultant,
Member, Board of Directors*

Two year position on Chico's premiere art, music, and literary gallery board. Grant writing, community outreach, selecting and hosting literary events.

Blue Oak Charter School, Chico CA September 2001-June 2011
Poet-Teacher in Residence, Children's Librarian

INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

Featured Presenter: Modesto Poetry Festival January 2016

Stanford University, Poet in Residence November 2015
One week of readings and lectures on poetry

Stockholm University Sept 2015
Lectures for Creative Writing and Poetry Courses

University of Puget Sound April 2015
Invitation to speak on “Zora Neale Hurston: Writer and Anthropologist”

Sacramento Poetry Center May 2014
Invitation to present on “The World As Lens: Poet as Anthropologist”

Butte Community College April 2018, 2015, 2013
Presenter and Reader, Wordspring Conference
Invitation to speak and lead a generative workshop on captivating the literary mind of the child.

Butte Community College November 2001-2009
Guest Lecturer
“Children’s Literature: Literacy Attitudes, Language Development, and Parent Involvement.”

Barnes and Noble Bookstore, Chico CA April 2007, 2009, 2011
Host, Children’s Poetry Night

Butte County Library, Chico, CA April 2004-April 2006
Facilitator, Family Poetry Night

RESIDENCIES AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Residency, Vermont Studio Center Winter 2015
Grant-funded residency for two weeks in Vermont.

Squaw Valley Community of Writers Summers 2008-present
Week-long writing intensive with staff poets Robert Hass, Brenda Hillman, Sharon Olds, C.D. Wright, Forrest Gander, Dean Young, Evie Shockley, Kazim Ali, Lucille Clifton, Galway Kinnell, and others.

Poetry Workshop Fall 2007-Fall 2010
Participant in Kim Addonizio’s workshop, by portfolio selection.

January 2007

Palm Beach Poetry Festival
Participant in Dorianne Laux’ workshop, by portfolio selection.

Palm Beach Poetry Festival January 2006
Participant in Sharon Olds’ workshop, by portfolio selection.

POETRY READINGS BY INVITATION

Marin Poetry Center	May 2019
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburg PA	April 2018
Big Blue Marble Bookstore, Philadelphia PA	November 2016
Literati Bookstore, Ann Arbor MI	October 2016
<i>Litcrawl</i> , Rebound Bookstore, San Rafael CA	October 2016
City Lights Bookstore, San Francisco CA	September 2016
Sundance Bookstore, Reno NV	April 2016
AWP Reading/Book Release	March 2016
University of Houston, Reading Series	March 2016
<i>Writer's Voice</i> Series, California State University, Chico	February 2016
<i>WordTemple</i> Reading Series, Sebastapol, CA	February 2016
<i>Beyond Baroque</i> Reading Series, Venice, CA	January 2016
<i>Inlandia Institute</i> , UC Riverside, featured reader series	January 2016
<i>Bookshop Santa Cruz</i> , featured reader	January 2015
<i>Go Tell it On the Mountain: Litquake's Barbary Coast Award</i>	Oct 2015
Nimrod Literary Awards Festival	Oct 2015
<i>The English Bookstore</i> , Stockholm, Sweden	Sept 2015
Rebound Books, Litquake Festival	Sept 2014
Grace Space Reading, Liverpool NS Canada	Sept 2014
<i>Poetry World Series</i> , Mill Valley Library	May 2014
Jewish Currents Prize, Actors Synagogue, NYC	May 2013 and 2014
<i>Why There are Words: ZYZZYVA</i> Reading	Feb 2014
<i>Owl's Head</i> Poetry Reading, Nova Scotia CA	Aug 2013
John Natsoulas Center for Arts, Davis CA	June 2013

Marin Poetry Center	April 2013
<i>Home: Poetry and Photography</i> : 1078 Gallery, Chico	November 2012
<i>Litcrawl</i> , San Francisco	October 2011, 2012, 2014
Point Arena Poetry Series	November 2011
ZYZZYVA Reading	November 2011
Sacramento Poetry Center	April 2011
<i>Pegasus Books</i> , Berkeley CA	September 2010
1078 Gallery, Chico CA	May 2010
Sacramento Poetry Center	March 2010
Stage Door, Mt. Shasta CA	October 2008
Café Flo, Chico CA	August 2008
1078 Gallery, Chico CA	March 2007
California Poets-in-the-Schools, Chico CA	September 2006 and 2008
DeSouza Art Gallery, Chico CA	August 2005 and 2006

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

The Author's Guild	December 2015-present
Academy of American Poets	May 2011-present