

**MARY JANE RYALS**  
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## **EDUCATION**

### **Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida**

**PhD** in English, 1994  
Dissertation: "To Laugh at Nothing." A novel about cross-racial friendship; set in the deep south Civil Rights period. Sheila Ortiz-Taylor, major professor.  
Comprehensive exams in Modern and Native American literatures; Modern British literature.

### **University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida & Florida State University**

**MA** in Creative Writing, Poetry 1989  
Thesis, "My Orlando Grandmother Looks Out the Window" (poems)

### **Florida A & M University, Tallahassee, Florida & Florida State University**

**BA** in English with emphasis in Humanities, Communication, and Natural Sciences 1980

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **BOOKS**

- The Moving Waters*, Kitsune Books, March, 2008 (poetry)
- Getting into the Intercultural Groove: Intercultural Communication for Everyone*, Kendall-Hunt Publishers, Fall 2006. (text and trade, second printing)
- Music in Arabic*, Yellow Jacket Book Prize Winner, 2006, April 2006. (chapbook)
- A Messy Job I Never Did See a Girl Do*, Livingston Press, June 1999.(collection of short fiction, second printing)
- North of Wakulla: An Anhinga Anthology*, Anhinga Press, co-editor with Donna Decker, Jan. 1990. (collection of poetry)

### **Books Under Consideration**

*How Cookie and I Got Home*, short-listed with New South Press (a novel)

### **Poems**

"What I'll Tell the Martians," & "The Sound of Drought" *CaKe*, Spring 2008  
"Arrival, Oaxaca, Mexico," *juked*, Summer 2007  
"Picasso's La Chata," & "Gulbenkian Museum, Portugal," *Louisiana Literature*, Fall/Wtr 2007  
"Missive from Africa," *Other Voices*, Summer 2006  
"Lavanderia: The Wash," *Calyx*, Spring 2006  
"Shoes in Spain," & "En la Noche de 16th Plata Apartamento," *Thirteenth Moon*," Fall, 2005  
"Music in Arabic," *Phoebe*, Fall, 2005  
"Water Women," & "Postcard for Michael from Spain," *Snake Nation Review*, Spring 2004  
"In the Garden," *Beacon Street Review*, 2002

"Ghazal for my Students," & "Sestina for an Unmarried Mother," selected for college teaching textbook *Thirteen Ways of Looking for a Poem: A Guide to Writing Poetry*, Addison Wesley Longman Press, 2000

"Planets," *New Laurel Review*, Spring 2000

"Drought," *Brightleaf: A Southern Review of Books*, Jan-Feb 1999

"The Kiss," *Poetry Motel*, Spring 1999

"Charleston Garden," *Beacon Street Review*, Winter 1998

"To My Children on Father's Day," *Tallahassee Democrat Style Magazine*, May 1998

"Planetarium Field Trip," *Tallahassee Democrat Style Magazine*, November 1997

"Preface: What Mothers Say," & "Stars on the Sand-Spit," *Word of Mouth*, Summer 1996

"Daughter," *Spinning Jenny*, Fall 1995

"Sestina for an Unmarried Mother," & "Blessings," *Cimarron Review*, Spring 1995

"My Baby's Hair is Dirt," *Negative Capability*, 1997

"Opening," *The Panhandler*, Spring 1995

"Horse Grace," *Cincinnati Poets Collective*, Spring 1995

"In the Motel Room," *The New Delta Review*, Summer 1993

"Daughter, I am Taking You to Belfast," and "In the Motel Room," *Analecta XIX*, contest winners, Spring 1994

"Mary Elks," *The Tampa Review*, Summer 1994

"Stupid Moon," *Kiosk*, Spring 1993

"Panama City Beach," *ONTHEBUS*, 1993

"Car Sunk," *Poet Lore*, Summer 1993

"Bird Wanting," *Alaska Quarterly Review*, Spring 1993

"From Denver," *Exquisite Corpse*, Winter 1992

"Summer and You," *Gulfstream*, Fall 1992

"The Blues Blue Your Eyes" & "One for Living," *University of Windsor Review*, Spring 1992

"What I Knew," *Parnassus: Poetry in Review*, Fall 1991

"The Gate," *The Bellingham Review*, Winter 1991

"A Word to Sylvia Plath," *Apalachee Quarterly*, Fall 1991

"Ariel," *Snake Nation Review*, Fall/Winter 1990-91

"Florida Haiku," *Spectrum*, 1988

"Labor," *Sundog: The Southeast Review*, Spring 1988

"Latin Dreams," *Apalachee Quarterly*, 1988

"Timucuan Spirits," *The Florida Review*, Spring-Summer 1988

### **Short Fiction**

"Swallows Dance," *HEAT 10*, 1998

"Caught," *BrightLeaf Press*, Fall 1998

"At the Other End of Nowhere," *Short Story*, (1996 contest winner), 1997

"Bad Wires," *Connecticut Review*, Pushcart Prize nomination, Spring 1996

"Bring Buffalo Punch," *On the Make*, Spring 1996

"The Flood," *Quarter-after-Eight*, Summer 1995

"Loki," *Yemassee Review*, Summer 1995

"A Messy Job I Never Did See a Girl Do," *Cold Mountain Review*, Winter 1995

"Saturday Street," *Grab-a-Nickel*, Fall 1994

"Pig on a Stick," *Negative Capability*, contest winner, Spring 1995

"God Bless Our Home," *Plainnes Circassiennes*, Winter, 1994

"I-95 Virginia," *Sundog: The Southeast Review*, contest winner, Spring, 1994

"The Break," *Sun Magazine*, Oct, 1995

"Sheer Curtains Coming Down," *State Street Review*, contest winner, Spring, 1994  
 "Dressing Like Chameleons," *Q Magazine*, Feb. 1993  
 "Hitchhiking," *Oasis*, Winter 1992  
 "One Girl's Tapestry," *Paragraph*, Spring 1992  
 "Sister Marie at Key West," *Snug*, Fall 1991  
 "The Flowerbed," *Onionhead Literary Quarterly*, Winter 1990  
 "The Day my Car Caught Fire," *Re:View*, Spring 1990  
 "Noir Neptune," *Paragraph*, Feb, 1990

### Articles and Essays

"Trees," a monthly column, *The Tortoise*, beginning January 2005  
 "The City in the Trees," *Between Two Rivers*, Red Hills Writers Project, September, 2004  
 "A True Success Story," *Partners in Excellence*, FSU, College of Business, 2003  
 "Kitty," Sunday Journal, *St. Petersburg Times*, January, 2003  
 "In Daddy's Garden," Sunday Journal, *St. Petersburg Times*, April 7, 2003  
 Various Book Reviews on authors Dewberry, Ball, Shomer, Burroway, Suarez, etc.; various columns on environmental issues, food, travel, *Tallahassee Democrat*, 2000-present.

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Research Associate, Business Communication**, Florida State University, 2007-present; Teach: Business Communication 3213
- **Associate in Business Communication**, Florida State University, 2003-2007; Teach: Business Communication 3213
- **Associate in Business Communication, International Programs**, Florida State University, Summers 2001-present; Teach: Women in Literature 3383, Article and Essay Workshop 3310, Intercultural Business Communication 3213
- **Assistant in Business Communication**, Florida State University, 1998-2003; Taught: Business Communication 3213
- **Adjunct Instructor in Creative Writing**, Florida State University, 1996-98; Taught: Advanced Fiction Workshop 4120, Twentieth Century American Novel 4121, Women in Literature 3383, Latino/a Literature 3630
- **Assistant Professor of English in Creative Writing**, Emporia State University, 1995-96; Taught: Fiction Workshop 545, Literary Magazine Workshop 575, Intro to Creative Writing 209, Fiction One 261, Reporting Two (Features) 300, Modern Drama 375, Honors Composition 109
- **Instructor of English and Creative Writing**, Florida State University, 1994-9; Taught: Rhetoric and Composition 1101, 1102; Multi-ethnic Literature 3270, Narrative Technique 3110, Fiction Workshop 4120
- **Graduate Instructor**, Florida State University, 1989-94; Taught: Poetry Workshop 1142 Article and Essay Workshop 3310, The Short Story 2020, Rhetoric and Composition 1101/1102
- **Adjunct Professor of English in Composition**, Tallahassee Community College, 1990-92; Taught: Rhetoric and Composition 101/102
- **Graduate Instructor**, University of Florida, 1984-8; Taught: Rhetoric and Composition 1101

## AWARDS

- Poet Laureate of the Big Bend of Florida, Jan 2008-Dec 2010
- Florida Poetry Award, Yellow Jacket Press, Chapbook Award, 2006
- Professional Development Leave, Florida State University, Fall 2006 award
- Teaching Recognition Award, Florida State University, Office of the Provost, 1998-2006
- University Teaching Award nominations, Florida State University, Fall 1998, 2000, 2001, 2005, 2006, 2007
- Writing Fellowship, The Hambidge Center for the Arts, 1999, 2000, 01, 02, 03, 05, 06
- *The Southern Review*/Louisiana State University Short Fiction Award nomination for best first collection of short stories by a U.S. writer in the U. S., Jan 2000
- Pushcart Nomination, 1997, short fiction by *Connecticut Review*.
- *Short Story's* 1995 Short fiction Contest first place winner, University of Northern Iowa and Iowa University, Su 1995.
- Indians in the Academy research award, The Newberry Library's D'Arcy McNickle Center for the American Indian, Su 1995, Chicago, IL.
- Poetry Scholarship, Florida Center for the Arts, selected by Sonia Sanchez, Su 1995.
- Outstanding Graduate Student Award--Florida State University--1994
- Florida Division of Cultural Affairs Grant in Writing, 1994-5.
- University Fellowship in Creative Writing, FSU, 1992-3, 1991-2, 1990-1
- Hemingway Days Literary Festival, Short Fiction Award, Honorable Mention, 1994
- *Negative Capability* Literary Magazine Contest, Fiction Award, Mobile, AL, 1994
- National Feature Artist Winner, *Analecta XIX* Poetry Contest, Austin, TX, 1993
- National League of American PEN Women, short fiction, Simi Valley Branch, CA, 1993
- Florida First Coast Writers Contest, Fiction Award, Jacksonville, FL, 1993
- Academy of American Poets Award, Honorable Mention, FSU, Tallahassee, FL 1993, 91
- The World's Shortest Short Story Contest, Finalist, FSU, Tallahassee, FL 1992, 93
- Simon Daro Dawidowicz Poetry Competition, Honorable Mention, Florida International University, Miami, FL 1992
- Gulbenkian Foundation Scholarship for Poetry, London, England for study at The Poets' House, Islandmagee, Ireland, 1992
- Poetry Editors' Choice, Arts on the Park, Showcase Publication winner, Lakeland, FL 1989
- Poetry of Distinction Award, Arts on the Park Festival 1990

## JOURNALISM AND LITERARY EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

- The Apalachee Review*, Fiction Editor, 1999-present
- The Tallahassee Democrat*, book reviewer, 1997-2003
- The Florida Flambeau*, columnist, news and features writer, 1990-95; editor, 1989-90
- The Miami News*, News and features writer 1982-83
- The Flint Hills Review*, Editor in Chief, Fall 1995
- Apalachee Quarterly*, Editor 1991-1995
- American Indian Quarterly*, Editor/Reader 1994-present

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- "Fair Trade Business and the Clean Water Project in the Hill Tribe Villages of Vietnam," FSU Global Leadership Program, Nov. 17, 2005
- "Intercultural Business Communication between East and West," Hanoi School of Business, Hanoi, Vietnam, July 5, 2005
- "Teaching Peace and Understanding in Business through Couscous, Chopsticks and the Blues," Association of International Educators Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC, Nov. 2004
- "South Asia, The Caribbean and Central America Panel," moderator, Career Leadership in a Global Economy, FSU, Nov. 18-20, 2003
- "Bad Wires," a short story reading, Gulf Coast Association of Creative Writers, Fairhope, AL, March 2003
- "How Cookie and Me Got Home," a novel excerpt reading, Gulf Coast Association of Creative Writers, Fairhope, AL, March 2002
- "Four Approaches to Team Building in Florida State University's Business Communication Course," panel presentation, Association of Business Communications Conference, CNN Center, Atlanta, GA, Oct. 20, 2000
- "Bayou Opaloosa," novel excerpt, University of Wisconsin-Stephens Point, May 1996
- "Turning Life, Tale-telling, Newspapers and Everything Else into Fiction," Florida First Coast Writers Conference, Jacksonville, FL, April 1996
- "Dreaming it then Doing It: Creating a Literary Magazine," College Media Association, NY, NY, March 1996
- "How Popular Culture and Folk Myth influence the Writing of Fiction," Southwest/West Regional Popular Culture Conference, Las Vegas, NV, Feb. 1996
- "A Messy Job I Never did See a Girl Do," reading at International Conference on the Sacred and the Profane, West Georgia College, Atlanta, GA, Oct. 1995.
- "If Fiction Writers are Great Liars, then why do they Need Libraries?: Researching the Florida Seminoles for a Novel," a presentation at The Newberry Library, Chicago, IL, July 1995.
- "To Laugh at Nothing" novel excerpt, Florida College English Teachers Association conference, St. Petersburg, FL, Feb. 1995.
- "What Literary Magazines Want," Florida First Coast Writers Conference, Jacksonville, FL, April 1994.
- FSU's Film and Literature Conferences, Tallahassee, FL: "Canny's Shack Sneak Out," 1996; "In the End, Silence Affects us All: Women, Maoris and the Landscape in *The Piano*," Jan. 1995; "Layering Voices," Jan. 1994; "A New/Old Poetic: Finding Native American Alternatives in Narrative Form," Jan. 1993

## LITERARY READINGS

- Poetry Month Reading, Florida Public Radio, "Perspectives," April 17, 2008
- Reading, Gulf Coast Association of Creative Writing Teachers conference, Fairhope, Alabama, April 11 & 12, 2008
- Poet Laureate Proclamation Reading, Leon County Commission Meeting, April 8, 2008
- Poetry Reading as Opening for Leon County Green Summit, Civic Center, March 28, 2008

- Reading for Poetry Society of North Florida, Booksamillion, March 11, 2008
- Reading with Java Dog Poetry Group, Abraham Baldwin College, Tifton, Georgia, April 13, 2007
- Reading, Pepper Library Series, June 30, 2006
- Reading and Acceptance of Award for YellowJacket Chapbook Award for Poetry, Blake School for the Arts, Tampa, Florida, April 7, 2006
- Reading/Performance of Poetry with JavaDogs, Tallahassee Writers Association, April 27, 2006
- Reading/Performance of Poetry with JavaDogs, Florida Literary Arts Coalition, Jan. 14, 2006
- 621 Gallery, *Anhinga Press-Apalachee Review* Reading Series, Tallahassee, Florida, July 18, 2002-2005
- Leon County Public Library, "Booked for Lunch," Tallahassee, FL, Nov. 18, 2004
- Publication Celebration Reading, Between Two Rivers, Tallahassee, FL, Sept. 2004
- International Bazaar, International Center, Tallahassee, Florida, Feb. 28, 2004
- Georgia Heritage Center for the Arts, Tallulah Falls, Georgia, August 7, 2002
- Warren Wilson College, Asheville, North Carolina, March 7, 2000
- University of North Carolina at Charlotte, North Carolina, March 5, 2000
- New College of the University of South Florida, Sarasota, FL, Oct. 22, 1999
- Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL, Oct. 21, 1999
- Leon Co. Public Library, "Desserts with an Author" Series, Tallahassee, FL, Oct. 1999
- "Writing about Everyday Life," Southern Festival of the Book, Tennessee Humanities Council, Nashville, TN, Oct. 9, 1999
- Borders Bookstore, Tallahassee, FL, Sept. 29, 1999
- Florida Atlantic University South Campus, Davie, FL, Sept. 28, 1999
- Florida Atlantic University, Main Campus, Boca Raton, FL, Sept. 27, 1999
- Books and Books, Coral Gables, FL Sept. 26, 1999
- University of Tampa, Tampa, FL, Sept. 23, 1999
- BANG! The Gun as Image in the Written Word, FSU Museum of Fine Arts, March, 1997
- The FSU English Department Reading Series: 1987-99
- Northern Iowa State University, International Short Story, Cedar Falls, IA, May 1996.
- Emporia State University, *Quivira* Club Series, Emporia, KS, Oct. 3, 1995.
- LeMoyne Art Foundation Reading, Tallahassee, FL May 10, 1995.
- Emerging Writers, Southern Women Writers conference, Berry College, Mt. Berry, Georgia, April 23, 1994
- *International Quarterly* at The International Student Center, FSU, Feb. 9, 1994
- The Mill, "National Reading: Harvest for the Homeless," Orlando, FL, Sept. 22, 1992
- Lakeland Center for the creative Arts, Lakeland, FL, Oct. 23, 1990
- The Downunder, Tallahassee, FL, 1988, 87
- The Harbor Series, York, Staten Island, NY, Dec. 19, 1987
- University of Florida Creative Writing Program Reading, Gainesville, FL, Nov. 1984

## **SERVICE & ACTIVITIES**

### **PROFESSIONAL WORK**

- AACSB Goals Program Director, Business Communication, Fall 2006-present

- By-laws Writing and Evaluation Committee, Business Communication representative, Fall 2006
- Accreditation Committee, Business Communication representative, Fall 2005, Spring 2006
- Grade Appeal Committee, Management Department, Spring 2005
- Steward, Department of Management, FSU, UFF, 2005-2006
- Advising, College of Business, 2000-present
- Board of Directors, International Center, FSU, 2004-2006
- Guest Lecturer, Global Gatherings, "Spain, Morocco, and the Mediterranean," FSU television, Fall 2004
- Volunteer Work, International Center, 2003-2006
- Office of Distance Learning, Blackboard classes, Teaching Enhancement courses, 2002-present
- Co-Produce *Apalachee Review-Anhinga Press* Reading Series, Tallahassee, 2002-present
- Committees: College Media Advisers, Magazine Committee, Creative Writing Committee Chair, Creative Writing Committee, Events/Lecture Committee 1995-96
- Talks: "Writing Characters," a presentation of writing creatively, Emporia Middle School, Nov. 1995.
- Other: Created a national literary/scholarly magazine for students to produce, *The Flint Hills Review*. Served as Masters Degree Chair for creative writing theses

#### **GRADUATE WORK**

- Grant-writer and Instructor Coordinator for "Preparing Future Faculty" program, The Association of American Colleges and Universities and The Council of Graduate Schools, sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trusts, 1994
- Judge, McCrimmon Undergraduate Essay Award, Dept. of English, FSU, 1991, 1992, 1993
- Judge, Short-Short Story Contest, Dept. of English, FSU, 1990, 1991, 1993
- Judge, Richard Eberhart Prize in Poetry, Dept. of English, FSU, 1992, 1993
- Textbook Committee member, First Year Writing, Dept. of English, FSU, 1990-91
- Student member by appointment, Writing Committee for Dept. of English, FSU, 1988-89
- Advisory Council of English Students, by election, Dept. of English, FSU, 1987-88
- Secretary, Creative Writers' Union, English Dept., Univ. of Florida, 1984-85

#### **References**

- Dr. David Kirby, Florida State University, dkirby@cob.fsu.edu
- Dr. Sheila Ortiz-Taylor, Francis G. Townsend Professor, (now retired) sotaylor@english.fsu.edu
- Dr. Hunt Hawkins, Professor and Chair, University of South Florida, 813/974-94929
- Dr. Pam Perrew, Jim Moran Professor of Management, Department of Management, Florida State University, 850/6447848
- Dr. Gerald Ferris, Francis Eppes Professor of Management, Department of Management, Florida State University, 850/644-3548