DANA CRUM

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EDUCATION

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

Richmond, VA

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

May 1996

- Won the department's Creative Writing Fellowship.
- Degree also required 12 credits of literature courses and a course in the teaching of writing.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Princeton, NJ

Bachelor of Arts in English

June 1993

• Cum laude. My concentration was in Creative Writing.

92nd STREET Y – UNTERBERG POETRY CENTER

New York, NY

■ Took 6 advanced creative-writing workshops (4 poetry classes and 2 fiction classes) between 2001 and 2009. Studied with Cynthia Zarin, Charles Martin, Joan Silber, Rachel Wetzsteon and others.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

CREATIVE-WRITING TEACHER & TEACHING ARTIST

2008 - present

DreamYard Preparatory School & DreamYard, an arts-in-education organization

Bronx, NY

- DreamYard Prep Teach electives to 9th and 10th graders and "majors" classes to 11th and 12th graders.
 - ➤ Design a curriculum for electives and a 2-year curriculum for creative-writing majors, which involves not only studio classes but also theory classes on literary history.
 - > Teach students to write in several genres (fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry and drama). Skills taught in all genres include sensory details, "show; don't tell," denotation, connotation, figurative language, allusion and musical devices. Additional skills taught in fiction, creative nonfiction and drama include openings, point of view (not for drama), characterization, scene, dialogue, plot & conflict, style and endings. Additional skills taught in poetry include form, free verse, meter, line breaks and stanzas.
- DreamYard Teach middle schoolers to write and perform slam poetry. Integrate slam poetry into the ELA curriculum so as to help teach that curriculum.
 - > Content topics include sensory details, "show; don't tell," form, free verse, denotation, connotation, figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification, symbol, metonymy, synecdoche, paradox, hyperbole, understatement, irony), allusion, alliteration, assonance, onomatopoeia, rhyme, line breaks and stanzas.
 - > Performance topics include pronunciation, enunciation, inflection, flow, speed, volume and gestures.

ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR & TUTOR

2007 - 2008

The Dwight School, an independent school (K-12)

New York, NY

■ Helped 11th graders improve their writing and reading-comprehension skills. Used the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Also tutored students.

CREATIVE WRITING/COMPOSITION & RHETORIC PROFESSOR

2006 - 2009

Ramapo College of New Jersey

Mahwah, NJ

• Teach students to write fiction and poetry. Teach students to write analytic essays, placing heavy emphasis on revision, and taught them to conduct research and write research papers.

ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR 1996 – 2000

Horace Mann School, an independent school (K-12)

Riverdale, NY

• Helped students improve their writing by giving detailed critiques of papers and by conducting frequent student conferences. Also taught grammar, vocabulary and reading comprehension. Raised test scores on schoolwide grammar exams by 7%.

COMPOSITION & RHETORIC INSTRUCTOR

1993 – 96

Virginia Commonwealth University

Richmond, VA

- Raised test scores on schoolwide writing exams by 6%. Had students identify writers' strategies and use them in their own writing. Combated students' fear of writing by having them write on interesting topics.
- Tutored undergraduate and graduate students in the writing center, helping them improve their papers' content, clarity, cogency and organization.

EDITING & PROOFREADING EXPERIENCE

FREELANCE CONTENT EDITOR, COPY EDITOR, FACT-CHECKER & PROOFREADER

9/05 - present

■ Past clients: *Black Issues Book Review,* Academic Financial Services, DreamYard Project, October Gallery, MBK Associates, Peoples Publishing Group, Greg Grant and Martin Sumners (authors of *94 Feet and Rising: The NBA Journey of Greg Grant),* and Dara Cook (author of *How to Stay Sane While Single).*

EDITOR (& CO-FOUNDER)

10/06 - 9/07

The Crocus Review, a journal of world literature

New York, NY

- Provided creative direction. Helped plan the budget and shape and execute marketing strategies.
- Made assignments, solicited manuscripts and chose work for publication.

WEB EDITOR & WRITER (a temporary position)

4/05 - 9/05

Princeton University – Office of Communications

Princeton, NJ

- Managed Princeton's core Web site, which included 200 pages and a constantly updated News section. Posted content. Wrote and edited Web site text, promotional materials and presentations.
- Liaised between Web team and News team. Wrote features, press releases and news articles.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR (Web & Print)

9/02 - 3/05

The Doneger Group, a fashion consulting firm (www.doneger.com)

New York, NY

- Managed half of an immense Web site. Project-managed several projects simultaneously, including idiosyncratic print books. Trained colleagues.
- Served as the liaison between several departments: Editorial, Consultants, Web, Art, Photography, Production and Data Entry. Did strategic planning.
- Copyedited Consultants' prose, did content editing, wrote headlines for the site and composed marketing text. Wrote occasional news articles.

COPY EDITOR (Volunteer/Part-Time)

9/00 - 12/03

HCCI/Intel Computer Clubhouse, an after-school program

New York, NY

- Copyedited brochures, newsletters, correspondence and policy manuals.
- Helped conceptualize oral presentations. Provided ongoing public-speaking tutorials.

PROOFREADER/COPY EDITOR

1/02 – 8/02

Thacher Proffitt & Wood, a law firm

New York, NY

• Under tight deadlines, proofed various legal documents. Occasionally copyedited prose.

LEAD COPY EDITOR/PROOFREADER

10/00 - 1/02

Bear Stearns, an investment bank

New York, NY

■ Increased proofers' accuracy by 7%. Supervised a staff of three and trained new employees. Managed workflow. Proofed and copyedited documents. Liaised between bankers and proofers.

FREELANCE WRITING & TUTORING

Novelist & poet. My work has appeared in an anthology and in magazines and journals, 1991-present.

Freelance English tutor: Writing, grammar, reading comprehension and PSAT/SAT prep. 2005-present.

Technical writing tutor, Stevens Institute of Technology, 2006.

Book reviewer, Black Issues Book Review, 2005-2006.

Features writer, Writing magazine, 2005–2006.

Music reviewer, 360hiphop.com, an online music magazine (now bet.com), 2000.

Features writer, The Source, a hip-hop magazine, 1997-99.

COURSES TAUGHT

Literature

IB ENGLISH 1 (11th grade English), The Dwight School, 2007-08

- The course had a world-literature focus.
- Primary aims of the course included: develop students' ability to analyze texts; improve students' powers of
 expression, both oral and written; help students understand the relationships between different texts; and
 deepen students' understanding of the techniques involved in literary criticism.

RICHARD WRIGHT & RALPH ELLISON, Horace Mann School, 2000

■ A 12th grade elective I created. Focusing on *Native Son* and *Invisible Man,* the course compared Wright's raging thug to Ellison's unnamed intellectual, revealing how both, in differing ways, are puppets of society.

ENGLISH 11, Horace Mann School, 1998-2000

■ An 11th grade literature course. In addition to teaching students to write analytic essays, I taught them to conduct research and write 8-12 page term papers. Each student's term paper was on Greek mythology.

ENGLISH 9, Horace Mann School, 1996-2000

■ A 9th grade literature course. In addition to teaching my students to write analytic essays, I taught them to compose personal narratives, poems, plays and short stories.

ENGLISH 8, Horace Mann School, 1996-2000

A course for 8th graders. Topics included writing, grammar and reading comprehension.

CREATIVE WRITING, DreamYard Preparatory School, 2009 – present

- Teach electives to 9th and 10th graders and "majors" classes to 11th and 12th graders.
- Teach students to write in several genres (fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry and drama). Skills taught in all genres include sensory details, "show; don't tell," denotation, connotation, figurative language, allusion and musical devices. Additional skills taught in fiction, creative nonfiction and drama include openings, point of view (not for drama), characterization, scene, dialogue, plot & conflict, style and endings. Additional skills taught in poetry include form, free verse, meter, line breaks and stanzas.

SLAM POETRY, DreamYard, 2008 - present

- Teach middle schoolers to write and perform slam poetry. Content-related topics include sensory details, "show; don't tell," form, free verse, denotation, connotation, figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification, symbol, metonymy, synecdoche, paradox, hyperbole, understatement, irony), allusion, alliteration, assonance, onomatopoeia, rhyme, line breaks and stanzas.
- Performance-related topics include pronunciation, enunciation, inflection, flow, speed, volume and gestures.

CREATIVE WRITING, Ramapo College of New Jersey, 2007 – 2009

- Students wrote poems and short stories. Run in a workshop format, this course provided nuts-and-bolts solutions to problems students faced. Works by accomplished writers were used as models.
- Primary texts: Building Fiction, The Art & Craft of Novel Writing and Creating Poetry.

FICTION WORKSHOP, Horace Mann School, 1999-2000

- A 12th grade elective I created. I demystified the creative process by using a nuts-and-bolts approach. Focused on openings, endings, point of view, characterization, conflict and narrative structure.
- Primary text: Building Fiction: How to Develop Plot and Structure.

POETRY WORKSHOP, Horace Mann School, 2000

- A 12th grade elective I created. I demystified the creative process by using a nuts-and-bolts approach. Focused on prosody, rhyme, form, free verse, imagery, metaphor, symbolism and concreteness vs. abstraction.
- Primary text: Creating Poetry.

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP, Horace Mann School, 1996-2000

- An entire trimester of my English 9 course was devoted to various types of creative writing.
- Students wrote daily and utilized such strategies as freewriting, brainstorming, branching and clustering.
 Students learned to view writing as a process, one that varies from person to person.

COURSES TAUGHT (continued)

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- COLLEGE ENGLISH, Ramapo College of New Jersey, 2006 present
- A course for college freshmen. Teach students to write analytic essays and research papers.
- Focus on such aspects as argument, evidence, organization, research and MLA documentation.

COMPOSITION & RHETORIC 101, Virginia Commonwealth University, 1994-96

 A course for college freshmen. The writing I had students do ranged from personal narratives to critical evaluations of texts.

COMPOSITION & RHETORIC 102, Virginia Commonwealth University, 1994-96

• A course for college freshmen. Taught students to compose more academic papers: the position paper, the informed position paper and the research paper.

COMMITTEE SERVICE

Composition & Rhetoric

RACE & GENDER SUBCOMMITTEE, Horace Mann School, 2000

- As the writer for the Race & Gender subcommittee, I synthesized reports from committee members and wrote a 10-page document on the progress of the school's diversification efforts.
- The report, part of a self-study necessary for re-accreditation, was submitted to the New York State Association of Independent Schools. The report was the school's first systemic and candid look at its own level of diversity.

VALUING DIFFERENCE COMMITTEE, Horace Mann School, 1996-2000

• Was one of several faculty members who met weekly to discuss ways to further diversify the school and bring about greater understanding and harmony.

INVOLVEMENT IN STUDENT ACTIVITIES

ADVISER TO 10th GRADERS, DreamYard Preparatory School, 2009 – present

- Keep track of students' academic progress and emotional well-being. Help students stay on the path that leads to college and post-college success.
- Lead discussions. Topics include social justice themes, peer pressure and fitting in vs. being an individual.

COACH OF MULTIPLE SLAM TEAMS, DreamYard (at MS145, MS325, MS328 and MS391), 2008 – present

- In the fall and spring of each year, help each class I teach select the members of its slam team. Each slam team competes in a Bronxwide poetry-slam competition.
- Once the slam teams are selected, help each slam team member revise her poem and hone her performance of the poem.

ADVISER TO THE SCHOOL'S LITERARY & ART JOURNAL, The Dwight School, 2007-08

Oversaw all aspects of production. Liaised with the web manager. Supervised student editors.

ADVISER TO STUDENT PUBLICATIONS, Horace Mann School, 1998-2000

- Mental Boom and Legal Fiction were student journals of nonfiction and fiction, respectively.
- Oversaw all aspects of production. Liaised with printers. Supervised student staff members.
- Planned issues, supervised the solicitation of manuscripts and art, and edited copy.

ADVISER TO THE UNION, Horace Mann School, 1999-2000

■ The UNION was a multiracial student organization dedicated to supporting the school's African-Americans and Latinos. Helped organize meetings, events, field trips and assemblies. Served as a spokesperson.

DIRECTOR OF THE COMPUTER GIVEAWAY PROGRAM, Horace Mann School, 1996-1998

- Managed the program, getting donated computers into the hands of students in need.
- Procured computers from parents, alumni and companies, and acquired names of students in need. Supervised
 a student.

ACADEMIC ADVISER, Horace Mann School, 1996-2000

Helped students choose appropriate courses.

PUBLISHED WORK

Creative Writing

"My Heavenly Father" (a short story), *Baring Our Souls: Scintillating Short Stories by Contemporary Black Authors,* edited by Regina Cash-Clark, forthcoming.

"Peregrine" (a poem), Taking Root, edited by Dana Crum, New York: DreamYard Project Press, 2010.

"Crocus" (a poem), Voices Rising, edited by Ellen Hagan, New York: DreamYard Project Press, 2009.

Excerpts from the novel *At the Cross, AP English Literature & Composition for Dummies,* by Geraldine Woods, Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing, Inc., 2008.

"Nothing Can Remain Unchanged" (a novel excerpt), *Bronx Biannual: The Journal of Urbane Urban Literature,* July 2006.

"Do Not Go Sulk and Munch on a Daffodil" (a parodic poem), *Writing,* a Weekly Reader publication, November/December 2005.

"My Heavenly Father" (a short story), *Gumbo: An Anthology of African American Writing,* edited by Marita Golden and E. Lynn Harris, New York: Harlem Moon - Broadway Books, 2002.

"Nothing Can Remain Unchanged" (a novel excerpt), Carve Magazine (carvezine.com), May 1, 2001.

"On the Playground, On the Block" (a novel excerpt), African Voices, Spring 2001.

"My Heavenly Father" (a short story), 64, December 2000.

An excerpt from "The Dead and Living Soil" (a poem), Mental Boom, Winter 2000.

"The Friends We Leave Behind" (a novel excerpt), The Source, May 1999.

Round-up review of nonfiction books on how American writers have portrayed African-Americans, Black Issues Book Review, 2007.

"Hard Labor: Scholars Chronicle the Relationship of African Americans to Unions and the Industrialization of America," Black Issues Book Review, Sept./Oct. 2006.

Review of Langston Hughes' *Tambourines to Glory, Black Issues Book Review,* Sept./Oct. 2006.

Review of Steven Barnes' Great Sky Woman, Black Issues Book Review, Sept./Oct. 2006.

"My Hip-Hop Homework Helper: How I Taught Myself to Write a Research Paper," *Writing,* a Weekly Reader publication, Feb./Mar. 2006.

Review of Wallace Ford's novel, The Pride, Black Issues Book Review, Jan./Feb. 2006.

"From Imitation to Originality: Or, How Dylan Thomas Taught Me to Write Poetry," Writing, a Weekly Reader publication, Nov./Dec. 2005.

"Programs immerse students in language and culture," www.princeton.edu, July 28, 2005.

"Science teachers become students again in summer workshop," <u>www.princeton.edu</u>, July 18, 2005.

"Unforeseen journey takes Miles from military to Princeton," Princeton Weekly Bulletin, June 13, 2005.

"Studio presses students into exploring the creative process," *Princeton Weekly Bulletin,* May 30, 2005.

Various news articles and press releases, www.princeton.edu, April 2005 – Sept. 2005.

Review of Eric B. & Rakim's album Paid in Full, www.360hiphop.com (now www.bet.com), July 2000.

"Great Expectations" (a feature on the Roots, a hip-hop band), The Source, March 1999.

"Death Before Dishonor" (a feature on Mystikal, the raging MC of Louisiana), *The Source,* Jan. 1999.

"The Odd Couple" (a feature on Outkast, a hip-hop duo), The Source, Nov. 1998.

"Uniformed Guard Is Scientist of Creative and Experimental Expression" (a feature), Focus, Aug. 1993.

"Security Guard Is First Army Civilian to Graduate from Air Force Police Academy" (a feature), Focus, Aug. 1993.

"Hartford County Welcome Committee Encourages Newcomers to Move to Edgewood, Maryland" (a news article), Focus, Aug. 1993.

"More than 200 Employees Throughout ARL Say Goodbye in Recent VERA, VSIP Offering" (a news article), Focus, July 1993.

"Seminars and Services Ease Relocation Anxieties" (a news article), Focus, July 1993.

"Federally Employed Women Honor Excellence" (a news article), Focus, July 1993.

HONORS & AWARDS

In 2010, 5 of my DreamYard students won a total of 7 NYC Scholastic Writing Awards in poetry, all of them Gold Keys. One of my students won a Silver Key in the national Scholastic competition and ranked in the top 1% of submitted work. These students joined the ranks of Andy Warhol, Joyce Carol Oates, Richard Avedon, Sylvia Plath and Truman Capote, all of whom won Scholastic Awards as teenagers.

In 2009, 6 of my DreamYard students won NYC Scholastic Writing Awards in poetry, including 4 Gold Keys and 2 Silver Keys. One of my students won a national Scholastic Writing Award and was published in *The Best Teen Writing of 2009*. These students joined the ranks of Andy Warhol, Joyce Carol Oates, Richard Avedon, Sylvia Plath and Truman Capote, all of whom won Scholastic Awards as teenagers.

In the fall and spring of the 2008-09 school year, the slam teams that won 1st and 2nd place in the 7th & 8th grade division of DreamYard's Bronxwide poetry-slam competition were teams I coached. In the fall, three of the five teams that made it to the semifinals were teams I coached. In the spring, three of the four teams that made it to the semifinals were teams I coached.

Judge for *The Crocus Review's* Inaugural Writing Contests (fiction & poetry categories), 2007.

Judge for 2006 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award (fiction category).

Semifinalist, **The Raymond Carver Short Story Award** at the University of Washington, *Carve Magazine* (www.carvezine.com), **2001.**

Semifinalist, James Fellowship for the Novel-in-Progress, the Heekin Group Foundation, 1998.

Creative Writing Fellowship, Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Graduate Studies, 1995.

Fiction Contest Winner, Virginia Commonwealth University's English Department, 1995.

Black History in the Making, Virginia Commonwealth University & the Creative Writing Program, 1994–95.

Cum Laude, Commencement, Princeton University, 1993.

Mellon Fellow, Andrew W. Mellon Minority Fellowship Program, Princeton University, 1991–93.

SELECTED SPEECHES & READINGS

Poetry Reading, Cave Canem's "Writing Across Cultures" Reading, Brooklyn, NY, May 2010.

Poetry Reading - Featured Poet, An Beal Bocht's monthly Poetry Night, Riverdale, NY, March 2010.

Poetry Reading, An Beal Bocht, Riverdale, NY, December 2009.

Poetry Reading, DreamYard's Teacher & Artist Open Mic, Nuyorican Poets Café, NY, NY, June 2009.

Poetry Reading, DreamYard's Artist Open Mic at the Annual Retreat CT, September 2008.

A Reading from My Novel, KGB Bar (NYC Writers Circle), August 2007.

A Reading from My Novel, Madison Avenue Loft, NY, NY, January 2006.

Poetry Reading, Bared Soles' Black History Month Event, Del Bar, NY, NY, February 2005.

Reading, Lecture & Signing, Gumbo, Kraft Foods African American Council – East Hanover, NJ, Book Club Event, February 2004.

Reading, Lecture & Signing, Gumbo, MLK Day at St. Andrews, Middletown, DE, March 2003.

Reading, Lecture & Signing, *Gumbo*, Kraft Foods African American Council – Rye, NY, Book Club Event, **February 2003.**

Reading & Signing at Barnes & Noble, book promotion for Gumbo, NY, NY, January 2003.

Keynote Speaker, Black History Month Celebration at New Pilgrim Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL, **February 2001.**

A Reading from My Novel, a NSBE meeting, Princeton University, 2000.

Poetry Reading, Urbana (the basement of CBGB's), NY, NY, 2000.

Poetry Reading, Big Hands event, Bar 13, NY, NY, 2000.

Keynote Speaker, Diversity Day Assembly, Horace Mann School, NY, NY, 1999.

Poetry Reading, The NuYorican Poets Cafe, NY, NY, 1998.

Poetry Reading, An Beal Bocht, Riverdale, NY, 1998.

Poetry Readings, The Brooklyn Moon Cafe, NY, NY, 1996-97.

Introduction for David Bradley, Hurston/Wright Writer's Week, Richmond, VA, 1996.

A Reading from My Novel, Hurston/Wright Writer's Week, Richmond, VA, 1996.

SELECTED SPEECHES & READINGS (continued)

Intro for Russell Banks, Visiting Writers Series, The New Virginia Review, Richmond, VA, 1996.

Poetry Readings, The Underground Railroad, Richmond, VA, 1995-96.

Featured Reader, Graduate Writers Association, Virginia Commonwealth University, 1994.

Creative Thesis Reading, Creative Writing Program, Princeton University, 1993.

Poetry Reading, "Vibes and Vapors" show on WPRB radio station, Princeton University, 1993.

PRESS COVERAGE

poets.org (Web site of The Academy of American Poets), press release for Cave Canem's "Writing Across Cultures" reading, **May 2010** (Read it online at www.poets.org/viewevent.php/prmEventID/9004).

The Huffington Post, "Power in a Poem" by Abigail Pogrebin, February 4, 2009.

(Read it online at www.huffingtonpost.com/abigail-pogrebin/power-in-a-poem b 163991.html)

furthermucker.com, "On Bronx Biannual" by Miles Marshall Lewis, 2008.

(Read it online at www.furthermucker.com/bronx_biannual)

Bronx Biannual: The Official Blog of Bronx Biannual: the Literary Journal of Urbane Urban Literature + the Paris Misadventures of a Hiphop American in the 21st Century, "New Review (zooooo!)" by Dan Tres Omi, February 21, 2007.

(Read it online at http://bronxbiannual.blogspot.com/2007/02/new-review-zooooo.html)

tayarijones.com/blog, "And The Winner Was..." by Tayari Jones, November 4, 2006

(Read it online <u>www.tayarijones.com/blog/archives/2006/11/and the winner 1.html</u>)

ink19.com; Sheila Scoville's review of Bronx Biannual, issue no 1; October 2006.

(Read it online at www.ink19.com/issues/october2006/printReviews/bronxBiannual.html)

akashicbooks.com; Press release for Bronx Biannual, issue no 1; 2006

(Read it online at www.akashicbooks.com/bronxbiannual.htm)

NPR affiliate WBEZ 91.5 FM, Chicago, Illinois. As part of WBEZ's *Stories on Stage* series, actor Ryan Priester did a dramatic reading of my short story "My Heavenly Father" before a live audience. Dec. 27, 2003. Listen to the podcast at: www.wbez.org/audio_library/sos_03audio.asp

harlemlive.org, "A New Writer on the Scene" by Isabelle Pierre, Spring 2001.

(Read it online at http://208.109.99.212/community/people/a-new-writer-on-the-scene.html)

"Dana Crum: A Retrospective," a 9-page research paper that high-school junior Camille Bent wrote on me; the paper examined my writing and my life. Horace Mann School, March 2000.

"Diversity Day Gone but Not Forgotten; Meeting Substituted," The Record, Horace Mann School, April 16, 1999.

"English Teacher Is Also Writer," The Record, Horace Mann School, February 1997.

CONFERENCES & PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Panelist, Providing guidance for future teaching artists, Community-Word Project, NY, NY, 2009.

Panelist, Supporting students of color, NYSAIS Diversity Conference, Horace Mann School, Riverdale, NY, 2000.

Panelist, New Teachers Workshop, Margins Conference, Poly Prep School, Brooklyn, NY, 1997.

Delegate for Virginia Commonwealth University, 9th National Black Student Leadership Development Conference, The College of William & Mary, **1995.**

COMPUTER EXPERIENCE

PC, Mac, Microsoft Office, Web site management software, Dreamweaver, Firefox and Internet Explorer