

James (Jeb) S. Livingood

www.livingood.us



Associate Director, U.Va. Creative Writing Program

I am a fiction writer who also has extensive program management experience in both the worlds of academia, where I currently serve as associate director of the University of Virginia's Creative Writing Program, and the military, where I served as a U.S. Coast Guard captain (O-6) with specializations in intelligence and port safety and security. I also have extensive experience in database design and information management.

Education



Master of Science in Strategic Intelligence

National Defense University, Washington, DC

2008–2010

Master of Fine Arts (Fiction Writing)

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia

1998–2000

Master of Science in Management Information Systems

American University, Washington, DC

1993–1995

Bachelor of Arts, English

George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia

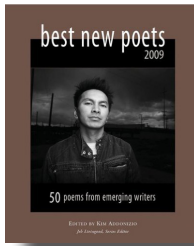
1996–1997

Bachelor of Arts, Biology

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia

1982–1986

Publications (as Editor)



Best New Poets, Founding Series Editor, Current Coeditor

2005–present

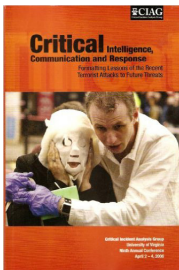
Best New Poets (www.bestnewpoets.org) is an annual anthology of fifty poems from emerging writers. Since its inception in 2005, the anthology has used three nomination sources—literary magazines, writing programs, and an open competition—to collect thousands of entries, which we distill to several hundred finalists that go on to a guest editor. Guest editors over the years have included **Tracy K. Smith, Dorianne Laux, Claudia Emerson, Natasha Trethewey, Mark Strand, Kim Addonizio, and Eric Pankey**. The book has consistently generated a profit from sales each year, and is now distributed by the University of Virginia Press. Jazzy Danziger served as series editor for 2012 to 2015, until I returned in 2016 along with coeditor Angie Hogan.



Meridian, Faculty Advisor

2000–present

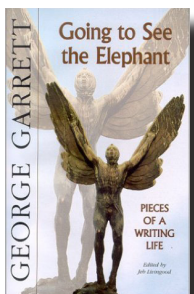
Faculty advisor for *Meridian* (www.readmeridian.org), a semi-annual literary magazine produced at the University of Virginia and edited by students in the Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing. The magazine is international in its scope, publishing authors from around the world. Since 1998, *Meridian* has allowed more than fifty MFA students to gain extensive editorial experience, almost exclusively on creative work from outside the University of Virginia, and I have worked diligently to keep the magazine on a sound financial footing in an ever-changing world of print and electronic publishing. *Meridian* was one of the first-ever magazines to use a robust online submission system, and more recently, has leveraged new formats like ePub and an online Flash/SWF viewer to distribute the journal to a wider audience at little additional cost to U.Va.



Critical Intelligence, Communication and Response and Root, Stem and Branch: Home-Grown Radicals and the Limits of Terrorism, Editor

2006–2007

Editor for two conference proceedings from Critical Incidents Analysis Group 2006 and 2007 conferences in Charlottesville, Virginia. Distilled and sharpened two days of panels into 140+ page guides for post-conference distribution. Speakers included former U.S. attorney general, former state governors, and senior military and federal administrators.



Going to See the Elephant, Editor

2002

A collection of George Garrett's essays, fiction, and poetry published by the Texas Review Press.

Short Publications **Short Fiction**

- "To Us," *Cream City Review*, Spring 2004.
- "Motion Sickness," *The Texas Review*, Fall/Winter 2002.
- "Signal Codes" Chapbook published by White Eagle Coffee Store Press, October 2002.
- "Oh Albany, My Love," *Best New American Voices 2001* (Harcourt), Charles Baxter, guest editor.
- "The Summer Sea" *Yemassee*, Spring/Summer 1998.

Essays and Other Nonfiction

- "Stephen Crane's Deleted Chapter from *The Red Badge of Courage*," *Meridian*, Spring 2008. Lost Classic feature on Crane's revisions to *Red Badge*.
- "A Letter from Edgar Allan Poe to Washington Irving," *Meridian*, Spring 2007. Lost Classic feature on a previously unpublished Poe letter.
- "William Faulkner and The People-to-People Program," *Meridian*, Winter 2007. Lost Classic feature on Faulkner's correspondence with many other prominent writers during the Eisenhower administration.
- "From the Pilot to the Bombardier: An Anecdote on Literary Fame," *The Texas Review*, Spring/Summer 2001. A personal essay on attending one of Joseph Heller's last public readings.
- "The Chronicle of Don García Fernández," *Meridian*, Spring 2001. Lost Classic feature on a previously unpublished Washington Irving manuscript.
- "Charles Baxter: Fiction Resisting the Corilineal," *The Hollins Critic*, December 2000. Feature-length essay on Baxter's *The Feast of Love*, prior novels, and fiction collections.
- "Puddle Jumper: An Interview with Charles Baxter," *Meridian*, Fall 2001. Interview.
- "Revenge of the Introverts," *Computer Mediated Communication*. Vol. 2, No. 4. April, 1995. Essay on emerging methods of Internet communication.

Writing Awards

- 2004 Cream City Review Fiction Prize Winner. National competition sponsored by the Cream City Review.
- 2002 A. E. Coppard Prize in Long Fiction. National competition sponsored by White Eagle Coffee Store Press.

Courses Taught **Literary Editing** (ENSP 591/2, ENSP 5910, ENSP 3559, and ENSP 3300)

Literary Editing began as a graduate/undergraduate course, ENSP 591 (fall) and ENSP 592 (spring) for MFA student editors of *Meridian*, but open to undergraduates who wanted magazine experience. However, when I became *Meridian* faculty advisor, I decided the graduate-level designation was somewhat arbitrary, and began shifting the course to an undergraduate level, and dramatically increasing the academic content, reshaping the course and establishing its current goals: 1) to ensure its students are familiar with the *Chicago Manual of Style* and the fundamentals of proofreading and editing, 2) to train its students in the use of InDesign desktop publishing software, and 3) to equip its students with the core technical and textual skills they need to survive in a dynamically changing publishing industry. In the current iteration of the course, ENSP 3300, students create and typeset a book-length project in InDesign, print a perfect-bound copy using an on-demand printing service, and convert their material to a reflowable ePub, which they load onto an iPad or Kindle.

Introduction to Fiction Writing (ENCW 2600 and ENCW 2560)

This class introduces students to the techniques and craft involved in writing short literary fiction. By the end of a typical 2600 class, students produce two short stories, workshop both, and revise one extensively. They also read a good deal of short fiction, ideally becoming a more insightful consumer of stories and other narratives, and more aware of the various strategies and tactics authors use to create, as best they can, a piece of art—that is, an literary object that helps us understand what it is to be human. The course uses an ePub course pack and extensive online resources. ENCW 2560 is a “themed” equivalent designed for third- and four-year undergraduates and students from other schools within U.Va. In fall 2016, my ENCW 2650 theme is “Literary Science Fiction,” where I will ask students to read and write science fiction that is (I hope) of literary quality, or at least of literary impulse. We will seek to answer questions like, “Can fiction whose primary focus is on the future and a scientific concept(s) also reveal a great deal about our present—and again, our humanity?”

Intelligence Failures and Analytic Bias (COLA 1500)

The one-credit COLA will briefly examine some of the U.S. intelligence community's greatest failures—such as failing to predict the attacks on 9/11 and incorrectly assessing Saddam Hussein's Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) program—as well as some of its successes, like locating Osama bin Laden in Pakistan in 2011 and Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in 2004. The course would help U.Va. undergraduates examine some of the common analytical biases and blind spots that have led to national intelligence failures, as well as learn some of the structured analytical techniques that have led to successes.

Introduction to Academic Writing (ENWR 105, ENWR 106, ENWR 110, and ENWR 210)

“Freshman Comp” courses designed to fulfill U.Va.'s first-writing requirement. ENWR 110 was the standard one-semester version, while ENWR 105 and 106 were designed for weaker writers who needed two semesters of writing support. ENWR 210 was for advanced writers. These courses stressed a Toulmin model of academic argument with themes including “The University,” “The Opinion Pages,” and “U.S. Immigration Policy.”

Courses (Con't) **Southern Short Stories (ENLT 2514)**

A 2000-level literature course with a focus on short stories by southern writers. The course also included reading and analyzing academic articles, as well as W.J. Cash's *The Mind of the South*. The class examined what makes a short story "southern" and whether that species of literature still exists in today's globalized, "post-racial" United States. Authors included but were not limited to Truman Capote, Kate Chopin, Charles W. Chesnutt, William Faulkner, George Garrett, Ellen Glasgow, Zora Neale Hurston, Flannery O'Connor, Edgar Allan Poe, Peter Taylor, Eudora Welty, and Richard Wright.