

Criterion II: Scholarly or Creative Achievement or Research

Brief Narrative

In 2022 I released my latest collection of Poetry, *Face Up*. My publisher and I had a segment on WCCO's morning show promoting my book and Poetry Month, not necessarily in that order. It was syndicated, and as a result I sold some copies through Good Reads and Amazon. This collection I'm proud of because I received such clear guidance along its drafting stages from my publisher, mentor and dear friend, Belo Cipriani, and it invigorated me to work toward clarity in re-vision. As a result, this collection feels mature and strong due to its thematic focus and brevity.

Writing requires research, despite the mantra "write what you know." I love research, so much so that I can get lost in its recursive roundabout. It's one of the most fascinating worlds to be in as long as you come back in time for class to start. In spring, 2023, I received a semester sabbatical. Before launching off into my several weeks of planned poetry writing, I challenged a few of my students to write 70 poems in 70 days. There were a handful of us that completed the commitment. After day 70, we met up face-to-face and really hashed out the process, the momentum, the themes. It was the epitome of cathartic. You know that old saying, 'comedy and tragedy are married?' It was exhausting and exhilarating simultaneously.

My sabbatical project's working title is *70 Proof*, included in this section of the dossier. Some of the poems I've worked on extensively with revision; others are perhaps important to my writing process, however in retrospect "there's no there there." I will say working with a community of writers solidified the commitment. All of us committed were in it because of something bigger than ourselves. It was a memorable sabbatical, and productive. My goal is to end up with a unified chap book collection from this project. I have listed my publications since tenure, and I've also included some of those publications within this section of the dossier. In addition, I've included some recent works-in-progress, along with a sampling of a few readings.

January 1, 2025, 21 writers including myself too on another challenge of writing 70 poems in 70 days. It was phenomenal, and the building of community was astounding. We held a reading on campus with 11 poets in April 2025.

Researching where to send creative work off to can become a labyrinth of sorts. I publish, and will continue to publish work in poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction as long as I'm alive. I set up a submission schedule for fall that I can't ignore, charting my progress. I generally average five publications a year, sometimes more, and I will increase my submissions over the next two years.

I am currently working with a book coach drafting the text to a three-series story in collaboration with Professor Ming-Ching Liang, who is doing the illustration. The intended audience: ages 4-8. The working title for the project is *The Tiny Yet Mighty Miss Tibbins*. Ming Ching and I have been working on this project since spring, '25. This is a project that fell into my

hands once Ming Ching started to show me drawings of my cat that he created a few years previous. My love for child narration didn't stretch to think about this from an audience perspective until I started to narrate the first of three stories. I'm honored to work with Ming Ching and my book coach, Belo Cipriani, on this project.

In the meantime, I am constantly researching books in all genres as examples of what works, what doesn't and why. Most recently I worked with Salman Rushdie's *Knife* for students to read in WRIT 481, spring, 2025. Also I worked with Steve Almond's new book, *Truth is the Arrow, Mercy is the Bow*. This is a book on process; an added bonus was having Steve Almond visit our class to discuss the book and answer questions. It was a timely experience. For spring, 2026, I'm requiring the novel *Bunny* by Mona Awad, and highly recommending *We Love You, Bunny*, also by Mona Awad. She will zoom into our humor course this spring to talk with the students about her writing process.

Thank you for investing in this brief narrative. You can explore the following content for works in progress, recent publication samples, and interviews.

Recent Works (in progress):

70 Proof

Holding it Together

Just a Minute

Recent Publications

2024: Accessing Parenthood: Stories by and about parents with disabilities *Three Days Before the Witches Fly*

2024: Fearless Obsession ISBN: 979-8-218-30466-9

2023: *Three Days Before the Witches Fly* (memoir) Published in CTD: Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

2023: The Raven's Perch: *Do You Know Your Anchors' Blood Type?* (poem)

2023: The FFF Brigade Anthology: Locker Room Talk *Mutiny at the Capitol* (poem)

2022: Pen to Paper: An International Magazine Addressing Disabilities *Whimsical Logic* (both as poetry and short fiction)

2022: *Face Up*: A collection of poetry (March, '22)

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

- a. Letter from Belo Cipriani
- b. Creative Work Samples
- c. Publication Notes
- d. Interviews/Reviews
- e. PDPs/PDRs
- f. Misc.