

# MARTHA SERPAS

Creative Writing Program  
University of Houston  
225 Roy Cullen Building  
Houston, TX 77204-5008  
(713) 743-2255

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## CURRENT POSITION

August 2009- UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON, Houston, TX.  
present Associate Professor of English.

## BOOK PUBLICATIONS

*The Dirty Side of the Storm*. W. W. Norton. 2007.

*Côte Blanche*. Fwd. Harold Bloom. New Issues Poetry and Prose. Western Michigan UP. 2002.

## RECENT PERIODICAL AND ANTHOLOGY PUBLICATIONS

"As If There Were Only One." *The Best of Image*. Eerdsman. (forthcoming)

"Aunt Kate Considers the Family Tomb" and "Insufficient, Ineligible Loss." *Christianity and Literature*.  
(forthcoming)

"Paradis," "Epithalamia," and "Now Hill." *Relief: A Journal of Christian Expression*. 2.3 (Fall 2008).

"The Pomegranate." *Verse Daily*. [www.versedaily.com](http://www.versedaily.com). June 22, 2008.

"Conveyance" and "The Dirty Side of the Storm." *Poetry Daily*. [www.poetrydaily.org](http://www.poetrydaily.org). May 26, 2008.

"The Diener." *The New Yorker*. April 7, 2008.

"There." *Journal of The Liturgical Conference. Liturgy: New and Borrowed Rites*. 23.1 (2008).

"A Chaplet for Lana." *Prism*. Fall 2007.

"Old River." (nonfiction) *Image: A Journal of the Arts and Religion*. (Number 55). Fall 2007.

"Lying in the Middle of the Field." *The Nation*. April 2007.

"Formica" and "Millennial Birthday." *2RiverView* 10.2 (Winter 2006).

"As If There Were Only One," "Witness Tree," "Poem Found," and "Psalm at High Tide."  
Harold Bloom and Jesse Zuba (eds.) *American Religious Poems*. NY:  
Library of America. (October 2006).

"The Boat Shed," "A Future With Hope," and "No-Name Storm." *The Connecticut Review*.  
Winter 2006.

"Reburial at Sea," "The Dirty Side of the Storm," and "Creation." *Image: A Journal of the Arts  
and Religion*. 32.4 (Winter 2005).

"Poem Found." *The Christian Century*. November 1, 2005.

"Psalm at High Tide," "The Water," and "A Corollary." *The New Yorker*. September 12, 2005.

"The Discipline of Non-Fulfillment," "Bayou Lafourche," "Sunrise," and "Hard Rain." *Passages North*.  
26.1 (Winter/Spring 2005).

"Bully Camp Road" and "Ghost Trees." *Metre* 17. (Spring 2005).

“As If There Were Only One,” “Finishing Touch,” and “Faith in Florida.” *Vespers: Contemporary American Poems of Religion and Spirituality*. Eds. Virgil Suarez and Ryan Van Cleave. U of Iowa P. October 2003.

## EDUCATION

- 1998 UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON, PHD in literature and creative writing.
- 1994 YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL, MDIV.
- 1989 NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, MA, English, concentration in creative writing.
- 1986 LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, BA in English with honors.

## OTHER UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- August 1999-  
May 2009 UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA, Tampa, FL.  
*Associate Professor of English and Writing.*  
Poetry editor of *Tampa Review*.
- Fall 2008 UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM.  
*Visiting Associate Professor of English.*  
Taught graduate and undergraduate sections of Poetic Form and Technique.
- April 2008 GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE. St. Peter, MN.  
*Poet-in-Residence.*
- March 2008 UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA.  
*George Rodrigue Lecture.* Lafayette, LA.  
“The Paradox of the Swamp: Poetry and Divinity.”
- June 2006 YALE INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC, New Haven, CT.  
*Visiting Professor (Summer Institute).*  
“Poetry as Theology,” an intensive studio course.
- Fall 2005 YALE INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC, New Haven, CT.  
*Visiting Associate Professor of Religion and Literature.*  
Taught two studio creative writing courses, Contemporary Poetry as Theology and Spiritual Autobiography.
- September 2005 YALE UNIVERSITY, New Haven, CT.  
*Panelist.*  
“Teach-In on the Mississippi Delta, New Orleans and the Gulf Coast: Deeper Knowledge for a Broader Response.”  
Joined faculty from the History, American Studies, and African-American Studies Departments, and the Dean of the Graduate School.
- September 2004 DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL, Durham, NC.  
*Stuart C. Henry Lecturer in Religion and the Arts.*  
“The Paradox of Witness: Moral Agency and the Elegy.”
- June 2004 YALE INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC, New Haven, CT.  
*Visiting Professor, Summer Term.*  
“Poetry as Theology,” an intensive studio course.
- July 2002 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES SUMMER INSTITUTE. University of Texas, Austin.  
*Educational consultant.*  
“Environmental Observation and Creative Writing.”

## **RECENT READINGS**

October 2008	POISON PEN SERIES. Houston, TX.
September 2008	POETRY AND PROSE READNG SERIES. UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON.
March 2008	UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA. Carrollton, GA.
March 2008	NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY, Thibodaux, LA.
October 2007	UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON, DOWNTOWN.
October 2007	ATHENA SOCIETY. Tampa, FL.
September 2007	DEEP CARNIVALE. Tampa, FL.
April 2007	LOYOLA UNIVERSITY. New Orleans, LA.
April 2007	OCTAVIA BOOKSTORE. New Orleans, LA.
March 2007	UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA. Lafayette, LA.
March 2007	NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY. Thibodaux, LA.
March 2007	UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO. (Also presented to Literature and the Environment Program Graduate Students).
February 2007	LOYOLA UNIVERSITY. Chicago, IL.
February 2007	MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY. Milwaukee, WI.
January 2007	FLORIDA LITERARY ARTS COALITION. Tallahassee, FL.
January 2007	WRITERS AT THE UNIVERSITY. University of Tampa.
December 2006	STELLA ADLER STUDIO OF ACTING. New York, NY. With Henri Cole.
May 2006	HAROLD CLURMAN FESTIVAL, STELLA ADLER STUDIO OF ACTING, New York, NY. With Charles Wright.
September 2005	YALE INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC. New Haven, CT.
November 2004	UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE. "New American Poets," Louisville, KY.
September 2004	DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL. Durham, NC.

## **SELECTED RECENT HONORS AND ACADEMIC SERVICE**

2008	Outstanding Scholarship Award. College of Arts and Letters. University of Tampa.
2008	Outstanding Contribution to Student Life.
2008	Joyce D. Keller Faculty/Staff Volunteer of the Year.
2003-2008	Steering Committee, Arts, Literature and Religion Section, American Academy of Religion.
2007	Interim Chair of the English and Writing Department.
2005	Chair of the Faculty.
2004-2006	University Faculty Committee.
2004	Joyce D. Keller Faculty/Staff Volunteer of the Year.
2003	Professional Development Grant. "UT Writers Teach Tampa."
2003	Individual Artist Grant. Arts Council of Hillsborough County.

## **CHAPLAINCY EXPERIENCE**

2007-2009 TAMPA GENERAL HOSPITAL, Clinical Pastoral Education Program. Tampa, FL.  
*Pool Chaplain.*  
Trained in trauma response; patient and family care;  
end-of-life issues; and confidential documentation.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

Poetic Forms and Techniques  
Poetry as Theology  
Poetry Writing I & II  
Senior Seminar in Poetry Writing  
Major Poets  
Poems of Spiritual Exploration  
Experimental Writing  
Introduction to Creative Writing  
Human Situation  
Great Books (Genesis, Ecclesiastes, Dickinson, Tao de Ching, *Frankenstein*)  
Literary Interpretation of the Bible  
Spiritual Autobiography

## **PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES**

American Academy of Religion  
American Association of University Professors  
Association of Writers and Writing Programs

Complete CV, including references, conference presentations, and full bibliography, available on request.