

Resume: James Applewhite

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Education/Teaching/Fellowships/Early Publications

- B.A. Duke Univ. 1958 – studied with William Blackburn, Helen Bevington, edited The Archive, campus literary mag. 1957-58. Story published in Blackburn-edited anthology Under Twentyfive.
- M.A. Duke 1960, on William Faulkner.
- Instructor Woman's College of UNC, Greensboro 1960-63. Learned informally from Robert Watson and Randall Jarrell.
- Danforth Teacher Study Grant, 1963.
- Emily Clark Balch Prize, Virginia Quarterly Review, 1966, for poem "The Journey."
- Assistant Prof. UNC-Greensboro 1966-1971. Audited classes by Allen Tate. Influenced by Peter and Eleanor Taylor as well as Jarrell.
- Publication of seven poems in The Young American Poets, anthology ed. Paul Carroll, Follett Pub. Co., Chicago & New York, 1968.
- Poem "Stopping for Gas" pub. 1969, Stand, Newcastle, England, ed. Peter Forbes, for the Poetry Society of England..
- Poem "House of Blue by the River's Curve," chosen by Denise Levertov for a National Endowment for the Arts Award and inclusion in The American Literary Anthology, III, ed. George Plimpton.
- Ph.D. Duke Univ., William Wordsworth's Imaginative Use of Place, Lionel Stevenson, Wallace Fowlie, Bernard Duffy.
- Assistant Prof. Duke Univ. 1971-1975.
- "Highwater," "The Scorned," poems, pub. Poetry Magazine, July, 1971.
- "Roadside Notes," poem, pub. Harper's Magazine, Sept., 1971; reprinted in Best Poems of 1971: Borestone Mountain Poetry Awards, 1972.
- "Driving Through the Country America," poem, pub. Esquire, Dec., 1972.
- "My Grandfather's Funeral" reprinted, with three other new poems, in New Voices in American Poetry, ed. David Evans, 1973.
- "Poets, Now," "Jogging on the New Construction," poems. pub. Poetry Magazine, Mar., 1973.
- "The Man," poem, Poetry Magazine, Nov., 1973.
- "Zeppelin Fantasy," "Combat Station," poems pub. Virginia Quarterly Review, Spring, 1974.
- "A Kid at the County Fair," "Discardings," "A Southern Elegy," pub. American Poetry Review, (May/June, 1974), in a special section ed. by Stanley Kunitz.
- "William Blackburn, Riding Westward," poem, pub. The Sewanee Review, Winter, 1974.
- Alumni Outstanding Teacher Award, Duke Univ., 1974.
- National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, 1974-75.
- Statues of the Grass, volume of poems pub. Univ. of Georgia Press, 1975.
- Guggenheim Fellowship in Poetry, 1976-77.
- 1976-1980 – 25 new poems published, in the journals Poetry Magazine, Southern Poetry Review, North American Review, The Atlantic Monthly, Poetry Magazine's Anthology, The Poetry Miscellany, Mississippi Review, New England Review, Harvard Magazine, and Poets in the South.
- Following Gravity, volume of poems pub. Univ. Press of Virginia, 1980, Winner of the 1979 Associated Writing Programs Contemporary Poetry Prize, Judge, Donald Justice.
- Received the Roanoke-Chowan Poetry Award, 1981.
- 1981 to Present: published more than 180 new poems in leading journals and anthologies. Books and awards during this period:
- Foreseeing the Journey, Poems. Pub. LSU Press, 1983
- N. C. Arts Council Fellowship, 1986.
- Seas and Inland Journeys: Landscape and Consciousness from Wordsworth to Roethke, (critical study), pub. Univ. of Georgia Press, 1986. Favorably reviewed, still referred to and requested.
- Ode to the Chinaberry Tree and Other Poems, volume of Poems pub. LSU Press, 1986.
- Received the Roanoke Chowan Award. 1986.
- River Writing: An Eno Journal, volume of poems pub. Princeton Univ. Press,
* Recipient of 1987 Princeton Series of Contemporary Poets publication award..

* Included in The Western Canon: The Books and School of the Ages, 20th Century, United States, Harold Bloom, Harcourt Brace & Co., 1994.

- Lessons in Soaring, volume of poems pub. LSU Press, 1989. Received the N.C. Poetry Society's Zoe Kincaid Brockman Memorial Award, 1990.
- A History of the River, volume of poems pub. LSU Press, 1993. Received the 1993 Roanoke-Chowan Poetry Award.
- Daytime and Starlight, volume of poems pub. LSA Press, 1997. Received the N. C. Poetry Society's Brockman-Campbell Award, 1998.
- Quartet for Three Voices, volume of poems pub. LSU Press, 2002.
- Selected Poems, volume of poems pub. Duke Univ. Press, 2005. Received the Roanoke-Chowan Poetry Award, 2006.

Critical Notes: for Selected Poems, Duke Press, 2005

-“James Applewhite writes of his childhood and later life in rural North Carolina (‘places not much in anyone’s thoughts’) in language whose timeless gravity and sweetness are close to sublime. An essential book.”—John

Ashbery

-“James Applewhite has individuated a logical and meditative voice all his own. I cannot think of more than a few living American poets who fuse so remarkably intellect and emotion.”—Harold Bloom

-“James Applewhite and Seamus Heaney are the same kind of talents and
Applewhite’s Selected Poems suggests accomplishment worthy of
It is rugged and refined, classical in decorum and local in
and clear as water in freshness. It is a compact, luminous
imagination working to get down the way it was and
planet.”—Dave Smith

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Selected Anthology Publications:

- The Young American Poets, ed. Paul Carroll (Chicago, 1968): “My Grandfather’s Funeral,” “January,” “Birthday, with Leaves,” “Lawn and Light,” “Church and Clouds,” “Leaf Mirrors,” “Tree in the Rain.”
- The Poetry Anthology, ed. Daryl Hine (New York, 1978): “Bordering Manuscript,” “To Earth.”
- A Modern Southern Reader, ed. Ben Forkner and Patric Samway (Atlanta, 1986): “My Grandfather’s Funeral,” “Tobacco Men,” “Drinking Music.”
- A Book of Luminous Things, ed. Czeslaw Milosz (New York, 1996): “Prayer for My Son.”
- Best American Poetry, 1998, ed. David Lehman and John Hollander (New York, 1998): “Botanical Gardens: The Coastal Plains.”
- Scanning the Century, ed. Peter Forbes (Penguin UK, London, 1999): “News of Pearl Harbor,” “Iron Age Flying.”
- The Yellow Shoe Poets, ed. George Garrett (LSU-Press, 1999): “The Failure of Southern Representation,” “Foreseeing the Journey,” “A Wilson County Farmer,” “Barbecue Service.”
- Locales, ed. Fred Chappell (LSU-Press, 2003) “Road Down Home,” “Southland Drive-In,” “A Wilson County Farmer,” “The Village After Sunset,” “Water from the Lamp Bottle,” “Home Team.”
- American Religious Poems: An Anthology, ed. Harold Bloom, American Poets Project, The Library of America, Literary Classics of the U.S., Inc., 2003): “The Sex of Divinity.”
- The Southern Quarterly: Poetry in the South XLV.1, Fall, 2007, ed. Kenneth Watson, Univ. of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS): “Mortality,” “The Radio Astronomer,” “The Warbird,” “Driving Home the Preacher’s Wife,” “Homeward, Under Congregated Clouds.”

Works in Progress

- Cosmos, a Volume of Poetry
- A Volume of Critical Essays

Other Honors and Awards:

- American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters Jean Stein Award in Poetry, 1993.
- R. Hunt Parker Memorial Award, 1994.
- The North Carolina Award in Literature, 1995.
- Election to the Fellowship of Southern Writers, 1995.
- The N. C. English Teachers' Ragan-Rubin Award, 2001.
- Induction into the N. C. Literary Hall of Fame, 2008.

Essays/Articles/Chapters in Books:

12 essays on poetry and poetics, from 1973 to 2005, in
 *South Atlantic Quarterly, *The Poetry Review, *The Southern Review, *South Carolina Review, *The Sewanee Review,
 *The Kenyon Review, *Raritan, and *The Wallace Stevens Journal; 7 introductions or chapters or essays, in volumes including *Southern Letters and Modern Literature 1935-1985, ed. Lewis P. Simpson and James Olney, LSU Press, 1988, and *The Future of Southern Letters, ed. Jefferson Humphries and John Lowe, Oxford Univ. Press, 1996.

Further Professional Career:

- Associate Professor, Duke Univ., 1975-1996.
- Director of the Institute of the Arts, Duke Univ., 1982-1985.
- Professor, Duke Univ., 191988-2008.
- Emeritus Professor, 2009.

Interviews:

- with Todd Verdun, Carolina Quarterly, Spring, 2003.
- with Sally Sullivan, North Carolina Literary Review, Spring, 1993; with Verse, Winter, 1989.
- with V. S. Naipaul, including quotations of poems, in "The Religion of the Past," The New Yorker, (Nov. 1988).
- with V. S. Naipaul, expanded version, in A Turn in the South, chapter 7 (Knopf, New York, 1989).
- with National Public Radio, Sept. 16, 2005.
- with UNC TV, Part of N.C. Hall of Fame Induction, Oct. 2008

Noteworthy Activities:

Organization and presentation of Arts Festivals for Duke Univ. and the local community 1982-1985 including

- Arts of the 1950's, with a course in Abstract Expressionist Art featuring a visit by Helen Frankenthaler and Clement Greenberg.
- A concert of music by George Rochberg, composer, conductor.
- A film series on The Hollywood Ten, with director Edward Dmytryk.
- A conference on Southern Writing and the Problem of Memory, featuring Derek Walcott, Karla Holloway, Bobbie Ann Mason, and Jaki Shelton Greene.
- The Institute also created the Duke in New York Program and established the Dance Program, apart from Physical Education.
- Resident-Director of Duke in New York Program in conjunction with NYU, teaching and coordinating student projects in Manhattan, Sept-Dec. 1986.
- Writing of a lyric commissioned by the composer Nathaniel Stookey. "Wide as Skies, A Chorus for Children's Voices," performed Oct. 30, 2008 by the San Francisco Symphony.
Orchestra.

