

# Curriculum Vitæ

*Rebecca Li Balcárcel*

## Education and Training

- 2002 • Master of Fine Arts in Writing and Literature, Bennington College
- 1988-1997 • 90 hours undergraduate work at University of Texas at Austin, Austin Community College, University of Texas at Dallas, Tarrant County College, University of Iowa
- 2005 • “From Good Teaching to Student Learning,” six-week Internet course
- 2003 • “Creating the Online Classroom,” 3-day training for online instructors

## Teaching

- Currently, since Fall 2005 • Tarrant County College, **Associate Professor of English**. Courses taught: Creative Writing, British Literature I, British Literature II, Composition I, Composition II, Composition I – Pop Culture, World Literature. Formats: in-person, online, dual-enrollment
- Fall 2004 to Spring 2005 • Tarrant County College, **temporary full-time instructor**. Courses taught: Composition I – Pop Culture (online), Composition I (online and in person), Composition II (online and in person), World Literature I (online), Creative Writing (in person). Head of *Under the Clock Tower* committee, responsible for running two annual writing competitions and editing the literary journal. Give presentations on visiting authors.
- Fall 2002 to Summer 2004 • Tarrant County College, **adjunct English instructor**. Courses taught: Composition I (online and in person) and Composition II (online and in person). I designed these two online courses.
- Summers 2004, 2005, 2007 • University of Texas at Arlington, **adjunct instructor** of Creative Writing I

## Projects Completed at TCC

- Problem: • Encourage more students in their creative writing, but keep quality of student literary journal high.
- Solution: • Created Semi-finalist category in semi-annual writing competition. **Result:** Instead of honoring only about ten students per semester, we now honor seventy or more with a Semi-Finalist designation, while still publishing only the top entries.
- Problem: • Increase participation in semi-annual writing competition.
- Solution: • 1) Converted paper entry to online entry, eliminating students’ logistical barriers of finding and turning in entry forms and allowing participation of distance learning students. 2) Created e-mail list of previous entrants, enabling faculty to notify them of upcoming competition. 3) Provided faculty with e-mails, flyers, and paper reminders to encourage their students to enter. **Result:** Fall and Spring entries have increased every year, going from 120 entries in Fall 2004 to 234 entries in Fall 2007.
- Problem: • Globalize and add diversity to the literary journal of student writing.
- Solution: • 1) Worked with Foreign Language faculty, providing poem-writing exercises, to help these students create poems in other languages. 2) Added a translation component to my creative writing class. **Result:** Foreign language poems and/or translations appear in the 2006 and 2007 journal.
- Problem: • Increase visibility of student literary journal.
- Solution: • 1) Created a website for the journal, including a photo of the cover and sample writings. 2) Created a handout for English instructors suggesting ways to use the journal their classes and provided a class set of journals for check-out. **Result:** Three faculty members use the journal

in their classes; the website provides an online presence for the journal.

Problem: • Increase collaboration, sharing of best practices, and collegiality among faculty, including adjuncts.

Solution: • Created “One Assignment,” a monthly e-mail that shares a favorite assignment of one faculty member. **Result:** to begin Fall 2007

Problem: • Increase morale among faculty.

Solution: • Request a trophy case to display awards and publications. **Result:** Request granted and funded by Division Dean.

Problem: • Concerns about efficacy of dual enrollment program among English Faculty.

Solution: • Formation of “Dual Solutions,” a group of interested faculty collaborating on both suggestions to administration and best practices to share among faculty. **Result:** unknown; still underway

## Presentations and Lectures

- Currently, since Feb. 2005 • Serves as **creative non-fiction editor** for Amarillo Bay, online literary journal
- February 2008 • Presented “**Who’s Afraid of Poetry? Teaching Poetry to the Scared, the Bored, and the Digitized**” to annual Conference of College Teachers of English (CCTE) in San Antonio, TX.
- June 2007 • Presented program on “**The Prose Poem**” for Poets of Tarrant County, Ft. Worth, TX.
- March 2007 • Presented “**Real Toads: Making Your Writing an Experience for the Reader**” at Bedford, TX Public Library for local writers’ groups and general public
- September 2006 • Presented **poetry-writing and publishing techniques** at Langdon Weekend, a writers’ conference in Granbury, TX.
- May 2006 • Presented **90-minute writing workshop** for “From Poetry to Prose,” a program sponsored by North Texas Professional Writers Group.
- Nov. 2005 • Presented “**Creative Writing Across the Curriculum,**” a paper and presentation for the national conference of CCHA (Community College Humanities Association), Boston, MA.
- Sept. 2005 • Organized and led “Writers as Teachers,” a panel of creative writing teachers discussing classroom techniques. Also read original poems as a contributor of the Langdon Review. Langdon Weekend, Granbury, TX.
- Aug. 2005 • Presented as a **Visiting Creative Non-fiction Editor** to North Texas Professional Writers Group, Bedford, TX.
- Jan. 2005 • Presented 5-part lecture series, “A Writer on the Family,” including “Poets as Parents: Words from the Frontlines of Family,” “Susan Cheever: A Writer-Mom Helps her Daughter Search for God,” “Souls in Our Care: Parenting Our Kids and Ourselves,” “Choosing the Wholesome,” “Ties that Bind: How a Clothesline Brought Me Closer to My Kids”
- June 2004 • Presented “**From Description to Discovery,**” a talk for Fort Worth Poetry Society luncheon, Fort Worth, TX
- Apr. 2004 • Presented **Poetry Workshop** to Tarrant County College students, along with Cuyler Etheredge, creative writing teacher. Tarrant County College, Hurst, TX.
- Feb. 2004 • Presented three-part lecture series, “Imago Dei: Poetry Explores the Image of God in Nature, Children, and Relationships” at New World United Methodist Church, Arlington, TX.
- Oct. 2003 • Presented “**Poet’s Toolbox**” to Keller Writers Group, Keller Public Library, Keller, TX
- Oct. 2003 • Delivered “Writing as a Spiritual Activity” at New World United Methodist Church, Arlington, TX.
- Aug. 2003 • **Visiting Writer/Speaker** for creative writing group at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church, Keller, TX.

- Mar. 2002 • Guest-taught **poetry writing strategies** to Tarrant County College Creative Writing students, presenting techniques such as staying out of the pool of over-used language and using grounding details to support abstract ideas. Hurst, TX
- Jan. 2002 • “Assisting a Poem’s Reincarnation,” graduate lecture on translation, given at Bennington College, Bennington, Vermont.
- Sept. 2001 • Presented “Mechanics of Poetry Writing and Manuscript Submission,” Writers in Process Conference, hosted by Tarrant County College. Also served on Read and Critique Panel, Question and Answer Panel.
- Feb. 2001 • Designed and taught a **Writing Camp** for fourth graders at A.S. Johnston Elementary School, Irving, TX, covering such writing strategies as Hooking the Reader, Why and How to Revise, Using Active Constructions, and Elaboration.
- Mar. 2001 • Presented “**Writing Strategies Workshop**” to five classes of jr. high students at Treetops International School, Fort Worth, TX. Instruction in use of active verbs, supporting details, and “show, not tell.”
- Sept. 2000 • Led four sessions of “**Strengthen Your Writing**” for YMCA Texas Youth and Government Fall Leadership Retreat, Fort Worth, TX.
- Oct. 2000 • Presented **writing workshops** to six classes of Trinity High School students, in which contemporary poems served as illustrations for various writing techniques. Euless, TX
- Apr. 2000 • Guest-spoke to three Trinity high school English classes on “**Writing Poetry**,” which required students to examine modern poems for strategies to use in their own writing, such as metaphor, extended metaphor, sensory detail, narrative, and sound play. Euless, TX
- May 2000 • Taught a full-day **Writing Seminar: “The Craft of Writing”** at Harrison Public Library, Greenville, TX, including tips on brainstorming, writing, revision, and publication of non-fiction, fiction, and poetry.

## Readings

- April 2008 • Reading of original poems to Tarrant County College SE Campus poets. Arlington, TX.
- Sept. 2007 • Reading of original essay at Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers. Houston, TX.
- Sept. 2007 • Reading of original essay at Langdon Weekend, writers’ conference by the Langdon Review. Granbury, TX.
- Apr. 2007 • Reading of original poems at University of Texas at Dallas in celebration of National Poetry Month. Richardson, TX
- Nov. 2006 • Reading of original poems at Del Mar Community College and Sinton High School, Corpus Christi, TX.
- Apr. 2005 • Reading of original poems as part of WordSpace’s Poetry Month presentation of local poets at Dallas, TX’s Undermain Theatre.
- Sept. 2004 • Reading of original poems at Langdon Weekend, writers’ conference by the Langdon Review, Granbury, TX.
- Feb. 2003 • Reading of original poems at San Angelo Writers Conference in Honor of Elmer Kelton.
- Apr. 2002 • Reading at University of North Texas upon the publication of my chapbook by Trilobite Press, Denton, TX.

## Publications

### *Poetry*

- 2002 • *Ferry Crossing*, chapbook published by University of North Texas's Trilobite Press, Editor Richard Sale
- 2008 • *descant*, 2008 issue, "Gas Petals," "After the Lay-off," "Shoe-shopping"
- 2007 • *Paradigm*, December issue, 2007, "Birthday Afghan"
- 2007 • *The Handmaiden*, Vol. 11, No. 2, Spring 2007, "Questioning the Flood," "Blessing"
- 2007 • *Red River Review*, February Issue, "Against the Wall"
- 2005 • *New Texas*, 2005, "Ophelia"
- 2005 • *Langdon Review*, 2005, "Ay, Yolanda," "Ave America," "Boy Picking Flower," "Christening"
- 2005 • *Muse Squared*, March 2005, Issue 7, "Gas Petals," "For Harriet Tubman," "Why I Clean"
- 2004 • *North American Review*, Nov/Dec issue, "Guatemala"
- 2004 • *North American Review*, Sept/Oct issue, "Kitchen Clock"
- 2004 • *Muse Squared*, January 2004, "Shoes," "Performance, Age 7"
- 2003 • *3rd Muse*, Fall 2003, "Illiterate"
- 2003 • *Poetry Midwest*, Fall 2003, "Aspen Meadow," "Date with My Husband in the Back Yard"
- 2003 • *Sacred Journey*, June 2003, "Opening A Window," "Watching Two-year-old Twins Eat Watermelon"
- 2003 • *Amarillo Bay*, Spring 2003, "Visiting Tía"
- 2003 • *Kaleidoscope: Exploring the Experience of Disability Through Literature and the Fine Arts*, "Tympanogram at Age Three," "Severe Language Delay"
- 2003 • *5 AM*, Issue #18, "Teeth"
- 2002 • *Ilya's Honey*, Fall, vol. 7, no. 3, "One time, a girl"
- 2001 • *New Stone Circle*, no. 9, "Picking Apples"
- 2001 • *Diner*, Spring/Summer, "Get-to-Know-You Pinball," "Interrupted While Reading"
- 2001 • *Switched-on Gutenberg*, online, "Back Home During Drought"
- 2001 • *Red River Review*, online, "Widow," "No Shelter"
- 2000 • *Blue Violin*, vol. 6, ISSN: 1087-1500, "Ferry Crossing"
- 2000 • *White Heron*, no. 6, "Among Birches," "Exchange at the Fencepost," "New Road"
- 2000 • *mystic river review*, online, "Numbering"
- 2000 • *South Dakota Review*, Summer, vol. 38, no. 2, "Crepe Myrtles"
- 1999 • *ByLine Magazine*, December, no. 228, "Before Writing"
- 1999 • *Mutant Mule Review*, ISBN: 0-9664324-4-4, "Between Poems"
- 1996 • *South Dakota Review*, Summer, vol. 34, no. 2, "At Sea," "Prospecting," "The Quilt"
- 1995 • *New Texas '95*, ISBN: 1-885196-05-9, "For a Son"
- 1995 • *Aura Literary/Arts Review*, Spring/Summer, vol. 2, no. 2, "Thanksgiving"
- 1994 • *Clockwatch Review*, vol. 9, nos. 1-2, "Ferry Crossing"
- 1993 • *Concho River Review*, Fall, vol. 7, no. 2, "Mother"
- 1993 • *Sojourn* (student), "Ending," "Action"
- 1992 • *Under the Clock Tower* (student), "Umbraphobia"

## Translation

- 2005 • *Langdon Review*, 2005, "We, the Mortal" by Ruben Dario
- 2005 • *Langdon Review*, 2005, "Dawn," by Federico Garcia Lorca

## Fiction

- 2000 • "Touch," appeared in 121 North: A Collection of Short Stories, Fusion Press, editor Kay Hushour, ISBN: 1-928704-76-x

## *Non-fiction*

- 2008 • *Bent Pin Quarterly*, Spring issue, “Daughter of Salt”
- 2007 • *The Oklahoma Review*, October issue, “Knots, Maps, Water, Oranges”
- 2006 • *Mothering Magazine*, “The Clothesline”
- 2005 • *Langdon Review*, 2005, “Attempting the Impossible”
- 2003 • *Vortex*, Fall 2003, “Getting that First Book Off the Bench”

## Areas of Study

- Literary Criticism
- Modern American Poetry
- Latin American Literature
- Literary Translation
- Creative Non-fiction

## Awards

- 2004 • Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member in Humanities, Tarrant County College
- 2004 • 1st Place, Fort Worth Poetry Society Poem Contest
- 2004 • 3rd Place, San Gabriel Writing Competition
- 2002 • Honorable Mention, San Gabriel Writing Competition
- 2001 • 2nd Place, Dallas Poets Community’s Poetry Competition
- 2000 • Jane Kenyon Poetry Prize, merit scholarship, Bennington Writing Seminars

## Current Projects

- Interviewing of American Women poets, beginning with Linda Pastan
- Translation of Carmen Matute, Guatemalan poet
- Two Plates Spinning: 12 Bicultural Poets, an anthology of poems and a collection of interviews with bicultural poets. I am editing this piece of news from the front lines of cultural integration.
- My Songs Have English Names, original poetry collection based on my Master’s Thesis, currently under consideration at several small presses.

## Judging

- Currently, since 2002 • Tarrant County College, student writing competition
- 2007 • PTA Reflections Project, district judge
  - 2006 • PTA Reflections Project, district judge
  - 2004 • Trinity Writers Workshop, final poetry judge
  - 2004 • New Millennium Poets Annual Contest, final judge
  - 2003 • American Literary Translators Association, first round national book contest
  - 2003 • Dallas Poets Society, final judge, poem competition
  - 2002 • Barnes and Noble, Poetry Month poem contest

## Memberships

- Academy of American Poets
- American Literary Translators Association
- Teachers and Writers Collaborative
- Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers

- Community College Humanities Association