

Michael Neal Morris  
Arts, Languages and Literature Division  
Eastfield College  
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**Education:**

M.A., East Texas State University, English, 1995

B.A. (with honors), East Texas State University, English and French, 1985

**Thesis:**

"Encountering The Source of Goodness: A Study of Flannery O'Connor's 'A Good Man is Hard To Find,' 'Revelation,' and 'The Displaced Person'." Dr. James A. Grimshaw, adviser.

**Honors Thesis:**

"Our Peace is His Will": Optimism in T.S. Eliot's Ash Wednesday." Dr. Brenda Bell, adviser.

**Academic Employment:**

English Instructor, Spring 1998 to present, Eastfield Community College. Teaching Developmental Writing, Composition, and American, British, and World Literature.

Associate Faculty, Fall 1995-Spring 1998, Collen County Community College (Preston Ridge and Spring Creek), English 1301 and English 1302 (Composition).

Associate Faculty, Fall 1995-Fall 1998, Eastfield Community College, DW 091 (Developmental Writing), English 1301 and 1302 (Composition), and English 2322 (British Literature).

Graduate Assistant, 1990-1995. E.T.S.U., Communication Skills Center (tutor).

Graduate Assistant, Spring and Summer, 1991. E.T.S.U. MACH III, (tutor in charge of T.A.S.P. remediation for English).

Graduate Assistant, 1990-1995. E.T.S.U., English 100 (Developmental English), English 110 (Developmental English), English 101 (Freshman Composition), English 102 (Freshman Composition), English 201 (Introduction to Literature).

Teaching Assistant, 1994, English 406 (Adolescent Literature).

Instructor, February, 1995, Eastfield Community College, Poetry Workshop for S.P.A.R. program.

Adjunct Faculty, Fall 1995, E.T.S.U., English 101.

**Presentations (Conference Papers):**

"Hell Imagery in Stephen Crane's Maggie: A Girl of the Streets, English Graduates for Academic Development conference, 1991.

"'God is a dog': Color Imagery in John Fante's Wait Until Spring, Bandini," English Graduates for Academic Development conference, 1992.

"Charting: A Method for Tutoring Literature," English Graduates for Academic Development conference, 1993.

"On Incorporating Tutor-Made Videos in the Tutor Training Program," Conference of College Teachers of English (1993).

"Damn: A Work In Progress," English Graduates for Academic Development conference, 1994.

"Calling Evil Good: 'A Good Man is Hard To Find' as Paradigm for O'Connor's Short Fiction."  
English Graduates for Academic Development conference, 1995.

"Silko's Ceremony and Lewis' The Screwtape Letters: Studies of Evil," Native American Literary Festival (E.T.S.U), 1995.

**Publications** (1989 to present):

"Fortune Cookies" (poem) at *Red River Review* (May 2012, online)

"Matchmaker Moon" (story) in *Randomly Accessed Poetics* (Issue 1, 2012)

"Googles" at *Fiction365* (June 15, 2012, online)

"Pills" (poem) at *Randomly Accessed Poetics* (April 15, 2012, online)

"Warning," "Frog," and "Bridge Over Lake Lavon" at *The Sonneteer* (2011-2012, online)

"Mrs. Darnit" at *Vine Leaves Literary Journal* (January 2012, online)

Haiku poem at *High Coup Journal* (June 2011, online) -- nominated for Pushcart Prize

"Piss Pants (personal essay) at *Concept Elixirs* (April 2011, online)

"Cottonwood" (poem) at *The Adroit Journal* (March 2011).

"Chickens" (short story) at *Fiction365* (February 2011, online)

"Day Off" (short story) at *Berg Gasse 19* (February 1, 2011, online)

"Promise" (short story) at *Rubber Lemon* (Issue 1 2010, online)

"Plotting" (personal essay) at *Pot Luck Magazine* (Fall 2010 online)

"The Insomnia War" (poem) at *Flutter* (Volume 5, Issue 6 2010, online)

"The Dog Barked" (short story) at *sillymess* (2010, online)

"Loafing" (poem) in *Poetry Quarterly* (Spring 2010)

"Father Lied" (poem) in *Freckles to Wrinkles* (anthology, 2009)

"Cares" and "Short Lake Poem" (poems) at *Pond Ripples* (2009)

"The Noisy Neighbor" (short story) by *Espresso Fiction* (January 2008).

"Partita for continuo" (short story) at *Electric Velocipede* (online)

"At the Back of the Backyard" (poem) at *dotlit* (online)

"Puppy" and "A Little Accident" (short stories) by *Sniplits* (audio)

"Peniel" (poem) at *Farrago's Wainscot* (online 2008)

"Concurrences" (poem) in *Lacryma: Modern Songs of Lament* (Fall 2007)

"Sax Sonnet," "Episodes," and "Anna" (poems) at *The Green Muse* (online October 2007)

"The Game On" (poem) in *Cadenza* (Volume 17, 2007)

"Faults" at *silent actor* (online 2007)

"Fear and Chaos" (poem) at *Round* (online 2007)

"Gregorian Chants with the Rent Due" and "Warning" (poems) at *Bringing Sonnets Back* (online Issue One, 2007)

"Dictionary for the Dying" (short story) at *Glassfire Magazine* (Volume I, Issue 4, Winter 2007)

"Hard Light" (short story) in *Mouth Full of Bullets*

"Unprepared to Read" (academic essay) at *Best Practices* (Spring 2006)

"Taking Notes at the Hospital" at *Chronogram* (online and in print, September 2006)

"Son Reading" (poem) at *T-Zone* (online)

"Touching the Hem of Peace" (poem) at *Haruah: Breath of Heaven* (online)

"Concurrences, Part I" (poem) at *Contemporary Rhyme* (online Volume 3, Number 3, Summer 2006)

"Fear at Burger King" (poem) at *Chronogram* (online July 2004)

"Talking about Losing" (poem) in second online edition of *Liberty Hill Poetry Review*.

"The Heat Sign" (poem) in October edition of *The Mid-South Review* (online Oct-Dec 2003)  
 Three haiku poems at *Emoments* (online 2003)  
 "Hard Hearing," "Her Rounded Smile," "Incidental Music," "If Murphy Is Right," and "Five Missing Lullabies" (poems) at *The Electric Mayhem* (online 2003).  
 "I've Been Killed Before" in *GW Review* (Spring 2003)  
 "Dream Fragments" (poem) in *Pudding Magazine*, Number 46 (2003)  
 "The Painted Grasshopper" (poem) in *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review*, Number 18 (Spring/Summer 2002)  
 "Missing" (poem) in *The Alternative* (2002)  
 "Singing Each to Each" (short story) in *The Alternative* (2002)  
 "What I want for my birthday" (poem) in *Illya's Honey* -- Volume 7, Number 1  
 "Midlife" (poem) in *The Alternative* (Spring 2001)  
 "Jumping To Conclusions" (poem) in *Concho River Review* -- Volume XIV, Number 2 (Fall 2000)  
 "Grappling" (poem) in *Lynx Eye* -- Volume VII, Number 4 (Fall 2000). Nominated for Pushcart Prize.  
 "A Poem About Being Fat" (poem) in *Our Journey* -- Volume 6, Number 1 (December 1999)  
 "Two Ghosts" (poem), *The Distillery* (Winter 1998)  
 "The End of the Argument" (short story), *Dogwood Tales Magazine*. (January/February 1998)  
 "Damn" (poem), *The Mayo Review*, Spring 1995.  
 "Calliope" (poem), *The Mayo Review*, Spring 1995.  
 "Cave" (poem), *The Mayo Review*, Spring 1994, winner of the Brenda Black-White poetry award.  
 "Partita for continuo" (short story), *The Mayo Review*, Spring 1994.  
 "Slam the Door When You Go" (poem), *The Commerce Journal*, May 22, 1994.  
 "Sonnet" (poem), *The Commerce Journal*, August 7, 1994.  
 "Marbles" (short story), *The Mayo Review*, Spring 1993.  
 "Washing the Whore" (poem), *The Mayo Review*, Spring 1993.  
 "Serenade" (poem), *The Mayo Review*, Spring 1992.  
 "For Dave Dravecky (June 18, 1991)" (poem), *The Mayo Review*, Spring 1992, winner of the Brenda Black-White Poetry Award.  
 "In the mourning" (poem), *Forthcoming*, Spring 1991.  
 "Ginny" (short story), *Forthcoming*, Spring 1991.  
 "The Beggar" (short story), *Purpose*, January 1, 1989.  
 "Dancin'" (poem), *Orphic Lute*, Fall/Winter 1989.

### **Honors and Awards:**

Nominated for Pushcart Prize (2002, 2011)  
 Various awards from Mesquite Literary Festival (1996 to 2002), for poetry, short fiction, and essays.  
 Second Place, General Column, T.I.P.A. Convention (1993)  
 Brenda Black White Poetry Award (1992; 1994)  
 Communications Skills Center Outstanding Tutor (1991)

### **Related Experience:**

Wrote column, titled "Small Change," for *The East Texan* during Fall of 1992.  
 Miscellaneous reviews for *The East Texan*.

Wrote section on tutoring literature for Communications Skills Center manual (East Texas State University).

Served on editorial board for some issues of The Mayo Review.

Scored writing samples of diagnostic tests for incoming freshman.

**Committees (Eastfield College):**

Faculty Association Task Force on Academic Dishonesty (co-chair)

Common Book Committee (Co-chair from Fall 2016 to present)

HB 2504 Committee

English Curriculum Committee

Team Leader for Course Redesign Project (Joint endeavor between DCCCD and Texas Tech)

Arts Exposition committee

Various search committees

Common Base sub-committee

SACS report sub-committee chair

**University Service (E.T.S.U):**

Co-chair of English Graduates for Academic Development conference, 1994.

Served as mentor to new graduate assistants in English Department.

Orientation for new teaching assistants

Registration/Advisement