

**Foster J. Dickson**  
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## **Education**

2008, Auburn University Montgomery, Master of Liberal Arts degree

May 2007: co-recipient of AUM's Bedwell Scholarship

2004 – 2005, Alabama State University, completed Alternative B Teaching Certificate

2002 – 2003, Auburn University at Montgomery post-graduate study

1996, Auburn University at Montgomery, Bachelor of Arts in English, minor in Theater

1992, Saint James School, High School Diploma with Thespian Honors

1990 – 1992, Carver Creative & Performing Arts Center, Technical Theater component

## **Teaching**

September 2003 – Present, Creative Writing teacher, Booker T. Washington Magnet High School

March – May 2009, project chair, federal Magnet Schools Assistance Program grant application

2008 – 2009, school coordinator, NEA's Poetry Out Loud program

2006 – 2007, SACS Accreditation chairperson

2006 – Present, founding adviser, BTW's Film Club

2005 – 2006, school-wide competition judge, NEA's Poetry Out Loud program

2005 – 2008, founding adviser, Booker T. Washington chapter, National English Honor Society

Spring semesters 2007 and 2008, Creative Writing teacher, Alabama State Department of Education's ACCESS distance-learning program

Summers 2005 and 2006, Creative Writing teacher, Auburn University at Montgomery's Summer Youth College

Summer 2005, Creative Writing teacher, Auburn University's Alabama Prison Arts & Education Project

## **Student Projects**

August 2009 – Present, *The Newsprung*, (student-written online arts-focused news source for the school and local community) [www.newsprung.com](http://www.newsprung.com).

2007 – 2009, *Writing Our Hope*, (two-year follow-up project to *Our Hope*, a national student-edited e-zine on tolerance and equality themes). [www.writingourhope.org](http://www.writingourhope.org)

2006 – 2007, *Our Hope: Writings and Photographs by Teenagers on Tolerance and Equality* (a literary anthology on tolerance and equality themes written by BTW Creative Writing students).

2005 – 2006, service-learning project at Montgomery's Jubilee Community Center (BTW students planning and teaching creative writing lessons to children at an after-school program)

2005 – Present, poetry for people posters (one-poem graphic poster series)

2005, founder/editor, *Taking the Time: Young Writers and Old Stories* (Civil Rights history book written by BTW Creative Writing students and based on interviews with participants in and on-lookers to the movement) [www.takingthetime.org](http://www.takingthetime.org)

2004 – 2007, Hy-Coo (web publishing student-written haiku) [www.hy-coo.com](http://www.hy-coo.com)

### **Awards**

2009 – 2010, Secondary Teacher of the Year for the Alabama (state) PTA

2006 – 2007, Secondary Teacher of the Year for the Montgomery County Board Of Education

2006 – 2007, Secondary Teacher of the Year for the Montgomery County Council Of PTAs

2006 – 2007, *National Honor Roll*, Outstanding American Teachers

September 2006, Alabama Power “Power Educator” Award recipient

2005 – 2006, *National Honor Roll*, Outstanding American Teachers

### **Grants and Fellowships**

2009 – 2010, Arts Teacher Fellowship from the Surdna Foundation for the “Patchwork” project, which allowed an exploration of Alabama in the 21<sup>st</sup> century through travels and using new media, e.g. blogging, podcasts and videos

2007 – 2008, Gannett Foundation grant recipient for *The Newsprung* journalism project

November 2007, discretionary grant recipient from Sen. Quinton Ross for *Our Hope* project

2006 – 2007, Southern Poverty Law Center Teaching Tolerance grant for *Our Hope* project

2004 – 2005, Southern Poverty Law Center Teaching Tolerance grant for *Taking the Time* project

2004 – 2005, Gannett Foundation grant for *Taking the Time* project

### **Publishing**

July 2003 – December 2005, *honeydii*, founding editor (literary magazine, poetry broadsides)

Feb 2001 – September 2003, NewSouth Books, Production Manager/Editor/Bookstore Manager

### **Editing and Peer Reviewing for Books**

Forthcoming, editor, *Memoirs of Integration and After* (McFarland & Company, Publishers)

Forthcoming, writer, curriculum guide for *Til It's the Color of Me* by Emily Blejwas (Univ. of Alabama Press)

2009, freelance copy editor for Oxfam America's Southern regional fact sheets

- 2009, general editor for *Treasuring Alabama's Black Belt: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Teaching Place*, a curriculum guide published by Auburn University at Montgomery and the Alabama Humanities Foundation
- October 2007, pre-publication reviewer of a creative writing textbook for EMC Paradigm Publishing
- 2003, editorial assistant, *Weren't No Good Times*, Alabama slave narratives ed. by Randall Williams
- 2003, editorial team, *Frank O'Connor's "Ghosts"*, a book ed. by Robert C. Evans
- 2002, editor, *I Dared to Try*, a memoir by Thomas Bobo, former school superintendent

### **Writing: Books**

- 2009, *The Life and Poetry of John Beecher, 1904-1980: Advocate of Poetry As A Spoken Art* (biography/literary criticism), Edwin Mellen Press
- 2009, *I Just Make People Up: Ramblings with Clark Walker* (artist's biography/retrospective), NewSouth Books
- 2003, contributions in *Frank O'Connor's "Ghosts": A Pluralist Approach*, ed. Robert C. Evans, Court Street Press
- 2003, contributions in *Ambrose Bierce's "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge": An Annotated Critical Edition*, ed. Robert C. Evans, Locust Hill Press
- 2002, *Kindling Not Yet Split* (poetry, out of print), Court Street Press/Writers' Group Series
- 2001, contributions in *Great American Short Fiction of the Late Nineteenth Century: A Critical Companion*, ed. Robert C. Evans, Locust Hill Press
- 2001, contributions in *Close Readings: Analyses of Short Fiction by Students at Auburn University at Montgomery*, ed. Robert C. Evans, Court Street Press.
- 2000, contributions in *The Short Stories of Kate Chopin: A Critical Companion*, ed. by Robert C. Evans, Locust Hill Press

### **Writing: Periodicals, Databases, and Websites**

- Spring 2010, book review of *The 5th Inning* by E. Ethelbert Miller in *Multicultural Review*
- Winter 2009, "Bringing Poetry Back Home," an article in *Multicultural Review*
- March 2009, "John Beecher" entry for Auburn University's online *Encyclopedia of Alabama*
- September 2008, "Mary Ward Brown" entry for Auburn University's online *Encyclopedia of Alabama*
- March 2008, book review of the novel *Some Glad Morning* by Irene Steele for Alabama Writers Forum
- February 2008, "No Excuses," an article on new YMCAs in *Montgomery Living*
- October 2007, "Chapter by Chapter," an article on Capitol Book & News in *Montgomery Living* magazine
- June 2007, "Connecting the Dots," an article on Lynn Beshear in *Montgomery Living* magazine

April 2007, "In Favor of Service Learning," an article in NEHS *Muse Letter*

March 2007, "Put Me In, Coach!" an article on Dr. John Ed Mathison in *Montgomery Living* magazine

February 4, 2007, "Radical Right," a book review of *Middle Church* by Dr. Bob Edgar in *Montgomery Advertiser*

January 2007, "Writing is Activism," an essay in NPR's "This I Believe" project.

Spring 2006, "Booker T. Washington Chapter," an article on chartering an NEHS chapter in *Muse Letter*

Fall 2005, "Taking the Time," an article on the *Taking the Time* book project in *First Draft*, magazine of the Alabama Writers Forum

July 2005, "Underneath It All, A Real Kentuckian" in *The Guide* (Louisville, KY)

June 2005, "An Interview with Ron Whitehead" in *Evergreen Review* issue #110

May 2005, "The House of Crosses," an article in *Weird Alabama* issue #2

May 2003, "The Irony of John Beecher," an article on *Literary Kicks*

Aug 2001 – Feb 2004, staff writer/book reviewer for *King Kudzu*

May 2001 – June 2006, staff book reviewer for *Foreword Reviews*

June 2002, review of the poetry book *The Nudes of God* by James Barfoot on *Literary Kicks*

August 2001, "The Tricky Art of Self-Publishing," an article in *Writer's Resource Center*

March – April 2001, site reviewer for The Webby Awards

2000 – 2002, jazz music website reviewer for Briefme.com

### **Writing: Short Fiction**

September 2005, "The Wallet," a short story in *Crush* magazine, Volume 3, Issue 4 (online journal)

June 2005, "Haiku," a short story in *Poor Mojo's Almanac* #221 (online journal)

April 2005, "Highway 50," a story in *Southern Cross Review*, Number 40 (online journal)

### **Writing: Poetry**

April 2009, "The Brotherhood of Man" in *Birmingham Arts Journal* (print journal)

November 2007, "Murder Ballad" in *Cherry Bleeds* (online journal)

October 2006, "Recipe," in Alabama State Poetry Society's *Sampler* (print anthology)

July 2006, "Four Haiku about One Simple Thing," in anthology *Celebrate! Poets Speak Out* (print anthology)

June 2006, "On Hearing Li-Young Lee Read His Poetry," in *Antithesis Common* issue #4 (online journal)

May 2006, "February 22, 2005," in anthology *Celebrate! Poets Speak Out* (print anthology)

- March 2006, “Going Back in Time for Now’s Sake,” in *Pemmican* (online journal)
- March 2006, “Domesticity,” in *remark* (online journal)
- Fall 2005, “Hasidic Prayer,” in *Snow Monkey* (online journal)
- August 2005, “Hailstone Gumbo,” in *Churches, Banks & Bars* issue #4 (print journal)
- June 2005, “Coming Down off the Cumberland” and “Wrecking Ball” in *Stick Your Neck Out* (online journal)
- May 2005, “Firecracker,” in *The SiNK* [sic] Volume 2, Issue 2 (print journal)
- March 2005, “Lightning Bug,” in *Poor Mojo’s Almanac* #217 (online journal)
- March 2005, “Thanksgiving Eve” in *My Favorite Bullet*, Volume 6, issue 2 (online journal)
- December 2004, “I Hope You Don’t Know Me” in *Zygote in my Coffee*, issue #30 (online journal)
- December 2004, “Those Who Don’t Amount to Much” on Insomniacathon ’04 online (event website)
- July 2004, “Ain’t No Tellin’ What’ll Become of Me” in *Churches, Banks & Bars*, issue #3 (print journal)
- May 2004, “A Blank Sheet of Paper” & “Muddy Boots: A Sonnet” in *Red River Review* (online journal)
- February 2004, “Clamor at the Table,” in *Zygote in my Coffee*, issue #4 (online journal)
- Fall 2003, “Oct 12, 2002,” “From the Backside of the Bar,” and “Sept. 26, 2002,” in *Filibuster* (campus lit mag)
- Spring 2003, excerpt from *Continuum* and “August 26, 2002” in *Filibuster* (campus lit mag)

### **Academic and Literary Presentations**

- April 2010, featured author (for *The Life and Poetry of John Beecher*) at Alabama Book Festival in Montgomery, AL
- March 26, 2010, panelist at Auburn University at Montgomery Liberal Arts Conference (AUMILAC), presented paper on using creative writing as an alternative assignment in college literature course in Montgomery, AL
- February 10, 2010, presenter, day-long professional development workshop on using *Treasuring Alabama’s Black Belt* curriculum guide in Camden, AL
- November 2009, chair for “SAMLAC Creative Nonfiction Writers” at South Atlantic MLA Conference – theme: “Human Rights and the Humanities” – in Atlanta, GA
- October 2009, featured author (for three books on Alabama subjects: *I Just Make People Up*, *The Life and Poetry of John Beecher* and *Treasuring Alabama’s Black Belt*) at the Ottawa International Writers Festival in Ottawa, Ontario (Canada)
- July 2009, panelist on “Student Publication Opportunities in Writing and Rhetoric” and “Spotlight On: The National Conversation on Writing in Local Contexts” at the Council of Writing Programs Administrators conference in Minneapolis, MN

April 2009, featured author (for *I Just Make People Up*) at Alabama Book Festival in Montgomery, AL

November 2008, panelist on “SAMLMA Creative Nonfiction Writers” at South Atlantic MLA Conference in Louisville, KY

April 2004, panelist representing NewSouth Books at Eugene Walter Literary Festival, Mobile, AL

November 2003, reading poet, 10<sup>th</sup> annual Insomniacathon in Louisville, KY

April 2003, panelist representing NewSouth Books at Gulf Coast Creative Writers & Teachers Conference in Fairhope, AL

September 2002, panelist representing NewSouth Books at Lost State Writers Conference in Greeneville, TN

Fall 2001, seminar speaker on self-publishing, University of Alabama-Birmingham Continuing Education

### **Professional Memberships**

2008 – Present, South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLMA)

2008 – 2009, Council of Writing Programs Administrators (WPA)

2006 – Present, member, Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP)

2006 – 2007, member, Alabama State Poetry Society

2006 – Present, member, Teachers & Writers Collaborative (TWC)

2006 – Present, member, National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE and CEE)

2004 – Present, member, National Education Association (NEA)

2001 – Present, member, Alabama Writers Forum

### **Community Involvement/Cultural Work**

2010, policy advocate, National Council of the Teacher of English (NCTE)

October 2009, guest speaker on writing and diversity issues in two high schools at Ottawa-Carleton School District in Ottawa, Ontario (Canada)

2008-2009 and 2009-2010, planning committee, Alabama Book Festival

2007 and 2008, grants review panel member for Literature category, Alabama State Council on the Arts

2007, organizing committee, “Using the Past to Reshape the Future: A Civil Rights Education Summit” at the Rosa Parks Library and Museum.

2006 – 2007, local organizer, “Independent Lens,” PBS/ITVS film series on social justice issues. Local screenings held at Equality Alabama.

2005 – Present, faculty representative for Booker T. Washington Magnet High School PTSA

2005, curriculum development chairman/organizing committee, The Montgomery Children's Walk (an event on December 1, 2005 to involve school children in the commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rosa Parks' arrest)

## Media

February 28, 2010, radio interview on WEGE on the "Dr. Rock and Captain Fantasy Show"

September 21, 2009, featured in "New Book explores Black Belt Region" in *Montgomery Advertiser*

July 19, 2009, featured guest in the Alabama State Council on the Arts' "Alabama Arts Radio Series" series for "Patchwork" project and the Arts Teacher Fellowship from the Surdna Foundation

July 9, 2009, subject of an article, "Taking Teaching to Another Level," in *Montgomery Independent* newspaper

June 2009, subject of an Art Beat article, "The Art of the Word," in *Montgomery Living* magazine

April 16, 2009, featured (with students) in article, "Local Students are Honored in Literary Arts competition," in *Montgomery Independent* newspaper

February 2008, featured in Southern Poverty Law Center "Teaching Tolerance" video series:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CJqe86uuMI>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LxhFeQ79bjw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsIW6mRgcWk>

August 16, 2007, featured in WAKA (CBS) segment "What's Right With Our Schools" for *Our Hope*

August 15, 2007, featured in *Montgomery Advertiser* for the release of *Our Hope* book

April 2007, featured in *Montgomery Living* for being named Montgomery's Secondary Teacher of the Year

February 10, 2007, featured in *Montgomery Advertiser* Editorial section: a Rave in "Rants and Raves"

February 2, 2007, featured in *Montgomery Advertiser*, "District teachers earn top honors"

October 30, 2006, featured in *Montgomery Advertiser's* FYI Teacher Profile

October 8, 2006, featured in the *Montgomery Advertiser* for the "Power Educator" award

October 2006, featured in "Around Alabama" section of *Southern Living* for *Taking the Time* book

August 2006, featured in "381: A Documentary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott"

December 2004 & October 2005, interviewed by Adrian Harewood on "Saturday Morning Live," radio show on CKLN (Toronto, Ontario)

## Book Layout/Design

2007, designer, *Alabama Listening in the Cold War Era* by Susan Shehane, Coosa River Books

2003 – 2005, designer/layout, *honeydū* magazine and broadsides

2003, designer/layout, AUM's *Filibuster* Spring and Fall 2003 issues

2002, designer, The Writers Group Series and Dropping the Hammer chapbooks

### **The Writers' Group & Dropping the Hammer Poetry Contest**

2002 and 2003, founder/coordinator, annual Dropping the Hammer Poetry Contest

January 2002 – Summer 2003, Writers' Group Series, Founding Editor and Designer, Writer

Volume One, *Kindling Not Yet Split* by Foster Dickson, poetry

Volume Two, *King Midas in Reverse* by Ben Beard, fiction

Volume Three, *Hollow Bodies and Other Stories* by Eugene C. Johnson, fiction

Volume Four, *They Gave Us Glimpses*, writings by Carol Robbins Hull, hybrid

Supplement One, *Local Girl Makes Good*, poems by Kathy Rooney (1<sup>st</sup> winner of Dropping the Hammer poetry contest)

Supplement Two, *Itokturé*, poems by Jeff McLeod (2<sup>nd</sup> winner of Dropping the Hammer poetry contest)

2001 – 2003, founder, The Writers' Group at the NewSouth Bookstore

### **Music**

March 2005, guest guitarist on "500 Miles" on Sarah Elizabeth Whitehead's *Play It For Me* CD

### **Theater: Technical Production**

Spring 1993, Set Construction & Stage Manager, "show name?" at Huntingdon College's Dungeon Theater

Spring 1993, Set Construction, "The Apple Tree" at Huntingdon College's Dungeon Theater

June 1992, Technical Crew, "A Good Man is Hard to Find" (road show) at Davis Theater

January 1992, Light Board Operator, "Shirley Valentine" at Carver Creative and Performing Arts Center (CCPAC)

January 1992, Set Construction, "Recruiting Assembly" at CCPAC

December 1991, Set Construction & Stage Manager, "Christmas Gala" at CCPAC

October 1991, Set Construction, "Rumors" at CCPAC

July 1991, Set Construction, "The Boyfriend" at Faulkner University Dinner Theater

June 1991, Running Crew, "The Man who Came to Dinner" at Faulkner University Dinner Theater

May 1991, Technical Crew, "May Day Gala" (variety) at CCPAC

May 1991, Set Construction & Stage Manager, "You Can't Take It with You" at Saint James School

April 1991, Running Crew, "Recruiting Assembly" (variety show) at CCPAC

April 1991, Rigging, “Toulouse-Lautrec” (ballet) at CCPAC/Davis Theater  
 April 1991, Set Construction, “Anne of Green Gables” at CCPAC  
 April 1991, Light Board Operator, “A Touch of Jazz” (show choir) at CCPAC  
 February 1991, Set Construction, “A Man’s a Man” at CCPAC  
 February 1991, Set Construction, “Spoon River Anthology” at CCPAC  
 December 1990, Set Construction & Running Crew, “Christmas Gala” at CCPAC  
 November 1990, Light Board operator, “Girl in the Mirror” (one act) at Saint James School  
 November 1990, Set construction, “Dracula” at CCPAC  
 April 1990, Set Construction & Stage Manager, “Phantom of the Soap Opera” at Saint James School  
 August 1988, Running Crew/2<sup>nd</sup> Kagebito, “Titus Andronicus” at Alabama Shakespeare Festival  
 July 1988, Running Crew, “Mame” at the Montgomery Little Theater  
 April 1988, Grand Drape, “Once Upon A Mattress” at Saint James High School  
 November 1987, Rehearsal Assistant, “The Ground Zero Club” at Saint James High School

**Theater: Acting**

October 1992, (character name), original cast of “Providence Convent” at Huntingdon College’s  
 Dungeon Theater  
 November 1990, (character name), “Limbo” (one act) at Saint James  
 November 1989, Tyson Mansfield, “Mirrors” (one act) at Saint James School  
 November 1989, Ned Wombly, “Boy Meets Family” (one act) at Saint James School  
 May 1988, Young Marvin Macy, “Ballad of the Sad Cafe” at Auburn University at Montgomery’s  
 Theater AUM