

CRYSTAL OLIVER

EDUCATION

Brooklyn College, City University of New York, Brooklyn, NY, Master of Fine Arts in Poetry, June 2006. Advisor: Lou Asekoff.

The University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, Bachelor of Arts in English: Creative Writing, May 2000. Advisors: Michael Collier and Phillis Levin.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Lecturer of English, St. Mary's College of Maryland, August 2023 – Present.

Lecturer of English, St. Mary's College of Maryland, August 2019 – July 2023.

Adjunct Professor of Music, St. Mary's College of Maryland, August 2019 – Present.

Adjunct Instructor of Learning Through Experiential and Applied Discovery (LEAD)

Professional Pathways, St. Mary's College of Maryland, July 2018 – Present.

Visiting Instructor of English, St. Mary's College of Maryland, August 2014 – July 2019.

Adjunct Instructor, College of Southern Maryland, Languages and Literature, September 2008 – December 2010.

Visiting Adjunct Lecturer, Pratt Institute, Humanities and Media Studies, January 2005 – May 2007.

Adjunct Lecturer, Borough of Manhattan Community College, City University of New York (CUNY), English Department, August 2006 – May 2007.

Adjunct Lecturer, Brooklyn College, CUNY, English Department, August 2004 – May 2007.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Editor-in-Chief, EcoTheo Review, April 2024 – Present.

Poetry Editor, EcoTheo Review, August 2018 – February 2025.

Social Media Manager, EcoTheo Collective, April 2024 – Present.

Director, Chesapeake Writers' Conference, February 2023 – Present.

Co-Director, Chesapeake Writers' Conference, August 2019 – January 2023.

Faculty, DeSousa Brent Summer Bridge Program, "Creative Writing," and "Power of Songs," St. Mary's College of Maryland, July 2021, July 2022, July 2023, July 2024, July 2025.

Member, Integrated Inquiry in Music; "Meaning of Music," St. Mary's College of Maryland, May 2020 - August 2023.

Seahawk Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Mentor, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Summer 2023.

Member, Strategic Plan: Workgroup B "Empower," St. Mary's College of Maryland, October 2022 – 2023.

Consultant, Professional Literacy Curriculum Development and Implementation Support for Learning through Experiential and Applied Discovery (LEAD) Initiative, St. Mary's College of Maryland, August 2018 – May 2021.

Consultant, COREP 201 New Course Development and Planning, January – March 2020.

Core 101 Writing Pilot Working Group, St. Mary's College of Maryland, May 2019 – December 2021

Academic Advisor (including Summer and SOAR sessions), St. Mary's College of Maryland, May 2019 – Present.

Faculty Advisor, Creative Writing Club, St. Mary's College of Maryland, May 2019 – present

Writing Tutor, Pratt Institute, January 2005 – May 2007.

RECOGNITION

Jordan Teaching Exemplar Award, St. Mary's College of Maryland, 2022.

Andy Kozak Faculty Contribution to Student Life Award, St. Mary's College of Maryland, 2022.

Major Academic Impact (Senior Exit Survey), St. Mary's College of Maryland, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

St. Mary's College of Maryland – Department of English

ENGL 494 St. Mary's Project

ENGL 493 St. Mary's Project

ENGL 430 Special Topics in Literature: *This Woman's Work: Challenging the Narrative in Song*

ENGL 410 Studies in Authors: *Joan Didion*

ENGL 410 Studies in Authors: *Joni Mitchell, Stevie Nicks, and Tori Amos*

ENGL 390 Topics in Literature: *Addiction Fiction*

ENGL 498 Internship (Mentor)

ENGL 398 Internship (Mentor)

ENGL 397 Guided Readings: *Human Rights in Song; Mary Oliver*

ENGL 395 Advanced Topics in Writing: *Songwriting*

ENGL 395 Advanced Topics in Writing: *Chesapeake Writers' Conference Seminar in Creative Writing*

ENGL 391 The Word in the World: *Literary Citizenship and Professional Literacy*

ENGL 391 The Word in the World: *Creative Writing in the Community*

ENGL 390 Topics in Literature: *Lyrical Literature: Songs in Stories*

ENGL 365 Studies in American Literature: *American Muckrakers: Social Justice Literature*
(Cross-listed with ENST)

ENGL 365 Studies in American Literature: *Social Change: Literature of Muckraking*

ENGL 270 Introduction to Creative Writing

ENGL 235 Topics in Literature and Culture: *Hocus Pocus - The Witch in Words & Culture*
(Cross-listed with WGSX)

ENGL 235 Topics in Literature and Culture: *Lady Sings - Women in Song*
(Cross-listed with WGSX)

ENGL 130 Literary Topics: *Addiction Fiction*

ENGL 130 Literary Topics: *Writing Nature* (Cross-listed with ENST)

ENGL 101 First-Year Composition

LEAD 301 Inquiry in the Liberal Arts: *The Poetics of Song* (formerly CORE 301)

LEAD 101 First-Year Seminar: *The Poetics of Song* (formerly CORE 101)

St. Mary's College of Maryland – Department of Education Studies

EDUC 790 Graduate Topics in Educational Studies: *Teachers' Seminar at the Chesapeake Writers' Conference.*

St. Mary's College of Maryland – Center for Career and Professional Development

LEAD 211 The Honors College Externship: *Exploring the World of Writing*
 COREP 201 Fundamentals of Leadership & Group Dynamics: *Professional Writing*
 COREP 201 Fundamentals of Leadership & Group Dynamics: *Environmental Justice*
 COREP 104 Career and Network Navigation II
 COREP 103 Career and Network Navigation I

St. Mary's College of Maryland – Department of Music

MUSA 289 Private Instruction: Composition, Songwriting
 MUSA 389 Private Instruction: Composition, Songwriting

College of Southern Maryland – English, Communication, and Languages

ENG2250 Women Writers
 ENG2240 African-American Literature
 ENG1020 Composition and Literature
 ENG1010 Composition and Rhetoric

Pratt Institute – Humanities and Media Studies Department

ENGL101 Introduction to Literary and Critical Studies 1: The Self's Relation to Itself and Others
 ENGL103 Introduction to Literary and Critical Studies 2: Aesthetics, Representation, and Reproduction

Brooklyn College, City University of New York – English Department

Core 6 Landmarks of Literature
 English 11 Introduction to Creative Writing
 English 1 Composition and Rhetoric
 English 2 Advanced Composition: Songs and Literature

Borough of Manhattan Community College, City University of New York – English Department

ENG311 Creative Writing Workshop
 ENG201 Introduction to Literature
 ENG101 Advanced Composition

PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS, PRESENTATIONS, READINGS, AND NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

Poetry Reading and Musical Performance -- "The Heart," "All Fun & Guns Until," "feeling minnesota," "Send It Out" AWP 2026 Off-Site Reading at the Lord Baltimore Hotel

Speakeasy with *Eckleburg*, *Gargoyle* and *Boudin*. Baltimore, MD. March 6, 2026.

Conference Presentation -- "From Rhiannon to Coven: Stevie Nicks and the Evolution of the Witch." Understanding Histories, Imagining Futures: 25 Years of SSAWW. Society for the Study of American Women Writers. November 9, 2025.

Workshop -- "Poetry at the Farminary." The Farminary's 10th Anniversary. Princeton

Theological Seminary. September 25, 2025.

Lecture -- "On Making an Artful Life." Chesapeake Writers' Conference. St. Mary's College of Maryland. June 13, 2025. Confirmed.

Lecture -- "How It Felt to Me: On Journaling." Chesapeake Writers' Conference. St. Mary's College of Maryland. June 17, 2024.

Lecture -- "Literary Citizenship: What It Is and How to Do It." Chesapeake Writers' Conference. St. Mary's College of Maryland. June 19, 2023.

Welcome Address -- "Where the River Will Take You." Opening Convocation. St. Mary's College of Maryland, August 26, 2022.

Presentation -- "Word Choice in Poetry and Songwriting." Maryland Writers Association. May 21, 2022.

Workshop -- "Songwriting." English 281: History of Narrative. Macalester College. March 11, 2022.

Workshop -- "Guided Journaling." Mental Health Day Virtual Conference. St. Mary's College of Maryland. March 5, 2021.

Lecture -- "What Makes a Song Great?" Chesapeake Writers' Conference. St. Mary's College of Maryland. June 24, 2019.

Workshop -- Songwriting, at the Chesapeake Writers' Conference. St. Mary's College of Maryland. June 23-29, 2019.

Musical Performance -- "Crystal Brandt & Matthew Henry Hall." Chesapeake Writers' Conference. St. Mary's College of Maryland. St. Mary's City, MD. June 28, 2019.

Essay Reading -- "When Country Wasn't Cool," at the Slackwater Launch. St. Mary's College of Maryland. April 6, 2019.

Presentation -- "Word as Witness: Mindfulness and Creative Writing," at the Mind Over Matter symposium. St. Mary's College of Maryland. March 30, 2019.

Poetry Reading and Musical Performance -- "The First Accident," "Joy Ride," "Running," "Clinging," "Two Door Coupe," "Bruising the Flowers," "Pimlico," "Calling All Contacts," and "Light It Up" for the VOICES Reading Series. St. Mary's College of Maryland. March 29, 2018.

Musical Performance -- ArtsFest. Main Stage. Annmarie Garden and Sculpture Park. Dowell, MD. September 15, 2012.

"An Evening with Crystal Brandt and the River." *Light It Up* Album Release Concert. Three

Notch Theater. Lexington Park, MD. August 24, 2012.

Musical Performance -- ArtsFest. Main Stage. Annmarie Garden and Sculpture Park. Dowell, MD. September 17, 2011.

Musical Performance -- ArtsFest. Main Stage. Annmarie Garden and Sculpture Park. Dowell, MD. September 15, 2007.

Poetry Reading -- Selections from *Brass Tacks* at the Pizer Graduate Colloquium. Brooklyn College. Brooklyn, NY. May 2006.

Musical Performance -- MW Records Showcase. The Knitting Factory. New York, NY. August 24, 2004.

Musical Performance -- Artist Residency. Piano's. New York, NY. August 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2004.

CREATIVE WORK

Poetry

"All Fun & Guns Until," "Hiss," and "The Heart." *Gargoyle*. April 2026.

"strike anywhere" and "Hejira." *Visions of Verses*. April 2019.

"New Clothes." *Bluestem Review*, June 2018.

"Tuna Steaks" and "Oral Histories." *Women Writers Reading Chapbook*. March 2008.

"Ignition Idle." *Brooklyn Review*. May 2006.

Creative Nonfiction

"When Country Wasn't Cool." *SlackWater: A Journal on Environmental and Cultural Change in Southern Maryland: "Foodways of Southern Maryland."* April 2019.

Music

Light It Up. September 2012.

Voter. 2004.

Bessie's Last Stand. 2003.

Fixing to Break. 2002.

PUBLICATIONS (INVITED)

Book Reviews

"Listening In with Meredith Taylor." *The Delmarva Review*. Fall 2019.

"Truly, Courageously Brave: Love You Hard." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. September

2019.

"A Gentle Reminder of a Gentleman." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. March 2019.

"Looking On and Listening In." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. September 2018.

Features

"Letter from the Editor." *EcoTheo Review*. Spring 2025.

"Letter from the Editor." *EcoTheo Review*. Autumn 2024.

"Wonder at the Waterfront." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. August 2021.

"Blooming in Style." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. August 2021.

"New Year, Better You." *Southern Maryland Woman; Alexandria Woman; Fairfax Woman*.
January 2021.

"Not Just Another Pretty Pretty Façade." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. August 2020.

"The Black Diamond Disaster." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. April 2020.

"A Fine Point." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. January 2020.

"Kind of Blue and Gold: President Jordan at SMCM." *Southern Maryland Woman*. Cover
Article. September/October 2019.

"A Gentle Reminder of a Gentleman." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. March 2019.

"New Year, Better You." *Southern Maryland Woman; Alexandria Woman; Fairfax Woman*.
January 2019.

"No Trouble At All." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. December 2018.

"Looking On and Listening In." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. September 2018.

"Pax River: Home of Aviation Excellence." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. September 2018.

"Diamonds in the Sky." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. September 2018.

"Not Just Another Philadelphia Story." *Southern Maryland Woman*. May 2018.

"Root, Root, Root for the Home Team." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. March 2018.

"The Dynamic Spirit of Christmas." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. December 2017.

"The Look of Love." *Southern Maryland Woman*. November 2017.

"Dr. O: In Touch with Her True Calling to Heal." *Southern Maryland Woman*. September 2017.

"Bountiful Harvests in Bulk and at a Bargain." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. September
2017.

"A Stunning Retreat." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. September 2017.

"The Bees Have It." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. June 2017.

"A Sanctuary for Peace: Resolve to Evolve." *Southern Maryland Woman*. July 2017.

"Chicken Fever." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. March 2017.

"Better Together: Unified, Streamlined OB-GYN Care in Calvert." *Southern Maryland Woman*.
January 2017.

"Diamonds in the Ruff." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. December 2016.

"From Summer Fun to Year-Round Sport: Local Swim Programs Offer It All." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. June 2016.

"The Many Paths to Wellness." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. March 2016.

"Shop with a Cop." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. December 2015.

"Sail the Spooky Seas." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. September 2015.

"Celebrate American Indian History and Culture." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*.
September 2015.

"Seasonal Sights, Scents, and Shopping." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. September 2015.

"Practicing Love & Gratitude." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. March 2015.

"So No Child Goes Hungry." *Southern Maryland – This Is Living*. December 2014.

WRITING AWARDS

2000 *Henrietta Spiegel Award for Creative Writing*, University of Maryland, College Park.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Association of Writers and Writing Programs

Coalition for Community Writing

OTHER INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Freelance Senior Technical Writer, Park Hall, MD, June 2016 - present

Spalding Consulting, Inc., Lexington Park, MD, May 2007 – March 2014

Proposal Manager, August 2010 – March 2014

Operations Officer, May 2008 – August 2010

Technical Writer, May 2007 – May 2008

OTHER TRAINING

Registered Yoga Teacher (RYT-200) – Yoga Alliance, 2008