

CRYSTAL SIMONE SMITH

CURRICULUM VITAE

Education

M.F.A. Queens University of Charlotte — 2011

B.A. University of North Carolina at Greensboro — 2002
Studio Art Design

Areas of Interest

African American Haiku; Contemporary English-Language Haiku; Eco poetics;
African American Poetics; Experimental Poetic Forms

Selected Honors and Awards

Roanoke-Chowan Book Award, North Carolina Literary & Historical Association, 2025
Durham Arts Council Artist Support Grant, 2025
Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts, Pentaculum Writing Residency, 2025
The Children's Book Council Notable Social Studies List Award, 2024
Missouri Association of School Librarians' Dogwood Reading List, 2024
North Carolina Poetry Society Poetry of Courage Award, 2024
The Haiku Foundation Touchstone Distinguish Book Award, 2022
Duke University Humanities Unbounded Fellowship, 2020-2022
North Carolina Poetry Society Bloodroot Haiku Award, 1st place, 2019
Haiku Society of America's Merit Book Award for best haiku anthology, 2018
Ashber Initiatives Literary Arts Grant Award, 2016
North Carolina Poetry Society Griffin-Farlow Haiku Award, 2nd place, 2015

Employment

Backbone Press, Inc., Founder & Managing Editor, 2012-2025

Teaching

Duke University

Writing 120: Academic Writing, Haiku & Zen Buddhism, 2025
Writing 101: Academic Writing, African American Poetics & Song, 2024
Writing 101: Academic Writing, The Poetry & Politics of Now, 2024
Writing 101: Academic Writing, Haiku & Zen Buddhism, 2023
Writing 101: Academic Writing, American Slave Narrative, 2023
Ethics 189: What Now?, 2024-2025
Forever Learning Summer Academy: Why Poetry Matters, 2024-present

Saint Augustine's University

ENG 234: Creative Writing, 2023
ENG 237: Intro to Creative Writing, 2022
ENG 238: Short Fiction Workshop, 2020
ENG 131/132: English Composition I & II, 2018-2023
LIS 150: Critical Writing Seminar: Radical Writing, Society & Change, 2018-2019

William Peace University

ENG 216: American Literature, 2022
ENG 252: Writing About African American Literature, 2022

Meredith College

ENG 235: Introduction to Writing Contemporary Poetry, 2019

Elon University

ENG 110: Argument & Inquiry (First-year writing) 2016-2018
ENG 255: The African American Slave Narrative, 2018

Duke University, Duke Young Writer's Camp

Session II: Literary Workshop: Prose, Poetry, or Both, 2016
Session I: Argument Writing: Words That Wound and Win, 2016
Session II: Creative Nonfiction: You Can't Make This Stuff Up, 2017
Session I: Experimental Fiction: Stranger Than Fiction, 2017

Greensboro College

ENG 1120: Scholarly Texts and Contexts, 2015-2017
ENG 1100: Texts and Contexts (Developmental Writing), 2016
LIT 3610: Social Justice Literature: Race & Mass Incarceration, 2017

UNC Carolina Center for Educational Excellence, Homeschooling Program

Pushing the Pen: An Introduction to Creative Writing, 2013-2014

Book Publications

Smith, C.S. (2026). *Common Sense: An Erasure*. Poetry. Boston, MA: Beacon Press.

Smith, C.S. (2025). *Runagate: Songs of the Freedom Bound*. Poems. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Smith, C. S. (2023). *Dark Testament*. Poems. New York, NY: Henry Holt-MacMillan.

Smith, C. S. (2022). *Ebbing Shore*: Haiku. Durham, NC: Horse & Buggy Press.

Smith, C. S. (2020). *Down To Earth*: Poems. Fayetteville, NC: Longleaf Press.

Welch, M.D., Smith, C.S. (2019). *Sitting in the Sun: Haiku North America Anthology*. Sammamish, Washington: Press Here Press.

Church, L. T., Moore, L. D., Smith, C. S., McKoy, S. S., & Young, G. (2017). *One Window's Light: A Collection of Haiku*. Greensboro, NC: Unicorn Press.

Smith, C. S. (2014). *Running Music*: Poems. Fayetteville, NC: Longleaf Press.

Smith, C. S. (2013). *Routes Home*: Poems. Georgetown, KY: Finishing Line Press.

Journal Publications

Extensive list of individual published poems (2008-present). I'm grateful to the many journals that have published my work, including: *POETRY Magazine*, *Modern Haiku*, *Frogpond*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *Connotation Press*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Nimrod*, *African American Review*, *Callaloo*, *Barrow Street*, *Southern Cultures Journal*, *Harper's Magazine*, and more. Gratitude to the *Poetry Foundation* for twice featuring my poems for "poem-of-the-day" and to *Poetry Daily* for featuring "Industrial Work" (2022).

Journal Articles

Smith, C.S. (2023). Mentoring a New Generation of African American Haiku Writers: In Conversation with Lenard D. Moore. *African American Review* 56.1

Smith, C.S. (2023) Book Review by Crystal Simone Smith. "Lenard D. Moore and African American Haiku: Merging Traditions by Ce Rosenow." *Frogpond*. 46.1.

Smith, C.S., (2022) Interviewed by Tom Sacramona. Nature's Classroom: Cultural Journeys. *Frogpond*. 45.2.

Smith, C. S. (2021) The Haiku in Amiri Baraka's Low Coup. *Juxtaposition: Research and Scholarship in Haiku*. 123.

Smith, C.S., McKoy S.S. (2020) Witnessing Resistance Poetry. *Southern Cultures*. 26 (4)

Invited Panels and Presentations

"Hallmark Poets Laureate Reading: Nikki Giovanni Tribute" Moderator. Grey Owl & Griot Black Southern Writers Festival, Durham, NC. November 2025.

Poet Residency & Workshops, Columbus County Schools, Whiteville, NC. November 2025.

"Runagate: Songs of the Freedom Bound, Field Notes Reading with Ce Rosenow" Haiku North America, San Francisco, CA. September 2025.

"Runagate: Songs of the Freedom Bound with Tsitsi Jaji" Franklin Humanities Institute, Duke University. September, 2025.

Atlanta Haiku Festival, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, GA. April 2025.

"We Love Durham" Haiku Workshop" Liberty Arts, Durham, NC. February 2025.

"Spilling the Tea the Elders" Grey Owl & Griot Black Southern Writers Festival, Durham, NC. November 2024.

Featured Guest Speaker, Seabeck Haiku Getaway, Seabeck, WA. October 2024.

"One Window's Light: A Choral of Haiku" Furious Flower Conference, James Madison University. September 2024.

"Observing the Garden Through Haiku" Duke Gardens, Duke University. September 2024.

Featured Publisher, "Publishing Panel" Northwestern University, Virtual. May 2024.

Okepebholo, Shawn, "Songs in Flight" Poems performed: Smith, Crystal "asko or glasgow," "peter," "jack and paul," "mariah frances." Duke Arts, Duke University. April 2024.

"Haibun Workshop" Music 960S-1: Composition Seminar, Duke University. February 2024.

“Publishing Paid Me 101: Demystifying Agents, Industry, Submissions” Grey Owl and Griot Black Southern Writers Festival. Durham, NC. November 2023.

Featured Poet, Weave & Spin, Eno Arts Mill, Hillsborough, NC. November 2023.

Featured Poet, Pen 2 Pen Shop Talk, Eno Arts Mill, Hillsborough, NC. October 2023.

Guest Lecturer, ENG 220S: Intro to the Writing of Poetry, Duke University. October 2023.

Featured Author, Bookmarks Book Festival. Winston-Salem, NC. September 2023.

“Songs in Flight: Slavery Haiku” Haiku North America Conference. Cincinnati, OH. June 2023.

“Cultural Journeys in African American Haiku” Haiku North America Conference. Cincinnati, OH. June 2023.

“This Is Your Brain On Poetry” Greensboro Bound Literary Festival. Greensboro, NC. May 2023.

“The Unending Hereafter” Workshop, Scalawag Magazine/Rofhiwa Books. Durham, NC. April 2023.

“Slavery Symposium: We Have Nothing to Lose but Our Chains” Saint Augustine’s University. Raleigh, NC. February 2023.

“Dark Testament: Blackout Poems” American Writers Museum. Chicago, IL. February 2023.

Okepebholo, Shawn, “Songs in Flight” Poems: Smith, Crystal “asko or glasgow,” “peter,” “jack and paul,” “mariah frances.” The Metropolitan Museum of Art. January 2023.

“Achieving Ekphrastic Haiku” Haiku Society of America National Conference. Virtual. June 2022.

“Whatever Wholeness Means: Poetry in the Age of Separation” Greensboro Bound Literary Festival. Greensboro, NC. May 2022.

“A Conversation on Publishing for People of Color” Greensboro Bound Literary Festival. Greensboro, NC. May 2022.

“How and Why to Publish a Chapbook” Mapping the Maze, Charting your Path to Publication: Poets & Writers. November 2022.

“Waiting to Be Discovered...A Conversation Between Historian Adriane Lentz-Smith and Poet Crystal Simone Smith” Duke Department of History. December 2021.

“Nature As Captivity” Haiku North America Virtual Conference. October 2021.

“Constraint and Freedom: Re-Envisioning Form” West End Poetry Festival. October 2021.

“A Celebration of Community Black Poetry and Power” UNC Humanities. Carrboro, NC. April 2021.

“African American Haiku” Haiku Chronicles Podcast. September 2020.

“Haiku in the Rain” Duke Nasher Museum of Art. Durham, NC. June 2020.

“Virtual Writing Workshop” Blair Publishing. Durham, NC. May 2020.

“Publishing the Chapbook” Northwestern University. Virtual Online. April 2020.

“The Black Vote” Saint Augustine’s University. Raleigh, NC. February 2020.

“Paying Attention to Achieve Successful Haiku” Haiku Pacific Northwest Retreat. Seabeck, Washington. October 2019.

“Shorelines (escape vs. escape)” Haiku Pacific Northwest Retreat, Seabeck, Washington. October 2019.

“Tribute: The Life and Work of Toni Morrison” Saint Augustine’s University. Raleigh, NC. October 2019.

“Then and Now: Exploring African American History, Life, and Culture Through Haiku” Haiku North America Conference. Winston-Salem, NC. August 2019.

“The Tiny Architecture of Origami” Haiku North America Conference, Winston-Salem, NC. August 2019.

“New South, New Stories Diverse Authors & Fresh Perspectives” Chapel Hill Library. Chapel Hill, NC. January 2019.

“WHEN ENOUGH IS ENOUGH: What Makes Short Poems Poems” Barrelhouse Conversations & Connections Conference. George Mason University. May 2018.

“Gilbert-Chappell Distinguished Poet Series” Barton College. Wilson, NC. April 2018.

“The Life and Work of Lucille Clifton” Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference. Tampa Bay, Florida. March 2018.

“Haiku in the Gallery” Duke Nasher Museum of Art. Durham, NC. February 2018.

“Poetic Architects: Building Poems Editors Publish” North Carolina Writers Network Spring Conference. April 2017.

“Textualizing the Rural South: Learning On Demand” Elon University. Elon, NC. October 2017.

“Micro-poetry: Paying Attention to Achieve Successful Haiku” North Carolina Writers Network Workshop. November 2017.

“Black Literary Start Ups: Negotiating Space with No Power” Southern Atlantic Modern Language Association. Durham, NC. November 2015.

Author Readings

West End Poetry Festival, Carrboro, NC. October 2025.

Writing Slavery: Courage in Bondage, Stagville Historic Site, Bahama, NC. August 2025.

McIntyre's Books Poetry Reading Series, Pittsboro, NC. July 2025.

Bull City Press Reading Series, Durham, NC. June 2025.

Songs of the Freedom Bound, A Juneteenth Celebration, Burwell School Historic Site, Hillsborough, NC. June 2025.

Poets Playground, Poets Supper Club, Boxyard, RTP, NC. March 2025.

Jazz Vespers featuring Branford Marsalis, Duke Chapel, Duke University, February 2025.

Amazing Grace: Confronting the Enduring Legacy, Gregg Museum, North Carolina State University, February 2025.

Haw River in the Round, “One Window’s Light” Saxapahaw, NC. June 2024.

Pendulum Residency, Arrowhead School of Arts and Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN. May 2024.

“House of Haiku” Kernersville, NC. April 2024.

“In Other Words” Arcana, Durham, NC. February 2024.

“Poet Quartet” Malaprops Bookstore. Asheville, NC. June 2023.

“Friday ArtWalk” Ackland Art Museum. Chapel Hill, NC. April 2023

“Bull City Press Reading Series” Mettlesome Theater. March 2023.

“Dark Testament” Book Release, Letters Bookshop. Durham, NC. January 2023.

“An Afternoon of Poetry” Quail Ridge Books. Raleigh, NC. July 2022.

“A Celebration of the Harlem Renaissance and Dance Music Though the Centuries”
Durham Symphony Orchestra, Inc. Durham, NC. June 2022.

“Witness and Wound: A Poetry Reading” Stillhouse Press. October 2021.

“So & So Books Reading Series” Raleigh, NC. August 2021.

“Poetry Goes Viral Series” Virtual Online. May 2021.

“Silent Fields: An Ecopoetry Reading” Franklin Humanities Institute at Duke University.
Virtual Online. April 2021.

“Discover Durham: Women’s History Month Commissioned Poems” Durham, NC. March
2021.

“Longleaf Press Poetry Reading Honoring Press founders Michael Colonnese and Robin
Greene” Methodist University. Virtual Online. October 2020.

“Good Impressions: Reading from the Press Bed” Sawtooth School for Visual Art. Winston-Salem,
NC. September 2019.

“Writers for Migrant Justice” The Love House. UNC-Chapel Hill, NC. September 2019.

“North Carolina Literary Review Author Reading” Quail Ridge Books. Raleigh, NC.
April 2019.

“Wishbone Moon Anthology Reading” Durham County Library. Durham, NC.
November 2018.

“One Window’s Light Anthology” Quail Ridge Books. Raleigh, NC. April 2018.

“LitSpark: So & So Reading Series @ LUMP” Raleigh, NC. October 2018.

“Black History, Black Futures” Orange County Library. Hillsborough, NC. February 2018.

“Haiku Holiday Meeting” North Carolina Haiku Society. Chapel Hill, NC. April 2017.

“Writing the South” Burwell House Historic Site. Hillsborough, NC. April 2017.

“Improv with a Poet” The Mettlesome. Durham, NC. December 2017.

“Poetry Reading Series” Scuppernong Books. Greensboro, NC. July 2016.

“Poetry & Personal Identity Reading & Discussion” Orange County Library. Hillsborough, NC. March 2016.

“African American Cultural Celebration” NC Museum of History. Raleigh, NC. January 2015.

“In the Margins: Running and Writing” In the Margins: A Podcast for Writers. Durham, NC. February 2015.

“Book Beats” WCOM Radio, Carrboro, NC. March 2015.

“New Works Series” Selma College. Winston-Salem, NC. May 2015.

“Celebrating 20 years of the Carolina African American Writers Collective” Durham County Library Series. Durham, NC. July 2015.

“West End Poetry Festival” Flyleaf Books. Chapel Hill, NC. October 2015.

“African American Cultural Celebration” North Carolina Museum of History. Raleigh, NC. January 2014.

“Sunday Poetry Reading Series” NC Poetry Society at McIntyre’s Fine Books. Pittsboro, NC. February 2014.

“The Hinge Writer’s Day” Flyleaf Books. Chapel Hill, NC. September 2013.

“African American Cultural Celebration” North Carolina Museum of History. Raleigh, NC. January 2012.

“Aforebo: A Harvest of North Carolina Writers of African Descent” North Carolina State University. Raleigh, NC. February 2012.

“Carolina African American Writers Collective” UNC Bull’s Head Bookshop. Chapel Hill, NC. October 2012.

“National Writing Day” North Carolina State University. Raleigh, NC. October 2011.

“Aforebo: A Harvest of North Carolina Writers of African Descent” North Carolina Agriculture and Technical State University. Greensboro, NC. November 2011.

Contest Judge

North Carolina Poetry Out Loud Finals. Charlotte, NC. 2017-present

Duke University Creative Writing Awards, Rosati Undergraduate Award. 2024-present.

North Carolina Poetry Society, Susan Laughter Meyers Residency Fellowship. April 2021.

Haiku Pacific Northwest Annual Haiku Contest. December 2020.

North Carolina Literary & Historical Association Awards. 2020-present.

North Carolina Poetry Out Loud Regional Finals. Hawbridge School. Saxapahaw, NC
December 2016, 2018, 2022, 2023, 2024.

Affiliations and Memberships

Haiku Society of America, President. January 2025-present.
North Carolina Literary and Historical Association, Board Member, 2023-present.
Grey Owl and Griot Black Southern Writers Festival, Board Member, 2023.
Lambda Lambda Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society, Member
The Haiku Foundation, *Juxtapositions: Research and Scholarship in Haiku*, Editorial Board Member
North Carolina Writers Network, Member
North Carolina Poetry Society, Member
Carolina African American Writers Collective, Member
North Carolina Haiku Society, Member