

# Jennifer Emery Davidson

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## EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Graduated in December of 2003  
American Studies Program, English Department  
Fields: Literature and History of the American West, Environmental Literature, Regional Folklore  
Dissertation:  
*Dwelling in a Shifting West: The Construction of Home and Identity in Contemporary Western Memoir*  
Foreign Language: Spanish
- B.A.** Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota  
Graduated in June of 1995, *magna cum laude*  
English Major  
Study Abroad: Carleton English/Psychology Seminar in London, January-March 1994

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

**College of Southern Idaho Blaine County Center, Director.** 2004-2013.

Oversaw and expanded on-site operations of academic, community education, and adult basic education programs as well as student services, security, and facilities at the community college satellite campus, which serves approximately 1,000 students annually. Conducted and implemented strategic planning to establish priorities, offer pertinent services, and present a coherent image of the college to the community. Supervised two full-time and more than 25 part-time personnel. Performed all aspects of the hiring and employee review process. Responded to student issues and concerns. Served as local public relations representative for the college, frequently giving presentations to community groups and interviews for local media. Managed budgets of multiple operation centers and grants. Implemented Spanish-language outreach efforts and served as Spanish-English translator. Created new programs and events, including the Sun Valley Summer Spanish Institute and the Nonprofit Education Initiative, which increased community engagement and revenue.

**Idaho Humanities Council, Member of Board of Directors and Executive Committee.** 2011-present.

Provide operational oversight and steer program development of statewide nonprofit organization. Guide grant review and award process. Help formulate marketing and fundraising initiatives. Lead programming and evaluation committees. Serve as spokesperson at public events. Work closely with executive director on strategic planning. Coordinate teams of scholars from a variety of educational institutions to implement humanities programs. Serve as liaison with libraries, museums, and educational institutions around the state.

**The Community Library, Member of Board of Trustees and Executive Committee.** 2012-present.

Help provide oversight for nonprofit library in Ketchum, Idaho. Contribute to programming and fiscal decisions. Promote the library as a vital center for literacy and cultural engagement. Research library and nonprofit trends. Participate actively in “re-imagining” process to assess potential structural and programmatic changes. Helped with nation-wide search and hiring of executive director in 2013. Assisted with recent acquisition and re-invention and launch of the Sun Valley Museum of History.

**Idaho Community Foundation Southwestern Region Grants Panel Member.** 2010-present.

Evaluate hundreds of grant applications and participate in award allocations annually for social service, educational, cultural, and environmental nonprofit organizations throughout southwestern Idaho as part of

Boise-based statewide philanthropic organization. Advocate for Blaine County. Help determine assessment standards and evaluation process. Research nonprofits in order to foster informed decision-making.

**Annual Writing Symposium for Idaho English Teachers, Co-Chair.** 2006-present.

Helped conceptualize and lead ongoing development of symposium for high school and college English teachers from around Idaho. Built network of more than 40 teachers across educational institutions and grade levels statewide to promote greater literacy and innovative teaching practices in the state. Sought, obtained, and managed grant awards; managed symposium logistics; developed program content; recruited acclaimed writers as keynote speakers, including Judith Freeman, Teresa Jordan, and Debra Magpie Earling.

**La Alianza Multicultural Center, Member of Board of Directors and Co-President.** 2009-2011.

Guided structural formation of new nonprofit organization in Hailey, Idaho, dedicated to providing resources for minorities and immigrants and to promoting cross-cultural understanding. Developed social service and educational programs, guided fiscal decisions, and hired and supervised executive director. Assisted with Spanish-English translation services.

**Hailey Cultural Center, Member of Board of Directors and Executive Secretary.** 2003-2004.

Helped develop humanities programs and strategic plan for the Hailey Cultural Center, a community arts organization housed in the restored home where the poet Ezra Pound was born in Hailey, Idaho. Participated in transition of the house to the stewardship of the Sun Valley Center for the Arts.

***Western American Literature* Guest Book Review Editor.** 2001-2002.

Solicited work from literary scholars around the nation for summer 2002 special issue on autobiography and the American West; reviewed and edited all contributions; communicated well with editors and achieved desired publication schedule.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Scholar, “Let’s Talk About It” Idaho Library Program.** 2004-present.

Give literary presentations and lead book discussions at community libraries in rural communities (including Salmon, Stanley, American Falls, Jerome) through program sponsored by Idaho Commission for Libraries.

**Idaho Humanities Council “Wilderness Considered” Reading Series, Lead Scholar.** 2014.

Led committee effort to develop and implement a statewide humanities program commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Created team of scholars from higher education institutions around Idaho. Delivered public presentations in Hailey, Idaho Falls, and Boise (forthcoming) as part of the series.

**Volunteer Coach, Girls on the Run.** 2014.

Lead group of elementary school girls in confidence-building activities, physical exercise, and healthy habits lessons at Woodside Elementary in Hailey, Idaho.

**Scholar, Idaho Humanities Council “Why the Civil War Still Matters” Reading Series.** 2013.

Gave presentations in Hailey and Twin Falls in conjunction with this five-part National Endowment for the Humanities program commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War.

**Lead Scholar, Idaho Humanities Council Summer Institute for Teachers.** 2012.

Assisted with all phases of the planning and implementation of intensive week-long seminar for Idaho teachers, “Visionary Landscapes: Willa Cather and the Search for Place in the West.” Gave presentations and led discussions as part of team of scholars from around the nation at the College of Idaho, Caldwell, Idaho.

**Volunteer Lunch Buddy, Blaine County School District.** 2007-2013.

Mentored at-risk elementary school child at Woodside Elementary in Hailey, Idaho.

**Project Advisor, City of Hailey “Coming Together through Time” Exhibit.** 2012-2013.

Assisted with development of interpretive site at entrance to town to provide historical perspective to a community gathering place. Guided the development of the thematic organization, text, and design.

**Advisory Board Member, Blaine County Education Foundation.** 2012-2013.

Provided input to public school system’s foundation that focuses on raising community resources to promote academic excellence, equitable education, and a healthy and sustainable student environment.

**Guest Speaker, Idaho Master Naturalist Program, Henry’s Fork Chapter.** 2009-present.

Give presentations on nature writing tradition, and lead students in creative writing workshop as part of summer naturalist program for adults.

**Recipient of Commitment to Diversity Community Award, Hailey, Idaho.** 2007.

Received “unsung hero” award from Community Drug Coalition for work with English Language Learners.

### ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

**Fulbright Fellowship** to teach upper division American literature course at the Universidad de Guanajuato, Guanajuato, Mexico. The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries (January-June 2010).

**J. Golden Taylor Award** for best graduate student paper presented at the thirty-fifth annual Western Literature Association Conference in Norman, Oklahoma (October 2000).

**J. Golden Taylor Award** for best graduate student paper presented at the thirty-fourth annual Western Literature Association Conference in Sacramento, California (October 1999).

**Teaching Fellowship**, University of Utah (1996-2000).

**Elsie Rohrbough Fellowship**, University of Utah (1996-2000).

**Phi Beta Kappa**, Carleton College (1995).

**Departmental Distinction**, Carleton College (1995).

**Margaret Dalton Curran Award** for best college essay, Carleton College (1995).

### PUBLICATIONS

“Still the Hammock.” *IDAHO Magazine*. 13.12 (September 2014): 20-23.

*Dwelling in a Shifting West: The Construction of Home and Identity in Contemporary Western Memoir*. Contract signed and full manuscript under review at University of Oklahoma Press.

“The Burned-Out Line of Paradise.” Essay accepted in March 2014 and pending publication for “Writers on the Range,” *High Country News*.

Review of *100 Tricks Every Boy Can Do: How My Brother Disappeared*, by Kim Stafford. *Western American Literature*. 49.2 (Summer 2014): 234-235.

Review of *Maverick Autobiographies: Women Writers and the American West, 1900-1936*, by Cathryn Halverson. *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*. 25.2 (Fall 2006): 350-352.

"Passports and Passages in Developmental Writing Instruction." (Co-authored with Judy Grigg Hansen.) *InLand: A Journal for Teachers of English Language Arts*. 26.1 (Fall/Winter 2006): 17-18.

Review of *In the Work of Their Hands Is Their Prayer: Cultural Narrative and Redemption on the American Frontiers, 1830-1930*, by Joel Daehnke. *Western American Literature* 40.4 (Winter 2006): 483-484.

"November Passage," "Peaches, Preserved," and "Wolves at First Sight." *Silo*. Twin Falls: College of Southern Idaho, 2005.

"Holding the Line." *Forged in Fire: Essays by Idaho Writers*. Eds. Mary Clearman Blew and Phil Druker. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2005.

"Stalking a Prayer: Crossings of the Hunter and the Shaman in *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*." *Such News of the Land: U.S. Women Nature Writers*. Eds. Thomas S. Edwards and Elizabeth DeWolfe. Hanover: University Press of New England, 2001.

"Power Switches on the Middle Snake River: The Divergent History of Two Hydroelectric Projects." *Idaho Yesterdays*. 44.2 (Summer 2000): 22-32.

"Blurring the Landscape." Review of *Irrigated Eden: The Making of an Agricultural Landscape in the American West*, by Mark Fiege. *High Country News* 27 September 1999: 7.

"Mormons on the Land." Review of *New Genesis: A Mormon Reader on Land and Community*, edited by Terry Tempest Williams et al. *High Country News* 15 March 1999: 16.

### PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

"The Architecture of Belonging: Place, Property, and Identity in *The Professor's House*." Idaho Humanities Council Summer Institute for Teachers. Caldwell, Idaho. July 2012.

"Navegando con Mark Twain en las Corrientes de las Letras Estadounidenses." XXXI Feria Internacional del Libro del Palacio de Minería. Guest of the U.S. Embassy during Fulbright fellowship. Mexico City, Mexico. February 2010.

"Between the Attic and the Mesa: Imagining Collaborative Spaces in *The Professor's House*." Western Literature Association Conference. Boulder, Colorado. October 2008.

"Looking in the Corners for a Regional Aesthetics: The Artwork of James Castle and Contemporary Western Literature." Western Literature Association Conference. Boise, Idaho. October 2006.

"Landscapes in Limbo: Region and Religion in the West's Changing Wilderness." Western Literature Association Conference. Houston, Texas. October 2003.

"From the Hearth to the Woods and Back Again: Treading a Path with Two Literary Woodsmen." The Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment Conference. Boston, Massachusetts. June 2003.

"Home on the Range: The Literary Enterprise of Dwelling in *Going Over East*." Western Literature Association Conference. Omaha, Nebraska. October 2001.

“Dwellings on the Geography of Hope.” Western Literature Association Conference. Norman, Oklahoma. October 2000.

“Mapping Manifest Destiny: The Expeditions and Reports of John C. Fremont.” Western Literature Association Conference. Sacramento, California. October 1999.

“Storylines from the Fireline: Chaos and Control in the Occupational Narratives of Wildland Firefighters.” Folklore Society of Utah Conference. Salt Lake City, Utah. March 1999.

“Stalking a Prayer: Crossings of the Hunter and the Shaman in *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*.” American Women Nature Writers Conference. Portland, Maine. June 1998.

“From Ghost Story to American Dream: The Rhetorical Revision of the West in John C. Fremont’s Exploration Reports.” Intermountain Paper and Poster Symposium. Logan, Utah. April 1998.

### GRANT AWARDS

St. Luke’s Wood River Foundation: \$16,000 to support health sciences education for Blaine County students (2013). Grant writer and project director.

Deer Creek Fund, Johnson Foundation: \$3,000 to support scholarships for students with financial need (2013). Grant writer and project director.

Wood River Women’s Charitable Foundation: \$40,000 (\$9,609 to CSI) for the Integrated Education Initiative, a combined effort of The Advocates, The Hunger Coalition, and the College of Southern Idaho (2012). Co-grant writer and co-project director.

St. Luke’s Wood River Foundation: \$5,000 to support nursing education for Blaine County students (2012). Grant writer and project director.

Idaho Community Foundation: \$1,500 to develop U.S. citizenship preparation class and other adult literacy programs at the Blaine County Center (2011). Grant writer and project director.

Deer Creek Fund, Johnson Foundation: \$2,000 to support adult basic education through scholarships for community education programs and short-term training classes (2011). Grant writer and project director.

Idaho Commission on the Arts, TumbleWords Program: \$1,000 for keynote speaker for community lecture and for symposium for writing teachers (2011). Grant writer and project co-director.

Idaho Commission on the Arts, TumbleWords Program: \$1,500 for keynote speaker for community lecture and for symposium for writing teachers (2009). Grant writer and project co-director.

Keveren Foundation: \$1,500 for program development for symposium for writing teachers (2008). Grant writer and project co-director.

Idaho Humanities Council: \$2,000 for keynote speakers for symposium for writing teachers (2007). Grant writer and project co-director.

College of Southern Idaho Foundation: \$2,000 for scholarships and instructional supplies for the Sun Valley Summer Spanish Institute at the CSI Blaine County Center (2007). Grant writer and project director.

Wood River Women's Charitable Foundation: \$12,500 for microscopes for new biology lab at the CSI Blaine County Center (2006). Grant writer and project director.

Deer Creek Fund: \$5,415 for scholarships and programs at the CSI Blaine County Center (2005). Grant writer and project director.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Instructor of composition, literature, and humanities at the College of Southern Idaho.** 2001-present.

**Graduate Student Instructor at the University of Utah.** 1996-2000.

#### **Specific Courses Taught:**

"Introduction to Humanities I." College of Southern Idaho. Comprehensive course covering history, art history, architecture, and literature from prehistoric times to the Renaissance. Taught as online course.

"Introduction to Literature." College of Southern Idaho. Comprehensive survey course introducing the genres of short story, the novel, drama, poetry, and the essay. Taught as traditional on-site course and as a telecommunication course.

"American Literature I and II." College of Southern Idaho. Comprehensive survey courses covering American literature from the pre-colonial period to contemporary period.

"English Composition I." College of Southern Idaho. A composition course designed to engage students with academic discourse, emphasizing rhetorical awareness, thesis-support structure, and source integration. Taught as both a traditional on-site course and as an online course.

"English Composition II." College of Southern Idaho. A composition course aimed to encourage greater sophistication in the handling of multiple sources to advance an argument as well as discipline awareness.

"Science, Literature, and the Environment." College of Southern Idaho. An interdisciplinary seminar course intended to expand environmental literacy through the study of nature writing, ecological research, and ethics, with special focus on regional environmental issues. Includes field trips to Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge and Yellowstone National Park. Joint responsibility with science professor.

"Developmental English." College of Southern Idaho. A composition course aimed to hone students' grammar skills and understanding of argument in preparation for college academic writing. Taught as both a traditional course and as a telecommunication course.

"ESL Reading and Writing II and III." College of Southern Idaho. A course to help non-native English speakers improve their language skills for reading and producing advanced academic texts.

"Developmental Reading." College of Southern Idaho. A course to prepare students for college academic reading through practice of summary and analysis skills. Taught as both a traditional course and as a telecommunication course.

"College Study Methods." College of Southern Idaho. A course intended to improve students' success in college through development of specific time management, goal-setting, reading, note-taking, and test-taking skills. Taught as both a traditional course and as a telecommunication course.

“Basic Writing.” College of Southern Idaho. A review of basic grammar and mechanics and an introduction to the essay for students at the developmental level as they enter college.

“Advanced Expository Writing: Writing the West.” University of Utah. An English course intended to help upper-level undergraduates develop exposition, analysis, and argumentation skills. Readings center on the theme of the American West.

“Professional Writing.” University of Utah. A service-learning course designed to prepare students for workplace writing situations. All students complete a major writing project for a local nonprofit agency. The course focuses on web-based writing and other forms of electronic communication.

“Modernism.” University of Utah. Required literary history course for English majors. Readings include Continental and American texts. Teaching assistant.

“Writing at a Research University.” University of Utah. A writing course designed to help transfer students enter the discourses of their major fields of study and develop professional research skills.

Teaching Counselor. University of Utah. Assisted in the development of the university-required “Introduction to College Writing” course. Helped with textbook selection, assignment design, and teacher support. Conducted orientation and colloquium sessions for all instructors of the course.

“Introduction to Literature.” University of Utah. A survey course for students not majoring in English. Introduces students to forms and conventions of major literary genres: fiction, poetry, drama, and essay.

“Introduction to College Writing.” University of Utah. A composition course designed to introduce first-year students to academic writing conventions and the research process.

#### **ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE**

Bookseller at The King’s English Book Shop, Salt Lake City, Utah. 1998-2000.

Journalist Intern, *High Country News*, Paonia, Colorado. 1995-1996.

Wildland Firefighter, Bureau of Land Management, Shoshone, Idaho. 1993-1996.

Reporter, *The Times-News*, Twin Falls, Idaho. 1996.