

Wendy Vardaman, Ph.D.

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Education

Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania, 1990, English

M.A. University of Virginia, 1985, English

B.S. Cornell University, 1983, Civil Engineering

Work

Administrator, 2009- & Volunteer Coordinator 2007-
Young Shakespeare Players, wendy@ysp.org
Madison, Wisconsin

Lecturer

Interdisciplinary Writing

English Dept., University of Washington, Seattle, 1990-1994

Lecturer, Grader, Teaching Asst.

English Dept., University of Pennsylvania 1985-1990

Lecturer

American Studies

Helsinki University, Finland, 1988

**Poetry Positions
& Service**

2011-12, Co-Editor, *WFOP Wisconsin Poets' Calendar 2013*

2011- Co-Editor and Webmaster, Cowfeather Press,

cowfeather@versewisconsin.org

2009- Co-Editor and Webmaster, *Verse Wisconsin*,

wendy@versewisconsin.org

2009- 2011, Convener, Writing Workshop for high school writers

2007- Co-coordinator, WFOP Annual Invitational Poetry

Marathon, Olbrich Gardens

Fall 2004-2008 "Poetry Page" Editor, Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets' *Museletter*

**Poetry
Collections**

Obstructed View, Fireweed Press, 2009. Reviewed in *Wisconsin Bookwatch*,
Sept 2009, *Journal of Religion and the Arts* (Winter 2010), and *Square*
77 (June 2010)

Unpublished manuscripts under consideration: *Gods of the Theater*, *Hung Out to Dry*, *Our Middle Class Aspirations*

**Poetry
Publications**

"My Mother Reacts to Demands for Fabric & Notions," in *Motif Anthology*,
forthcoming.

"My Daughter Asks About Suffering," "Pinched Pipes," and "Black Sunday,
1935," in *Mezzo Cammin*, Winter 2012.

"Reading John Koethe," "After my father goes under," and "All Souls," in *Assisi*,
Winter 2012.

“Original Sin,” in *Prime Number 13*, December, 2011.
 “Mother Contemplates the Annunciation,” in *Bigger Than They Appear, Anthology of the Short Poem*, Accents Publishing, 2011.
 “Reason Not the Need” and “Ode to Forgiveness,” in *Truck*, October, 2011.
 “Mother Contemplates the Creator’s Refrigerator,” in *Collecting Life: Poets on Objects Known & Imagined*, 3Taos Press, 2011.
 “Backstory” in *Tipton Review*, Fall 2011.
 “My Son Comes Home from College, a Mosaic” and “St. Vincent’s” in *Magnapoets Love Anthology*, Fall 2011.
 “Petite Morte,” *qarrtsiluni*, August, 2011.
 “Running with my Daughter,” *Wisconsin Poets’ Calendar 2012*.
 “Political Geography,” in *Tattoo Highway*, Spring 2011.
 “Backstory” and “Gothics” in *Flashlight Memories Anthology* 2011.
 “Remorse,” in *Stoneboat*, Spring 2011.
 “Rome. Villa Borghese,” in *Rosebud #50*, April 2011.
 “Relics,” in *Assisi Journal*, Spring 2011.
 “An Excerpt from a Brief History of Color,” in *Interrobang?!*, Spring 2011.
 “Mother Contemplates the Creator’s Refrigerator,” in *The Mom Egg*, Spring 2011.
 “Relying on Your Imagination to Discern the Question,” in *Verse Wisconsin, Main Street Issue & 14 Broadside Series*, March-April 2011.
 “Symplote,” in *Whale Sound*, January, 2011.
 “Between the Notes,” in *qarrtsiluni*. November 2010.
 “Choreography” in *On the Issues*, Summer 2010.
 “Frostbite,” “Punching the clock,” “On the spectrum,” in *Perspectives Anthology*, 2010.
 “Doubling the Cape” and “Artspeak” in *thanalonline*, Summer 2010.
 “Eating Dandelions II.” Fond du Lac Farmer’s Market bookmarks, Summer 2010.
 “Winter Circus,” in *Southern Women’s Review*, Summer 2010.
 “Circling,” in *Nerve Cowboy*, Spring 2010.
 “The Poetess,” and “Arezzo. Casa Petrarch,” in *qarrtsiluni*, Summer 2010.
 “The Number Tow,” in *thanalonline*, Spring 2010.
 “Karate America,” reprinted in *Your Daily Poem*, May 7, 2010.
 “Arts in America,” in *2011 Wisconsin Poets’ Calendar*.
 “Wrecking the Curve,” in *In Our Own Words*, v.8, Spring 2010.
 “Bill Matthews,” [with Greer DuBois] in *Poemeleon*, Spring 2010.
 “Sesto. Art History Lecture,” in *Cider Press Review*, #11 (Spring 2010).
 “Snow Craft,” in *Flurry*, Feb 2010.
 “Heartsick,” reprinted in *Your Daily Poem*, Feb 12, 2010.
 “Panic,” in *qarrtsiluni*, Feb 2010.
 “Rome. Santa Maria in Cosmedin,” in *ExpressMilwaukee*, Dec. 12, 2009.
 “Unemployed,” reprinted in *Your Daily Poem*, Dec. 8, 2009.
 “Suburban Vampires,” in *Vampyr Verse*, Popcorn Press, 2009.
 “Ides of March,” “A Leaf in My Path,” “Corneal Degeneration,” and “My Daughter’s Root Canal,” reprinted in *Poets’ Corner*, Oct 2009.
 “Tarantella,” “On the Spectrum,” “Before the Breakdown,” and “Symplote,” in *Poets’ Corner*, Oct 2009.
 “Snow Day,” in *Long Short Story*, Dec 2009.
 “Great Catherine,” *Tipton Poetry Review*, Oct 2009.
 “Jealous Gods,” in *Long Short Story*, Oct 2009.

“Luminance” and “Inverted” in *Fifth Wednesday Journal*, Fall 2009.
 “The Mother-Daughter Wars, or the Cuban Missile Crisis,” *Poemeleon*, Fall 2009.
 “Domestic Sonnet #63” [reprint] in *Poetry Jumps Off the Shelf*, Oct. 2009.
 “St. Joseph of Cupertino. 9/18,” *qarrtsiluni*, and audio, Sept. 2009.
 “Extreme Parenting Becomes Olympic Sport” in *Squid Quarterly*, Summer 2009.
 “Spring Cleaning” [sonnet] in *Wisconsin Poets’ Calendar*, 2010.
 “Containment” and “Envy” in *Mezzo Cammin*, Summer 2009.
 “Golden Jubilee,” in *Mobius*. Summer 2009.
 “Scramble [reprint], “Assumption” [reprint], “Contortionist,” and
 “Kayaking in a Winged Cloud” in *Poet’s Corner*, Summer 2009.
 “Disconnect” in *Red-Headed Stepchild*, Spring 2009.
 “In the basement,” “Ring King #?: *Who Shrinks Not*,” and “Reason not the
 need” in *Thanal Online*, April 2009.
 “Approaching Menopause,” in *Madison Magazine*, May 2009 [and audio].
 “Double Kayak,” in *Long Short Story*, May 2009.
 “Spring Cleaning” [reprint], “St. Catherine of Siena’s Day,” [reprint],
 “Love’s Tall Order,” and “April 2002” [reprint] in *Poet’s Corner*,
 Spring 2009.
 “Girl Troubles” and “Unstrung,” in *Free Verse*, 99/100.
 “Arena Chapel” [and audio, both with Greer DuBois] in *qarrtsiluni*,
 February 2009 and March 2010 (print anthology).
 “Winter Walk: Quintets for My Daughter,” in *Long Short Story*, Feb 2009.
 “Waiting for My Daughter, Lines from the Pool” and “A Working
 Woman’s Retirement,” in *Free Verse*, 98.
 “Mother Contemplates Limited Good,” “Command Performance,” “April
 2002: Before the Siege of Bethlehem,” “Fall Invasion” [reprint],
 and “Resistance” [reprint], in *thanal online*, January 2009.
 “St. Catherine of Siena’s Day,” [reprint] in *Breathe: 101 Contemporary
 Odes* (C & R Press, 2009).
 “Long Run,” and “Salvage,” in *Free Verse*, 97/98 (2008).
 “Mother Contemplates Apocalypse,” in *qarrtsiluni* Dec2008 [online], plus
 audio, and Jan 2009 [print anthology].
 “Sunday at Old Wethersfield Graveyard,” “The Presentation,” “Penance,
 My Diet,” “A Path,” “Turn Up the Heat,” and “Epiphany” [reprint]
 in *Poets’ Corner*, Dec 2008.
 “Packing the Lights,” in *Long Short Story*, Dec 2008.
 “St. Catherine of Siena’s Day,” in *Presence*, Dec 2008.
 “Mother Contemplates Paradise,” in *Numinous*, Nov 2008.
 “The Head Guard who Majors in Classics,” *Free Verse*, 96 (2008).
 “September” and “The Gardener” [reprint] in *Poets’ Corner*, Oct 2008.
 “Heaven and Hell,” in *Wisconsin People & Ideas*, Fall 2008.
 “Roosters & Hens,” in *Appleseeds* (Sacred Fools Press, 2008).
 “Ave Maria,” in *Kaleidowhirl*, August 2008 [online].
 “Patchwork,” and “Where Christmas Went,” in *Nerve Cowboy*, Summer 2008.
 “That Reckon the Corn Before it Ripens,” in *Riffing on Strings: Creative
 Writing Inspired by String Theory* (Scriblerus Press, 2008).
 “See-through,” in *Ariel*, April 2008.
 “Divinity,” in *Wisconsin Poets’ Calendar* 2009.
 “Cracks” and “November Impatiens,” in *qarrtsiluni* (and audio), April 08
 [online].

“The Scottish Play,” in *Bent Pin*, April 08 [online].
 “Shells,” in *Fifth Wednesday Journal*, April 08.
 “My Younger Brother’s Scar,” in *Quiddity* (and audio), April 08.
 “February, or in Lent, Lazarus,” in *Kaleidowhirl*, February 2008 [online]
 “Pink” and “An Old Woman’s Pants” in *Letters to the World* (Red Hen Press),
 2008.
 “The Wife’s Vacation,” in *Poetry Jumps Off the Shelf*, January 08.
 “Snowcraft,” in *Sylvan Echo*, Winter 07 [online]
 “Heaven and Hell,” and “June Run” in *Thanal Online*, Winter 2007
 “Exoskeletons,” in *qarrtsiluni* (and audio), December 07 [online]
 “Epiphany,” in *Wisconsin Poets’ Calendar 2008*.
 “Scramble,” in *Poet Lore*, Fall/Winter 2007.
 “From Emily, Not at Home,” *damselfly press*, October 2007 [online].
 “Declining Markets,” in *Sonnet Scroll*, Summer 2007 [online].
 “A Weather Report,” “On Cherry-Pitting,” [reprint] and “Karate
 America,” [reprint] in *Thanal Online*, Summer 2007.
 “Animal Tricks,” in *Nerve Cowboy*, Summer 2007.
 “Resurrection,” in *Wisconsin People & Ideas*, Winter 2007.
 “Abandoned at the Rack,” in *Free Verse* 88, 2006.
 “Watering the Garden” in *Moon Journal*, Fall/Winter 2006.
 “Heels & Flats” and “The Empty Carriage” in *Main Street Rag*, v. 11 #3,
 Fall 2006.
 “Inventory,” in *The Aureorean*, Spring 2006.
 “Unemployed,” website of *The Writer*, April 2006.
 “The Hard Passage,” in *The Mid-American Poetry Review*, Spring 2006.
 “Sinking the Cat,” in *Free Verse* 84, 2006.
 “Karate America,” in *Cup of Poems*, 2006.
 “Unseasonable Skating,” reprinted in DMNA Newsletter, Winter 2005.
 “Post-It,” in *Poetry Jumps Off the Shelf*, September 2005.
 “The Gardener,” in *Wisconsin Poets’ Calendar 2006*.
 “Returning,” “*If the weather holds*,” “Ring King #9: *As Frogs Before
 Their Enemy*,” “Privacy,” in *Free Verse* 79, 2005.
 “The Ides of March,” in *Museletter*, Winter 2005.
 “The Rhymer’s Riddles,” in *Free Verse* 78 2005.
 “Interruption,” in *Moon Journal*, Fall/Winter 04.
 “Fall Invasion,” and “On Cherry-Pitting,” in *Poetry Jumps Off the Shelf*,
 December 04.
 “Old Pet,” in *Free Verse* 76, Fall 2004.
 “Bowed Heads in February,” in *Wisconsin Poets’ Calendar 2005*.
 “Resistance,” and “Economy,” in *Poetry Jumps Off the Shelf*, Summer 04.
 “*pocket shoe*,” in *Free Verse* 75, Summer 2004.
 “Celestial Science,” “Letter to Myself (re:metaphor),” and “American List,” in
Pivot #57, Summer 04.
 “Spring Cleaning,” in *Moon Journal*, Spring/Summer 04.
 “Engagement,” reprinted in *Museletter*, Spring 04.
 “An Old Woman’s Pants” and “On Cherry-Pitting,” reprinted in *Lake
 Wingra Morning*, Woodrow/Hall: 2003.
 “Domestic Sonnet #26” and “#63,” in *Sonnet Scroll* [On-line journal], Fall 03.
 “Fall Science,” in *The Aureorean*, Fall 03.
 “Unseasonable Skating,” in *Wisconsin Poets’ Calendar 2003*.
 “Assumption,” in *Museletter*, Fall 02.

“On Cherry-Pitting,” in *Museletter*, Summer 02.
“Engagement,” “Another Letter (Re Metaphor),” and “The Juggler,” in
New Orphic Review, Spring 00.
“An Old Woman’s Pants,” in *Portland Literary Review Journal*, Winter
99.

**Interviews of
Wendy Vardaman**

Wisconsin People & Ideas, 5Q {Cowfeather Press}, [with Sarah Busse]
Poemeleon: The Blog, The Habitual Poet #40 (Dec 2010)
Thanal Online, Jan 2009. [by Farrideh Hassanzadeh-Mostafavi]

**Interviews by
Wendy Vardaman**

Brenda Cárdenas, in *Verse Wisconsin*, March 2012
Kimberly Blaeser, in *Verse Wisconsin*, November 2011
Marilyn L. Taylor, in *Verse Wisconsin*, 105 (March 2011)
John Koethe, in *Verse Wisconsin*, 104 (Fall 2010) reprinted on *Poetry
Daily*, Weekly Prose Feature March 2011. Excerpt reprinted at Poets.org
Martín Espada, in *Verse Wisconsin*, 103 (Summer 2010). Excerpt reprinted at
Poets.org
Matthea Harvey, in *Verse Wisconsin*, 102 (Spring 2010), reprinted on *Poetry
Daily*, Weekly Prose Feature July 2010. Excerpt reprinted at Poets.org.
Todd Boss, in *Verse Wisconsin*, 101 (Winter 2010)
Farrideh Hassanzadeh-Mostafavi, in *Eclectica* Jan 2009, and *Thanal Online* July
2009 [reprint]
Robin Chapman, in *Free Verse* 89, 2007
Marilyn Taylor, in *Free Verse* 84, 2006
Ron Wallace, in *Free Verse* 81, 2005

**Review-
Essays &
Other Lit Crit**

“Poetic Justice,” in *Verse Wisconsin*, 106 (Summer 2011)
“Tradition & the Individual Sonnet, or *Listen! Iambic Verse Has Variation in
Verse Wisconsin*, 105 (March 2011)
“god-xings: belief intersects Wisconsin poetry” in *Verse Wisconsin*, 104 (Fall
2010)
[reviews of Kay Ryan, *The Best of It*, and Maxine Kumin, *Where I Live*] in
Women’s Review of Books, September-October 2010
[review of John Koethe’s *Ninety-fifth Street* and Edward Hirsch’s *Living Fire*] in
Verse Wisconsin, 104 (Fall 2010)
*bending the retina’s mirror to the world’s beat: new books by younger Wisconsin
poets* [reviews of books by Brenda Cárdenas, Brent Goodman, Nick
Lantz, John Murillo, Matthew Schumacher, Angela Sorby & Bianca
Spriggs] in *Verse Wisconsin*, 103 (Summer 2010)
Defamiliarize Yourself: The Halo Rule by Teresa Leo; *Sister* By Nickole
Brown; *Ordinary Beans* By Gwyn McVay; *Bonneville* By Jenny
Mueller; *The Gravity Soundtrack* By Erin Keane, in *Women’s Review of
Books*, Jan-Feb 2009; reprinted in *Poetry Daily*, Weekly Prose Feature,
3-17-09

History and More [reviews of Martha Collins' *Blue Front*, Leslie Adreienne Miller's *Resurrection Trade*, Penelope Scambly Schott's *A is for Anne*, Alaina Hairston's *Logan Topographies*] in *Women's Review of Books*, April-May, 2008

Poetry Reviews

Black Nature, ed. by Camille Dungy, in *Verse Wisconsin* 107, 2011.
For a Limited Time Only, by Ron Wallace, in *Free Verse* 99/100, 2009.
Scholarship Girl, by Lesley Wheeler, in *Rattle*, Sept 2008.
Constellation of the Dragonfly, by F.J. Bergmann, in *Free Verse*, 97/98, 2008.
Modern Life, by Matthea Harvey, in *Rain Taxi Review*, May 08 [online]
Blue-Lace Collander, by Timothy Walsh, in *Free Verse*, 96, 2008.
Gilgamesh at the Bellagio, by Karl Elder, in *Free Verse*, 96, 2008.
Kamikaze Connection, by Cathryn Cofell, in *Free Verse*, 95, 2008.
Milwaukee Does Strange Things to People, by Susan Firer, in *Free Verse*, 96, 2008.
Short Story and Other Short Stories, by Cory Mesler, reprinted in *Poemeleon*, December 07
Golgonooza, by R. Virgil Ellis, in *Free Verse*, 95, 2008.
Pressing a Life Together by Hand, by Estella Lauter, in *Free Verse*, 94, 2007.
Near Occasions of Sin, by Louis McKee, in *Free Verse* 92, 2007.
What the Postcard Didn't Say, by Shoshauna Shy, in *Wisconsin People & Ideas*, Summer 2007.
The Story of Andro (CD), by Ron Ellis & the Chamber Rock Ensemble in *Free Verse* 91, 2007.
Aqua-Regia, by F.J. Bergmann, in *Free Verse* 91, 2007.
Waking Before Dawn, by Thomas R. Smith, in *Free Verse* 91, 2007.
Stilt Man, by Douglas Flaherty, in *Free Verse* 91, 2007.
The Ties that Bind, by Kathleen Dale, in *Free Verse* 90, 2007.
The American Wives Club, by Patricia Brodie, in *Free Verse* 90, 2007.
Short Story and Other Short Stories, by Cory Mesler, in *Free Verse*, 89, 2007.
The Seven Very Liberal Arts, by Marilyn Taylor, in *Free Verse*, 89, 2007.
Considerations of Earth and Sky, by Temple Cone, in *Free Verse*, 89, 2007.
Sweet Curdle, by Cathryn Cofell, in *Free Verse*, 89, 2007.
Mead and The Minimalist's How-To Handbook, by Karl Elder in *Free Verse* 85, 2006.
Myopic Nerve, by Joan Wiese Johannes, in *Free Verse* 82, 2005.
Long for this World, by Ron Wallace, in *Free Verse* 81, 2005.
Catch and Release and Virgins on the Rocks, by Karla Huston, in *Free Verse* 80, 2005.
Wild Horses on Sale for a Song, by Shoshauna Shy, in *Free Verse*, in *Free Verse* 80, 2005.
A Butterfly Sleeps on the Temple Bell, by Don Olsen, in *Free Verse* 78, 2005.
Wild Apples, by Timothy Walsh, in *Free Verse* 77, 2004.
Sauce Robert, by F.J. Bergmann, in *Free Verse* 77, 2004.

Other Articles/ Essays

"The Essay That I Begin Writing While Walking to the Wisconsin Capitol

Trying to Discern the Right Question, 2/24/11, in *Verse Wisconsin, Main Street* (2011)
“New Titles by Marsh River Editions,” in *Wisconsin People & Ideas*,
September 2008

Awards/ Honors

2011 At-large Pushcart Nomination (2)
2010 At-large Pushcart Nomination
2010 Best of the Net Nomination for “Bill Mathews” [with Greer DuBois]
2009 *Madison Magazine*, “People of the Year”
2009 Judge, *Presence* Contest
2008 Pushcart Nomination for “Roosters & Hens”
2008 *Presence* Award, Honorable Mention
2007 Judge, *Free Verse* contests 88 & 93
2006 Pushcart Nomination for “Interview with Marilyn Taylor”
2006 Pushcart Nomination for “Sinking the Cat”
2006 Judge, Ekphrastic Poetry Contest, *Rosebud*
2005 Pushcart Nomination for “Interview with Ron Wallace”
2004 Lorine Niedecker Award, Honorable Mention, Council for Wisconsin
Writers
2003 Best New Poet, 1st Place, Wisconsin Fellowships of Poets
2003 Muse Prize, Honorable Mention, Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets

Presentations / Conferences

November 2011, with Sarah Busse & Bruce Dethlefsen, Cowfeather Press
Launch of *Unexpected Shiny Things*, by Bruce Dethlefsen
Oct 2011, Wisconsin Book Festival, moderator with Sarah Busse, panel on
Wisconsin Protest Poems
Oct 2011, Lorine Niedecker Poetry Festival, Fort Atkinson, moderator with
Sarah Busse, Nature of Wisconsin Poetry
April 2011, Lit Fest, UW-Madison, Pub Me Fair
June 2010, “Publishing in the e-text era,” Panel, Southeastern Wisconsin Book
Festival, Waukesha
March 2010, Convener, Publisher’s Conversation, Edenfred, Madison
March 2010, Convener, *Verse Wisconsin* Launch Reading, Avol’s, Madison
November 2009, WFOP Fall Conference, with Sarah Busse: “The New *Free
Verse*”
October 2009, Wisconsin Book Festival, Madison, host with Sarah Busse,
Publisher’s Roundtable
October 2009, Lorine Niedecker Poetry Festival, Fort Atkinson, host with Sarah
Busse, Publisher’s Roundtable

Recent Readings

February 2012, WFOP Winter Reading Series, Madison
February 2012, South Madison Library
September 2011, 100,000 Poets For Change, Madison
June 2011, Olbrich Gardens Reading, Madison

May 2011, Foot of the Lake/Windhover Center, Fond du Lac, Featured Reader
April 2011, Boswell Book Co, Milwaukee, Featured Reader
April 2011, WORT Radio, Radio Lit, Madison, Guest to talk about sonnets
March 2011, Crosshatxh Series, Madison, Featured Reader
January 2011, WORT Radio, Radio Lit, Madison, Guest Reader
September 2010, Wisconsin Book Festival, Madison, Featured Reader &
Convener
April 2010, Oakhill Prison, Guest writer
April 2010, Guest writer & reader, Ripon College
March 2010, Guest writer, 6th grade class, Fond du Lac
March 2010, Featured Reader, Red-Letter Series, Woodland Pattern, Milwaukee
March 2010, Featured Reader, Village Booksmith, Baraboo
February 2010, Participant, Museum of Contemporary Art, Madison
February 2010, Reader, WFOP Winter Series, Avol's Bookstore, Madison
September 2009, Featured Reader, Avol's Bookstore, Madison
September 2009, Featured Reader, Harmony Café-Fox Valley, Appleton
August 2009, Featured Reader, A Room of One's Own Bookstore, Madison
August 2009, Featured Reader, Folk-on-State, Madison
June 2009, Olbrich Gardens WFOP Invitational Marathon
February 2009, WFOP Winter Series Avol's Bookstore, Madison
June 2008, Olbrich Gardens WFOP Invitational Marathon
April 2008, Wom-po in Wisconsin, *Letters to the World*
March 2008, WFOP Winter Series Avol's Bookstore, Madison
August 2007, Barnes & Noble, WFOP Monthly Reading
June 2007, Olbrich Gardens WFOP Invitational Marathon
February 2007, WFOP Winter Reading Series Avol's Bookstore, Madison

Affiliations Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets, Council for Wisconsin Writers, Association of Writers & Writing Programs