



North Carolina College Media Association

Dr. Justin Cook, Assistant Professor of English and Director of the Writing Center, has been a faculty member at High Point University since 2021, and his research interests include digital rhetorics/cultures, public and professional writing, technical writing and writing program administration. His publications have focused on these topics as well as issues of rhetorical agency for multiply-marginalized bodies and persuasive writing as a life skill.

Janis Dougherty began exploring the intersection of science and art as an undergraduate at the University of Delaware where she majored in Biology with a minor in Studio Art. She continued this path with her graduate studies by pursuing an MFA in Medical Illustration at Rochester Institute of Technology. Since completing her graduate students nearly 20 years ago, Janis has illustrated numerous medical and nursing textbooks, children's books and has had illustrations published in medical journals such as *PM&R Journal* for physical therapy. Her commercial work has been showcased nationally through clients such as Krispy Kreme and Fleet Feet and internationally with her poster work for the musical *Nunsense*. Janis's personal work merges illustration and graphic design with storytelling.

Janis has been a faculty member of High Point University for 13 years and has taught every major course in the graphic design curriculum. Prior to teaching, Janis had a full time career as an illustrator and graphic designer.

Michael Flatt is the author of *I Can Focus If I Try* (Knife Fork Book, 2023), *Absent Receiver* (Spring-Gun Press, 2013), and with Derrick Mund, *Chlorosis* (The Operating System, 2018). His poetry has recently appeared in *Seneca Review*, *Cleveland Review of Books* and *Denver Quarterly*, and his critical work has been published by *Annulet Poetics*, *Configurations*, *Polygraph* and *Samuel Beckett Today/Aujourd'hui*. He is the founder of Low Frequency Press, which publishes book-like objects of marginal aesthetics, and Threadsuns, a teaching press at High Point University where he is an assistant professor of English.

Michael Hewlett serves as the criminal justice reporter for The Assembly. Previously, he worked at the Winston-Salem Journal for over 20 years, and as a general assignment reporter at the News and Record in Greensboro.

His work has been featured in various publications, including The Irish Sun, The Assembly, The McDowell News, The Free Lance-Star, Journal Media, Greensboro News & Record, Irish Examiner and The Roanoke Times.

His earned his BA in journalism at Washington and Lee University.

Jessica Higgins is an Instructor of English at High Point University. She has been teaching college-level English for 23 years and teaches a wide variety of courses, including "Rhetoric of Podcasts." Jessica lives in Winston-Salem, and her favorite podcasts include anything true crime.

For two decades, **Cinde Ingram** was an award-winning reporter, columnist and editor for three daily newspapers (The High Point Enterprise, News & Record and The Thomasville Times). Her experience covering the High Point Market led her to join trade magazines Home Accents Today as business editor and Casual Living as managing editor. She won a national reporting award in 2012 from the American Home Furnishings Alliance. After a seven-year stint as editor-in-chief of Casual Living, she returned to The High Point Enterprise to write features and cover education, nonprofits and government. She now works as a writer and editor at High Point University, where she writes news releases and magazine stories.

Autumn Karen is a filmmaker, journalist, ghostwriter and educator who uses writing to elevate traditionally unheard stories. She's English faculty at High Point University, an Honors Fellow at UNC Greensboro and a longtime contributor to local independent paper Triad City Beat. Her award-winning work as a journalist, author and screenwriter centers on themes such as systematic oppression, grief and complex societal relationships.

MaryEllen Martino is a Visiting English Instructor at High Point University with an MFA in fiction from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and a BA in creative writing from Hamilton College. Her professional career includes teaching, tutoring and copy editing, among other endeavors. She lives in Trinity with her husband, three young daughters and a dog named Charlie.

Timothy O’Keefe is the author of *You Are the Phenomenology*, winner of the 2017 Juniper Prize for Poetry, and *The Goodbye Town*, winner of the 2010 FIELD Poetry Prize. His poems and lyric essays have appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Best American Essays*, *Boston Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Massachusetts Review*, *VOLT* and elsewhere. He serves as Senior Editor for *Seneca Review* and teaches writing and literature at High Point University.

Jacob Paul is the author of *Last Tower to Heaven* (C&R, 2019) and two previous novels, *A Song of Ilan* (Jaded Ibis, 2015) and *Sarah/Sara* (Ig, 2010). His collaborations have led to the fine art books, *Home for an Hour* (Otherwise, 2014) and *Feed Mayonnaise to Tuna* (Otherwise, 2016). He teaches creative writing at High Point University. More at www.jacobgpaul.com/bio.

Jeri Rowe is a newsroom ex-pat. He spent nearly 30 years in daily journalism in four states. For nearly a quarter century, he worked as a reporter, editor, and columnist at the News & Record in Greensboro. During that time, he won more than two dozen local, state and national writing awards. He now works as the senior writer for High Point University. He has spent nearly a decade at HPU telling stories in pixels and print, helping lead projects both big and small, and writing and editing everything from books to video scripts.

Melissa Richard is an instructor of English at High Point University and one of the co-planners for the North Carolina College Media Conference. She earned her PhD at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. Her research interests include Victorian literature and culture, and women and gender studies.

Julia Ridley Smith is the author of *The Sum of Trifles*, a memoir in essays, and *Sex Romp Gone Wrong*, a short story collection (forthcoming). Her short stories and essays have appeared in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Ecotone*, *Electric Literature*, *the New England Review* and *The Southern Review*, among other publications, and her nonfiction was recognized as notable in *The Best American Essays 2019*. She’s been awarded scholarships, fellowships, and residencies by the Sewanee Writers’ Conference, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, the Millay Colony, the Cuttyhunk Island Residency, and the Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities.

Andrea Spencer specializes in cause marketing at Tigermoth Creative, crafting messaging and authentic storytelling to help her clients build a sense of connection with audiences. Before founding Tigermoth, she wrote speeches and campaign content for UNCG while pursuing fiction. Her novel, “The Promise of Water,” earned The Caledonia Novel Award, and her short stories are featured in *Chautauqua* and *Cumberland River Review*. Andrea holds a BA in English Literature from High Point University and an MFA in Fiction from Southern New Hampshire University.

Benita VanWinkle is an Associate Art Professor at High Point University, in High Point, NC. She is a photojournalist and fine art documentary photographer who has traveled across the US and Europe for over 40 years photographing vintage movie theaters built before 1965, and is completing a volume of photographs of the theaters to be released by early 2025. Her website is: www.busybstudio.com.

Gerald Ward is the Media & Digital Services Librarian at High Point University. Gerald is also an experienced book and paper conservator and spent nearly 20 years managing large regional conservation labs dedicated to the preservation of rare books and historical records prior to his role at HPU.