



**Brooks Landon**

## **VITA**

(February 2015)

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### **Education:**

BA, Centre College of Kentucky, 1970    Military Service: US Army, 1970-72  
MA, University of Texas at Austin, 1973  
PhD, University of Texas at Austin, 1978

### **Honors:**

Fall 2014 Appointed Literary Executor, Estate of Thomas Berger  
2013 University of Iowa Honors program Honors Thesis Advisor Mentor Award  
Faculty Speaker, Honors Award Program, May 2013  
2011 Awarded Herman J. and Eileen S. Schmidt Endowed Professorship  
Faculty Commencement Speaker, Liberal Arts Commencement, December 2010  
2010 Appointed University College Miller Teaching Scholar  
2003 Collegiate Fellows Award (Reappointed 2008)  
2001 Alumnus Election to Phi Beta Kappa, Centre College  
2001 International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts (IAFA) Distinguished  
Scholarship Award  
1996 Recipient of the M. L. Huit Teaching Award.  
Faculty Commencement Speaker, Liberal Arts Commencement, December 1996

### **Teaching at Iowa:**

Appointed Assistant Professor, English Department, 25 Aug 78;  
Associate Professor, Spring 1984;  
Professor, Spring 1990

Courses taught in Contemporary American Fiction, Literature and Culture of Twentieth Century America, Modern Fiction, Postmodern Fiction, Hypermedia Fiction and Scholarship, Science Fiction, Science Fiction Film, Prose Style, Nonfiction Writing, Theory of Teaching Literature, Electronic Textuality, General Education Literature, Gen Ed Technologies and Literatures of the Future

**Recent Teaching (Number of students in parentheses):**

Spring 2015: 8N:102 Prose Style (CNW:3632) (19); 8:6 Technologies and Literatures of the Future (ENGL 1420) (30)  
 Fall 2014: 8:136 Topics in Popular Culture (57), 8:2 Postmodern Fiction (47), Honors First Year Seminar (20)  
 Spring 2014: 8:2 Postmodern Fiction (40), 8N:102 Prose Style (20)  
 Fall 2013: New Gen Ed Course, 8:6 Technologies and Literatures of the Future (45), 8:136 Topics in Popular Culture: Dead is the New Alive: The Zombie Metaphor in Literature, Film, and TV (55)  
 Spring 2013: 8:2 Postmodern Fiction (54), Senior College Course: The Imagination of Mars—in Science Fiction and in Science (25)  
 Fall 2012: 8:98 Honors Proseminar: Pillars of Postmodernism (17), 8:136 Topics in Popular Culture: Dead is the New Alive: The Zombie Metaphor in Popular Fiction, Film, TV, and Video Games (60); Colloquium: Teaching Literature (24).  
 Spring 2012: 8:2 Postmodern Fiction (54); 8N:102 Prose Style (18).  
 Fall 2011: 8:240 Readings in American Fiction: History and Theory of SF (13); 8G:1 Honors (taught as a voluntary overload-11) Interpretation of Literature  
 Spring 2011: 8:2 Postmodern Fiction (54); 8N:102 Prose Style (22)  
 Fall 2010: 8G:1 Honors Interpretation of Literature (22)  
 Spring 2010: 8:2 Postmodern Fiction (32), 8N:102 Prose Style (31)  
 Fall 2009: 8G:1 Honors Interpretation of Lit (for University Honors Program) (17)  
 Spring 2009: 8:2 Postmodern Fiction (54), 8N:102 Prose Style (25)  
 Fall 2008, 8G:1 Honors Interpretation of Lit (for University Honors Program) (15)  
 Spring 2008, 8:1 Modern Fiction (59), 8N:102 Prose Style (19)

Recent Dissertations directed: 13

Dissertations Successfully Defended in 2014: Rob Albanese, Robert Gillespie

Dissertation Successfully Defended in 2015: Cassandra Bausman (co-directed)

Dissertations Directed in 2014/15: Elizabeth Lundberg, Nicholas Kelly, Zachary King

Dissertations defended since 2010: Joshua Raulerson, Douglas Dowland, Wanda Raiford

Member of Numerous Dissertation and Comprehensive Examination Committees

Recent Honors Theses directed: 6 Theses in Progress: 2

While I am an active director of PhD dissertations and member of PhD dissertation and comprehensive exam committees, my primary classroom commitment is to undergraduate education.

**Departmental Service Related to Teaching:**

Director, Gen Ed Lit (Fall 2006—Fall 2013)

Associate Director, Nonfiction Writing Program 2013—  
 Interim Chair, Nonfiction Writing Assistant Professor Search Committee, Fall 2014  
 Director, Undergraduate Programs 1985-90  
 Director, MA/W Program 1980-1985

## Scholarship:

### Multimedia/Electronic Publications

“Thomas Berger: A Celebration.” *Los Angeles Review of Books*. July 25, 2014. <http://lareviewofbooks.org/essay/thomas-berger-celebration/>

“More Than A Box: The Hevelin Collection.” TUMBLR BLOG recording findings in the Hevelin Collection, Special Collections, UI Main Library. <http://brookslandon.tumblr.com>

*Building Great Sentences: Exploring the Writer’s Craft*. A 24 lecture series on DVD and CD for The Teaching Company. Released Summer, 2008. Nationally advertised in *NY Times*, *New Yorker*, *Harper’s*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *The Week*, *The Economist*, etc. Six minute preview online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Livbid8xgU>

Citation in *Interactions Magazine*: <http://mags.acm.org/interactions/20091112/?pg=74>

## Books

*Building Great Sentences: How to Write the Sentences You Love to Read*. Viking/Plume (2013)  
 Reviewed In *Washington Post*: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/books/holy-sht-melissa-mohr-yes-i-could-care-less-bill-walsh-building-great-sentences-brooks-landon/2013/07/09/89ff09d4-e2b8-11e2-ae3-339619eab080\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/books/holy-sht-melissa-mohr-yes-i-could-care-less-bill-walsh-building-great-sentences-brooks-landon/2013/07/09/89ff09d4-e2b8-11e2-ae3-339619eab080_story.html)

One hour Interview about *Building Great Sentences*, NPR Station KERA, Kris Boyd’s “Think” radio program, Dallas, TX, July 18, 2013.  
 Podcast at: <http://www.kera.org/2013/07/18/pieces-of-writing/>

*Understanding Thomas Berger*. University of South Carolina Press, Understanding Contemporary American Literature Series, Matthew J. Bruccoli, ed. (May 2010).

## Book Chapters and Published Articles

“‘For the Snark was a Boojum, you see’: Constructions of Extrapolation and Speculation in Science Fiction,” *Oxford Handbook of Science Fiction*, ed. Rob Latham (2014) pp. 23-34 (This is the lead essay in the *Oxford Handbook*) It is the closest thing there is to a succinct statement of my understanding of the protocols of science fiction.

“Science Fiction Tourism,” *Routledge Companion to Science Fiction*, eds. Mark Bould and Sheryl Vint. (January 2009)

“Computers in Science Fiction,” *Reading Science Fiction*, eds. James Gunn and Marleen Barr. Palgrave, October 2008, 85-95.

“That Light at the End of the Tunnel: The Plurality of Singularity.” *Science Fiction Studies*. March 2012 (March, 2011 *Science Fiction Studies Symposium*) Delivered as one of three keynote papers, February 10, 2011 at UC, Riverside.

“Slipstream Then, Slipstream Now: The Curious Connections between William Douglas O’Connor’s ‘The Brazen Android’ and Michael Cunningham’s *Specimen Days*.” *Science Fiction Studies*. Special Issue on Slipstream, #113 Volume 38, Part 1 March 2011, 67-91.

## Review Essays

“Reading the Red Planet: Crossley’s *Imagining Mars* and Hendrix/Slusser/Rabkin’s *Visions of Mars*.” *Science Fiction Studies*. #117 = Volume 39, Part 2 (July 2012), 313-326

*What I Didn’t See and Other Stories*. Karen Joy Fowler. Easthampton, MA. Small Beer Press. For Online Magazine: *LA Review of Books*. <http://lareviewofbooks.org/post/9539411003/grand-undertakings> 29 August 2011

## Review

“Telotte’s Science Fiction.” *Science Fiction Studies*. # 125=Volume 42, Part 1= March 2015, 187-191.

## Invited Presentations Related to Teaching

“Sentences Always Feel Like Problems That Need Solving.” Two Hour Presentation to the College Board Corporate Systems Meeting. June 3, 2014, Coralville, IA.

Humanities Iowa Presentation and Workshop on *Building Great Sentences*. Washington, Iowa Public Library. October 1, 2013.

Invited Panelist: **October 22**. University Capitol Center: Room 1117. [Panel Discussion on Open Access and Scholarly Publishing](#).

Invited Speaker. Science Fiction and Technology Symposium. “Teaching Science Fiction,” UC Riverside. 18 May 2012

Invited Speaker. 2011 Sinclair Lewis Literary Conference, Sauk City, Minnesota, October 8, 2011. One of four speakers, including MacArthur Fellowship Winning writer Patricia Hampl. Information at: <http://www.saukherald.com/ftp/writers/presenters.html>. My presentation offered a very condensed overview of my approach to teaching sentence syntax

Invited Speaker. “Building Great Sentences.” English and Creative Writing Department. Colby College, March 2011

