**Laura Cottam Sajbel**

**Professional Positions**

Adjunct Faculty, St. Edward’s University 2015-present

Teach Rhetoric & Composition courses to develop and practice writing styles appropriate to university level.

Writing Instructor, Life Stories as Heirlooms 2015-present

Teach participants to write their life experiences as a gift to posterity. Classes help students identify memories to preserve, develop a narrative arc, engage readers with details and voice, and select publication options. Taught on location at City of Austin, Westminster, Seton Cove.

CEO, Red Wheelbarrow Press, Inc. 1997-present

Founded small publishing house. Oversaw editing, layout, publication, distribution, as well as business side of copyright and trademark issues, accounting, and marketing. RWP has become an outlet for smaller projects, including handmade chapbooks of poetry, an heirloom cookbook, a trade paperback and an affiliated ebook.

Coordinator, Young Writers’ Workshop, Travis Heights Elem, 2006-2012

Coordinated annual event pairing 17-20 writers with students in third through fifth grade in small, hands-on writing workshops to demonstrate real-world uses of writing. Recruited and organized local reporters, professors, cartoonists, songwriters, authors, poets, editors.

Associate Editor, Holt Rinehart & Winston 1995-1997

Wrote literary analysis and classroom activities related to vocabulary, reading, and other literary elements for the annotated teachers’ editions of textbook series *Elements of Literature*. Wrote and edited reading and vocabulary activities for the pupil’s edition (seven grade levels) and ancillary materials for the textbook series *Elements of Writing*.

English Instructor, Austin Community College 1995

Taught Introduction to Literature, American Literature, and Composition.

Lecturer, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, 1993-1994

Taught College Composition, Introduction to Poetry. Judged poetry for annual LMU undergraduate writing contest. Presented master’s thesis to Focus LA, a faculty forum devoted to promotion of ethnic diversity.

English Instructor, El Camino College, Torrance CA 1992-1994

Taught Developmental English A & B, freshman composition, creative writing, and critical thinking. Tutored in the Writing Center, assisting students one-on-one with essay structure. Participated in development and promotion of Writing Center.

Technical writer, Lomas Information Systems, Dallas Tx 1989-1990

Writer/editor of two newsletters that won Society of Technical Communicator awards.

PR Assistant, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Wash DC 1988-1989

Funded by grants from AT&T and National Geographic. Wrote press releases and brochures, coordinated press events.

Education

Master of Professional Writing, 1992 Bachelor of Arts with Honors, 1986

University of Southern California The University of Texas at Austin

Professional Writing Program Plan II Liberal Arts Honors

Current Professional Associations

Writers’ League of Texas Agents & Editors Conference: Panelist and Moderator, 2014 and 2015

National StoryCircle Conference: Workshop Presenter, April 2014

Writers’ League of Texas, preliminary judge for Violet Crown Awards, 2008,

and Judge for WLT Manuscript Contest, 2010, 2011, 2015

Biographers International Organization, active member

Writers’ League of Texas, active member

Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, active member

Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference, July 2011

AWP conference, Spring 2010

Distinguished Accomplishments

Finalist in Nonfiction Manuscript, Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference, July 2011

First runner-up for Native American Prose Contest, University of Nebraska Press, 1996

Grand-prize fiction winner awarded by the *Easy Reader*, 1992

Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society’s Student Recognition Award for Outstanding

Artistic and Scholarly Works, USC, for *Marigolds on the Median*, 1992

American Indian Graduate Center Scholarship, 1992

Society of Technical Communicators Awards, 1990

SERVICE

Student Health Advisory Council, Austin ISD, 2013-2015

Austin ISD Instructional Materials Adoption Committee, 2013-2014

Coordinator of Young Writers’ Workshop, Travis Heights Elementary 2006-2012

Publicity Chair, Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, Austin, 2010-2011

USC Presidential Committee on Undergraduate Admissions & Financial Aid, 1991-92

USC Presidential Committee on Minority Student Recruitment & Retention 1990-92

Published work

*Pow Wows & Potlucks: Finding an American Indian Community in Los Angeles*, 2015

“Central Texas Midwinter,” *Texas Poetry Calendar,* 2015

*Buoyant: How Water and Willpower Helped Wella to Channel Aaron & Hayley Peirsol*, 2013

“Tamaladas y Tradicíon,” *Edible Austin*, December 2012

“Kick the Can,” *Texas Poetry Calendar* (and BookPeople reading) 2011

“The Royal Road to Manners,” *Family Fun Magazine*, October 2010

“Triage,” *Sustaining Abundant Life*, Women at the Well Project, 2009

“Dia de los Seashells,” *Round Top Poetry Anthology*, May 2008

“A Plea to Parents: Give Public School a Chance,” *Austin American-Statesman*, 2005

*Potiça, Palacinke and Pueblo Peppers*, Red Wheelbarrow Press, Inc., 2001

“Time Alone Together,” *Easy Reader* (Grand Prize Fiction), August 1992

“Spider Called Violin,” *New Voices*, June 1991

“Briar Wisdom,” *New Voices*, June 1991

Various freelance articles for *CitySearch.com*, *Cliff’s Notes*, *Installation News*, *On Line*, *MLS Newsletter*, *Continental*, *3rd Coast Magazine*

Editing credits for *Elements of Literature* and *Elements of Writing* (Holt Rinehart & Winston) 1996-97, *Collective Vision: Starting and Sustaining a Children’s Museum*; *Behind the Lines*; *The Quorum Report*