

Silas House
www.silashouse.org

Education

Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters, Transylvania University,
forthcoming September 2016
Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters, Frontier Nursing University, October 2015
Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond,
Kentucky, 2013
MFA in Creative Writing, Spalding University, Louisville, Kentucky, 2003
Thesis: *The Coal Tattoo*: a novel
Mentors: Connie May Fowler, Brad Watson, Kirby Gann
Bachelor of Arts, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky, 1993

Research/Interests

Willa Cather
Thomas Hardy
Irish Literature
Sense of Place in Appalachian Literature
Social Justice Issues in American Literature
Dialect and Class Prejudice
Appalachian Literature on the Landscape of American Literature
Environmental literature of the 20th and 21st Century

Awards and Honors (Abbreviated)

Invited Reader, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, August 2015
Caritas Medal, Spalding University, 2015
Jean Ritchie Honorary Lecturer, University of Ireland, Galway, 2015
Finalist, New York State Charlotte Awards, *Same Sun Here*, 2014
Karen Willis Award for Excellence in Theatre for Social Justice, *This Is My Heart for You*, play, 2013
Official Selection, American Contemporary Theatre Festival, *This Is My Heart for You*, play, 2013
Official Selection, International Reading Association, *Same Sun Here*, 2013
Nautilus Award, *Same Sun Here*, 2013
E.B. White Honor Book, 2012, *Same Sun Here*, 2013
Official Selection, ALCS Notable Children's Recordings List, *Same Sun Here*, 2013
New York Public Library Selection, *Same Sun Here*, 2012
South Asian Book Association Honor Book, *Same Sun Here*, 2012
Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award, *Same Sun Here*, 2012
Audie Award (best narration), *Same Sun Here*, 2012
Stars So Far Club (awarded to books who receive an extraordinary amount of starred reviews), *Same Sun Here*, 2012

Awards and Honors (Abbreviated)

Evelyn Thurman Young Readers Prize, *Same Sun Here*, 2012
Bank Street College Best Book of the Year, *Same Sun Here*, 2012
Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, elected member, September 2012
Hobson Prize for Distinguished Achievement in Arts and Letters, Chowan University, 2012
Parents Choice Award, *Same Sun Here*, *Parents Choice Magazine*, 2012
Earphones Award, Best Audio Book, *Same Sun Here*, 2012
#1 American Booksellers Association Most Recommended Book, *Same Sun Here*, 2012
Okra Pick (Top Ten Best Book), Southern Independent Booksellers Association, 2012
Jesse Stuart Media Award, Kentucky Association of School Librarians, 2012
Lee Smith Award for Service to Appalachia, Lincoln Memorial University, 2011
Ally Award, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, 2011
Kentucky's Favorite Writer Award, *Kentucky Monthly*, 2011
#1 Bestseller, Southern Independent Booksellers Association, *Eli the Good*
Appalachian Writer of the Year, 2009, awarded by Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, West Virginia
Silas House Literary Festival, 2009, two-day symposium given in my honor, Emory and Henry College, Emory, Virginia
Storylines Prize for Excellence in Literature, 2009, awarded to *Eli the Good* by the NCV Foundation and the New York Public Library, New York City
Selected for a star on the Kentucky Walk of Fame, Lexington, Kentucky, 2009, awarded by the Kentucky Stars Program
Ally of the Year Award 2008, given by Kentuckians for the Commonwealth
Helen Lewis Award for Community Service, 2008, given by Appalachian Studies Association
Ally of the Year Award, 2007, given by Kentuckians for the Commonwealth for service in the fight for social justice in the state of Kentucky
Appalachian Book of the Year, 2005, awarded to *The Coal Tattoo* by the Appalachian Writers Association
Kentucky's Favorite Writer Award, 2005, *Kentucky Monthly*
Kentucky Novel of the Year, 2004, awarded to *The Coal Tattoo*
Finalist, Southern Book Critics Circle Prize, 2004, for *The Coal Tattoo*
The Chaffin Award for Excellence in Appalachian Writing, 2003, awarded by Morehead State University
Kentucky's Favorite Writer Award, 2003, *Kentucky Monthly*
James Still Award for Special Achievement in Writing About the Appalachian South, 2003, awarded by the Fellowship of Southern Writers
Finalist, Southern Book Critics Circle Prize, 2002, for *A Parchment of Leaves*
Kentucky Novel of the Year, 2003, awarded to *A Parchment of Leaves*
National Bestseller designation, 2003, *A Parchment of Leaves*
Foreword Magazine Book of the Year, Bronze Award, 2001, awarded to *Clay's Quilt*
New York Times Bestseller List, September 2001, *Clay's Quilt*

Work Experience

Berea College, August 2012-Present, NEH Chair in Appalachian Studies
Berea College, July 2011-Present, Interim Director, Loyal Jones Appalachian Center,
Associate Professor, and Director of Appalachian Studies
Berea College, August 2010-July 2011, NEH Chair in Appalachian Studies
Lincoln Memorial University, 2005-2010, Director, Appalachian Reading Series
2005-Present, Director, The Mountain Heritage Literary Festival
2005-Present, Faculty Advisor, *The Emancipator*
Spalding University MFA in Writing Program, Louisville, Kentucky, Fiction Faculty,
May 2005-Present
Fiction editor, *Still: The Journal*, October 2009-Present
Contributing editor, *No Depression*, August 2001-August 2008
Eastern Kentucky University, 2004-2005, Writer-in-Residence, assistant professor
Contributor, *All Things Considered*, NPR, 2001-2003
United States Postal Service-1996-2001

Teaching Experience

Associate Professor-Berea College, August 2010-Present
Creative Writing
Appalachian Literature
Issues in Contemporary Appalachia
Assistant Professor-Lincoln Memorial University, August 2005-July 2010
Fiction Writing
Appalachian Literature
American Literature
Fiction Faculty-Spalding University MFA in Creative Writing, January 2004-Present
Fiction Writing
Nonfiction Writing
Writing for Children
Assistant Professor-Eastern Kentucky University, August 2004-May 2005
Creative Writing
Appalachian Literature

Board Service

The Frederick Beuchner Institute at King College, National Advisory Board
The Hindman Settlement School, Board of Directors
Appalachian Voices, Board of Directors

Publications/Productions (Abbreviated)

- Little Fire*, novel, Algonquin Books, forthcoming Spring 2018
- Family of Strangers*, play, staged reading, Contemporary American Theatre Festival, July 2016
- “Rockhouse Bastard, 1935”, lyric essay, *Pikeville Review*, June 2016
- “The Road Back: Appalachia as Internal Colony,” scholarly essay, *The Journal of Appalachian Studies*, Spring 2016, Vol. 22, No. 1
- “She Moves Through the Fair,” lyric essay, *Kudzu*, May 2016
- “It Was Like an Overdose of Porn”, interview with Chris Offutt, *Salon*, 11 March 2016
- “Another Country,” short story, *Blackbird*, November 2015
- “The Sounds of Fargo”, feature, *Salon*, 23 November 2015
- “Deliver Me From *Deliverance*”, feature, *Salon*, 25 October 2015
- “The Forbidden Gods,” essay, *Walk Till the Dogs Get Mean: Meditations on the Forbidden*, Ohio University Press, edited by Karen McElmurray and Adrian Blevins, September 2015
- “The Growing Generational Divide,” essay, *The New York Times*, May 8, 2015
- “Their Secret Places in the Waiting World,” essay, *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, edited by Shaunna Scott, January 2015
- “Small Towns, Small Hearts” essay, *The New York Times*, October 22, 2014
- “Afterword”, essay, *Every Leaf A Mirror: The Jim Wayne Miller Reader*, University Press of Kentucky, edited by Morris Grubbs and Mary Ellen Miller, October 2014
- “The Indulgence of Pickled Baloney,” essay, *Best Food Writing 2014*, October 1, 2014, DaCapo Press, edited by Holly Hughes
- “I Am That Smudge,” essay, *The Courier-Journal*, July 30, 2014
- This is My Heart For You*, play, Berea College Press, July 30 2014
- “Beshear Lawsuit Embarrasses State,” editorial, *The Lexington Herald-Leader*, May 13, 2014
- “The Indulgence of Pickled Baloney,” essay, *Gravy*, April 28, 2014
- “Rebel Belle: Interview with Kacey Musgraves,” feature story, *Texas Music*, January 2014, with co-author Caroline Herring
- “The Knowing,” essay, *This I Believe*, edited by Dan and Mary Jo Gediman, Butler Books, October 2013
- “Tell Their Secrets”, essay, *The New York Times Sunday Review*, July 14, 2013
- “Total Immersion,” short story, *Appalachian Gateway: An Anthology of Contemporary Stories and Poetry*, The University of Tennessee Press, edited by George Brosi and Kate Egerton, March 2013
- “In My Own Country”, essay, *Talking Appalachian: Voice, Identity, and Community*, edited by Amy Clark and Nancy Hayward, University Press of Kentucky, March 2013
- “The Art of Being Still,” essay, *The New York Times Sunday Review*, December 2012
- “Singing the Stories Untold,” feature story, *Sojourners*, November 2012
- “Equinox,” short story, *Wind Magazine*, Issue 96, August 2012
- Same Sun Here*, with co-author Neela Vaswani, novel, Candlewick Books, February 2012
- This Is My Heart For You*, play, produced at Berea College, February 2012

Publications/Productions (Abbreviated, continued)

- Recruiters*, short story in limited edition book form, Larkspur Press, November 2011
- "Her Troublesome Boys," book review, *Now & Then*, Summer 2011, Vol. 27, No. 1
- "Live By the Golden Rule," editorial, *The Berea Citizen*, June 16, 2011
- Chinaberry*, edited by Silas House, written by James Still, The University Press of Kentucky, March 2011
- "My Polluted Kentucky Home," editorial, *The New York Times*, February 20, 2011
- "Drought," poem, *Now & Then*, Vol. 26, No. 2 (December 2010)
- "Double Creek Girl", poem, *The Southern Poetry Anthology Vol. 3*, edited by Graves, Ruffin, & Wright, Texas Review Press, December 2010
- "At the Opening of Coal Miner's Daughter", poem, *The Southern Poetry Anthology Vol. 3*, edited by Graves, Ruffin, & Wright, Texas Review Press, December 2010
- "Recruiters," short story, *Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Silas House Volume*, Shepherd University, Spring 2010
- Coal Country* (co-editor), nonfiction, Sierra Club Books, November 2009
- Eli the Good*, novel, Candlewick Books, September 2009
- "The God of Bird's Nests," essay, *We All Live Downstream*, Motes Books, 2009
- "Leslie County," song, *We All Live Downstream*, Motes Books, 2009
- Long Time Travelling*, play, produced at Lexington Actor's Guild, Lexington, Kentucky, April 2009
- "Appalachia In Her Hands," essay, *Appalachian Heritage*, Spring 2009
- "God's Key," poem, *Motif: Writing By Ear*, Motes Books, 2009
- "Sexton's Creek," song, *Motif: Writing By Ear*, Motes Books, 2009
- Something's Rising*, nonfiction, University Press of Kentucky, March 2009
- "The Dirt On Coal," essay, *Sierra*, January 2009
- "5 November 2008," poem, *Appalachian Heritage*, Winter 2009
- "At the Opening of *Coal Miner's Daughter*, Corbin, Kentucky, March 27, 1980," poem, *Appalachian Heritage*, Spring 2008
- "Don't Forget This Song," short story, *Smoky Mountain Living*, Fall 2008
- "Writing Stores," essay, *Kentucky Monthly*, November 2008
- "Three Fireballs, One Door, Seven Slams," short story, *Mountain Mysteries II: The Unexplained*, Ascended Idea Press, 2008
- "On God's Creek," essay, *The Louisville Review*, Fall 2008
- "Top Secret: Sierra Hull," feature, *No Depression (The Bookazine)*, The University of Texas Press, 2008
- The Hurting Part: Evolution of An American Play*, multidisciplinary work (play, short story, essay, interview), Motes Books, July 2008
- "I'm With the Band: Dan Tyminski," feature, *No Depression*, June 2008
- "Equinox," short story, *Wind Magazine*, Summer 2008
- Introduction, *The Well String*, by Noel Smith, Motes Books, March 2008
- "Morning Trees," poem, *Appalachian Heritage*, Summer 2007
- "Back In the Fold: Carlene Carter," feature, *No Depression*, April 2007
- "No Bible-Beating Allowed," essay, *Shouts and Whispers*, Eerdman's Publishing Company, 2007
- "Grandpa, Granny, and Hee Haw," essay, *No Depression* December 2006

Publications/Productions (Abbreviated, continued)

- “Dreams So Real: Darrell Scott,” feature, *No Depression*, August 2006
- “My Country Sister,” essay, *Appalachian Heritage*, Spring 2006
- Introduction, *The Life of Moses*, by Saint Gregory of Nyssa, HarperCollins Spiritual Classics, February 2006
- “The Tree The Acorn Fell From: Wayne Scott,” feature, *No Depression*, February 2006
- The Hurting Part*, play, produced at the University of Kentucky, December 2005
- “Happy Woman Blues: Lucinda Williams,” feature, *The Best of No Depression*, The University of Texas Press, 2005
- “A Place of Noble Trees,” essay, *Of Woods and Water*, University Press of Kentucky, 2005
- “It’s About the Music: Nickel Creek,” *No Depression*, October 2005
- Foreword, *Missing Mountains*, edited by Kristin Johannsen, Bobbie Ann Mason, and Mary Ann Taylor-Hall, Wind Publications, October 2005
- “Mule + Morning Glory,” short story, *The Southeast Review*, Fall 2005
- Introduction, *Earl Hamner, Jr.: Walton’s Mountain to Today*, by James E. Persons, Jr., Cumberland House, July 2005
- “How Fried Chicken Saved My Family,” essay, *Oxford American*, Spring 2005
- “Saints,” short story, *High Horse*, Fleur de Lis Press, 2005
- “Remembering Larry Brown,” essay, *No Depression*, February 2005
- “Coal Smoke,” short story, *New Stories From the South: The Year’s Best, 2004*, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, January 2005
- “Well I Hate to See Your Evening Sun Sinking Down: Buddy Miller,” feature, *No Depression*, October 2004
- The Coal Tattoo*, novel, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, September 2004
- “Family Traditions: Dirk Powell,” feature, *No Depression*, June 2004
- “The Cool of the Day,” short story, *The Alumni Grill*, MacAdam Cage Publishing, 2004
- “1976,” short story, *Beloit Fiction Journal*, Spring 2004
- “A Remembrance of Things Past: Grey DeLisle,” feature, *No Depression*, April 2004
- “A Day With Lee Smith,” feature, *Appalachian Heritage*, Winter 2003
- “The First Day,” short story, *All Things Considered*, NPR, September 2003
- “Total Immersion,” short story, *Night Train*, Fall 2003
- “The Cool of the Day,” short story, *Bayou*, Fall 2003
- “Not Just a Simple Southern Belle: Claire Holley,” feature, *No Depression*, August 2003.
- “Coal Smoke,” short story, *The Louisville Review*, Spring 2003
- “Gatlinburg,” short story, *Stories From the Blue Moon Café II*, MacAdam/Cage Publishers, 2003
- “Let the Good Times Roll: Delbert McClinton,” feature, *No Depression*, December 2002
- “Making Himself Heard,” feature, *Appalachian Heritage*, Fall 2002
- “The Last Days,” short story, *Stories From the Blue Moon Café*, MacAdam/Cage Publishers, 2002
- A Parchment of Leaves*, novel, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, August 2002
- “Nothing to Fear: Kelly Willis,” feature, *No Depression*, August 2002
- “The Third Man: Hank Williams III,” feature, *No Depression*, February 2002

Publications/Productions (Abbreviated, continued)

“The November Snake,” short story, *All Things Considered*, NPR, January 2002
“Music (The Revelator),” feature, *No Depression*, December 2001
“Summer Story,” short story, *All Things Considered*, NPR, August 2001
“Star Wars,” essay, *All Things Considered*, NPR, May 2001
Clay’s Quilt, novel, *Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill*, March 2001
“Canning,” short story, *Appalachian Heritage*, Fall 2000

Works in Progress

Leaving Harlan Alive, a screenplay co-written with Ashley Judd
Hard Country, a novel
Our Confederate Cousin, a play

Conferences/Presentations (major only)

Featured Writer, NEH Conference “From the Misty Mountains”, Shepherd University, July 2016
Keynote Speaker, TYCA-SE, Knoxville, February 2016
Barbara Kingsolver and Silas House: In Conversation, Berea College, November 2015
Commencement Speaker, Frontier Nursing University, October 2015
Special Reading, The Library of Congress Globe, August 2015
Jean Ritchie Honorary Lecturer, University of Ireland, Galway, March 2015
Keynote, Frontier Nursing Service Conference, Lexington, Kentucky, October 2014
Keynote, Appalachian Festival, Frostburg University, Frostburg, Maryland, September 2014
Faculty, Appalachian Writers Workshop, 2014
Commencement Speaker, Berea College, May 2014
Keynote, Appalachian Studies Association Conference, March 2014
Commencement Speaker, Eastern Kentucky University, May 2013
Faculty, Appalachian Writers Workshop, 2013
Convocation Speaker, Centre College, 2012
Faculty, Appalachian Writers Workshop, 2012
Presenter, Kentucky Library Association Conference, 2012
Keynote, Mildred Haun Literary Festival, Walters State College, 2012
Presenter, Southeastern Theatre Conference, 2012
Presenter, American Library Association Winter Conference, Dallas, TX, 2012
Presenter, American Booksellers Association Winter Institute, New Orleans, LA, 2012
Keynote, Clements Fine Arts Center, 2012
Visiting Writer, Bowling Green, Kentucky School System, 2012
Presenter, Appalachian Studies Association Conference, 2012
Convocation, Chowan University, 2012
Convocation, South Carolina University, 2012
Keynote, North Carolina Writers Network, 2011
Faculty, Appalachian Writers Workshop, 2011

Conferences/Presentations (major only, continued)

Presenter, Appalachian Voices Reunion Tour with Jason Howard, Ben Sollee, Daniel Martin Moore, and Jim James, Louisville, KY, December 2011
Keynote speaker, North Carolina Writers Network, Asheville, NC, December 2011
Featured speaker, Appalachian Studies Association Conference, Richmond, KY, March 2011
Keynote speaker, Southern Environmental Poverty Law Center, Charlottesville, VA, March 2011
Featured author, Bookfest, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, KY, May 2011
Faculty, Appalachian Writers Workshop, 2010
Keynote speaker, The Storylines Project, New York City, 2009
Faculty, Appalachian Writers Workshop, 2009
Keynote Speaker, Appalachian Heritage Festival, Shepherd University, 2009
Keynote Speaker, Sierra Club Cumberland Chapter Annual Meeting, 2009
Keynote Speaker, Catawba Valley Community College Freshman Book Program: *Clay's Quilt*, 2009
Breakfast Keynote Speaker, Southern Independent Booksellers Conference, Greenville, SC, 2009
Presenter, Book Expo America, New York City, 2009
Convocation, Berea College, 2009
Presenter, Appalachian Studies Association Conference, Portsmouth, Ohio, 2009
Presenter, American Library Association, Chicago, 2009
Keynote Speaker, Louisville Loves Mountains Festival, 2009
Convocation Keynote Speaker, Murray State University, 2008
Featured presenter, Southern Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference, Louisville, 2008
Keynote speaker, Freshman Commencement, Georgia College and State University, 2008
Keynote speaker, Normal/Bloomington, Illinois, A Tale for Two Cities Program: *The Coal Tattoo*, 2008
Special Presenter, Country Music Hall of Fame, Nashville, 2008
Faculty, Appalachian Writers Workshop, 2008
Guest Lecturer, Key West Literary Seminar, 2008
Keynote speaker, Appalachian Studies Association Conference, 2008
Keynote speaker, Jesse Stuart Lecture, Murray State University, 2008
Keynote speaker, Portsmouth, Ohio, One Book Program: *A Parchment of Leaves*, 2007
Keynote speaker, Campbell County, Kentucky One Book Program: *The Coal Tattoo*, 2007
Keynote speaker, Kentucky Philological Association Conference, 2007
Playwriting class leader, Appalachian Writers Workshop, Hindman Settlement School, 2007
Keynote speaker, Rochester Arts and Lectures, Rochester, NYC, 2007
Fiction class leader, Appalachian Writers Workshop, Hindman Settlement School, 2006

Conferences/Presentations (major only, continued)

Convocation Experience Lecturer, Georgia College, August 2006

Oswald Distinguished Writer, University of South Carolina at Aiken, February 2006

Keynote Speaker, Boone County, Kentucky One Book Program: *Clay's Quilt*, 2006.

Keynote speaker, Appalachian Writers Association Conference, 2005

Keynote speaker, Lexington, Kentucky, One Book/One Town Program: *Clay's Quilt*, 2005

Fiction class leader, Appalachian Writers Workshop, Hindman Settlement School, 2005

Keynote Speaker, Harrisburg, Illinois One Author/One City Program: *Collected Works*, 2005

Keynote Speaker, Eastern Kentucky University, Freshmen Book: *Clay's Quilt*, 2004

Presenter, Festival of Faith and Writing, Calvin College, 2004

Fiction class leader, Appalachian Writers Workshop, Hindman Settlement School, 2004

Featured presenter, North Carolina Book Festival, 2004

Keynote speaker, Western Kentucky University, One Campus/One Community/One Book Program: *A Parchment of Leaves*, 2004

Keynote speaker, Tennessee Mountain Writers, Oak Ridge, 2003

Featured speaker, Southern Voices Reading Series, Hoover, Alabama, 2003

Featured speaker, Appalachian Lecture Series, Maryville College, 2003

Fiction class leader, Appalachian Writers Workshop, Hindman Settlement School, 2003

Keynote speaker, Morehead, Kentucky, One Book/One Town Program: *Clay's Quilt*, 2003

Fiction class leader, Antioch Writers Workshop, 2003

Fiction class leader, Appalachian Writers Workshop, Hindman Settlement School, 2002