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Contributor Biographies

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CONTRIBUTOR BIOGRAPHIES

SHAUN CLARKSON has an MA in Literature from Texas State University-San Marcos and is currently between schools. His thesis, “You Know Nothing of My Work: Reading and Misreading Woody Allen and Philip Roth,” was passed with distinction, and he has presented his research on filmmakers, novelists, and poets at numerous conferences, including the American Literature Association Symposium and Conference, the Jewish American Holocaust Literature Symposium, and the Popular Culture and American Culture Joint Conference. He works as a verbal tutor at the Student Learning Assistance Center on the Texas State University campus and, in addition to his literary scholarship, has presented research on pedagogy and learning at education conferences. Currently he is reading, writing, revising, submitting, waiting for answers, and then starting the process all over again at the beginning. This is his first publication since his short poem, “I Have a Bug,” was published in his second grade newsletter.

DR. CHIP DAMERON is a professor of English at The University of Texas at Brownsville, where he specializes in creative writing and American literature. His fifth collection of poems, *Tropical Green*, was published by Wings Press (San Antonio) in 2005. More than a hundred of his poems have appeared in such literary magazines as *Mississippi Review*, *Taos Review*, and *Southwestern American Literature*.

DR. DIANA DOMINGUEZ is an associate professor of English at The University of Texas at Brownsville where she teaches primarily ancient to medieval literature and women’s literature. Her research interests include gender portrayal issues in medieval literature, popular culture, and children’s/YA literature, and since 2000, she has served as chair of the children’s and young adult literature area of the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture/American Culture Associations conference. She has presented and published both scholarly and creative work at various regional, national, and international conferences and print and online journals. Her book *Historical Residues in the Old Irish Legends of Queen Medb* was published in July 2010 by the [Edwin Mellen Press](#). Her poetry has appeared in *Eclectica* e-magazine, *Pens on Fire* online journal, *Toasted Cheese* online literary journal, the regional Rio Grande Valley, Texas, [poetry festival](#) journal *Boundless* in 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011, and in *Writing to Be Heard / Escúchame: Voices From the Chicho*, the 10th anniversary anthology of the Narciso Martinez Cultural Arts Center Writers’ Forum (San Benito, Texas), and three of her poems won [Writer’s Digest](#) awards in 2007.

ROBERTA BARKI has recently received her Master's degree from the University of Texas San Antonio. Her main area of research is the presence of colonial rhetoric and discourse in contemporary United States government policy and its representations in literature. She has presented on this work in various venues around the country, and hopes to continue this work in greater depth in the future.

ANDREW KEESE is an English literature PhD student at Texas Tech University focusing on later British English. He earned his master's degree in English in 2010 from the University of Texas at Brownsville. His master's thesis is titled *Politics of Pansies: D. H. Lawrence's Philosophical Vision of Reform*. He is also a past editor of the *Journal of South Texas English Studies*. He has presented at several conferences, including the national College English Association, the South Central Modern Language Association, the South Central Conference on Christianity in Literature, and a University of Texas at San Antonio graduate English symposium.

ALAN OAK, MA is a poet and essayist who has been recently published in *Boundless 2010*, *Boundless 2011*, *Extrapolation*, *Women Writers*, *Writers of the Rio Grande*, and *Hope, Change & Obama: A Collection of Essays on an Historic Election*. He co-edited a regional poetry anthology with Brenda Nettles Riojas, *Writing to Be Heard / Eschúchame: Voices From the Chicho*, which is slated to be released by June 2011. He is the senior editor in the Office of Marketing and Communication at The University of Texas at Brownsville. He also co-edited a regional poetry anthology with Brenda Nettles Riojas, *Writing to Be Heard / Eschúchame: Voices From the Chicho*, which is slated to be released by Otras Voces Publishing in June 2011.

MIMOSA SUMMERS STEPHENSON holds a Ph.D. in English (major Victorian literature) from Texas Technological College, which she attended with a National Defense Fellowship. After eight years at Hong Kong Baptist College and William Jewell College, she has taught thirty-six years at the University of Texas at Brownsville. From August 2000 to July 2001 she served as a Fulbright lecturer at Xiamen University in the People's Republic of China.

SEMIRA TAHERI was born in the United States but raised in Iran. She graduated from Shiraz University with a B.A in English Literature and an M.A from Sam Houston State University. She started her career as an ESOL instructor at Shiraz University Language Center and Lone Star College, Cy-Fair. Currently, she teaches Rhetoric and Composition at Lone Star College, Cy-Fair and University of Houston Downtown.