

L.J. SYSKO

ljsysko.com

Poet

Director of Executive Communications,
Delaware State University

ABRIDGED ARTIST VITAE

EDUCATION

New England College — MFA in Creative Writing (poetry). 2006

Lafayette College — BA in English. 1997

Summa Cum Laude; Phi Beta Kappa; Gilbert Prize in English; H. MacKnight Black Poetry Prize (judge: Gerald Stern), 1997; Jean Corrie Poetry Prize (judge: Academy of American Poets), 1996; Rexroth Prize in German, 1994.

The Lawrenceville School 1993

BOOK PUBLICATIONS (POETRY)

THE DAUGHTER OF MAN. Miller Williams Poetry Series. University of Arkansas Press.
April 2023.

BATTLEDORE. New Women's Voices Chapbook Series #131. Finishing Line Press. April 2017.

POEMS (JOURNALS & ANTHOLOGIES)

"The Yassification of Dolly Parton," LET ME SAY THIS: A DOLLY PARTON POETRY ANTHOLOGY. Madville Publishing. 2023.

"Landscape with Wisteria," *Mississippi Review*. Volume 47.4. Summer 2022.

"M.I.L.F.," Robinson Jeffers Tor House Foundation. (torhouse.org). 2022.

"What a Warrior Whispers" triptych, *Degenerate Art*. (thisdegenerate.art). Issue A. Summer 2022.

"Paula" and "Everything's Elegy," *Mom Egg Review*. (momeggreview.com). Volume 20. May 2022.

"Ball Game," "Relational Identity," and "Flying Fish," *Painted Bride Quarterly*. Issue 101. May 2022.

"Pockabook," *Missouri Review* "Poem of the Week." (missourireview.com). March 14, 2022.

"I'm addicted to meet-cutes.," *Limp Wrist*. (limpwristmagazine.com). #6: Barbie issue. March 2022.

"Kristallnacht," *Radar Poetry*. (radarpoetry.com). Issue 32. February 2022.
"Venus & Minerva in Quarantine" and "Fluorescent Mammals," *Moist Poetry Journal*.
(moistpoetryjournal.com). December 22 & 24, 2021.
"I'm undone," *SWWIM Every Day*. (swimm.org). December 6, 2021.
"Trees and paint aren't different," *SWWIM Every Day*. (swimm.org). May 7, 2021.
"She wants to be buried in a cocoon," *Stirring*. (stirringlit.com). April 1, 2021.
"Self-Portrait with Bubble Gum," *Voicemail Poems*. (voicemailpoems.org). Summer
2020.
"Fleet as Time" lyrics; musical composer Daniel Elder (youtube.com demo). February
2020.
"Barnegat Light," *The Pinch*. Issue 39.2. August 2019.

Additional publication credits: *Mom Egg Review* (momeggreview.com). 2016; *Day One*.
2014; Texas Poetry Calendar. 2014; BEST NEW POETS. University of Virginia Press.
2013; *Sweet: A Literary Confection* (sweetlit.com). 2013; *Terrain*. (terrain.org). 2012;
New York Quarterly. 2011, 2010; 5AM. 2010, 2009; *Ploughshares* (pshares.org). 2009.

HONORS

2023 Scotti Merrill Award for Poetry, runner-up. Key West Literary Seminar. Judge: Billy
Collins.
2023 Miller Williams Poetry Series, first finalist. University of Arkansas Press. Judge:
Patricia Smith.
2023 Pushcart Prize nominee.
2022 Frontier Poetry New Voices Poetry Contest, longlist.
2022 The Robinson Jeffers Tor House Prize for Poetry, honorable mention. Judge: Forrest
Gander.
2022 Mississippi Review Prize, poetry finalist.
2022 Missouri Review Jeffrey E. Smith Editors' Prize, poetry finalist.
2022 Virginia Center for Creative Arts, fellow. (Also 2021).
2022 Sandy Crimmins National Prize in Poetry, finalist.
2022 Thomas Lux Scholar, Palm Beach Poetry Festival, scholarship recipient.
2021 Copper Nickel Press, Jake Adam York Prize, finalist.
2021 Patricia Dobler Poetry Award, finalist.
2021 New Millennium Writing Awards 51, poetry honorable mention.
2021 Marsh Hawk Press Poetry Prize, finalist.
2021 Fish Publishing Poetry Prize, short list. Judge: Billy Collins. (Also 2020).
2019 The Bellingham Review Annie Dillard Award for Creative Nonfiction, finalist.
2019 The Fourth River Folio Contest, poetry finalist.
2019 The Pinch Literary Awards, poetry finalist.
2019 The Pinch Literary Awards, prose finalist.
2018 Soundings East Claire Keyes Poetry Prize, finalist.

2016 Zoetrope All-Story Short Fiction Contest, honorable mention. Judge: Anthony Marra.
2016 Finishing Line Press New Women's Voices Chapbook Competition, finalist.
2016 West Chester Poetry Conference, scholarship recipient.
2016 San Diego State University Writers' Conference Choice Award in middle grade fiction.
2013 Delaware Division of the Arts, opportunity grant recipient.
2011 Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Memorial Foundation, award recipient (Also 2009, 2004).
2010 Delaware Division of the Arts, Emerging Artist, fellow.

WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, & RESIDENCIES

Maya C. Popa generative workshops, online (poetry). 2023. Also 2022.
Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, residency (poetry). July 2022 and September-October 2021.
"Positively Negative: Developing Mystery in Poems Via Negative Capability," Palm Beach Poetry Festival, online. Workshop leader Diane Seuss (poetry). 2022.
Sunday Afternoon Poets Workshop, online. Workshop leader Kim Addonizio (poetry). 2021.
Pandemic Poets Workshop, online. Workshop leader Kim Addonizio (poetry). 2020.
Key West Writers Workshop in Key West, FL. Workshop leader Gregory Pardlo (poetry). 2019.
Delaware Seashore Writers' Retreat in Rehoboth Beach, DE. Workshop leader Sandra Beasley (poetry). 2018.
Rutgers University Council on Children's Literature's One-on-One Plus Conference in New Brunswick, NJ. Mentor Mallory Kass (prose). 2016.
West Chester University Poetry Conference in West Chester, PA. Workshop leader Mark Jarman (poetry). 2016.

Others: SDSU Writers' Conference in San Diego, CA (prose). 2016; Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Conferences, assorted locales (prose). 2010-2017; Queens University's "One Book, One Semester" in Charlotte, NC. Workshop leader Sean McDonald, editor, FSG (prose). 2013; "Writing Poems that Don't Fit" Workshop, online. Workshop leader Daisy Fried (poetry). 2012; The Nebraska Center for the Book Master Class in Lincoln, NE. Workshop leader Hilda Raz (poetry). 2010; Colrain Poetry Manuscript Conference in Greenfield, MA. Workshop leader Fred Marchant (poetry). 2009; Middlebury College Breadloaf Writers' Conference in Middlebury, VT. Workshop leader Dan Albergotti (poetry). 2008.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director of Executive Communications, Office of the President, Delaware State University in Dover, DE. 2021-present.

Upper School English teacher and English department chair, Tower Hill School in Wilmington, DE. 2008-2020.

Upper School English teacher, Wilmington Friends School in Wilmington, DE. 2004-2006.

Miscellaneous Work: Documentary television/film assistant producer, writer, production assistant, Teleduction in Wilmington, DE; Medical writer, Synchrogenix in Wilmington, DE. Bridal gown retail salesperson, Suky Rosan in Ardmore, PA; Analyst, Andersen Consulting in Philadelphia, PA.