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| John Copenhaver  **johncope@me.com ·** [**www.jcopenhaver.com**](http://www.jcopenhaver.com)  [**www.johncopenhaverteacher.com**](http://www.johncopenhaverteacher.com) |
| Award-winning author, department chair, and seasoned educator with sixteen years of experience. Committed to creating a student-centered, inquiry-based educational environment focused on inspiring creativity and fostering a passion for intellectual exploration. |

# Skills

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| * Leading fiction writing workshops with a focus on the novel, historical research, genre fiction, world-building, and LGBTQ+ issues * Teaching film criticism and adaptation with a focus on films noir and the Golden Age of cinema * Promoting DEI initiatives in coursework and extracurricular activities * Designing curricula with an ethics-based framework to address character-building * Crafting inquiry-based, student-centered literature curricula | * Organizing events to promote writing and literature, including readings, visiting writer talks, and publishing industry panels * Connecting local and national writing communities with students * Supervising curricular initiatives and cultivating a growth mindset among colleagues * Integrating tech to enhance instruction and supporting other teachers with tech innovations |

# Experience

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| 2022 – CurrentFaculty Mentor, UniVersity of Nebraska LOW Residency MFA  * Lecturing, leading workshops, and mentoring graduate students in fiction.  2021 – CurrentADJUNCT Instructor, Virginia Commonwealth University  * Teaching “Advanced Fiction Writing,” ENGL 437, “Queer Literature: “Transgression and Freedom in Queer Literature,” ENGL/GSWS 354. Taught “Writing Fiction,” ENGL 307.  2021 – 2022English Teacher, The New Community School  * Taught English and Film Study to high school juniors with dyslexia and related learning differences. Advising LGBTQ+ affinity group.  2011 – 2020\*7-12 English Department Chair, Flint Hill School  * Established the 7-12 grade creative writing elective program and taught short fiction, poetry, and novel writing workshops. Launched an inquiry-based self-directed literature course for upper-level students. * Proposed and taught upper-level semester seminar courses on a wide range of topics, including film, ethics, short fiction, contemporary fiction, media literacy, and creative nonfiction. In addition, revised and implemented the sophomore honors curriculum. * Advocated for a more diverse and inclusive curriculum and guided teachers in reflecting on equity in their lesson planning and classrooms. * Guided the vertical alignment of the 7-12 grade English curriculum, shifting the traditional 10th-11th grade survey courses to flexible, theme-based models. * Assisted in hiring and training ten new teachers, observed long-time colleagues, offered constructive feedback to peers, and targeted and coordinated PD needs. * Organized extracurricular activities, such as an annual visiting writers colloquium, writing contests, Poetry Out Loud, and a schoolwide Reading Culture initiative. * Guided the integration of interactive web-based vocabulary and grammar tools (Membean and NoRedInk) and developed a web-based student portfolio system.   \**Took leave of absence to attend writing residencies during the 2014-2015 academic year.* |
| 2006 – 2011English Teacher, Flint Hill School  * Taught junior-senior seminars, honors and regular sophomore English, and creative writing. Designed a custom textbook for honors sophomores. Supported academic growth and character development through the advisory system. Advised student newspaper. |
| May 2005 – September 2005Intern in Literature, National Endowment for the Arts  * Assisted in organizing literature grant panels and in processing grant applications.  2002 – 2005Editor, Phoebe: A Journal of Literature and Art  * Assistant Editor, 2002-04; Managing Editor, 2004-05 |
| 1998 – 2001English Teacher, Moravian Academy  * Taught 9-12 grade English. Advised student newspaper. Launched a creative writing club. |

# Education

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| August 2005MFA: Fiction, George Mason University GPA 3.95, awarded Shelley A. Marshall Fiction Prize August 2004MA: Literature, Bread Loaf School of English GPA 3.97 |
| May 1997BA: English, Davidson College GPA 3.7, graduated with honors in English Professional Development  * Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice Training by Heather Hackman Consulting Group with a focus on racial equity, 2018 * “Overcoming Obstacles to Recruiting Minority Teachers, Administrators, and Coaches,” Nemnet Minority Recruitment and Consulting Group, 2018 * Certified Apple Teacher, 2017 * JST Academic Coaching Training with Jodi Sleeper-Triplett, 2017 * “Seven Strategies of Assessment for Learning,” Pearson Assessment Training Institute, 2011 * “Teaching Writing to Students with LD,” Landmark College Workshop for Educators, 2011 * “Digital Literacy and Citizenship 101,” “Digital Handouts,” “Audio and Video in the Classroom,” 2010 |

# publicationS

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| Novels  * *The Savage Kind, A Mystery.* Pegasus Books, October 2021. Warmly received in the *New York Times*, *Shelf Awareness*, *Zyzzyva*, *The Nerd Daily*, *Washington City Paper*, et al. * *Dodging and Burning, A Mystery*. Pegasus Books, 2018. A starred review and “Debut of the Month” from *Library Journal,* astarred review by *Publishers Weekly,* a positive AP review, et al.    Short Fiction  * “Carol Lundgren.” *Glitterwolf Magazine,* vol*.* 7, 2015, pp. 32-42.  Criticism and Reviews  * Monthly column: “Blacklight: Commentary on the Past, Present, and Future of LGBTQ Crime Fiction.” *Lambda Literary Review,* 2015-present, [www.lambdaliterary.org/tag/blacklight/](https://lambdaliterary.org/tag/blacklight/). Accessed 28 Jan. 2022. * “Femmes Fatales, Queer Rage, and Me.” *Gay and Lesbian Review Worldwide*, Jan.-Feb. 2022, pp. 30–31., <https://glreview.org/article/femmes-fatales-queer-rage-and-me/>. Accessed 28 Jan. 2022. * “Sympathy for the De Vil: Reading Beyond Likability.” *CrimeReads,* 5 Oct. 2021, [crimereads.com/sympathy-for-the-de-vil-reading-beyond-likability/](https://crimereads.com/sympathy-for-the-de-vil-reading-beyond-likability/). Accessed 28 Jan. 2022. * “In an Era of Fake News, Fiction May Save Us.” *Lambda Literary Review*, 13 Nov. 2019, [www.lambdaliterary.org/features/oped/11/13/in-an-era-of-fake-news-fiction-may-save-us/](https://lambdaliterary.org/2019/11/in-an-era-of-fake-news-fiction-may-save-us/). Accessed 28 Jan. 2022. * “The Femme Fatale: Subverting and Complicating a Noir Trope.” *CrimeReads,*13 Sept. 2019, [crimereads.com/subverting-femme-fatale-trope/](https://crimereads.com/subverting-femme-fatale-trope/). Accessed 28 Jan. 2022. * “The Role of Memory in Southern Mystery Fiction.” *Mystery Readers Journal: The Journal of Mystery Readers International*, vol. 35, no. 1, Apr. 2019, pp. 7-9. * “Closure: Crime Fiction’s Most Satisfying and Elusive Gift.” *CrimeReads,* 25 Apr. 2018, [crimereads.com/closure-crime-fictions-most-satisfying-and-elusive-gift/](https://crimereads.com/closure-crime-fictions-most-satisfying-and-elusive-gift/). Accessed 28 Jan. 2022. * “10 LGBTQ Crime Fiction Must-Reads.” *Electric Lit,* 5 Mar. 2018, [electricliterature.com/10-lgbtq-crime-fiction-must-reads/](http://electricliterature.com/10-lgbtq-crime-fiction-must-reads/). Accessed 28 Jan. 2022. * “Grotesques Haunt Walker’s Bold and Remarkable *Read by Strangers*.” Review of *Read by Strangers*, by Philip Dean Walker. *PANK,* 29 Aug. 2018, [pankmagazine.com/2018/08/29/review-read-strangers-dean-walker/](http://pankmagazine.com/2018/08/29/review-read-strangers-dean-walker/). Accessed 28 Jan. 2022. * Review of *Dead Girls: Essays on Surviving an American Obsession*, by Alice Bolin. *NYJB,* Oct. 2018, [www.nyjournalofbooks.com/book-review/dead-girls](http://www.nyjournalofbooks.com/book-review/dead-girls). Accessed 28 Jan. 2022. |

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| AwardsTHE SAVAGE KIND  * Lambda Literary Award for Best LGBTQ Mystery, winner, 2022 * Left Coast Crime Award, nominated, 2022  Dodging and Burning  * Macavity Award for best first mystery, winner, 2019 * Strand Critics Award for best first novel, nominated, 2019 * Anthony Award for best first novel, nominated, 2019 * Barry Award for best first novel, nominated, 2019 * Lambda Literary Award for best gay mystery, nominated, 2019 * Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award, quarter finalist*,* 2010  Other ACCOLADES  * DC Commission for the Arts and Humanities, Artist Fellowships, FY 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 * Larry Neal Writers’ Award for Fiction, 2015. Placed as a runner-up in 2016 * *Narrative Magazine* Winter Story Contest, finalist, 2014 * Byrnes Family Foundation Grant, 2013 * F. Scott Fitzgerald Short Story Contest, first runner-up, 2004 |

# Panels and Presentations

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| * Sleuthfest, moderator, “Write Killer Characters: Deadly to Heroic,” and, panelist, “Amateur Sleuth or Professional Investigator,” 2022 * Grand Canyon Writers Sisters in Crime virtual presentation: “How to Write an Award-winning Story,” 2022 * Greensboro Bound Literary Festival, panelist, “Mysteries of Identity,” 2022 * Left Coast Crime Conference, panelist, “Lefty Historical Nominees: The Past Is Another Country” and “Writing Characters Who Aren’t Like Me,” 2022 * Virginia Festival for the Book, panelist, “Entangled Tales,” 2022 * Midwest Mystery Conference, panelist, “Old School Crimes,” 2021 * Historical Fiction Society Conference, panel leader, “More Than ‘Just the Facts’: The Joys and Challenges of Writing Historical Mysteries,” 2021 * Bouchercon World Mystery Convention, panelist   + “Keeping Secrets: The Past Is Never Gone,” 2020   + “Anthony Awards: Best Critical and Best First Novel,” 2019   + “Somewhere Over the Rainbow: LGBTQ in Crime Fiction,” 2018   + “Reading the Rainbow,” 2017 * Thrillerfest   + “Many Voices, Diverse Cultures, or Status Quo?” 2019   + Debut author presentation, 2018 * Malice Domestic, panelist   + “Historical: Murder in Time of War,” 2019   + “Getting Your Facts Straight,” 2018 * American Library Association Conference, panelist, “It’s a Mystery to Me,” 2019 * Gaithersburg Book Festival, panelist, 2019 * Conversations and Connections Conference, panel leader, “Writing Through Facts: How Research Shapes and Frustrates Narrative,” and workshop instructor, “Crafting Revelation in Fiction One Detail at a Time,” 2019 * Popular Culture Association Conference, presented paper titled, “Subverting the Femme Fatale: TV series based on Gillian Flynn and Petra Hammesfahr novels challenge and complicate female criminality,” 2019 * Virginia Festival for the Book, panelist, “Death in a Particular Time and Place,” 2019 * Fall for the Book, panelist, “Crime Fiction as Social Commentary,” 2018 * Decatur Book Festival, panelist, “In and Out of Focus: Character Identity in the Midst of Murder,” 2018 |

# Professional Service

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| * Fiction Chair for OutWriteDC Conference, 2021-ongoing * Mystery Writers of America Mid-Atlantic Chapter, Vice-President, 2021-ongoing * House of Mystery Radio Show, co-host, 2020-ongoing * Davidson College Creative Writing Awards: Vereen Bell Memorial and R. Windley Hall Award Judge, 2022 * Sisters in Crime (inaugural) LGBTQ+ Pride Award Judge, 2021 * Edgar Awards Committee Chair and Judge for Best Paperback Original, 2021 * Queer Noir at the Bar in support of Lambda Literary, co-host and organizer, 2020 * OutWriteDC Workshops: led quarterly craft workshops on fiction for aspiring LGBTQ+ writers at DC Center, 2017-2019 |

# Residencies ANd Conferences

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| * Ragdale, Writer’s Residency, 2015, 2017 * Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2017 * Vermont Studio Center, Writer’s Residency, 2015 * Virginia Center for the Creative Arts Residency, Fellow, 2014 * Lambda Writers Retreat for Emerging LGBT Voices, Fellow, 2011 and 2014 * Tin House Summer Writer’s Workshop, 2013 |