

## Dinty Moore

### Biographical Information

**Dinty W. Moore** is Professor of English at Penn State Altoona and a low-residency instructor for the University of New Orleans' Madrid Summer Seminars. He has published two books of creative nonfiction, *The Accidental Buddhist* and *The Emperor's Virtual Clothes*, with Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, a short story collection, *Toothpick Men*, with Mammoth Press, and the textbook, *The Truth of the Matter: Art and Craft in Creative Nonfiction* (Longman, 2006). His essays and stories have been published in *The Southern Review*, *The Georgia Review*, *Harpers*, *The New York Times Sunday Magazine*, *Utne Reader*, *Arts & Letters*, and *Crazyhorse*, among others. He also edits *Brevity*, the on-line journal of concise creative nonfiction. A recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, he holds degrees from The University of Pittsburgh (BA) and Louisiana State University (MFA). For many years, Moore coordinated or co-coordinated the Annual AWP Pedagogy Forum.

### Campaign Statement

"I was into my thirties before I conceived of the idea of entering an MFA program, and that decision changed not just my livelihood but my life. Despite the flaws that critics seem all too happy to find in the academic workshop experience, I believe that creative writing belongs in a college setting and that writing in the academy is a win-win situation for all of us – teacher, student, writer, and editor. Nothing is perfect, of course, but that shouldn't stop our best effort. For that reason, my main interest as a member of the AWP Board would be to insure the health of the organization and the various programs we serve so that others will have the opportunity to discover the path that I have found so rewarding. I honestly believe the adage that 'art saves lives,' because it saved mine.

"At the same time, the world of college creative writing is facing formidable pressures, from the ubiquitous 'bottom line' business model, from continued funding cutbacks, and from an increasing emphasis on online course delivery systems. Insuring the health of literary pursuits in and out of academia is not as simple as keeping a healthy status quo – there are challenges to be met, innovations to be launched, fights to be waged, and in all of this, the AWP is positioned as our strongest advocate.

"In addition to my interest in preserving the health and vitality of creative writing courses and programs in the university, I am heartened by the recent expansion of the AWP into non-academic writing communities. The world of literary writing and publishing is also undergoing rapid transformations – ask any publisher, literary magazine editor, reading series coordinator, or individual writer. The AWP can continue to work here as well, to keep the literary novel on the shelves, to promote small poetry presses, and to help nurture continuing venues for emerging writers to publish and present.

"My goal as a member of the Board of AWP, in other words, will be to advocate for individual members in both academic and non-academic circles and to help foster avenues to bring these two circles into closer and more fruitful working relationships. The success

of one enterprise, I believe, is essential to the success of the other. The community of those who value serious literature is not large, but we are strong, committed, and resourceful.

"Finally, let me speak to a few specifics. The important work of the AWP that I would like to see continue and expand includes *The Writer's Chronicle* and the AWP Award Series for books, the Intro Awards, advocacy activities for writing programs and individual writers, advocacy for adjunct faculty, the Annual Conference and Pedagogy Forum, the Job List. Okay, maybe that's everything. But I believe the AWP is doing important work, and I would like to see that important work continue and grow."