



## 2021 Recipient of the Distinguished Research Award

### Anthony E. Varallo



The College of Charleston's Distinguished Research Award, established in 1977, recognizes those faculty members who have a significant career of research – demonstrated by the body of a faculty member's scholarly and/or creative works within the past few years and evaluated based on their quality and significance as well as their quantity. The College of Charleston Faculty Research and Development Committee enthusiastically recommends that this year's award go to Dr. Anthony Varallo from the Department of English.

Since Anthony joined the Department of English in 2005, he has published five books and over eighty short stories in literary magazines and journals – including *The New Yorker* "Daily Shouts," *One Story*, *The Iowa Review*, *New England Review*, *American Short Fiction*, *The Cincinnati Review*, *AGNI*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Harvard Review*, *Boulevard*, *The Sun*, *Epoch*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Mid-American Review*, and elsewhere. These magazines have circulations ranging from 2,000 to 70,000 subscribers for print journals, and up to 16 million web visitors per month for *The New Yorker Online*. Many of these venues are extremely competitive; acceptance rates for unsolicited submissions can be as low as 1% (*New England Review*) or less (*Harvard Review*). In the past calendar year alone, Anthony has published 21 new short stories, an essay, and a reprint in an anthology.

Anthony's books have won many accolades. His first short story collection won the John Simmons/Iowa Short Fiction Award and was a finalist for the 2006 Paterson Fiction Prize. His second short story collection was the winner of the 2008 Drue Heinz Literature Prize. His third short story collection was named a finalist for the Balcones Fiction Prize. The fourth short story collection won the Elixer Press 2016 Fiction Prize, and individual stories from the collection have received honors from the Micro Awards, the *Story South* Million Writers Award, the *Ploughshares*

blog, and *Catapult* magazine. Finally, his first novel *The Lines* was published in August 2019, receiving a starred review from *Kirkus Reviews* who wrote, “A master of narrative control, Varallo creates the kind of page-turning suspense you don’t expect in a book like this....A darkly cutting investigation in which the kids, more often than not, are way sharper than the parents.” Each of these books received favorable reviews from multiple sources.

Anthony has given many invited readings at locations throughout the US, panel presentations at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Annual Conferences (the largest writing conference in North America, attracting 10,000-13,000 participants yearly), and has been a teacher at weeklong and weekend courses in fiction writing at the Iowa Summer Writing Festival in Iowa City, Iowa for the past 11 years.

His nominators relayed that reviewers of his work comment that “He is known as an experimenter who, most recently, has tackled a mode (short-short fiction) in which most writers experience only failure, and thus avoid. Tony’s experiments, however, are highly successful, and his external reviewers expressed their astonishment at his ability.”

In addition to his own creative activity, Anthony serves as Fiction Editor of the journal, *Crazyhorse*, published here at the College of Charleston. This journal receives 5,000-8,000 fiction submissions per year, and Anthony’s role is to read through them, select the handful that will appear in the magazine, and then proofread the accepted stories.

We are pleased to recognize Dr. Anthony Varallo’s outstanding career of creative activity with the 2021 Distinguished Research Award.