

# NICOLA PITCHFORD

## President, Dominican University of California

**Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison**, English, 1994  
Modern & contemporary US and British literature  
Interdisciplinary minor in Women's Studies

**M.A. University of Wisconsin-Madison**, English, 1989

**B.A. Pomona College**, 1986  
English and Creative Writing, *cum laude*

### Professional Experience

#### **Dominican University of California**

2014-21 Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty  
2018 Acting President  
2014 Interim Dean of the School of Education & Counseling Psychology  
2011-14 Dean of the School of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

#### **Fordham University**

2009-11 Associate Vice President and Associate Chief Academic Officer  
2007-09 Chair, Department of English  
2005-07 Co-Director, Literary Studies Program  
2001-03 Director of Graduate Studies, Department of English

### Selected initiatives at Dominican University of California

#### ***Academic curriculum and faculty leadership***

- Led faculty in revising and streamlining entire undergraduate curriculum, to incorporate high-impact practices (the Dominican Experience), increase flexibility and student choice, and enable improvement in student-faculty ratio
- Negotiated first and second University Collective Bargaining Agreements with Union representing adjunct faculty (SEIU Local 1021); served as lead University liaison with Union
- Oversaw acquisition of well-regarded and robust graduate programs (M.A., Ph.D.) in Art Therapy from Notre Dame de Namur University
- Led revision of faculty salary grid based on peer-group and discipline comparison
- Communicated strategic institutional priorities to elected faculty leadership and full Faculty Forum; represented leadership on faculty governance committees; worked to align faculty priorities with institutional strategy
- Created Dominican Research Collective program of small year-long discussion groups for faculty engaged in research, supported by micro-grants from Academic Affairs office
- Oversaw hiring and review, tenure, promotion, and appeal process for 100+ full-time faculty
- Managed and adjudicated faculty ethics and conduct concerns

### ***The Dominican Experience and student learning***

- Served on original design team for a signature student learning experience that would maximize Dominican's strengths and foster equity
- Wrote grant proposal to secure \$100,000 in Mellon Foundation funding for integrating community-based learning into multiple classes across disciplines
- Leveraged grant-funded partnership with Mills College and Agnes Scott College to develop faculty workshops on how and why to implement a signature experience
- Revised faculty personnel policies and School-level funding to integrate incentives and rewards for faculty participation in key elements of the Dominican Experience
- Modeled participation in integrative coaching curriculum by teaching a Mastering College class for first-year students and participating in weekly integrative coach meetings
- Raised profile of Dominican Experience by presenting at national conferences, as well as addressing prospective students, alumni, and local organizations

### ***Diversity, equity, and inclusion***

- Supervised Office of Diversity and Equity; shaped campus-wide priorities as member of the faculty-staff-student Diversity Action Group
- Led redesign of University's diversity leadership role, moving from a former faculty Dean position to hiring a student-facing Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Initiated creation of multi-year Diversity and Inclusion Plan for University
- Designed faculty-wide retreat on equity-mindedness led by nationally prominent researcher Dr. Estela Bensimon
- As Acting President, led campus response to racist incident; held community town hall with expert panel, including Dr. Melba Beals (Little Rock Nine) and other representatives
- Initiated pilot of faculty diversity hiring policy, resulting in the hire of four first-choice tenure-track faculty of color in the School of Liberal Arts & Education
- Participant in Marin Educators for Equity, coalition of community non-profit, K-12, and higher education institutions committed to increasing numbers of educators of color in Marin County
- Trained in trauma-informed sexual assault and sexual misconduct investigation and response (including Title IX); experience as investigator and/or decision-maker on multiple cases
- As Dean, sponsored Black Student Union and veterans events

### ***Institutional Effectiveness and budget management***

- Created Office of Institutional Effectiveness, combining Assessment, Accreditation, and Institutional Research functions for greater efficacy of data and information use
- Led successful reaffirmation of institutional accreditation from the WASC Senior Colleges and Universities Commission (WSCUC), 2018
- Served as Accreditation Liaison Officer between Dominican and WSCUC
- Partnered with Vice President of Finance and Administration and Associate Vice President of Budget and Planning on development of annual University operating budget
- Reduced academic costs by cutting number of small classes offered each year; established new protocols for authorizing only high-priority faculty hiring
- Streamlined organizational structure from four academic Schools to three, enabling cost-savings and facilitating greater cross-departmental collaboration

- Standardized phased retirement incentives for senior faculty, resulting in 11 phased retirement agreements since 2016
- Hosted Finance Summit for key campus stakeholders to increase budget literacy and enfranchisement
- Worked with consultants to develop costing model for raising average class size and student:faculty ratio

### **Selected accomplishments at Fordham University**

- Partnered with donor to create the Reid Writers of Color Reading Series, pairing a college-wide common reading with an annual presentation by a major American writer of color
- Managed tenure, promotion, and appeals process for nearly 700 full-time faculty across 12 undergraduate and graduate schools
- Assisted in development and coordination of annual academic budgets within \$400M institutional budget; supervised Assistant Vice President for Academic Budgets and Logistics
- Hired and supervised institution's first Assessment professional; oversaw integration of Assessment and Institutional Research
- Developed new graduate program in Creative Writing

### **Faculty/Academic Positions**

#### **Dominican University of California**

2011-present Professor of English (tenured)

#### **Fordham University**

2002-11 Associate Professor of English and Literary Studies (tenured)

1995-2002 Assistant Professor of English (tenure-track)

#### **University of Wisconsin-Madison**

1994-95 Lecturer, Department of Women's Studies

1989-93 Teaching Assistant, Department of English

### **Research and Teaching Interests**

Higher education; contemporary British novel; feminist theory; race, immigration, and national identity; nature and landscape writing.

### **Publications**

#### ***Book:***

*Tactical Readings: Feminist Postmodernism in the Novels of Kathy Acker and Angela Carter.* Lewisburg, PA: Bucknell UP, 2002

#### ***Recent Creative Nonfiction:***

"Airflow over Ogival Wings: An Aerodynamic Study." *We Are Not Shadows*. Edited by Hannah Fields. Folkways Press, TX, 2021.

"Walking the Clough." *On Roots and Rootedness*. Edited by Deborah Harford. Bright Wing Media, Vancouver, BC, 2019.

### ***Selected Articles and Reviews:***

"Breaking Down the Ivory Tower: The (Past and) Future of Liberal Arts Education." *The Torch* (Summer 2012): 8-15. <http://media.dominican.edu/assets/torch/torchsummer2012/>

"Don't Sell Liberal Arts Short." Editorial. *Marin Independent Journal* 21 Nov. 2011: A9

"Black British Writing." *The Oxford Encyclopedia of British Literature*. Ed. David Scott Kastan. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2006

"Angela Carter." *A Companion to the British and Irish Novel, 1945-2000*. Ed. Brian W. Shaffer. Oxford: Blackwell, 2004. 409-20

"How Late It Was for England: James Kelman's Scottish Booker Prize." *Contemporary Literature* 41 (2000): 693-725

"Flogging a Dead Language: Identity Politics, Sex, and the Freak Reader in Kathy Acker's *Don Quixote*." *Postmodern Culture* 11.1 (2000) <<http://www.iath.virginia.edu/pmc>>

"Unlikely Modernism, Unlikely Postmodernism: Stein's Tender Buttons." *American Literary History* 11 (1999): 642-67

"Reading Feminism's Pornography Conflict: Implications for Postmodernist Reading Strategies." *Genders* 25 (1997): 3-38

"English Novel: 1950- ." *Encyclopedia of the Novel*. Ed. Paul Schellinger. Vol. 1. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn, 1998. 377-79

### **Selected Conference Papers and Presentations**

"How to Revise an Entire Curriculum (and More) at Once." AAC&U Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA (2019)

"Nature and National Myth-Making in Helen Macdonald's *H is for Hawk*." Locating Women in 'the Folk', University of Sussex, UK (2018; panel withdrawn)

"Reinventing the Small College Experience for New-Demographic Learners." AAC&U Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (2018)

"Intergenerational Connections: Students Serving Older Adults." CIC Institute for Chief Academic Officers, San Antonio, TX (2017)

"Global Engagement of Faculty." International Partners' Conference, Regents University, London, UK (2017)

"Making the Argument for Shared Governance: One campus's work to revise the model for public responsibility & a changing faculty." AAC&U Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (2017)

"'Big History' as General Education." Co-presented with Mojgan Behmand. CIC Institute for Chief Academic Officers, Portland, OR (2014)

## **Selected Performances and Invited Appearances**

APPA Thought Leaders Symposium, invited participant (2020). “Preparing for the Student of 2024,” Tucson, AZ

Dominican University of California Low Residency Creative Writing MFA program, invited presentation (2020). “No Nature Cure: The ‘New’ Nature Writing and Normative Bodies,” San Rafael, CA

San Rafael Chamber of Commerce Leadership Institute, invited speaker (2016, 2021). “Higher Education in Marin County,” San Rafael, CA

Winifred Baker Chorale and Orchestra of St Catherine, invited performer/soloist (2013). “An Oxford Elegy” by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Church of St Raphael, San Rafael, CA, and St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Petaluma, CA

Dominican University of California, performer (2012). The Vagina Monologues, San Rafael, CA

WFUV public radio, invited guest (2007). “The Booker Prize,” Fordham Conversations, Bronx, NY

KCRW public radio, panel discussant with publisher Larry Flynt on the mainstreaming of pornography (1999). Which Way L.A., Los Angeles, CA

National Book Critics Circle Awards 20th Anniversary Panels, invited presentation (1996). “Literary Prizes: The Pros and Cons,” New York University Law School, NY (televised on Book Notes, C-SPAN)

The Pollyanna Project [performance collective], performer/collaborator (1995). Directed by Michael Peterson, Madison, WI

## **Other Professional Experience**

EAB Academic Affairs National Institute, Washington, DC (2019) and La Jolla, CA (2016)

WSCUC Academic Resource Conference, Burlingame, CA (2018), San Diego, CA (2017), Anaheim, CA (2016), Oakland, CA (2015)

WSCUC President/Trustee Retreat, Oakland, CA (2015 & 2018)

CIC Foundations Conversation, New York, NY (2018)

AICCU Annual Meeting and Retreat, Los Angeles, CA (2018)

Rural Writing Institute, Cumbria, UK (2018)

Distinctive Program Consortium, Washington, DC (2017)

Bay Area Independent Colleges and Universities Provosts Group (2015-present)

## **Selected Professional Service**

- AICCU Restart Higher Education Task Force, 2020
- WSCUC accreditation team member, 2018, 2020, 2022
- National Fulbright Screening Committee, 2008
- Occasional manuscript reviewer for *PMLA* [journal of the Modern Language Association]; *Contemporary Literature*; *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*; *Modern Fiction Studies*; *LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory*; *Mosaic*

### **Selected Community Service**

- Secretary, Board of Directors, Alonzo King LINES Ballet, San Francisco, CA, 2012-14
- Leadership Advisory Council, San Domenico School, San Anselmo, CA, 2011-12
- Grants and Programming Coordinator, Morningside BARC (Harlem non-profit providing dog-ownership education and support for children and families), NYC, 2003-7

### **Professional Affiliations**

- American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U)
- Council of Independent Colleges (CIC)
- Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU)
- Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP)