

Pat Wensink, MFA

Assistant Professor of English and Director, Mountain Heritage Literary Festival and Appalachian Reading Series

Biography

Patrick Wensink teaches fiction writing, poetry writing, creative nonfiction writing, children's book writing, literary magazine publication, and composition. In addition, he is the director of the Mountain Heritage Literary Festival and the Appalachian Reading Series. He is the bestselling author of several books, including *Fake Fruit Factory* (2015), which was named a best book of 2015 by NPR. His nonfiction appears in *New York Times*, *Esquire*, *Oxford American*, and others. He is also the author of two children's books, published by HarperCollins. His novel, *Nine Times Out of Ten You Don't Die*, will be published in 2025 by Propeller Books. His memoir, *Great Black Swamp*, will also be published in 2025.

Teaching and Research Interests

Fiction

Environmental writing

Ohio history

Longform journalism

Memoir

Autism

Publications

Novels

2025	<i>Nine Times Out of Ten You Don't Die</i> (Propeller Publishing)
2015	<i>Fake Fruit Factory</i> (Curbside Splendor Publishing) [Named one of the Best Books of the Year by NPR]
2012	<i>Broken Piano for President</i> (Lazy Fascist Press) [Amazon Bestseller List, August 2012] Audio Edition: Recorded Books
2011	<i>Black Hole Blues</i> (Lazy Fascist Press)

Non-Fiction

2025	<i>Great Black Swamp: A Memoir</i> (Belt Publishing)
2012	<i>Everything Was Great Until It Sucked</i> (Lazy Fascist Press)

Children's Books

2018	<i>Gorillas Go Bananas</i> (HarperCollins)
2017	<i>Go Go Gorillas</i> (HarperCollins) Scholastic Book Fair Selection

Grants, Awards, and Distinctions

2024	Appalachian College Association Research Fellowship
2024	Photography Exhibition (Lincoln Memorial University Center for the Arts)
2022	Lincoln Memorial University Mini-Grant (\$2,000 for <i>Great Black Swamp</i> research)
2020	Louisville Artist's Network Grant
2019-2020	University of Louisville Faculty Favorite Award –Nominee
2017-2019	Portland State University Graduate Assistantship Award
2018	Scholastic Book Fair Selection: <i>Go Go Gorillas</i> (HarperCollins)
2015	Selected as One of NPR's Best Books of The Year: <i>Fake Fruit Factory</i>
2014	<i>Story Magazine</i> article "Circus Hurts" adapted for PBS television program: <i>BACKstory</i>
2013	Audience Choice Award—Ten-Tucky Ten Minute Play Festival
2012	Bestseller's List: Amazon.com: <i>Broken Piano for President</i>
2012	LitReactor's Best Books of The Year: <i>Broken Piano for President</i>