

Brief Bio of Pikes Peak Poet Laureate 2008-2010 – Aaron Anstett

Aaron Anstett was born in Chicago and has lived in Colorado Springs for slightly over a decade. Anstett is a long-time supporter of poetry in the Pikes Peak region and beyond, having organized and hosted a number of benefit, open-mike, and National Poetry Month readings; judged local and national writing contests; overseen chapbook contests; served on several boards; been the lowest-scoring member on a local poetry slam team; corralled poems for *The Independent*; and taught. He received his MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where he held a Teaching-Writing Fellowship, and he was later the Halls Poetry Fellow at the UW-Madison Center for Creative Writing. Anstett's poems have appeared widely in journals and anthologies and on Poetry Daily, Verse Daily, and Garrison Keillor's *The Writer's Almanac*. His books are *Sustenance*, *No Accident*, and *Each Place the Body's*. Recent awards and recognition include Pushcart Prize Nominations, the Backwaters Press Prize, the Nebraska Book Award, and the Balcones Poetry Prize. His children are Molly, Cooper, and Rachel, and his betrothed is Lesley. Aaron is employed full-time as a technical writer.