

Mattie McClane Papers ***1965-2026, undated***

Creator: Kristine Kaiser (1958-)

Extent: 6.83 linear feet (8 boxes)

Language: English

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago. Please contact WLArchives@luc.edu regarding use.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: Kristine Kaiser retains copyright of materials created by her.

Preferred Citation: Item, date of item, Box #, Folder #, Mattie McClane Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

Provenance: All materials were donated to the Women and Leadership Archives by Kristine Kaiser on July 17, 2024 (WLA2024.31), and on February 5, 2026 (WLA2026.03).

Processor: Chanelle Davis, July 2025

Separations: < 0.25 linear feet of extraneous materials were removed from the collection during processing.

See Also: Mattie McClane (Kristine Kaiser) papers, 1983-2023, at Augustana College.

Biographical History

Kristine Kaiser (née Myers), known by her pen name, Mattie McClane, was born on April 8, 1958, in Moline, Illinois. The name Kristine Kaiser is used for her academic credentials and also her journalism. Wanting to create some distance between her sociopolitical commentary and her creative work, she began using the pen name, Mattie McClane, at the start of her literary career in 2003 when *Night Ship: A Voyage of Discovery* was published. A self-identified feminist and progressive Catholic, McClane became aware of gender inequality and other ethical matters at a young age through religious instruction. McClane's career as a novelist, poet, and journalist, as well as her community involvement, reflect these perspectives.

After obtaining a B.A. in Humanities from Augustana College in 1989, McClane wrote as a political columnist for the Illinois-based publications, Quad-Cities Online and Small Newspaper Group. Later moving to Louisville, Kentucky, with her husband, John Kaiser, and children, McClane received an M.A. in English from the University of Louisville in 1995. During her time

as a student, she continued her work in journalism and wrote her first creative thesis, “Unbuttoning Light and Other Stories,” which was later published.

McClane went on to obtain an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the University of North Carolina Wilmington in 1999. As a student in the program, she wrote the novel *Night Ship*. Her other published books include: *River Hymn: Essays Evangelical and Political* (2004), *Wen Wilson* (2009) (2022), *Now Time* (2013), *Stations of the Cross* (2016), *The Mother Word: An Exploration of the Visual* (2017), *Simeon's Canticle* (2018), *The Song of the Grackle* (2019), *The Magnificent Light of Morning* (2021), *To Free the Sisters of Mary* (2022), *At the Edge of the Cities Burning* (2023), and *The Tale of the Ancient Haberdasher* (2024). Her books encompass a variety of topics, including gender and sexuality, social justice, inequality, politics, faith, and the status of women in the Catholic Church. They are presented in the form of short story and essay collections, literary and historical fiction, poetry, and fantasy.

In addition to her independent writing career, McClane has taught courses on poetry writing at the Center for Women Writers at Salem College, 19th century activism and women in politics at Bellarmine College, and expressing faith in creative writing at Westminster Church in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Active in her community, McClane is a member of St. Pius X Catholic Church in Rock Island, Illinois, and FutureChurch. FutureChurch is an organization based in Ohio that advocates for just, open, and collaborative structures for Catholic worship, organization and governance. Initially a coalition, FutureChurch grew out of concern for the lack of Catholic priests in the early 1990s. The group proposed that United States bishops explore options such as allowing the return of married priests and the ordination of women to remedy the shortage. McClane has also been affiliated with the League of Women Voters since the 1980s. The League of Women Voters “is a nonpartisan, grassroots nonprofit dedicated to empowering everyone to fully participate in our democracy.” McClane has served in various leadership capacities across multiple regional Leagues, including those in Scott County (Iowa), Louisville (Kentucky), Piedmont Triad (North Carolina), and Lower Cape Fear (North Carolina).

Scope and Content

The Mattie McClane papers consist of 6.83 linear feet and span the years 1965 to 2026. The items are arranged alphabetically within series and subseries, with the exception of *The Complete Works of Mattie McClane*, volumes one and two, which were accessioned later and added to the end of subseries 3.3. Original provenance was maintained wherever possible. The bulk of the materials are related to McClane’s academic and professional writing. There are several versions of some of her published works that are listed as drafts or manuscripts, some with peer feedback from courses and workshops.

Series 1: Personal, 1965-2024, undated, Boxes 1-2

Contains materials related to the personal life of Mattie McClane. Materials include a resume;

checks, invoices, and account statements; correspondence between family, friends, writing editors, and archbishops; educational materials; memorabilia; and photographs.

Series 2: Professional and Community Involvement, 1979-2024, undated, Box 2

Contains biographical information about 20th century poet, Carl Sandburg, and membership forms for the Carl Sandburg Review. These materials reflect McClane's interest in Sandburg's concern for labor, the laborer, and common people which was reflected in his poetry. This series also contains McClane's teaching materials, materials from the organizations and churches she has been a part of, and payments she received for her writing.

Series 3: Writings and Publications, 1976-2026, undated, Boxes 2-8

Contains McClane's academic, personal, and professional writings, and related materials.

Subseries 3.1: Academic, 1976-2022, undated, Boxes 2-3

Contains McClane's class assignments, notes, and hard copies of her "Unbuttoning Light and Other Stories" master's thesis.

Subseries 3.2: General, 1981-2024, undated, Boxes 3-4

Contains an anthology featuring McClane's writing, personal writings, manuscripts, news articles written by McClane, and other writings not written by McClane.

Subseries 3.3: Books, 1998-2026, undated, Boxes 5-8

Contains books written by McClane, book drafts with feedback from classmates, and book publishing and promotional materials. This subseries also contains a copy of the *Unbuttoning Light* manuscript on compact disc (CD). Please note that the book advertisement e-sheets in this subseries are printed confirmations that the books were advertised in a specific issue of the *Boston Sunday Globe*. The printed e-books in this series are printed copies of the e-book, not the digital e-book.

Series 4: Restricted, 1990, 2009, Box 8

Subjects:

Catholicism

Creative Writing

Journalism

League of Women Voters

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
		Mattie McClane Papers, 1965-2026, undated	
		Series 1: Personal, 1965-2024, undated	
1	1	Biographical: Grade School Registration Form	circa 1967
1	2	Biographical: Resume	2024
1	3	Correspondence: Emails	2022-2024
1	4	Correspondence: Greeting Cards and Postcards [1 of 2]	1965, 1982, 2001-2023, undated
1	5	Correspondence: Greeting Cards and Postcards [2 of 2]	1965, 1982, 2001-2023, undated
1	6	Correspondence: Invitations	1976, 1999, 2008, 2016, 2023
1	7	Correspondence: Letters and Mailings [1 of 3]	1976-1999, 2004- 2024
1	8	Correspondence: Letters and Mailings [2 of 3]	1976-1999, 2004- 2024
1	9	Correspondence: Letters and Mailings [3 of 3]	1976-1999, 2004- 2024
1	10	Education: Augustana College Commencement Programs	1989
1	11	Education: Colorado Women's College Communications	1978-1979
1	12	Education: Colorado Women's College Magazine	circa 1970s
1	13	Education: Course Syllabi	1993, undated
FF10	1	Education: University of North Carolina – Wilmington MFA Diploma	1999
1	14	Education: University of North Carolina – Wilmington MFA Acceptance Letter	1997
1	15	Memorabilia: Boating Safety Graduate Iron-on Patch	undated
1	16	Memorabilia: Gore-Lieberman 2000 Sticker	2000

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1	17	Memorabilia: John Deere Junior High School Newsletter	1973
1	18	Memorabilia: John Deere Junior High School Yearbook	1972
2	1	Memorabilia: John Deere Junior High School Yearbook	1973
2	2	Memorabilia: Moline Senior High School Newspaper	1975
2	3	Memorabilia: Prayer Cards	2003, 2014-2023
2	4	Memorabilia: Scrapbook Album [1 of 3]	1976-1990
2	5	Memorabilia: Scrapbook Album [2 of 3]	1976-1990
2	6	Memorabilia: Scrapbook Album [3 of 3]	1976-1990
2	7	Photographs: Loose Photos	1976-1999, 2006-2023, undated
Series 2: Professional and Community Involvement, 1979-2024, undated			
2	8	Carl Sandburg	circa 2005, undated
2	9	English 112: Argument Based Research Teaching Syllabus	undated
2	10	Kentucky Local Governance Project	1994
2	11	League of Women Voters	1979, circa 1992, 1994
2	12	League of Women Voters of Iowa	1983, 1984, 1987
2	13	League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad	2007
2	14	League of Women Voters of Scott County	1982, 1986, 1988, undated
FF10	2	League of Women Voters of Scott County Pamphlet Mockup	undated
FF10	3	Million Mom March Poster	2000
2	15	Rock River Valley Association	1982
2	16	Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh	2016, 2017
2	17	St. Mark Catholic Church (Wilmington, North Carolina)	2018, 2019
2	18	St. Pius X Catholic Church (Rock Island, Illinois)	2018, 2024
2	19	Writing Payments [includes redacted items]	1990, 2009
Series 3: Writings and Publications, 1976-2026, undated			
Subseries 3.1: Academic, 1976-2022, undated			

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2	20	Assignments [1 of 4]	1976, circa 1990s, 2022
3	1	Assignments [2 of 4]	1976, circa 1990s, 2022
3	2	Assignments [3 of 4]	1976, circa 1990s, 2022
3	3	Assignments [4 of 4]	1976, circa 1990s, 2022
3	4	Bibliographies	undated
3	5	Handwritten Notes [1 of 2]	circa 1970s, circa 1990s
3	6	Handwritten Notes [2 of 2]	circa 1970s, circa 1990s
3	7	Master's Thesis: "Unbuttoning Light and Other Stories"	1995
3	8	Readings and Notes	circa 1990s
3	9	Writing Feedback [given by McClane]	1998, undated
Subseries 3.2: General, 1981-2024, undated			
3	10	Anthology featuring "The Young Minister from Birmingham" by McClane	undated
3	11	Gwendolyn Brooks' "Young Poet's Primer" [signed by Brooks]	1981, 1988
3	12	Journal Entries	2006-2007
3	13	Manuscripts: Poetry	undated
4	1	Manuscripts: Prose [1 of 2]	undated
4	2	Manuscripts: Prose [2 of 2]	undated
4	3	News Articles and Clippings [1 of 5]	1986-2016
4	4	News Articles and Clippings [2 of 5]	1986-2016
4	5	News Articles and Clippings [3 of 5]	1986-2016
4	6	News Articles and Clippings [4 of 5]	1986-2016
4	7	News Articles and Clippings [5 of 5]	1986-2016
FF10	4	News Articles and Clippings [laminated and oversize]	1990-1991, 2009-2011
4	8	News Article Drafts	undated
4	9	Newspaper Contacts	undated
4	10	Other Writings and Articles	1981, 1996-2000, 2024

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Subseries 3.3: Books, 1998-2026, undated			
5	1	<i>At the Edge of the Cities Burning</i> : Book	2023
5	2	<i>At the Edge of the Cities Burning</i> : Book Advertisement Printed E-Sheet (<i>Boston Sunday Globe</i>)	2024
5	3	<i>At the Edge of the Cities Burning</i> : Manuscripts	undated
5	4	<i>At the Edge of the Cities Burning</i> : Printed E-book Copy	2023
5	5	<i>Night Ship: A Voyage of Discovery</i> : Book	2003
5	6	<i>Night Ship: A Voyage of Discovery</i> : Book	2017
5	7	<i>Night Ship: A Voyage of Discovery</i> : Book Anniversary Flyer	circa 2023
FF10	5	<i>Night Ship: A Voyage of Discovery</i> : Book Cover Proof	2017
5	8	<i>Night Ship: A Voyage of Discovery</i> : Book Review	2020
5	9	<i>Night Ship</i> : Drafts with Peer Feedback	1998, undated
5	10	<i>Night Ship</i> : Drafts with Peer Feedback, February	1998
5	11	<i>Night Ship</i> : Drafts with Peer Feedback, October	1998, undated
5	12	<i>Night Ship</i> : Drafts with Peer Feedback, December	1998, undated
5	13	<i>Night Ship</i> : Drafts with Peer Feedback [1 of 2], February	1999, undated
6	1	<i>Night Ship</i> : Drafts with Peer Feedback [2 of 2], February	1999, undated
6	2	<i>Night Ship</i> : Drafts with Peer Feedback [1 of 3]	undated
6	3	<i>Night Ship</i> : Drafts with Peer Feedback [2 of 3]	undated
6	4	<i>Night Ship</i> : Drafts with Peer Feedback [3 of 3]	undated
6	5	<i>Night Ship</i> : Manuscripts [1 of 2]	undated
6	6	<i>Night Ship</i> : Manuscripts [2 of 2]	undated
7	1	<i>Night Ship</i> : Manuscript [spiral bound]	undated
7	2	<i>Now Time</i> : Book	2013
7	3	Poetry Books by Mattie McClane Flyer	undated
7	4	<i>River Hymn: Essays Evangelical and Political</i> : Book	2004
7	5	<i>Simeon's Canticle</i> : Book	2018
7	6	<i>Simeon's Canticle</i> : Printed E-book Copy	2018
7	7	<i>Stations of the Cross</i> : Book	2016
7	8	<i>The Magnificent Light of Morning</i> : Book Advertisement Printed E-Sheet (<i>Boston Sunday Globe</i>)	2021
7	9	<i>The Magnificent Light of Morning</i> : Book Proof	2021
7	10	<i>The Magnificent Light of Morning</i> : Manuscripts	2021, undated
7	11	<i>The Magnificent Light of Morning</i> : Summary	undated
7	12	<i>The Mother Word: An Exploration of the Visual</i> : Book	2017
7	13	<i>The Mother Word: An Exploration of the Visual</i> : Manuscripts	undated
7	14	<i>The Song of the Grackle</i> : Book Proof	2019
FF10	6	<i>The Song of the Grackle</i> : Book Cover Proof	2019

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7	15	<i>The Song of the Grackle: Manuscripts</i>	undated
7	16	<i>The Song of the Grackle: Printed E-Book Copy</i>	2019
7	17	<i>The Tale of the Ancient Haberdasher: Book</i>	2024
7	18	<i>The Tale of the Ancient Haberdasher: Magazine Advertisement (Poets and Writers)</i>	2024
7	19	<i>The Tale of the Ancient Haberdasher: Manuscripts</i>	undated
7	20	<i>The Tale of the Ancient Haberdasher: Printed E-book Copy</i>	2024
8	1	<i>To Free the Sisters of Mary: Book</i>	2022
8	2	<i>To Free the Sisters of Mary: Book Advertisement Printed E-Sheets (Boston Sunday Globe)</i>	2022, 2023
8	3	<i>To Free the Sisters of Mary: Manuscripts</i>	undated
8	4	<i>To Free the Sisters of Mary: Printed E-book Copy</i>	2022
8	5	<i>Unbuttoning Light: The Collected Short Stories of Mattie McClane: Book</i>	2012
FF10	7	<i>Unbuttoning Light: The Collected Short Stories of Mattie McClane: Book Cover Proof</i>	2012
8	6	<i>Unbuttoning Light: Manuscripts</i>	undated
8	7	<i>Unbuttoning Light: Manuscript [CD]</i>	2012
8	8	<i>Wen Wilson: Book</i>	2009
8	9	<i>Wen Wilson: Book</i>	2009
FF10	8	<i>Wen Wilson: Book Cover Proof</i>	2009
8	10	<i>Wen Wilson: Book Review</i>	2017
8	11	<i>Wen Wilson: Printed E-book Copy</i>	2022
8	12	<i>Wen Wilson: Summary</i>	undated
8	13	<i>The Complete Works of Mattie McClane: Volume One, Prose and Volume Two, Poetry: Books</i>	2026
Series 4: Restricted, 1990, 2009			
8	14	Writing Payments [RESTRICTED]	1990, 2009