

SUMMARY

Writer, educator, and researcher with a PhD in English and an MFA in Creative Writing, dedicated to storytelling's cultural impact and interdisciplinary teaching. As a Fulbright Grantee at the University of Debrecen, I developed cross-cultural literary initiatives, including the IEAS Writers Salon and the Conference on Creativity and Practice. Experienced in curriculum development and student-centered learning, I have designed and taught courses in literature, composition, and creative writing at the university level. I bring over a decade of experience in teaching, advising, and program leadership, spanning university classrooms and a Christian college-preparatory high school.

A published writer, my fiction and critical essays have appeared in *The Table Review*, *Saranac Review*, *Nimrod International Journal*, *South Dakota Review*, and *The Hungarian Conservative*. My short story collection, *We Will Not Grieve*, has been recognized as a finalist in *The Tusculum Review* Chapbook Prize, a semi-finalist for the *Iron Horse Literary Review* First Book Prize and the *Orison Fiction Prize*. I am eager to engage in opportunities that bridge literature, education, Christian thought, and cross-cultural storytelling.

EDUCATION

PHD IN ENGLISH, PHI KAPPA PHI *May 2023*
Oklahoma State University

MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN CREATIVE WRITING *December 2011*
The University of Akron

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH *May 2009*
The University of Akron

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

FULBRIGHT GRANTEE — ENGLISH TEACHING ASSISTANT *September 2023 - August 2024*
University of Debrecen, The Institute for English and American Studies

- Funded extension to continue research project including genealogical research, language acquisition, and comparative analysis of post-World War II Hungarian and American literary structures.
- Developed an English language summer camp in Pécs, Hungary, for Hungarian students to practice and refine conversational English skills.
- Founded and organized the annual University of Debrecen Conference on Creativity and Practice.
- Crafted multiple English-language seminars to foster cross-cultural engagement.
- Managed a 5/2 course load in addition to responsibilities below.
- Modeled a collaborative and discourse-based classroom format.
- Established the IEAS Writers Salon, a bi-monthly English-language based creative writers' circle.

EducationUSA, American Corner Debrecen

- Conducted student- and professional-focused seminars, workshops on essay writing, resumés, CVs, and U.S. college applications.
- Counseled individual Hungarian students pursuing higher education studies in the United States and advised in their search for scholarship opportunities.
- Facilitated weekly English Conversation Clubs, a local and multi-generational community service for cultural engagement, and English language acquisition.

GRADUATE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR COWBOY CONCURRENT COMPOSITION *August 2022 - May 2023*
Oklahoma State University

- Designed and distributed instructor and student satisfaction surveys to assess and improve program effectiveness.
- Enhanced First-Year Composition (FYC) program outcomes, reducing DFWI rates using Key Performance Indicators.
- Developed and sustained partnerships with Oklahoma high schools to expand dual enrollment opportunities.

- Assisted in maintaining and updating common course shells for English 1113 and 1213, including assignment sheets, rubrics, and instructional materials.
- Coordinated workshop sessions for Cowboy Concurrent orientations, collaborating with the Director of Composition.
- Curated best practices, training materials, and outreach frameworks to support dual enrollment instructors.
- Identified students for the CoRE program, supporting those underprepared for college writing.
- Conducted semesterly instructor observations, providing feedback to enhance instructional quality.

GRADUATE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - FIRST YEAR COMPOSITION

August 2020—May 2023

Oklahoma State University

- Collaborated with Norton Publishers to create an interdisciplinary Custom eReader for the First-Year Composition Program.
- Assessed graduate instructors' access to teleconferencing technology and devised a plan to improve availability of high-quality equipment.
- Maintained graduate office technology records, ensuring instructors had necessary resources.

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT - ENGLISH COMPOSITION

August 2018 — May 2023

Oklahoma State University

- Taught two composition sections per semester (19 students per section) as the primary instructor.
- Designed and structured course materials, including lectures, assignments, and major assessments.
- Designed and taught an interdisciplinary Critical Analysis and Writing curriculum, integrating multimodal assessments (e.g., group podcasts, infographics).

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT - WRITING CENTER TUTOR

January 2019—May 2019

Oklahoma State University

- Provided 10 hours of weekly tutoring, offering individualized writing support.
- Conducted peer and self-assessments of writing assignments to improve instructional effectiveness.
- Led collaborative writing consultations to develop students' critical thinking and revision skills.

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR - ENGLISH COMPOSITION 111

July 2017—May 2018

The University of Akron

- Instructed two sections of English Composition 111, designing and evaluating coursework.
- Designed, implemented, and evaluated course assessments to measure student learning.

PUBLICATIONS & AWARDS

AWARDS

“Football Lessons for Life at the End of the World” (Finalist for The Tusculum Review Chapbook Prize 2025).

We Will Not Grieve: Stories — Semi-Finalist (*Iron Horse Literary Review* First Book Prize 2023 & 2024, Orison Fiction Prize 2023).

FICTION

“Let the Child,” *The Table Review* (June 20, 2025).

“Clean Break,” *Saranac Review*. Issue 20 (December 2024).

“Killdeer,” *Nimrod International Journal* (Spring 2024): 110-127.

“The Art of Healing,” *South Dakota Review* 55.3 (2021): 36-44.

“Cement and Timber,” *Open: Journal of Arts and Letters* (February 18, 2018).

“Reliquiae,” *Waxwing* XIII (October 2017).

“The Body of Divinity,” *ZeitHaus* I (Spring 2017): 10—30.

“If I Forget Thee, Jerusalem,” *The Rubbertop Review* I (2009): 70—80.

POETRY

“Searchers: A Ghazal,” *Grand Little Things* (July 28, 2021), Web.

“The Orrery of Afflictions,” *Grand Little Things* (July 28, 2021), Web.

“A prayer of Bartimaeus,” *Grand Little Things* (July 28, 2021), Web.

ARTICLES, BOOK CHAPTERS, AND REVIEWS

- “Scribbled Narratives: On Family and Storytelling.” *The Hungarian Conservative*. (Forthcoming).
- “The Post-Apocalyptic Novel in the Twenty-First Century: Modernity Beyond Salvage Heather J. Hicks.” Review. *Revenant: Critical and Creative Studies of the Supernatural*. Vol. 10: Post-Apocalyptic Waste.
- “Coral and Gold: Commemorating 35 Years of AHF and 50 Years of AHEA.” AHEA Newsletter, May 2024.
- “Crisis and Wonder: Liturgy and Literature in Hungary.” *The Englewood Review of Books*. 25 April 2024.
- Currier, Grant** and Kennedy Essmiller. “TL;DR: The Virtues of Blogs in a Classroom Setting,” *Writing and Publishing in Digital Environments*, ed. Jenna Sheffield. New Haven, CT: University of New Haven (October 2023).
- “If Music Be, Play On.” Feature Rev. of *Brisbane*, by Eugene Vodolazkin. *The Englewood Review of Books*. 16 June 2022: Web.
- “Foreword.” *Custom Mix eBook for Oklahoma State University*, Norton Custom Publishing, (2021), vi-vii.
- “Will to Love.” Rev. of *Sachiko*, by Endo Shusaku. *The Englewood Review of Books*. 3 September 2020: Web.
- “Foreign Gardens, Familiar Hands.” Rev. of *Faith Seeking Conviviality: Reflections on Ivan Illich, Christian Mission, and the Promise of Life Together*, by Samuel Ewell III. *The Englewood Review of Books* 25 June 2020: Web.
- “My Soul Grows Straight.” Rev. of *The Hymnal: A Reading History*, by Christopher N. Phillips. *The Englewood Review of Books*. 18 October 2018: Web.
- “A Fragrant Offering.” Rev. of *Warlight*, by Michael Ondaatje. *The Englewood Review of Books*. 16 August 2018: Web.
- “The Free and the Lost.” Rev. of *The Mars Room*, by Rachel Kushner. *The Englewood Review of Books*. 6 September 2018: Web.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Presentations of the Returned Hungarian Fulbrighters.” **Chairperson**. The Fulbright Commission in Hungary. Corvin Hotel, Budapest. 19 November 2024.
- “Welcome Remarks on Behalf of Fulbright.” **Fulbright Ambassador**. American Hungarian Educators Association Fulbright Reception. Rutgers University, New Jersey. 3 May 2024.
- “Steps Leading Nowhere?: The Forming of the Self in the Hungarian-American Imagination.” American Hungarian Educators Association 48th Annual Conference. Rutgers University, New Jersey. 2-4 May 2024.
- “Presentations of the Hungarian Fulbrighters.” **Chairperson**. The Fulbright Commission in Hungary. Méliusz Juhász Péter Library, Debrecen, Hungary. 9 April 2024.
- “Speak Of the Devil: Identity and Relationship in the Writing Classroom.” University of Debrecen 2nd Postgraduate Conference. Debrecen, Hungary. 23 January 2024.
- Tibor Fischer Interview on *Voyage to the End of the Room*. **Interviewer and Moderator**. Mathias Corvinas Collegium—Debrecen, Hungary. 15 November 2023.
- Oklahoma State University English Department Student Spotlight.” **Interviewee**. November 2023. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dChpxLYKqjk>
- András Ludányi Interview and *My American Roadtrip* Book Launch. **Interviewer and Moderator**. Méliusz Juhász Péter Library, Debrecen, Hungary. 20 October 2023.
- Essmiller, Kathy, **Grant Currier**, Lisa Wright, Anna Sicari, & Kennedy Essmiller. “Graduate Students and OER: Open in Action.” Accepted for presentation at OER22, 26-28 April 2022, London, UK and online.
- Essmiller, Kathy, **Grant Currier**, Lisa Wright, Natasha Tinsley, Sean Coolican, & Kennedy Essmiller. (December 9-11, 2021). *Graduate student perceptions of open educational resources* [Conference session]. OER camp global. Virtual. <https://oercampglobal2021.sched.com/event/67e38086f201e59063cb7ebde9595941>.
- “Speak Of the Devil: A Lingua-Relational Approach to the First-Year College Composition Classroom.” MMLA Conference — Milwaukee, WI. 4-7 November 2021. (Accepted).
- “Work, Leisure, and the Rise of Secular Utopianism.” Dark Economies: Anxious Futures, Fearful Pasts Conference. Falmouth University, UK. 21-23 July 2021.
- “A Harvest of Ingratitude: Secularism, Landscape, and Wendell Berry.” Inhabiting Memories and Landscapes: A Cross-Disciplinary Engagement with Wendell Berry. University of West England Conference, Brecon Cathedral, UK — 14-16 June, 2020. (Rescheduled — COVID-19).
- “What’s Love Got to Do With It?: Charles Williams’ *The Greater Trumps* Toward a Charitable-Marxist Method.” International Society of Heresy Studies, New York University. 11-12 June 2020. (Rescheduled — COVID-19).

“What’s Love Got to Do With It?: Charles Williams’ *The Greater Trumps* Toward a Charitable-Marxist Method.”

University of Florida Marxist Reading Group Conference — 2-4 April 2020. (Accepted).

“A Liminal Utopia: Secularism and the Work-Leisure Dialectic.” Conference of the Graduate Students in English,
University of Arkansas: An Interdisciplinary Exploration of/in Liminality. University of Arkansas. 20-21 March
2020 (Canceled - COVID-19).

“Geographies of the Perverse: Poe and Hawthorne in Criminal Conversation.” University of Tulsa Graduate Student
Conference. 7-9 March 2019.

“The Third Right of Consumers: An American Eschaton.” Prose, Poetry, and Pints Reading, Stillwater, Oklahoma.
27 November 2018.

UNIVERSITY COURSES TAUGHT

UNIVERSITY OF DEBRECEN

Freedom and the City: The American Short Story (Spring 2024), American Civilization (Spring 2024), Skills Development: Writing and Composition (Fall 2023), American Culture and Institutions (Fall 2023)

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Exploring Literature (Spring 2023), Introduction to Creative Writing (Spring 2020, online), Critical Analysis and Writing I (Fall 2019), Critical Analysis and Writing II (Spring 2020, online), English Composition I (Fall 2018, Fall 2020, Spring 2021), English Composition II (Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2022, Fall 2022)

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

English Composition 111 (Fall 2017)

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

The Tulipán Foundation	<i>Sept 2025 - August 2026</i>
Artist and Culture Award (\$10,000)	
Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant & Extension (\$19,825)	<i>Sept 2023 - August 2024</i>
North American Department, The University of Debrecen, Hungary	
Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship Scholar (\$1,500; declined)	<i>August 2022</i>
National Science Foundation Grant	
OER22 Registration Scholarship (€199)	<i>April 2022</i>
Association for Learning Technology, London, UK	
Scholarship for Excellence in Teaching (\$323)	<i>April 2022</i>
Oklahoma State University	
The Sally Hinrich Ph.D. Scholarship (\$223)	<i>April 2022</i>
Oklahoma State University	
Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity	<i>March 2022</i>
Inductee, Oklahoma State University Associate Chapter	
The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi	<i>October 2020</i>
Inductee, Oklahoma State University	
Coulter Emerging Writers and Poets Scholarship	<i>May 2008</i>
The University of Akron	
Phi Sigma Alpha Honorary Fraternity Induction	<i>May 2008</i>
The University of Akron	

ACADEMIC AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Fulbright Interview Panelist	<i>December 2024</i>
• Humanities Expert for Hungarian Applicants AY2025-2026	
Fiction Collective Two (FC2) Annual Innovative Fiction Contest	<i>Fall 2022</i>
• Specially invited contest reader	
Open Education Southern Symposium (OESS) Program Committee Member	<i>Spring 2022</i>
• Reviewed submissions, shaped conference theme, and drafted the call for proposals	
Gateway to Completion Composition Program	<i>Spring 2021</i>
• Assess program and personal pedagogy to lower DFWI rates	

Apprenticeship Program, FYC Program	<i>Fall 2019 - Fall 2021</i>
• Mentored two incoming graduate students in teaching praxis and pedagogy	
FYC Program Assistant Director Subcommittee	<i>November 2021</i>
W. W. Norton & OSU FYC Custom eReader Developer	<i>September 2020 — September 2021</i>
W. W. Norton Custom eReader Workshop	<i>April 2021</i>
• Leader & Coordinator	
Revision of English 1313 Curriculum	<i>Summer 2019</i>
• Dr. Lynn Lewis (Advisor)	
Honors Contract, Director	<i>Spring 2019</i>
• Shelby Bennet (Mentee)	
“Using Screencasting Software for Feedback on Student Writing” Workshop, Attendee	<i>Spring 2019</i>
Graduate and Professional Student Government Association, Liaison	<i>2018-2019</i>
OpenLatch Education Foundation Service	<i>2017—Present</i>
• Curriculum Assessor	

SECONDARY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

English Faculty

January 2012 — July 2017

Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy

- Served as primary instructor for six (6) English sections, developing and evaluating course assessments, lectures, and creating curriculum.
- Mentored one (1) group of ten male students per year (one hour per week).
- Coached two (2) National Speech and Debate Public Forum State-qualifying teams.

Courses Taught: English 8 (English Grammar), English 10 (World Literatures), English 12 (British Literature), Debate

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Memberships

Fulbright Association	<i>2024—Present</i>
American Hungarian Educators Association	<i>2023—Present</i>
Association of Writers and Poets	<i>2018—Present</i>
Modern Language Association	<i>2016—Present</i>
Midwest Modern Language Association	<i>2016—Present</i>
The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing	<i>2016—Present</i>
National Council for Teachers of English	<i>2013—Present</i>

Training

Institute for Teaching and Learning Excellence	<i>Spring 2019</i>
Multimodal Instruction Training	<i>Fall 2018</i>