

IZZY ALEXANDER

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she/her/hers

EDUCATION

The University of Tennessee

Knoxville, TN

M.A., *English*, Rhetoric, Writing, and Linguistics

expected May 2027

B.A. with Honors, *English*, concentration in Rhetoric & Writing

2025

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Graduate Teaching Assistantship, English department

2025 – 2027

John C. Hodges Fellowship for New Graduate Students

2025 – 2026

Better English Endowment & John B. Emperor Memorial Endowment

2025 – 2026

U.S. Women's Rugby Foundation [15 Under 30 Award](#)

2025

[Torchbearer](#)

2025

[Volunteer of Distinction](#)

2025

[Anne Hight Gore Best Thesis Prize](#)

2025

Spirit of the Hellbender “Porsha Smash” Award *from the Women's Rugby Club*

2025

National Collegiate Rugby [Scholastic All-American](#)

2024 & 2025

Induction to the Alpha Epsilon Chi chapter of Sigma Tau Delta

2022

Graduate of the [Chancellor's Honors](#) undergraduate program

Graduate of the [Leadership Knoxville Scholars](#) program

PUBLICATIONS

“On Being Cringe: Hospitable Tutoring and Caring Too Much.” *Another Word*, June 2026,
<https://dept.writing.wisc.edu/blog/on-being-cringe/>.

“*Zwei Mauern*: A rhetorical analysis of U.S. and Soviet internal and external communication surrounding the construction of the Berlin Wall.” *Chancellor's Honors Program Projects*, May 2025,
https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_chanhonoproj/2599.

—*Advisors*: Dr. Lisa M. King, Dr. Daniel H. Magilow, Dr. Gerard Cohen-Vrignaud

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Bodies on the Line,” master's thesis in progress.

—*Advisors*: Dr. Brandee Easter, Dr. Jeffrey Ringer, Dr. Rima Elabdali

“‘No Faux-King Way’: A Multimodal Critical Discourse Analysis of ‘No Kings’ Protest Posters as Technologies of Collective Political Identity Construction,” article in progress.

“‘It’s Just Leverage:’ How Collegiate Women’s Rugby Coaches Make Rhetorical Coaching Choices,” qualitative empirical study in progress.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

“Growing Utopian New Deal Cities: A Rhetorical, Geographical Approach to Historic Greendale, Wisconsin,” Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, San Francisco, CA, 20 March 2026. Co-authored with Mia Nighgroh, Ph.D. student, University of Tennessee, Department of Geography and Sustainability.

“Performing Wrong: The Female-Gendered Athletic Body as Injury/Injured,” NEXUS Interdisciplinary Conference, Knoxville, TN, 17 April 2026.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

“‘No Faux-King Way’: A Multimodal Critical Discourse Analysis of ‘No Kings’ Protest Posters as Technologies of Collective Political Identity Construction,” Linguistics Student Research Symposium, Knoxville, TN, 27 April 2026.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROFICIENCIES

Digital Publishing: CollectionBuilder, WordPress

Text Encoding: TEI/XML, Oxygen XML Editor

Social Media Analysis: Communalytic

Text Visualization: Voyant, Palladio

Digital Storytelling: ArcGIS Story Maps, StoryMap.JS, Timeline.JS

Additional Software and Tools: GitHub, Google Sheets, Twine

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political rhetoric, embodiment theory, archival research, feminist sports theory, injury rhetorics, the creation of borders & border rhetorics, U.S. political culture & communication, Cold War Germany & the Berlin Wall

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Teaching Experience

The University of Tennessee

English 101: English Composition I (*Instructor of Record*)

English 101: English Composition I (*Teaching Assistant*)

English 102: Inquiry into the South (*Teaching Assistant*)

Tutoring Experience

The University of Tennessee

Graduate Writing Consultant & Peer Coach, Undergraduate Writing Help and Application Materials, Judith Anderson Herbert Writing Center, 2026 – 2027

New Graduate Writing Consultant, trained in Undergraduate Writing Help, Judith Anderson Herbert Writing Center, 2025 – 2026

Research Experience

The University of Tennessee

Research Assistant to Dr. Brandee Easter in a project on “Truth Machines,” the polygraph, and the Lavery psychograph, 2025 – 2026

Research Assistant to Dr. Urmila Seshagiri in preparation of *The Life of Violet*, Summer 2023

SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Tennessee Libraries

Knoxville, Tennessee

Student Library Assistant, Community Learning & Engagement

August 2022 – May 2025

- Assist in the planning of local conferences and outreach programs servicing K-12 students
- Create presentation materials and edit the relevant research of the Assistant Dean
- Facilitate electronic communication of the Assistant Dean

University of Tennessee Jones Center for Leadership & Service

Knoxville, Tennessee

Ignite: Student Director of Operations

September 2023 – September 2024

- Manage operations and logistics of over fifty staff members and eight orientation sessions
- Assist full-time staff members in making schedules and planning details of the orientation
- Collaborate with executive team to holistically plan and achieve eight Ignite orientation sessions during the summer of 2024

Ignite: Student Director of Service

September 2022 – September 2023

- Plan both direct and indirect service opportunities at Ignite 865 sessions during the summer and the beginning of the academic year
- Act as service liaison between the Ignite programs at the Jones Center for Leadership and Service and local service partners, nonprofits, and organizations in Knoxville
- Collaborate with executive team to holistically plan and achieve six Ignite orientation sessions during the summer of 2023

Raising a Voice

Knoxville, Tennessee

Grant-Writing Intern

September 2021 – May 2022

- Write grants for a variety of projects and general support for a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization
- Research weekly to find new opportunities from governmental and private funders
- Service the organization through initiatives and community outreach
- Applied for 12 grants, received at least 5 grants for a total of \$66,834 during my employment

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- *Senator Representative of the Graduate Students in English*, Graduate Student Senate, University of Tennessee (2026 – present)
- *Graduate Representative of English*, Student Library Advisory Committee, University of Tennessee (Fall 2025 – present)
- *Fiction Reader*, GRIST Literary Magazine, University of Tennessee (2024 – 2026)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

United Campus Workers (2025 – present)

Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honors society (2022 – present)

MidSouth Rugby Referee Union (2023 – present)

LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

- German C1 Proficiency Designation – Non-Native Fluency
Deutsche Sprachdiplom II der Kultusministerkonferenz
- L1 Referee
World Rugby