

Education

Southern Illinois University Carbondale Master of Fine Arts in Poetry

May 2021

Thesis: Songs for the Father of Waters

Told in narrative-lyric poems, *Songs for the Father of Waters* is the portrait of a working-class family during the floods on the Mississippi River in 1996. The poems take place in St. Louis and Foley, Mo., a small town situated on the floodplain and overrun by rising waters. Against this backdrop rife with difficulties, the speaker endures her mother's cancer diagnosis and eventual death, her father's alcoholism, and her older brother's struggle with schizophrenia. In addition to the major theme of displacement, with regards to both natural disasters as well as family tragedies, these poems engage with regional history, environmentalism, poverty, and grief.

Director: Professor Judy Jordan

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Master of Arts in English

May 2017

Thesis: The Loudest Room

A collection of poetry and creative non-fiction which approaches space and how it relates to family, the self, work, the fractured landscape during ecological disaster, and the body. These poems take place under the Midwest landscape and illustrate what it was like for the speaker to end a career in dance and begin work in factories across the country. It deals with relationships, spatial elements, and family dynamics, and uses Gaston Bachelard's *The Poetics of Space* as a starting point.

Director: Professor Allison Funk

Webster University Bachelor of Arts in English

May 2011

Research Interests

- Poetry writing and creative writing pedagogy
- Diversity and inclusion in the student-centered classroom
- Modern and contemporary American poetry and poetics
- First-year composition pedagogy and curriculum
- Writing across disciplines
- Universal Design for Learning

Professional Experience

**University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Department of English
Teaching Assistant Professor**

Current

English Composition 101-029, 101-043, 101-092, Professional Writing 295-019

- Developing course schedules and daily plans per the university Writing Commons criteria. Course themes and materials include civic engagement, place, food writing, and community.
- Developing a Service-Learning module to assist students in connecting with their local community and moving their writing from commentator to collaborator.
- Teaching rhetoric, analysis, and concepts related to Professional Writing, English Composition, and Community.
- Teaching students the value of genre-specific writing, engagement, and analysis as it pertains to argumentation.

**University of Missouri-St. Louis, Pierre Laclède Honors College
English Department
Adjunct Professor**

Fall 2022-Summer 2024

Poetry Jumpstart, English 2030, First-Year Composition, Honors English, Cultural Traditions I, Intermediate Junior Level Writing

- Developed a course schedule and daily lesson plans per UMSL's First-Year Composition Curriculum, and the Pierre Laclède Honors College Curriculum.
- Introduced students to the function of rhetoric and of composing processes in a variety of contexts and genre-specific writing. Introduced students to analysis, evaluation, explanation, and counter arguments.
- Taught a variety of literature and English courses including F2F and online. Introduced students to ancient literature, beginning in Mesopotamia. Taught inclusivity, approaches to Eastern and Western philosophy, and a variety of literary and analytical techniques.

**Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Developmental Skills Training Specialist, The Achieve Program**

July 2021-July 2022

- Case management to a diverse array of students, reviewing and accessing their academic and therapeutic needs.
- Assesses the needs of students with learning differences. Creates solutions to aid with studying, and course completion.
- Writes reports to director, administrators, and faculty across campus, and consults on best practices.
- Develops teaching material for English Composition and instructs teachers on effective pedagogy.
- Translates syllabi and academic jargon from professors for students.
- Train tutors to assist students in a wide array of core curriculum courses.

- Provides digital organizational tools to students, including Otter.ai, Quizlet, and read aloud tools.
- Acts as a reader for students when necessary and assists them in seeking accommodations.

Instructional Mentor

May 2019-May 2021

- Acted as a liaison between graduate students, faculty, undergraduates, and administration.
- Regularly provided teaching demonstrations and facilitated in the development of course materials.
- Wrote observation reports and coordinated with the Writing Studies director and staff to provide resources and pedagogical instruction to graduate students.
- Selected texts for a themed reader for English Composition 101.
- Developed course materials for both asynchronous and synchronous courses and aided faculty in moving courses online.
- Instructed graduate students on professionalism in the classroom.
- Assisted in the reorganization and development of the week-long pre-semester workshop for incoming graduate students.

**Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Southern Illinois University Carbondale**

**English 101, Composition I
Instructor of Record**

Fall 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, Summer 2020

- Developed a course schedule and daily lesson plans per SIUE's and SIUC's First-Year Writing curriculum.
- Introduced students to the function of rhetoric and of composing processes in a variety of contexts and genre-specific writing. Introduced students to analysis, evaluation, explanation, and counter arguments.
- Taught a variety of courses including F2F, online, and as a summer intensive.

**English Composition 102, Composition II
Instructor of Record**

Spring 2016, 2017, 2018

- Developed a course schedule and daily lesson plans per SIUE's and SIUC's guidelines.
- Developed theme courses centered on multiculturalism, agriculture, and poverty.
- Introduced students to the complex demands of academic discourse and academic literacy.
- Introduced students to composition practices such as process-oriented writing, planning, drafting, peer review, revision, editing, and various analytical texts.

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

**Introduction to Creative Writing, English 119
Instructor of Record**

Fall 2019

- Introduced students to the art and craft of writing poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction.
- Designed a course schedule, syllabus, workshop schedule, and daily lesson plans.

- Introduced students to a wide array of course materials, including contemporary published literature, along with online learning platforms designed for creative writers.
- Introduced students to the workshop method, journal keeping, and methods of critique.

Intermediate Technical Writing, English 291
Instructor of Record

Spring 2019

- Developed course schedule, syllabus, and daily lesson plans centered on technical writing for a variety of fields including agriculture, science, business, law, and medicine.
- Introduced students to the challenges of practical writing, and genre-specific writing, and a variety of rhetorical conventions within their majors.
- Engaged students with formal and informal writing assignments, visual texts, and online learning platforms.
- Instructed students to differentiate various analytical techniques when realizing professional goals.

Intermediate Analytical Writing, English 290
Instructor of Record

Fall 2020-Spring 2021

- Developed course material centered on academic writing across disciplines, and the demands of professions which prize careful analytical thought and communication.
- Introduced students to patterns of arrangement, forms of proof, and writing styles unique to their disciplines.
- Instructed students how to compose texts which are incisive, logical, persuasive, and informative.
- Taught students to analyze a wide range of texts, and to conduct ethical research in a variety of forms.

Introduction to Classical Greek Mythology, Classics 230
Graduate Teaching Assistant

Fall 2019

- Designed course schedule and daily lesson plans according to the Classics department syllabus.
- Engaged students with weekly reading and lecture sections to supplement the professor's lectures.
- Responded to students' weekly writing assignments, and graded exams.
- Elaborated on course lectures, defined terms, and hosted reading sessions for students.

The Women's Center

Community Writing Workshop: Healing Through Poetry
Poetry and Place, Making Stories Sing
Instructor

Fall 2018-Summer 2021

- Designed course syllabus and writing prompts for multiple community workshops in St. Louis, Mo. Carbondale, Illinois, Chicago, Illinois, and Albuquerque, New Mexico.

- Taught writing workshops to underserved women and children to help them heal through the sharing of stories, poems, and songs.
- Taught poetic forms and structures and introduced students to a wide range of contemporary writers.
- Collaborated with local service programs to assess needs in the community and to provide writing instruction to serve community members and staff. Worked with libraries and non-profit organizations.

Forest Park Community College
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Fall 2011-Present

Tutor

- Works with both undergraduate and graduate students on dissertations and essays in the fields of English, Engineering, Social Work, Math, and Psychology.
- Attends weekly meetings, facilitates testing, and implements peer mentoring skills to assist students online and in person.
- Has developed writing center curriculum and taught best practices to both student teachers and tutors.

Freelance Writer & Editor

Fall 2011-Present

- Professional writer for corporate agencies, academic institutions, and in the healthcare industry. Major clients include Clayco, Washington University Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, and others.
- Provides timely, relevant marketing materials for clients in the areas of social media, design, book publishing, bios, and more.
- Pitch development, blogging, and multi-media management experience. Programs include Asana, Dropbox, Workday, Canva, Canvas, and others.
- Reviews, edits, and proofreads all material for final copy, and makes recommendations to industry leaders on language use, grammar, and production of material.
- Editor of dissertations, chapbooks, poetry anthologies, full-length non-fiction books, and a variety of publications.

Selected Publications

“On Clark Street and Berwyn,” and “River Street Greenhouse.” *Liminal Women: An Anthology*. 2024.

“Cuivre River,” and “Building a Fire with Dad.” *2River*. Online. 2022.

“February.” *Red Rock Review*. The College of Southern Nevada. Issue 48. pp. 9. 2022.

“Boomtown.” *Yemassee*. The University of South Carolina. Issue 27. Pp.130-131. 2021.

“This Body.” *The Spectacle*. Washington University. Online.2021.

“Patience.” *The Spectacle*. Washington University. Online. 2021.

“The Burden of the Dead.” *Cider Press Review*. Online. 2021.

“Portrait of a Shuttered Town.” *Third Coast*. Pp.79-80. 2021.

“The First Time My Brother Saw Jesus.” *SWIMM*. Online. 2021.

“Portrait of an Illness Before We Knew Its Name.” *The Mississippi Review*. The Center for Writers, The University of Southern Mississippi. Issue 47.3 pp. 26-28. Winter, 2020.

“Snow Creek.” *The McNeese Review*. McNeese State University. Volume 57. pp. 105-106. 2020.

“Cousin.” *Foothill Poetry Journal*. Claremont Graduate University. Volume 10. pg. 21. 2020.

“Portrait of Fear, Days before the Flood of 1993.” *Dovecote Magazine*. Online. 2019.

“St. Louis Acrostic.” *Tinderbox Journal*. Online. 2017.

“St. Mary’s Hospital,” “Nineteen and Twenty,” “Dale and McCausland.” *UCity Review*. Online. 2017.

Awards

Winner, The Eugene Field House Poetry in the Garden Competition, 2024

Finalist & Semi-Finalist, James H. Nash Poetry Contest, St. Louis Poetry Center, 2024

Pushcart Prize Nomination, *Red Rock Review*, 2022

Semi-Finalist, Persea Books Lexi Rudnitsky First Book Prize, 2022

Pushcart Prize Nomination, *Foothill Poetry Journal*, 2020

Honorable Mention, Academy of American Poets Graduate Prize, 2019

Winner, Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 2019

Winner, William Carlin Slattery Arts Award for Poetry. Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, 2017

Winner, JoAnne Hirschfield Memorial Poetry Prize. Awarded by Illinois Poet Laureate Kevin Stein, 2014

Winner, Bravo Writing Award for Academic Scholarship. St. Louis Scholarship Foundation, 2011

Winner, Sisters of Loretto Scholarship. Webster University, 2011

Academic Service and Professional Affiliations

St. Louis Poetry Center-Co-Curator Sunday Workshop; SLPC Program Committee Member

Graduate Students United, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

Association of English Graduate Instructors and Students (AEGIS), Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

Instructional Mentor, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

Graduate Creative Writing Committee, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

The Graduate Writers Forum, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

Little Grassy Literary Festival Committee, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

Teaching Excellence Committee, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

Creative Writing Committee, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

First- Year Writing Committee, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

English Proficiency Exam Committee, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

Sou'Wester, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

Illinois Education Association

Literature for All of Us

Chicago Poetry Foundation