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Maggie Messitt

Nonfiction Storyteller. Social Entrepreneur.

Literary Representation:

Jim McCarthy, Dystel & Goderich
Literary Management

Maggie Messitt has worked as a social entrepreneur, journalist, and editor inside underserved communities in rural South Africa and the American Midwest. In South Africa, she was the founding director of a nonprofit media organization that published an award-winning community newspaper and ran a school for women journalists inside the former Apartheid-era homelands of Lebowa & Gazankulu. In the United States, Messitt spearheaded PBS Wisconsin's first digital engagement site & programming, work for which she was awarded a Knight Digital Media Fellowship at UC—Berkeley. She also worked closely with the WI Department of Corrections, University of Wisconsin, and the Writers in Prison Project to launch the state's first nonfiction workshops for minimum/medium security prisoners. Messitt joined Report for America as National Director in its infancy and grew the initiative from 3 reporters in Appalachia to 61 in 50 newsrooms across the country, and established the operational foundation necessary to place 250 journalists in 2020. She eventually transitioned to serve as Senior Advisor to the RFA President and Leadership team, focused on growth strategies, impact and assessment, and corps excellence. Author of *The Rainy Season*, long-listed for the Alan Paton Award, Messitt currently the Mellon Fellow at Denison University's Center for Narrative Journalism and teaches in the MFA program at Goucher

EDUCATION

Degrees

Doctor of Philosophy, Creative Nonfiction | Ohio University | 2017

Comprehensive Exams—American Literary Journalism & Post-Apartheid Literature

Creative Dissertation —“Art(i)fact: An Atlas of my Search” (genre: memoir / investigation)

Critical Dissertation —“Unresolved: Ambiguous Loss and the Storyteller”

▶ **Committee**—Dinty W. Moore (Director of Creative Writing), Eric LeMay (Creative Nonfiction), Paul Jones (Modern Literature), Gene Ammarell (Anthropology)

Master of Fine Arts, Creative Nonfiction | Goucher College | 2007

Thesis —“The Rainy Season” (genre: immersion / narrative journalism)

Craft Essay — “On the Banks of the River, Far, Far Away: The Challenges of Immersion Journalists inside a Foreign Country, Community, or Culture.”

▶ **Mentors**—Thomas French, Joe Mackall, Laura Wexler, Diana Hume George

Bachelor of Arts, Communications—Print Journalism -&- Faith, Peace & Justice | Boston College | 2001

Senior Thesis — “Housing vs. a Home: The Philosophy Behind and Future of Public Housing in America (with Personal Narratives from Inside)”

* **Interdisciplinary focus** — philosophy, social work, urban planning

▶ **Advisor** — David McMEnamin, Philosophy Department

Certificates

Secondary English Education | Bay Area Teachers Institute | San Francisco State University | 2003

Shared Inquiry Workshop Leader | The Great Books Foundation | 2003

ELL Instructional Methods | California Reading & Literacy Project | 2003

Semester in Washington—Journalism Program | American University | 1999

Scholarly & Teaching Interests

Literary / Narrative Journalism
Resistance Literature
Transnational Literature
Post-Apartheid Literature
Entrepreneurialism for Creatives

Immersion Reportage & Research Across the Genres
Documentary — Poetry, Film, Audio, Theater
Multimedia (& Interactive) Storytelling
Community Engagement & Service Learning
Prison Creative Writing & Journalism Programs

WRITING Books

The Rainy Season: Three Lives in the New South Africa | University of Iowa Press | April 2015

Blurb: “Whether safari travelogues or tributes to the legacy of Nelson Mandela, what most Americans read about South Africa is far more superficial than Maggie Messitt’s gritty vision of the country. In the tradition of writers like James Agee and Katherine Boo, she has immersed herself deeply in the everyday lives of people struggling with AIDS, early death, corruption, false promises, grinding rural poverty, and the daily struggle to make ends meet in a society that tourists and most foreign correspondents never see. This is a profoundly compassionate book, that truly takes you inside the lives of those in it.” —**Adam Hochschild, author, *King Leopold’s Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa***

- ▶ Honored by Duke’s Center for Documentary Studies: “best documentary writing for a long-term project.”
- ▶ *Foreword Reviews* INDIES 2016 Book of the Year Finalist
- ▶ Longlisted for the 2016 *Sunday Times* Alan Paton Award (South Africa)

Art(i)fact: An Atlas of my Search —with agent and preparing for submission

Synopsis: In 2009, a Midwesterner-turned-NYC artist went missing in the rainforests of Maui. This began a search—part memoir, part investigation—by journalist Maggie Messitt to not only piece together what happened to her missing aunt, but to also understand the life that led up to that moment (and subsequently find herself inside that story). Driven by decades of letters, dozens of interviews, and travels through the many places her aunt lived, Messitt becomes a detective, looking at her own family and what it means to live a creative life. When a body is found, Messitt turns from her aunt’s story toward a cold case gone warm—*Is this unidentified woman her aunt?* A cross between *Into the Wild* and *Stories We Tell*, this is an exploration of a life lived outside the American mainstream and how our system deals, often inadequately, with the missing and the dead.

Anthology

Midland: Reports from Flyover Country | Tiller Press @ Simon and Schuster | September 2020

A collection of essays and reportage by journalists based in the ‘missing middle,’ edited by Michael Croley and Jack Shuler. Other contributors include: Graham Lee Brewer, Ted Genoways, Esther Honig, Mei-Ling Hopgood, Sarah Mekedick, Connie Schultz, Peter Slevin, and Elliott Woods.

Scholarly Text

Routledge Companion to Literary Magazines | forthcoming Winter 2021

My chapter is titled, “**The Business of Literary Magazines**” — The Companion is a theoretical and practical collection of scholarly writing, edited by Tim Lanzendörfer, Obama Institute, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany.

Essays & Reportage

For six years (2004 - 2010), African Eye News (wire service) represented my work and sold it to print publications around the world. Since returning to the United States (2011), my work has been published in *Creative Nonfiction*, *Essay Daily*, *Mother Jones*, *River Teeth*, the Southern Poverty Law Center’s *Teaching Tolerance* magazine, & *World Literature Today*, among others.

Select Critical Essay & Review Titles

- “Keep Out” a critical essay on documentary poet Susan Eisenberg, The Poetry Foundation (October 2018)
- “I Woke up Choking,” a critical essay on *Book of the Dead* / Muriel Rukeyser, *LA Review of Books* (May 2018)
- “Dystopian Lit Rising — inside post-Apartheid storytelling,” *World Literature Today* (March/April 2017)

Select Craft Essay Titles

- “On Finding & Vaulting Story,” *Essay Daily* (March 2015)
- “Waiting (and Wading) through Story,” *Creative Nonfiction* (Summer 2015)
- “When Your Co-Author Is Missing,” *Creative Nonfiction* (Winter 2014)

Select Reportage Titles

"Last Rites: A Summer's Day in Rooibok," *Boston College Magazine* (February 2015)

"Spent," *Teaching Tolerance* (Summer 2014)

"Raising Inequality," *Teaching Tolerance* (Summer 2014)

"Exposed," *Teaching Tolerance* (Spring 2014)

"Buttoned Down," *Teaching Tolerance* (Spring 2013)

A series of on-the-ground narratives from the Wisconsin Worker Protests, *Mother Jones* (Spring 2011)

"MaSocietie," *River Teeth: A Journal of Nonfiction Narratives* (Spring 2011)

Select Lyric Essay Titles

"On the Divide that Separates a Family," *Essay Daily* (December 2014)

"North 20°54, West 15°6'14," *Bending Genre* (November 2014)

"Ukufa," *Broad Street Magazine* (Summer 2014)

"Lerato," *Memoir Journal: The Special GUNS Issue* (September 2013)

ADMINISTRATION

Academic & NPO

Senior Executive Advisor | Report For America | 2019 - 2020

- + Advisor to Report for America's President, National Director, and Leadership team (Directors of recruitment, local fundraising, training and service, and corps excellence) on critical scaling strategies.
- + Managed special projects related to scaling— from negotiating and establishing critical partnerships (ie. with the Native American Journalists Association with the aim of increasing our Indigenous Affairs placements and assuring the best training and mentorship for corps members in those placements) to overseeing the evaluation process and impact data measurement of newsrooms and corps members.

National Director | Report For America | 2018 - 2019

- + Served as the COO-equivalent to a national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms across the country to address critical coverage gaps—funded by the Craig Newmark Foundation, Facebook, Ford Foundation, Google News Initiative, Lenfest Institute, Knight Foundation, and others.
- + Established and implemented the standards, practices, policies, and strategies for scaling.
- + Coordinated the design and implementation of training for RFA corps members, including an annual on-site 7-day intensive, year-round distance education, and national mentor network.
- + Served as an ambassador for recruiting on college campuses, at public forums, and in the press.
- + Oversaw the development and implementation of an annual application process for newsrooms and corps members, as well as the on-boarding process, metrics agreements, quarterly evaluations, and renewal.
- + Oversaw the development and implementation of our corps member service project requirement.
- + Served on the Development team, focused on small and large-scale fundraising.
- + Worked with the RFA President on short & long-term financial planning and budgeting
- + Established and implemented short-term and long-term plans for hiring and team build-out.
- + **During this time — the first 18mo of Report for America — I started with 3 corps members in 3 newsrooms across Appalachia and grew RFA to 61 corps members and 50 newsrooms in 28 states and Puerto Rico. I transitioned to Senior Advisor when we were prepared to scale to 250 corps members.**

Founder of Nonfiction Program | Writers In Prisons Project (Wisconsin) | 2010 - 2012

- + Worked with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Oakhill Correctional Facility, and Writers In Prisons Project throughout the design, approval, and implementation of the first nonfiction workshops.
- + Worked with the University of Wisconsin – Madison's MFA Program to secure assistant workshop facilitators, specifically MFA students and the UW Director of Creative Writing, Ron Kuka.
- + Secured literature donations from regional authors and bookstores.

Founding Executive Director | Amazwi School of Media Arts (South Africa) | 2004 - 2009

- + Piloted and launched a writing school for rural African women.
- + Managed NPO (on-site international staff of 15+) and its 3 projects: Amazwi School of Media Arts, Amazwi Writers Publishing, and Writers & Artists Residency Program.
- + Wrote, secured, and managed grants from the Media Development & Diversity Agency (\$25,000), International Academy of Film & Television (\$150,000), the *Lonely Planet* Foundation (\$20,000), and others.
- + Developed curriculum and instruction methods, now recognized by MAPPP-SETA, South Africa's media and arts education governing body.
- + Hired, trained, and mentored a team of international, long-term-volunteer writing instructors (6mo - 1year).
- + Trained & certified unemployed Shangaan, Sotho, and Zulu women (ages 22-34) who have gone on to write for South African wire services, newspapers, magazines, and literary journals.

FELLOWSHIPS & IN-RESIDENCE

Mellon Fellow | Denison University's Center for Narrative Journalism | 2019 - 2021

Denison University's Center for Narrative Journalism is a vibrant hub for journalism and programs that include writers, reporters, filmmakers, and audio producers engaged in long-form narrative storytelling — for Denison students and it's surrounding community members. In this role, I designed and launched the 'Narrative Journalism Mellon Faculty Cohort,' a series of workshops and one-on-one mentorship, with the aim of integrating and producing “place-based” narratives across the curriculum, particularly focused on deeply researched nonfiction writing/audio/documentary that examines critical narratives between the coasts — “the missing middle,” as it is sometimes called — its people, politics, culture, environment, economics and more. *Ultimately, this is about public scholarship.* The 2019-2021 interdisciplinary cohorts were selected from faculty applications across the university.

Ofstad Endowed Writer-in-Residence | Truman State University | Fall 2016

As a Visiting Professor in the English & Linguistics department (BFA in Creative Writing), I taught an advanced creative nonfiction workshop focused on immersion journalism and the researched essay. Additionally, I participated in the Ofstad Reading Series and guest lectured in a junior interdisciplinary literature course called “Race, Class, and Gender.” This semester position--funded by the Ofstad Endowment--supported my residence on Truman State's campus and engagement with students and faculty in the School of Arts & Letters.

John Cady Research Fellow | The Graduate College @ Ohio University | 2015 - 2016

The John Cady Graduate Research Fellowship is service-free and focused on the time one needs to conduct dissertation research. It is granted through the Ohio University Graduate College as one of five competitive, university-wide graduate fellowships (with more than 4000 eligible applicants). During this time, my research focused on a single missing persons case (fieldwork / investigation) and examined the intersections of mental health, missing persons, and homelessness (secondary research).

Scholar-in-Residence | Bowers Writers House @ Elizabethtown College | Fall 2015

Funded by a Mellon Humanities Grant, this position supported my residence at Bowers Writers House and engagement with students and faculty across the college. In this role, I guest lectured on the basics of fieldwork, story structure, book proposals and query letters, documentary writing, and developmental editing in professional writing and creative writing classrooms; co-taught Dr. Matt Willen's travel writing class; and presented a semester-long series of public lectures: “South Africa in Three Acts: Elephant, Newspapers, and

Rimbewu” / “Place As Character: Cartography, Street History, and Literature” / “Journalism, Literature, and the Arts in a New Democracy”. During this time, I also developed & led an 8-week research assistant program for seven students, across the university. This opportunity afforded each to learn about creative research methodology and organization; apply the skills they’ve honed inside the classroom to professional work in the humanities; brainstorm and problem-solve with an author and other research assistants; and see how this kind of research finds its way into an early draft of a narrative nonfiction book.

Peter Taylor Fellow | Kenyon Review Writing Workshops | Kenyon College | Summer 2015

Named after former Kenyon professor and poet / short story writer Peter Taylor, this fellowship is awarded to an “outstanding writer” to assist in the teaching of a summer writing workshop. I was selected to teach with Dinty W. Moore and to meet with participant writers one-on-one throughout the week. In this generative workshop, participants completed daily assignments geared to specific nonfiction writing techniques, & shared their drafts with the class. As a fellow, I also gave a public reading of my work.

Climate Change Fellow | Kanawha Project | Ohio University | 2013 - 2014

As a fellow, I participated in a year-long program to increase interdisciplinary environmental conversations. The goal of the program—Advancing Carbon Neutrality: Using the Kanawha Model to Facilitate Climate Change Literacy—was to build climate change literacy with the aim of enhancing undergraduate curriculum and further the implementation of the Ohio University Sustainability and Climate Action Plans. Faculty participants attended monthly lectures and discussion groups, as well as three weekend-long workshops throughout the year. At the conclusion of the year, faculty attended a fourth workshop aimed at revising an existing course, weaving in climate change issues and themes. The Kanawha Project was sponsored and supported by University College and the Environmental Studies Program in the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs. *I was awarded this fellowship based on the ‘Writing about Environmental Sustainability’ course I piloted and then helped expand to multiple sections each semester.*

Multimedia Storytelling Fellow | Knight Digital Media Center | Univ of California—Berkeley | 2010

UC-Berkeley established the Knight Digital Media Center with a 2.8 million dollar, 5-year grant from the Knight Foundation to host and further educate leaders in digital storytelling. The 2010 cohort of 20 print and broadcast professionals participated in workshops that covered all aspects of multimedia storytelling production, from basic storyboarding to cross-platform news and documentary production. Fellows were taught the technical skills they needed to produce and teach colleagues to produce quality multimedia stories including audio/video recording and editing, Flash graphics, digital equipment, and more. Guest speakers discussed the future of journalism, the role of technology, and the importance of engagement. UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism lecturers Paul Grabowicz, Samantha Grant, Marilyn Pittman, Jeremy Rue, Jerry Monti and Scot Hacker presented the workshop’s core multimedia curriculum. *The KDMC only awarded fellowships from 2007-2012. I was awarded this fellowship in recognition of my multimedia and engagement work with Wisconsin Public Television and POV Documentary Films.*

Research Fellow | Media, Development & Diversity Agency of South Africa | 2004-2005

The Media Development and Diversity Agency was established by an Act of Parliament in 2002 to try to enable “historically disadvantaged communities and persons not adequately served by the media” to gain access to and become key players within the media. As a recipient of an early MDDA grant and research fellowship, I researched the state of small print media in rural communities throughout Kwa-Zulu Natal, Mpumalanga, and Limpopo and identified its greatest needs in the post-apartheid media landscape and possible training and publishing solutions. The grant covered foundational research, programmatic concept

development, and pilot training. My research led to the establishment of a non-profit initiative focused on training rural women as nonfiction storytellers and journalists with an emphasis on rural communities and the establishment of a narrative-focused community newspaper. *This led to the launch of Amazwi.*

Fellow | Teacher Edu. for the Adv. of a Multicultural Society | Univ. of San Francisco | 2002 - 2003

Teacher Education for the Advancement of a Multicultural Society (TEAMS) was a collaborative of schools and community-based organizations, led by the University of San Francisco (USF), which provided resources, support and preparation for educators who wanted to work in our neediest schools and were committed to diversity, equality, and excellence in education. TEAMS was established to address the critical shortage of teachers in Bay Area urban schools, and its objective was to develop educational leaders to shape a multicultural world with creativity, generosity, and compassion. TEAMS utilized four specific methods to prepare teachers: (1) Enrollment in a credential program; (2) Service as a teacher or school counselor; (3) Attendance at pedagogical seminars; and (4) Design and implementation of a service-learning project. Through the pedagogical seminars, Fellows were trained in the Youth Empowerment Model of service-learning. Implemented within schools and surrounding communities, Service-learning projects helped Fellows to collaborate with other community members, gain practical skills in building community, and develop creative approaches to curriculum development.

Fellow & Classroom Facilitator | Human Rights Education Service Corps | Amnesty Internl. | 1999

Founded in 1997, the Human Rights Education Service Corps (HRESC) was a unique Amnesty International USA program designed to promote human rights issue awareness through classroom education. Partnering with high school classrooms in the Washington D.C. school system, HRESC Corps Members facilitated an interactive 10-week curriculum that used the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as its framework. Students developed critical thinking skills while learning about human rights issues on a local, national, and international level. Topics included Women's Rights, Immigrants' Rights, Genocide, The Juvenile Justice System, LGBTQ Rights, Homelessness and Poverty, and more.

**EDITING & PROJECT
MANAGEMENT**

Editor & Co-Founder | *Proximity*, a quarterly collection of true stories | 2013 - 2019

Manage a team of five quarterly editors, two weekly blog editors, guest editors, editorial fellows, and annual contest judges to produce a quarterly, themed literary magazine, grounded in place and connection. The *Review Review* says our quarterly "is an exemplary exhibition of creative nonfiction" and, in October 2018, the *NYTimes* Morning Briefing highlighted the work of our weekly blog, *True*. *In 2020, Proximity was absorbed into the Goucher College MFA program.*

Developmental Manuscript Editor | Contract / Freelance | 2011 - 2019

Developmentally edit and coach writers (under book contract or represented by an agent) through the structuring of their manuscripts, proposal writing, and/or the completion of their books.

Series Editor & British Broadcasting Corporation Content Manager | Learnist | 2012 - 2014

Managed and edited a series of author interviews—Leslie Jamison, Maximilian Potter, among others—and worked closely with the BBC to manage, edit, and curate content for their digital channel.

Publications Editor & Coordinator | Wisconsin Historical Society & Press | 2010 - 2012

Managed and edited a manuscript series for print and web, funded by a federal historic preservation grant. I managed all writers, artists, photographers, and content-specialists (from state tender to project

completion), and coordinated multiple staff across Historic Preservation, Web/IT, and the Press. This project involved developmental editing, trouble-shooting, and the management of people, finances, and material.

Multimedia Producer & Engagement Media Manager | Wisconsin Public Television | 2009 - 2011

Managed pre-production, on-site production, and post-production of multimedia storytelling projects and live viewing events with the aim to increase viewer engagement (digitally and in-person) and the localization of national issues. In addition to multimedia production, this required the management of people (young reporters and event partners), finances (grant writing, budgets, assessments, and final reports), venues (engagement events), and final products (events, content for the web and film, public screenings and discussions). During this time, I piloted and managed the WPT College Correspondent Program and managed engagement for a network of 6 public television stations with an audience of 537,000 households per week. *For this work, I was awarded a 2010 Multimedia Storytelling Fellowship by UC—Berkeley.*

Editor | a.magazine: nonfiction narratives of Africa | 2007 - 2009

Awarded a grant to pilot the first exclusively nonfiction literary magazine focused on Africa, I managed a small editorial team and worked with award-winning writers and photographers from story inception to print, including Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Zakes Mda, Mikhael Subotzky, Greg Marinovich, Stephanie Nolen, & Collette Rossant. Our launch issue was reviewed by the *Utne Reader* (08) and exhibited at Colophon: an International Magazine Symposium (Luxembourg, 09) & We Love Magazine Library (Japan, 09).

Editor | Amazwi Villager | 2005 - 2009

Managed a team of 3 editors and 5 local female journalists, and established a freelance coop producing domestic & international magazine features (08-09). An alternative monthly news magazine, *The Villager* was the first print & online community news source for South Africa's former apartheid-era homelands of Lebowa & Gazankulu, avg. readership of 60,000. In 2008, an Amazwi-trained investigative journalist, Linky Matsie, working for *The Villager*, received South Africa's 2008 Vodacom Community Journalist of the Year Award.

Documentary Shorts Script Writer & Editor | Visionaries, a PBS Documentary Series | 2000 - 2001

My time at Visionaries and with Bill Mosher not only taught me about the financial and editorial side of documentary production, but it inspired me to see the ways in which media is also service. At a time when the web was opening up new possibilities, I spent a year transforming used and unused footage from past Visionaries episodes to create documentary shorts for streaming on the web. Visionaries has been producing its series for public television since 1995. Hosted by Sam Waterston, the series highlights the rarely told stories of nonprofit organizations around the world that are working to make a positive difference in their community and beyond. Visionaries' production crews have traveled across six continents and to more than 50 American cities to profile the extraordinary work of true philanthropists--people dedicating their lives and careers to the service of others. From the beginning, the concept of Visionaries was to utilize television as an instrument of service.

TEACHING

Traditional

Mellon Fellow / Faculty Mentor | Denison University, Narrative Journalism Program | 2019 - 2021

2020-2021 Narrative Journalism Mellon Faculty Cohort — *9-month prgm, application required*

>> Including TT-faculty in Anthropology, Economics, Education, International Studies, Neuroscience, and Sociology.

2019-2021 Narrative Journalism Mellon Faculty Cohort — *9-month prgm, application required*

>> Including TT-faculty in Anthropology, Communication, GeoSciences, Global Health, History,

International Studies, Sociology, and Women's & Gender Studies.

Mentor / Core Graduate Faculty | Goucher College, MFA in Creative Nonfiction | 2017 - present

"Residency" — 8-days of intensive workshops, lectures, presentations, panel discussions, etc.

"Manuscript Workshop" (I, II, III, IV, V)

"Manuscript Mentorship" (I, II, III, IV, V)

"Fieldwork in Nonfiction"

"Projects in Digital Narrative" — *focused on narrative across all genres and mediums.*

"Literary Magazine Studies & Publishing Practicum"

"The Entrepreneurial Writer"

Visiting Lecturer | Chatham University, MFA in Creative Writing | Fall 2017

"Readings in Prose" — *required literature coursework for all MFA students*

Visiting Mentor | Carlow University, MFA in Creative Writing | Spring 2017

"The Entrepreneurial Writer" — *focused on the business of writing & literary citizenship*

Visiting Professor / Writer-in-Residence | Truman State University, BFA Program | Fall 2016

"Adv. Creative Writing Workshop: Nonfiction," Special Topics: Immersion & the Researched Essay"

Scholar-in-Residence | Bowers Writers House @ Elizabethtown College | Fall 2015

"Travel Writing," co-taught this course with Dr. Matt Willen, part of a year-long program. Students also completed an anthropology course & summer fieldwork in Iceland.

Doctoral Instructor | Ohio University | Fall 2012 - Spring 2015

"Writing & Rhetoric I — *Special Topics: Truth in Nonfiction*" (F12, S13, S14)

"Writing about Environmental Sustainability" (F13, S14, S15) — *piloted this course for department*

"Creative Nonfiction Workshop" (F14)

Instructor & Curriculum Designer | Amazwi School of Media Arts (South Africa) | 2004 - 2009

"Fieldwork Studies" (2004-2009)

"Narrative Storytelling" (2004-2009)

"English Language & Grammar" (2004-2009)

"Final Portfolio Seminar" (2004-2009)

MFA Thesis Committee Member | Goucher College, MFA in Creative Nonfiction | 2017 - ongoing

* Amanda Brandt ('21) — Memoir, "A Biography of my Anxiety"

Dustin Hodge ('21) — Memoir, *title to be determined*

* Megan Reilly ('21) — Memoir, *title to be determined*

Darci Glass-Royal ('21) — Collection of Travel Essays, *title to be determined*

* Brandon Arveson ('20) — Memoir, "The Last Horserace"

* Stephanie Atkins ('20) — Memoir, "59 Weeks"

Anita Dale ('20) — Memoir, "Scenes from a Mental Illness"

* Laura Stall ('20) — Collection of Essays, "On Religion & Identity"

* Yolanda Manora ('19) — Collection of Lyric Essays, "Trill" and a critical introduction

Susette Brooks ('19) — Collection of Essays, "The Lies I Tell"

* Susan Banta ('18) — Memoir, "The Beauty Project"

* Ellie Bozmorova ('18) — Memoir, "Motherland"

* *First Reader / Chair*

MFA Thesis Committee Member | Chatham University, MFA in Creative Writing | 2018 - 2019

Shawna Kent ('19) — Critical Introduction & Collection of Essays, "Remember Eisenhower Street"

Samantha Smith ('19) — Critical Introduction and Collection of Essays, "Tomboy in Red Lipstick"

MFA Thesis Committee Member | Goucher College, MFA in Digital Arts | 2017 - 2018

* Rahlana Smith ('18) — Critical Essay and Animated Documentary on women Civil Rights leaders.

Non-Traditional

Workshop / Monthly Commons Leader | Report for America Training | 2018 - 2019

"Covering poverty in rural communities" (in-person, J19)

"Covering communities that are not your own," (in-person, J19)

"Introduction to Service," (in-person, J18, J19)

"Introduction to Service," (in-person, J18, J19)

"Pitching Session" (online, O18, N18)

"Long-form Project Planning and Execution" (online, J19)

"Essays" (online, M19)

"Service Project: Reflection & Planning" (online, A19)

"Capstone Projects" (online, J19)

Workshop Instructor | *Creative Nonfiction Magazine & Foundation* (PA) | 2016 - 2017

"Foundations of Creative Nonfiction" (online, S16)

"A Cinematic Approach to the Personal Essay" (in-person, S17)

Workshop Instructor | Lighthouse Writers Workshops (CO) | 2016 - 2017

"Memoir — a generative workshop" (online, S17)

"A Journalist's Approach to Memoir" (in-person, S16)

Workshop Facilitator | Writers In Prisons Project (WI) | Summer 2011 - Summer 2012

"Creative Nonfiction — Memoir Workshop" (Su11, F11, W11, Sp12, Su12)

Workshop Instructor | Shake Rag Alley: Midwest Center for the Arts (WI) | Spring 2011

"Flash" (S11)

"Multimedia Storytelling" (S11)

"Portfolio Development" (S11)

Visiting Writer &
Master Classes
(by Invitation)

***Creative Nonfiction's* Wednesday Webinars | April 2021**

"The Self-Interview: Approaching Memoir like a Journalist"

Denison University' Tuesday Luncheon Lecture Series | September 2019

"Art(i)Fact: One Story, Seven Ways"

Conversations & Connections Conference @ Chatham University | October 2017

"In the Field & the Archives: Research in Creative Nonfiction"

Words Without Walls' Maenads Fellowship Program @ Chatham University | March 2017

"Publishing & Mentorship"

Goucher College MFA Winter Residency | January 2017

"Project Management for Creative Nonfiction Writers"

Kalamazoo Valley Community College | November 2016

"The Empathetic Writer: Telling True Stories in a Deeply Divided Nation"

Truman State University | September 2016

"Race, Gender, and Society—an interdisciplinary look at *The Rainy Season*"

2016 Creative Nonfiction Writers Conference | May 2016

"Interview Techniques"

Franklin University | April 2016

"A Journalist's Approach to Memoir," and one-on-one student meetings

Wilkes University | Allan Hamilton Dickson Spring Writers Series | February 2016

"A Journalist's Approach to Memoir"

Malone University | February 2016

"Thinking Cinematically: A Visual Approach to Creative Writing"

University of Wisconsin—Whitewater | Creative Writing Festival | November 2015

Keynote Address, "Taking Risks in Life & on the Page"—to more than 700 high school creative writers from Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin—and four workshop sessions of "Thinking Cinematically: A Visual Approach to Creative Writing"

University of Wisconsin—Whitewater | March 2012

"Introduction to Immersion Journalism and the Research Process"

Professional
Development Lectures
(by Invitation)

Guest Lecturer | MFA Program @ University of North Dakota

"The Pedagogy Behind Prison Creative Writing Programs," and Q&A (November 2014)

Panelist | "Professional Issues Colloquium on the Profession," a Lecture Series @ Ohio University

Grant Writing (March 14, 2014)

Lecturer | "Professional Issues in Teaching College English," a Lecture Series @ Ohio University

Curriculum Design, Course Management, & At-Risk Students (November 8, 2013)

Technology in the Comp Classroom (April 19, 2013)

At-Risk Students Inside First-Year-Writing (February 8, 2013)

Lecturer and Workshop Leader | First-Year Instructor Orientation @ Ohio University

Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning (August 2014)

Curriculum Design and Lesson Planning (August 2013)

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, & GRANTS

Graduate Summer Research Scholarship | Ohio University | English Department | 2016
Original Works Grant | Graduate Student Senate | Ohio University | 2014
Documentary Essay Prize, 1st Runner-up / HM | Center for Documentary Studies | Duke University | 2013
Doctoral Teaching Scholarship | Graduate Creative Writing Program | Ohio University | 2012 - 2015
International Project Grant | *Lonely Planet* Foundation (Australia) | 2007
Project Grant | International Academy of Film & Television | 2007
Academic Dean's Travel Grant | Neiman Conference South Africa Funding | Goucher College | 2006
Small Media Research Grant | Media Development & Diversity Agency of South Africa | 2004

JUDGE

Creative Nonfiction Fellowship Judge | Oregon Literary Arts | Fall 2016

Reviewed fellowship applications and selected finalists and winners. Oregon Literary Arts Fellowships are intended to help Oregon writers initiate, develop or complete literary projects in poetry, fiction, literary nonfiction, drama and young readers literature. As a fellowship judge (*by invitation*), application review lasted approximately 3 months. In the final stage, final selections were made as a collective (fiction judge Matthew Salesses, poetry judge Lo Kwa, and me).

Documentary & Essay Judge | Wisconsin Youth Media Festival | 2010, 2011

Children's Book Judge | PBS Kids Go! Writing Contest | 2010, 2011

Research Paper Judge | National History Day: Wisconsin State Finals | 2010

CONFERENCE PANELS

2022 Associated Writers & Writing Programs (Philadelphia, PA) — *Invited to participate.*

"Revise and Refine: Creating a Diverse, Inclusive, and Equitable Writing Industry," with Susette Brooks (Director of Multimedia Marketing at Penguin Random House), Danielle A Jackson (Editor-in-Chief of *Oxford American*), Merry Sun (Associate Editor for Portfolio, Sentinel, and Current), and Jeanine Cook (Owner of Harriet's Bookshop).

2021 International Conference for Literary Journalism Studies (Copenhagen, Denmark)

"Longform Storytelling in the News Magazine and Beyond," with Tobias Eberwein (American University in Paris, France), Brett Popplewell (Carleton University, Canada), and Kevin Lerner (Marist College, USA).

2021 International Conference for Literary Journalism Studies (Copenhagen, Denmark)

"Literary Journalism & Found Poetry," with Sue Joseph (University of Technology Sydney, Australia), David Drayton (University of Technology Sydney, Australia), and Rob Alexander. (Brock University, Canada).

2018 NonfictionNow (Phoenix, AZ)

"Unexpected Activism: Creative Writing meets Social Justice" with Scott Morris, Sheila Pham, and Tom Fate.

2018 Investigative Reporters & Editors Conference (Orlando, FL)

"How to Report for America," with Molly Born (West Virginia Public Broadcasting), Ryan Nave (Mississippi Today) and Charlie Sennott (The GroundTruth Project)

2017 Creative Nonfiction Writers Conference (Pittsburgh, PA)

"Better Writing with Research," a presentation & discussion with Adriana E Ramirez.

“Engaging Your Audience, Raising your Profile, and Self-Promotion” with J. Brickhouse and NK Johnstone.
“Writing for the Web” with editors from *Paris Review*, *Slate*, *Future Tense*, and *Proximity*.

2017 NonfictionNow (Reykjavik, Iceland)

“Nonfiction Comics: The Next Frontier” w/Kevin Haworth, Dr. Ariel Kahn, Morsal Mohammad, Houman Sadri.

2016 Creative Nonfiction Writers Conference (Pittsburgh, PA) — by invitation

“Better Writing with Research,” a presentation and discussion with Adriana E Ramirez.

2015 Association of Writers and Writing Programs (Minneapolis, MN)

“Digging for Story: Research, Fieldwork, and Accuracy in Creative Writing”
with Sheri Booker, Bronwen Dickey, Nomi Stone, and Kristen Millares Young.

2014 Northeastern MLA Conference (Harrisburg, PA)

“Literature of Resistance: Creative Writers & the Occupy Movement”
with Eric Bliman, Jennifer Lee Hirt, Rachel Wilkinson.

2014 Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900 (Louisville, KY)

Creative Readings from forthcoming works & Q&A session.

2013 Association of Writers and Writing Programs (Boston, MA)

“Teaching Creative Writing Behind Bars (& Beyond)”
with Antonia Crane, Josh Mohr, and Tyler McMahon.

PUBLIC READINGS

A sampling (2015-2020)

City of Asylum (Pittsburgh, PA)
Cleveland Drafts Literary Festival (Cleveland, OH)
Denison University (Granville, OH) *with essayist and critic Garnette Cadogan and journalist Anna Badkhen*
The Ivy Bookshop (Baltimore, MD) *with journalists Patsy Sims and Suzannah Lessard*
Broadway Books (Portland, OR) *with novelist and former journalist Rene Denfeld*
Elliott Bay Book Co. (Seattle, WA) *with writer-translator Wendy Call and journalist Kristen Millares Young*
Kramerbooks & Afterwords (DC) *in conversation with journalist Andy Kroll*
Wisconsin Book Festival (Madison, WI)
Magers & Quinn (Minneapolis, MN)
Pete’s Candy Store Series (Brooklyn, NY) *with novelists Rick Moody and Alexandra Kleeman*
Politics & Prose (Washington, DC) *in conversation with journalist & author Patsy Sims*
Prairie Lights Books (Iowa City, IA)
The Tattered Cover (Denver, CO) *with journalist & author Maximillian Potter*
The Wild Detectives (Dallas, TX) *with essayist Clinton Crockett Peters*
Wilkes University (Wilkes-Barre, PA) *with National Book Award-winner Phil Klay*
Why There are Words (Sausalito, CA) *with novelist Christian Kiefer, novelist Ann Packer, and others*

**LITERARY
COMMUNITY
SERVICE**

Organizer | *Literary Wilderness* | 2013, 2015

Organized an every-other-year campaign (lasting four to six months), connecting writers and publishers (and their books) with prison creative writing and literature classrooms.

Literary Wilderness Reading & Benefit, The Nicolette, Minneapolis, MN (April 2015)

—with Sheri Booker, Antonia Crane, Shasta Grant, Sarah Green, Richard Gold, Tasha Golden, Arielle Greenberg, Jennifer Bowen Hicks, Robert Lopez, Brad Aaron Modlin, Metta Sama, Kelly Sundberg, Anca Szilagyi, Kristen Millares Young.

Literary Wilderness Reading & Benefit, Old South Church, Boston, MA (Feb 2013)

—with Matthew Zapruder, Jill McDonough, Daniel B. Johnson, Jen Moore, Lucy Christopher, Erin Cejello, Suzanne Roberts, Kristen Millares Young, Bronwen Dickey, Samuel Park, Ann Wertz Garvin, and my co-organizer Sarah Green.

Official “Giver” & Local Project Leader | World Book Night | 2014

Mentor | PEN America—Prison Writing Program | 2012 - 2014

Mentored incarcerated creative writers. Through individual mail correspondence, mentors provide careful criticism, tips on craft, and guidance in the fundamentals of grammar to inmates around the country.

Reader, Creative Nonfiction & Fiction | *New Ohio Review* | 2012 - 2013

Writers in Prisons Project Reading | Wisconsin Book Festival | October 2011

Editorial Board Member | ANFASA (Academic & NF Authors Ass. of South Africa) | 2009 - 2010

South Africa’s first national association specially for authors of general non-fiction works, textbooks and academic books, dedicated to promoting their works and their status in society and advocating for the recognition of their works and the protection of their rights.

**UNIVERSITY
SERVICE**

Narrative Journalism Major Development Committee Member | Denison University | 2020 - 2021

An interdisciplinary team of faculty from Anthropology, Black Studies, Communication, English, Global Commerce, Earth Sciences, and Environmental Studies gathered to discuss the transition of the Narrative Journalism program from a concentration to a major, design interdisciplinary curriculum that embraces existing coursework as well as new coursework, and formally propose this major to the university. This team guided the major proposal through approval and accreditation.

Narrative Journalism Program Committee Member | Denison University | 2019 - 2021

Podcast-a-thon Mentor Program Organizer | Denison University | 2021

Coordinated 12 audio storytelling mentors to work with 82 student teams across 11 courses (from departments across the university) to review their podcast-a-thon submission rough cuts three days prior to their due dates. Mentors included Jesse Dukes (*Curious City*, WBEZ), Basim Blunt (Dayton Youth Radio Project Coordinator, WYSO), Jocelyn Robinson (Producer for Emerging Initiatives, WYSO), Samantha Max (Criminal Justice reporter @ WPLN), Glynis Board (Asst. News Director, WVPB), Clare Roth (*All Things Considered* host, WOSU), Savannah Maher (Indigenous Affairs reporter, KUNM), Angela Dennis (*Black in Appalachia* podcast host) and others.

Campus-Wide ‘Conversations’ Organizer and Participant | Denison University | 2019 - 2021

'In Conversation' with essayist Garnette Cadogan, journalist Anna Badkin, podcast producers Taylor Horn and Neil Shea, broadcast journalist and NABJ board member Sia Nyorkor, radio producer and documentary filmmaker Molly Born, journalist and fiction writer Jesse Holland, journalist and novelist Kristen Millares Young, and others.

Virtual Campus Event Planning *due to COVID* | Denison University | Spring 2020

As students departed campus, I opened a community space (using Workplace) and moved all of the Narrative Journalism and English department students online to continue ongoing engagement, conversation, and weekly Happy Hours with raffles and conversations with professionals.

Narrative Journalism 5-Year Strategy Development Team Member | Denison University | 2020

Elected Graduate Representative | Creative Writing Committee | Ohio University | 2014 - 2015

Served on the creative writing faculty committee as a representative of graduate student interests and needs. This role also included serving as a liaison between faculty and student when conflict arose while also offering a safe place for students when they needed to discuss any needs or concerns.

Mentor | Women's Center Mentoring Program | Ohio University | 2013 - 2015

Paired with a female mentee (for two-semester terms). Organized and met with my mentee, every-other-week, throughout the year, focused on both personal and professional concerns, as well as creating strategies and stress coping mechanisms. Additionally, we opted to attend programs and activities focused on career and personal development together throughout the year. I participated in this program twice.

**INTERNSHIPS &
APPRENTICESHIPS**

Personal Assistant & Copy Editor | Donald Lessem, a science author / museum consultant | 2000 - 2001

Investigative Reporting Intern | Dateline NBC (DC) | 1999

Production & Field Reporting Intern | CBS Evening News and Face The Nation (DC) | 1999

Writing & Campaign Intern | Barbara Quiroga PR | 1998 - 1999

Field Reporting Intern | *Beacon News* (IL) | 1998

TECHNICAL

Adobe Creative Suites, Audacity, Final Cut Pro, Microsoft Office, Wordpress, among others.