

## EDUCATION

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### **Ph.D. English - Creative Writing**

University of Southern Mississippi, 2014

Creative Dissertation: *Monsters: A Cycle of Short Stories*

Exam Areas: Creative Writing, Postcolonial Literature of the Asia/Pacific Region,  
British and American Modernism

Committee Members: Prof. Steven Barthelme (chair), Dr. Linda Pierce Allen,  
Dr. Angela Ball, Dr. Charles Sumner, Prof. Andrew Milward

### **M.Litt. (Master of Letters) Creative Writing**

University of Sydney, Australia, 2007

Critical/Creative Thesis: *Delirium Tremens: a Novel*

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. David Brooks

### **M.A. English**

University of Sydney, Australia, 2004 (graduated with merit)

Creative Thesis: *A Girl from the City: Short Stories*

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. David Brooks

### **B.A. English**

Weber State University, 2001

Emphasis: Professional and Technical Writing

## PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

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### ***Auburn University at Montgomery, 2021-present***

Assistant Professor of English

Creative Writing Coordinator

### ***University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, 2016-2021***

English/Creative Writing Lecturer

### ***Zhejiang University – University of Illinois Institute – Haining, China, 2018-2019***

English Lecturer

### ***Texas A&M International University, 2015-2016***

Visiting Assistant Professional of English

### ***University of Southern Mississippi, 2009-2015***

Visiting Instructor, English, 2014-2015

Graduate Teaching Assistant, English, 2009-2014

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Novel

*One Breath from Drowning*, University of Wisconsin Press, June 2022

### Fiction

“Ruination” *McNeese Review*, January 2025

“Pacheco Boulevard” *Literally Stories*, 2019

“The Tyke-Trekker” *Rum Punch Press*, 2015

“The Indian Ocean Is Warmer than the Pacific” *Chelsea Station*, 2015

“Monsters” *riversEdge*, 2014

“Burning Up” *Polari*, 2013

“Robert DeNiro’s Waiting” *The SoMa Literary Review*, 2009

“The Art of Performance” *Q Salt Lake*, 2009

“Politics and Art” *Q Salt Lake*, 2009

### Creative Nonfiction

“Heber” *Los Angeles Review*, January 2025

“Salina” *Bull Literary Magazine*, 2024

### Edited work

*Lorde* - a novel by Joao Gilberto Noll, translated by E.M. Garbelotto, edited by Kent Quaney. *Two Lines Press*. February 2018. Nominated for Lambda Literary Award

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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**Brodie Award for Best Novel, 2022**, *One Breath from Drowning*

**Liberal Arts and Sciences Impact Award** UIUC, 2021

**Top Ten of the Top Ten Instructor Recognition**, UIUC, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

**Joan Johnson Award for Fiction: 2013**, USM, for story “Monsters.”

**Bahr Graduate Research Award: 2013**, USM, for paper “Pansies, Punks, and Predators: Homophobia in Jessica Hagedorn’s *Dogeaters*.”

## EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

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**Managing Editor**, *Thirteen Bridges Review* (formerly *THAT Literary Review*) Auburn University at Montgomery, 2021-present

**Editorial Assistant**, *Ninth Letter*, The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2017-present

**Assistant Fiction Editor**, *The Mississippi Review*, The University of Southern Mississippi, 2011-2013

**Fiction Editor**, *Product*, The University of Southern Mississippi, 2011-2012

**Fiction Reader**, *Reunion: The Dallas Review*, 2010

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#### CONFERENCES AND READINGS

**New South Books, Montgomery, 2025**

Reading of new work and work in progress with poet Stephanie Dugger

**Saints and Sinners, New Orleans, 2024**

Public Reading from novel, *One Breath from Drowning*

Participant in “Queering Religion” panel

**New South Books, Montgomery, 2023**

Reading of new flash fiction with writers Garrett Ashley and Katherine Gaffney

**New South Books, Montgomery, 2023**

Reading and discussion of novel, *One Breath from Drowning*.

**WANA Live! (Writers Association of Northern Appalachia), 2022**

Featured Writer on July 28 live broadcast. Reading and Q and A.

**C4W Salon Series: (Center for Writers), University of Southern Mississippi. 2022**

Co-reading and Q and A with poet Jenny Yang Cropp.

**King’s English Books, Salt Lake City, 2022**

Read from novel and held Q and A

**T-Bone’s Books and Records, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, 2022**

Read from novel and held Q and A with University of Southern Mississippi graduate student led panel.

**Short Story Fest, 2022**

Member of panel discussing newly published work and the process of turning a sequence of short stories into a full-length novel.

**English Language Learners in the Classroom. UIUC 2018**

Co-presenter. Discussion of pedagogical issues and solutions in the UIUC classroom in light of our rapidly expanding international student body. Presented to a cohort of incoming graduate students and instructors.

**Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Portland, 2017**

Member of panel: “Maternal Care in Asian and Pacific Islander Im/Migrant Literature.”  
Presented paper “Lois Ann Yamanaka and Sia Figiel: The Economy of Extended Family Caregivers in Pacific Islander Literature.”

**Gemini Ink Creative Writing Conference, San Antonio, 2016**

Member of panel “MFA Survivors, Conspiracy Theorists and Late Bloomers: Navigating the 21st Century Publishing World.” I was the “MFA Survivor” of the group and spoke on the advantages and disadvantages of graduate creative writing programs based on first hand experience.

**Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Miami, 2016**

“Reimagining Points of Departure: Teaching Asian American Studies.” Member of roundtable discussing challenges and rewards of teaching Asian Literature. My perspective was that of a professor teaching to Asia-Pacific literature to a student body of almost entirely Latinx students.

**Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Chicago, 2015**

“Deadly Borderlands: Collisions of Asian American Masculinity, Whiteness, and Sexuality in the 2014 UCSB Shootings.” Member of roundtable discussing the impact of gender, sexuality, and race issues upon this notorious event.

**Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Seattle, 2013**

“Pansies, Punks, and Predators: Homophobia in Jessica Hagedorn’s *Dogeaters*.” Paper read as part of a panel addressing sexuality and neocolonialism in Filipino Literature.

**Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference, Chicago, 2012**

“Celebrating 25 Years of *Product: The Literary Journal of the University of Southern Mississippi*.”  
Convener of panel showcasing the works of Center for Writers students and graduates.

**COURSES TAUGHT**

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*Auburn University at Montgomery, Assistant Professor of English, 2021-present*

**English 4935/6935: Advanced Fiction Writing Workshop:** Instruction with advanced creative writing students with a deeper focus on craft and style.

**English 4905/6905: Directed Creative Writing:**

One on one instruction with advanced fiction writing students in production of sustained work of fiction.

**English 4040/6040: Creative Nonfiction Workshop**

Workshop designed to help students become more accomplished writers of creative nonfiction and more insightful readers of the genre. Focus on autobiography, biography, and literary journalism. Cross-listed for both undergraduates and graduates.

**English 4020/6020: Fiction Writing Workshop:** A workshop centered on the presentation and discussion of original student writing. Students read exemplary writers, create their own original pieces, and learn to critique each other using the concepts and vocabulary of literary fiction. Cross-listed for both undergraduates and graduates.

**English 4002/6002: Introduction to Creative Writing:** An introduction to various genres of creative writing, including fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and playwriting. Cross-listed for both undergraduates and graduates.

**English 2610: Survey of World Literature II:** World Literature from the Seventeenth Century to the Present. My course focuses on the Asia Pacific region, focusing on literature from China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands.

**English 1020: English Composition II:** A continuation of 1010 focusing on research and argument.

**English 1010: English Composition I:** The essentials of composition and rhetoric focusing on analysis and writing skills.

**English 6900: Special Topics: Modern Japanese Literature:** A graduate seminar exploring the development of Japanese Literature from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present, and its impact on both Eastern and Western Culture.

*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Lecturer of English, 2016-2021*

**Creative Writing 455: Creative Writing Tutorial:** One-on-one mentorship with advanced creative writing student with: Class requires high level of dedication and craftsmanship resulting in a significant collection of fiction (novel or short stories), poetry or creative nonfiction.

**Creative Writing 204: Intermediate Narrative Writing:** Practice in the writing of fiction, with emphasis on the short story. Course addresses issues of craft and construction of story through analysis of readings and workshopping of original pieces. Course open to Creative Writing majors or minors only. Reading list includes Gardner, Prose, Barth, Chekhov, Carver, Welty, Packer, Jen, and Leonard, among others.

**Creative Writing 104: Introduction to Narrative Writing:** An introduction to the practice of writing narrative prose, with primary emphasis on short fiction. Reading list includes Burroway, Packer, McCullers, Oates, Gish Jen, and Denis Johnson, among others.

**Creative Writing 100: Introduction to Creative Writing:** Acquaints students with the technical choices a writer makes in creating stories, poems, and related written forms like creative nonfiction. Activities include mini lectures about craft, discussions of related reading assignments, creative writing and analytical exercises, as well as visits by working writers.

**Business And Technical Writing 250: Principles of Business Communication:**

Teaches the application of successful professional communication principles to workplace writing tasks. Also focuses on editing, research, and co-authorship in a business setting.

**Rhetoric 101/102: Principles of Writing/Principles of Research:**

A yearlong expanded course for students who test below the requirement to enroll in 105. Instruction in the creation of effective argumentative essays, including how to develop thesis statements and use evidence across different types of writing, culminating in an extended research project.

**Rhetoric 100: Rhetoric Tutorial:** Weekly individual tutoring sessions for students enrolled in Rhetoric 101. Sessions covered activities ranging from brainstorming help to collaborative reading sessions, to topic generating conversations, to paper revision guidance, etc.

**Rhetoric 105: Writing and Research:** Instruction in research-based writing and the construction of academic, argumentative essays that use primary and secondary sources as evidence.

*Texas A&M International University, Laredo, TX, Assistant Professional of English, 2015-2016*

**English 3330: South Pacific Literature:** A self-designed upper division elective for English majors that focuses on the concepts of Postcolonial, Feminist, and Queer theory as they apply to the literature of Hawaii, US territories of the South Pacific, and other South Pacific nations. Issues of colonial education, language, religion, cultural hybridity and hegemony are emphasized. Reading list includes: Alan Duff, Sia Figiel, Jessica Hagedorn, Haunani Kay Trask, Christos Tsiolkas, Subramani, and Lois Ann Yamanaka.

**English 1301: English Composition I:** A course designed to develop students' expository and analytical writing skills by guiding them through the multiple stages of the writing process and by creating an awareness of authorial voice, audience, purpose, and occasion. Evaluation of selected readings in contemporary prose will further emphasize aspects of the writing process.

**English 1302: English Composition II:** A continuation of ENG 1301, designed to develop students' expository and analytical reading and writing skills by guiding them through the multiple facets of literary analysis, such as close reading, analyzing voice, point of view, setting, character and tone, and reading for deeper meaning through identifying theme, symbol, allegory, and greater statements on our culture. Course requires two literary analysis essays, and culminates with extended research project.

**English 2311: Technical Communication:** This course focuses upon the analysis and application of oral, written, and visual communication principles and practices, including strategies for interpersonal communication, effective teamwork, public speaking, and technical writing.

*University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS, Visiting Instructor 2014-2015, Graduate Assistant 2009-2013*

**English 221: Introduction to Fiction Writing:** A creative writing workshop that requires students to create 30 pages of original fiction and to engage critically with the works of current masters of the craft as well as with their own peers. Reading list includes *Writing Fiction* by Janet Burroway, stories by Chekhov, Kureishi, Wolff, Bambara, Barthelme, and others.

**English 311: Survey of Contemporary Literature:** A creative/critical hybrid course that focuses on movements in contemporary prose, poetry, theater, and film, and incorporates canonical texts as well as graphic novels, screenplays, and currently popular novels. Thematic units include postcolonial, queer, and Latino literature. Criticism and Craft both emphasized. Reading list includes Heaney, Eugenides, Charlie Kaufman, Alison Bechdel, and Julia Alvarez. Assignments include both literary analysis and creative work, including original stories and poems, continuations of existing texts, and story boarding of texts for film adaptation.

**English 333: Professional and Technical Writing:** A course that teaches students the art of writing, designing and presenting documents for the business and professional worlds, incorporating text, graphics, and online media.

**English 333: Professional and Technical Writing - Online:** A fully online version of ENG 333. All materials presented through Blackboard and iMovie. All conferences and presentations managed through Blackboard. Created original filmed lectures to be broadcast for all online sections of course.

**English 102: Composition and Research II: Honors:** This course for high-achieving first year students expands upon the writer's knowledge of composition gained in 101, and focuses on researched persuasive writing.

**English 101: English Composition I:** This course introduces students to the strategies, tools, and resources they'll need to become successful writers and communicators in a range of academic, professional, and public settings. The course explores writing as a form of social interaction and teaches students how to identify and write effectively for different audiences.

**English 100E/101E: Expanded Composition:** For students testing below minimum score for ENG 101, this course covers the same material as ENG 101, but does so over the course of two semesters, and in most cases with the same instructor, providing students with additional time, attention, and resources to help them succeed in their college classes

**English 99E: Expanded Composition Studio:** This course is a one-hour, non-credit-bearing companion course to the first semester of Expanded Composition I in which students work on their writing projects for Expanded Composition in a small cohort group of peers with an instructor who will provide individualized feedback and guidance, offering students a multi-layered and more intimate writing community in their first semester. Activities include brainstorming activities, writing feedback sessions, text analysis, etc.

**English 220: Introduction to Literature:** A survey course that introduces students to the literary canon and encourages critical engagement with texts. Reading list for my course included Shakespeare, Dickinson, Forster, Woolf, Joyce, T.S. Eliot, Nikki Giovanni, Joyce Carol Oates, Jessica Hagedorn, Chinua Achebe, and Doug Wright.

**English 110: Composition and Research:** This course introduces students to strategies and forms of argumentation, independent and collaborative intellectual inquiry, uses of critical reading and rhetorical analysis, and issues of grammar and mechanics for professional presentation.

**English 108: Introduction to Academic Writing:** This course provides a foundation for Composition and Research. Students will consider the impact of rhetorical situations on reading and writing texts, improve their own writing process, and develop skills that aid in revision and critical reading.

*East-West University, Chicago, IL, Adjunct Faculty, 2005-2006*

**English 151: Rhetoric and Style:** An introductory writing course that focuses on the elements of research, argument, and diction necessary for the crafting of successful college level research papers.

**English 123: College Writing:** A foundational course in East-West's pre-college curriculum designed to aid students with little critical writing experience in the process of expressing critical ideas in proper essay form.

**English 121: College Reading:** A foundational course in East-West's pre-college curriculum designed to aid students with little critical reading experience in the process of engaging with college level texts.

**Humanities 121: History of Music:** A course for non-music majors that explores the evolution of Western Art Music, from the sacred music of the Renaissance to current trends in composition for orchestra, voice, and solo instruments.

*Salt Lake Community College, Salt Lake City, UT, Adjunct Faculty 2004*

**English 1010: Composition:** An introductory writing course that focuses on the fundamentals of reading and analyzing college level texts, and drafting successful college level papers.

## **MENTORING AND ADVISING EXPERIENCE**

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*Auburn University at Montgomery, 2022-present*

**Creative Writing Club Faculty Mentor:** The Creative Writing Club at AUM serves the students by providing access and transportation to public readings, plays, conferences and



workshops, and by providing a welcoming social space for students to share their creative work.

*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2019-2020*

**Fulbright Scholar Selection Committee:** The selection committee rates candidates based on their academic or professional qualifications (especially in relation to proposed projects), the validity and feasibility of the proposed project, language qualifications, evidence of maturity, motivation, adaptability to a different cultural environment, knowledge of the host country, and the impression a candidate will make abroad as a citizen representing the U.S. Further, once a candidate has been selected for submission, the committee works in a mentoring capacity to help the student make the best possible impression with interview, presentation, and written materials throughout the stages of the competition.

*University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS, 2013-2014*

**Graduate Instructor Mentor:** As an instructor I was tasked with mentoring two graduate students through their first year of teaching. I observed their classroom teaching style, discussed materials, and met with them biweekly to discuss any concerns they had regarding policy, grading, classroom practices, activities, etc.

**McNair Scholars Program Advisor:** I advised and mentored scholarship students with professionalization and academic goals in a rigorous academic program designed to support first generation and low-income students bound for graduate school. My duties included recruiting qualified students, teaching research and presentation skills, mentoring at conferences, step-by-step advising on sustained research projects, and teaching a summer GRE preparation class.

## **SERVICE**

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*Auburn University at Montgomery, 2021-present*

**English Department Chair Search Committee, 2024**

**Creative Writing Faculty Search Committee Chair, 2023**

**Visiting Writers Series Coordinator, 2021-present**

**English Major Curriculum Revision Committee: 2022-2023**

**Creative Writing Curriculum Review Committee: 2022-2023**

**Creative Writing Club Faculty Advisor: 2023-present**

**Composition Faculty Job Search Committee: 2022**

**Grant in Aid Judging Panel: 2021**

*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, 2016-2021*

**Rhetoric Advisory Committee:**2017-2019

**Undergraduate Essay Contest Judge:** 2017

**Undergraduate Research Conference Judge:** 2016

**Graduate Student Mock Interview Panelist:** 2016

*Texas A&M International University, Laredo, TX, 2015-2016*

**Faculty Job Search Committee:** 2015

**Creative Arts Major Committee:** 2015

*University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS, 2011-2014*

**Technical Writing Textbook Selection Committee:** 2015

**English Department Recruitment Committee:** 2014-2015

**President, C4W: The Center for Writers Graduate Organization:** 2012-2013

**Fiction Chair, C4W: The Center for Writers Graduate Organization:** 2011-2012

**Coordinator: The C4W Graduate Reading Series:** 2011-2013

**Creator and Coordinator: The C4W/EGO Visiting Writers Series:** 2012-2013

**Co-Coordinator: CLOI (Community Learning Outreach Initiative) Book Group:**  
2012-2013

**Co-Coordinator: C4W/EGO English Graduate Mentor Program:** 2011-2013

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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*Alabama Writers Forum*

**Poetry Out Loud Judge::** 2023

**High School Fiction Contest Judge:** 2023

*Alabama State Council on the Arts*

**State Artist and Project Grants Panelist:** 2021-23

*University of Wisconsin Press*

**Fiction Manuscript Submission Reviewer:** 2022-present