

# MICHAELLA (KELLA) THORNTON

## EDUCATION

*University of Arizona: Tucson, Arizona*

**MFA in Creative Writing (Creative Nonfiction)**

*University of Missouri: Columbia, Missouri*

**B.A. Anthropology**

**B.J. Honors in Journalism (Magazine Sequence) – cum laude**

## INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT EXPERIENCE

Saint Louis University, Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching & Learning, St. Louis, Missouri

**Assistant Director for Instructional Design** Jan 2012-Jan 2014

Kaplan University Writing Center, Remote Full-time Employee

**Resource Specialist (Online Writing Lab, OWL)** May 2009-Jan 2012

St. Louis Community College-Meramec, Kirkwood, Missouri

**Supervisor, College Writing Center** Aug 2007-May 2009

Teach For America, St. Louis, Missouri

**Program Director** June 2006-July 2007

## EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

*The Common Reader*, Washington University in St. Louis

**Staff Writer**, research, write, edit, and promote three 500-word blogs weekly; August 2018-present  
pitch and write enterprise feature-length essays and reports monthly

*The New Territory Magazine*, stories from the Lower Midwest

April-Sept 2016

**Contributing Editor and Writer**, coached and edited Bryce McElhaney's narrative journalism, "How Two Men Turned Oklahoma Dirt into Gold," Issue 01 (April 2016); researched and wrote lyric essay, "The Terrible Beauty of Midwestern Road Rage," for Issue 02 (September 2016)

*Sonora Review* literary magazine, University of Arizona in Tucson

Aug 2005 – May 2006

**Co-Editor with Kathryn Wagner, Creative Nonfiction**

*Tucson Weekly* newsmagazine, Tucson, Arizona

**Editorial Intern and Book Reviewer** Spring 2006

National Public Radio: *Weekend Edition Saturday*, Washington, D.C.

**Program Intern** Summer 2005

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

St. Louis Community College-Meramec, Kirkwood, Missouri

**Assistant Professor (January 2014 – May 2018 – reduction-in-force lay-off)** – *English 101/102; Introduction to Creative Writing (110); Introduction to Fiction – Literature (201); Introduction to Fiction Writing Workshop (224); and Creative Nonfiction Writing Workshop (233)*

**Faculty Director, College Writing Center, academic year interim appointment (2015-2016)**

The College Board, Advanced Placement Test for English Language 2015-present  
**Scorer** – Summer 2015, 2016, 2018

St. Louis Community College-Meramec, Kirkwood, Missouri

**Adjunct Instructor** – *English 101/102; IDS 101: The DIY Ethic: From the Arts & Crafts Movement to Today* 2008-2013

University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri

**Lecturer/Teaching Assistant** – *to Dr. Jane Howland in “Technology & Assessment,” “Technology across the Curriculum,” and “Learning with the Internet”* 2007-2009

University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

**Graduate Assistant in Teaching** – *English 101 / English 102* 2004-2006

Vox Teen Communications, Atlanta, Georgia (educational nonprofit)

**Writing Coach, Magazine Journalism** 2002-2003

Eaton-Johnson Middle School, Henderson, North Carolina (Teach For America)

**Sixth Grade Teacher, Language Arts and Social Studies** 2000-2002

**CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS**

*“Finding the Energy: Creative Writing When One is Teaching”* Two-Year College Association-Midwest conference and workshop presentation w/ Sarah E. Jones, St. Louis, MO 2016

*“Finding a Teacher in the Room: Addressing Student Apathy in Online Courses”* Two-Year College Association-Midwest conference presentation w/ Kelly Wavering, St. Louis, MO 2016

*“Enacting and Celebrating ‘Remembrance’ in the Writing Center”* Pre-conference Panel for the Midwest Writing Centers Association Conference, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 2016

*“Rewindable Writing Feedback: Engaging Students during the Writing Process”* Panel for the Focus on Teaching and Technology Conference, University of Missouri-St. Louis 2015

**CREATIVE WRITING & JOURNALISM**

<i>The Common Reader</i> , “a journal of the essay” at Washington University at St. Louis; feature-length essays include, <a href="#">“We Are What We Write,”</a> <a href="#">“If Cherokee Street Could Talk,”</a> and <a href="#">“The Recycling of Recycling.”</a> Blogs range from interviews with authors such as <a href="#">Nishta Mehra</a> and <a href="#">Sophronia Scott</a> ; the legacy of <a href="#">Zora Neale Hurston</a> ; how <a href="#">parents still manage to write with little ones</a> (and not so little ones) underfoot; <a href="#">century-old sourdough starters</a> ; <a href="#">lifting the veil on infertility and pregnancy loss</a> ; <a href="#">teaching poetry after 9-11</a> ; and <a href="#">the joys of being an imperfect human</a> .	August 2018-present
“Eggs in One Basket,” creative nonfiction storytelling via the national <a href="#">Story Collider</a> ’s podcast, “True, personal stories about science”	March 2018
“The Origins of Hunger,” flash creative nonfiction in <i>New South</i>	January 2018
“What Does It Mean to Heart This?” long-form essay in <i>Midwestern Gothic</i>	October 2016
“The Terrible Beauty of Midwestern Road Rage” lyric essay in Issue 02 of <i>The New Territory Magazine</i>	September 2016
“What Blue Tastes Like,” micro-essay in “EAT: A Literature + Photography Installation” at Centre College’s Norton Center for the Arts in Danville, Kentucky	May 2016
“After the Final No,” flash fiction, published in <i>Paddleshots: A River Pretty Anthology, Volume 2</i> , a commemorative look at writers in the River Pretty Writers Retreat community in Tecumseh, Missouri	April 2016
“Soul Train on Mute,” personal essay, published in the University of Missouri Press anthology, <i>Words Matter: Writing to Make a Difference</i>	April 2016
“Man Lace,” flash fiction, published in <i>The Southeast Review</i> (34.1) and one of five finalists in the 2015 “World’s Best Short-Short Story” contest (judged by Robert Olen Butler)	Spring 2016
“Donna,” flash fiction, published in <i>The Southeast Review</i> (33.1) and one of five finalists in the 2014 “World’s Best Short-Short Story” contest (judged by Robert Olen Butler)	Spring 2015
“Interview of William Endres: Illuminated Manuscripts, the Insular Period, and Making Room for Imagery” in <i>Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy</i>	2013
“Actively Engaging Students in Reading & Discussion,” “Tapping into the Collective Wisdom of the Best Blended Course Design Practices,” and more Contributor to Saint Louis University’s Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching & Learning blog, <i>The Notebook</i>	2013

*"Online Writing Instruction beyond the Discussion Board"*

Contributor to the University of Notre Dame's Kaneb Center for Teaching & Learning blog, *Notes on Teaching and Learning* 2013

*Tiny Truth* via Twitter (130 characters), published in *Creative Nonfiction*, Fall/Winter 2011, Issue 43 (Reviewed in *New Pages*): "No pants on, hollers the 86-year-old landlord to his tenant from the faded blue La-Z boy. 'Just leave the check at the door.'" 2011

*Tiny Truth* via Twitter (130 characters), published in *Creative Nonfiction*, Summer 2011, Issue 43: "The tornado was selectively cruel: Maggie's yellow dahlias and peonies bloomed. Yet lingerie & bed sheets swayed in the branches." 2011

*"Wanting a Scooter, Drinking Root Beer, and Writing Center Praxis"*  
Review of the International Writing Centers Association Collaborative held in Louisville, KY (2010) for the *Midwest Writing Centers Newsletter* 2011

*"When Mom Was My Age' Interview"*  
Profile of Mary Carla Ligon for Jane Friedman's (web editor for the *Virginia Quarterly Review*) interview series between mothers and daughters 2011

*"The Procrastinator's Guide to Baking"*  
Personal essay for *Sauce Magazine*; nominated for a James Beard Foundation Award for food writing by then editor, Katie O'Connell 2009

*"Very Sharp Knives"*  
Personal essay for *Sauce Magazine* 2008

**AWARDS**

Emerson Electric Excellence in Teaching Award (St. Louis metropolitan area)	May 2018
Outstanding New Faculty Member, Two-Year College Association-Midwest	Fall 2016
National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute: Providence, RI, <i>Early American Women's History: Teaching from within the Archives</i>	Summer 2015
Finalist in <i>The Southeast Review's</i> "World's Best Short-Short Story" Contest	2014 & 2015
Innovator Award, Tegrity Users Conference: Boston, Massachusetts	April 2013
"Bringing Theory to Practice" Seminar Grant through AAC&U	Summer 2012
MFA Foundation Award, University of Arizona (Promising writer in CNF)	Spring 2006
Chusma House Publications Short Story Contest: Honorable Mention	Fall 2004
<i>New Letters</i> magazine, "Top 20 Finalist" (Creative Nonfiction)	Fall 2004
O.O. McIntyre Independent Writing Fellow, Missouri School of Journalism	May 2000-2001
*\$12,000 independent writing fellowship	