

MICHAELLA A. THORNTON

EDUCATION

University of Arizona: Tucson, Arizona

MFA in Creative Writing (Creative Nonfiction) 2006

Thesis manuscript: "A Lusty Bit of Nourishment: Selected Essays"

Graduate Assistant in Teaching Fellowship; Nonfiction editor for the [Sonora Review](#), "the country's oldest graduate-run literary magazine"

University of Missouri: Columbia, Missouri

B.A. Anthropology

B.J. Honors in Journalism (Magazine Sequence) – cum laude 2000

Honors College, LSV Society, National Residence Hall Honorary, Jesse Wrench Research Scholar (Missouri Archaeological Society)

AWARDS

Outstanding New Faculty Member, Two-Year College Association-Midwest 2016

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute: Providence, RI,

Early American Women's History: Teaching from within the Archives 2015

Finalist in *The Southeast Review's* "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

Dean's Award (for writing handbook contributions), Kaplan University Summer 2008

Foundation Award, University of Arizona (Promising writer in MFA program) Spring 2006

Chusma House Publications Short Story Contest: Honorable Mention Fall 2004

New Letters magazine, "Top 20 Finalist" (Creative Nonfiction) Fall 2004

O.O. McIntyre Independent Writing Fellow, Missouri School of Journalism May 2000-2001

Sol Feinstone Award (for leadership & service), University of Missouri-Columbia April 1999

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

The New Territory Magazine, stories from the Lower Midwest April 2016

Contributing Editor, coached and edited Bryce McElhaney's narrative journalism, "[How Two Men Turned Oklahoma Dirt into Gold](#)," Issue 01

Sonora Review literary magazine, University of Arizona in Tucson Aug 2005 – May 2006

Co-Editor with Kathryn Wagner, Creative Nonfiction

Solicit essays from Lia Purpura, Ken Lambertson, and other established creative writers for the 25th anniversary issue [[Issue 50](#)]; craft developmental edits for new writers whose work is promising; read and review "slush pile" and select possible essays for publication, if applicable; attend monthly editorial meetings; work with the Editor-in-Chief to coordinate publication efforts for the academic year

Tucson Weekly newsmagazine, Tucson, Arizona

Editorial Intern and Book Reviewer Spring 2006

Compiled, wrote, and edited the *City Week* section; attended weekly budget meetings; wrote several successful enterprise interviews of

prominent people ([Dr. Gary E. Schwartz](#), Director of the Laboratory for Advances in Consciousness and Health at the University of Arizona; [Christine Granados](#), author of *Brides and Sinners in El Chuco*; [Alan Weisman](#), author of *New York Times*' bestseller, *The World Without Us*); reported on [bakeries](#), [roller derby](#), and [tuba music](#); compiled the publication's Pulitzer Prize application materials for the Managing Editor

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

Program Intern

Summer 2005

Transcribed audio for Iraqi Christians feature news story; successfully pitched "stories from the hinterland" ([Café Owner Sends Workers to See the World](#); [Free Range: A Small Town's Big Screen Dreams](#); [Paper Finds 'What's Right' with Kansas](#), and [Blobfest: A Running Event for a Small-Town Theater](#)); pulled video and audio cuts for sound engineers; attended weekly editorial meetings; crafted an [audio bio](#) for NPR's *Intern Edition*; booked studio time with NPR affiliates across the nation

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

St. Louis Community College-Meramec, Kirkwood, Missouri

Assistant Professor (January 2014 – present) – *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)

Teach a 4-4 load (up to 100 students) for the fall and spring semesters; effective fall 2015, serve as the Faculty Liaison between the College Writing Center and English Department; design syllabi, assessments, and curriculum for composition, creative writing, and literature classes; organize service-learning experiences with students and community partners; design writing projects with a focus on authentic assessment and multimodal composition; facilitate instructor-student conferences, peer review and writer's workshops for online and face-to-face environments, and share formative feedback with student-writers via face-to-face and online conferencing

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

Developed syllabi, assessments, and outcomes-based curriculum for composition and interdisciplinary studies courses

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

Assisted Associate Teaching Professor in the School of Information Science and Learning Technologies (SISLT) in monitoring and assessing the online interactions and discussion board postings of Masters-level students in three graduate-level courses within the MU Teaching Fellows Program; provided formative feedback on drafts of student writing; and performed other administrative duties as assigned (wholly online)

University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

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

Developed syllabi and overall curriculum for two first-year composition courses, including developing a course theme for English 101 focused on exploring humor and wit in various texts, and served as the instructor of record for both courses

Vox Teen Communications, Atlanta, Georgia (educational nonprofit)

Writing Coach, Magazine Journalism 2002-2003

Served as a writing coach and monthly newsmagazine advisor for high-school writers across the Atlanta metropolitan area, including administration of an Annie E. Casey Foundation grant in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice and the Fulton County Community School; worked with writers in the juvenile justice system to create and design a chapbook of original creative writing

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

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

Created themed reading, writing, and historical units, team-taught curriculum, and authentic assessment aligned to the State of North Carolina's learning goals; initiated and organized a grade-wide field trip for 400 students to the University of North Carolina's Morehead Planetarium and Science Center; served as the first after-school advisor to the Students Making Art program after art was cut from the school's curriculum, in addition to organizing the club's first field trip to the North Carolina Museum of Art

RELATED EXPERIENCE

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

Assistant Director for Instructional Design Jan 2012-Jan 2014

Research instructional development best practices; identify, write, and submit grants and other funding proposals; develop, deliver, and assess programming that assists faculty members in the course design process; consult with faculty members about teaching in blended and online learning environments, curriculum and instruction, teaching with

technology, and backwards planning; assist with the programming budget for events such as the Online Teaching & Learning Institute, Innovative Teaching Fellowship, and for the technology-rich classroom, the Learning Studio; supervise a staff of three instructional designers; conduct mid-year and end-of-year performance reviews; serve as a project manager to redesign the Center's website and blog *The Notebook*; contribute article reviews, event updates, and teaching tips for *The Notebook*; collaborate with ITS, Disability Services, the Madrid campus, regional higher learning institutions, and other SLU schools and departments to further the mission of the Reinert Center

Kaplan University Writing Center, Remote Full-time Employee

Resource Specialist (Online Writing Lab, OWL)

May 2009-Jan 2012

Create and host web-based, student-centered writing workshops and synchronous tutoring sessions; organize the long-term project planning processes for collaborative, writing-center resource development; provide prompt writing feedback to students in asynchronous tutoring sessions; design and evaluate writing center and WAC programs through survey studies; assist in the business and functional development process for creating a more user-friendly writing center website

St. Louis Community College-Meramec, Kirkwood, Missouri

Supervisor, College Writing Center

Aug 2007-May 2009

Collaborated with and supervised eight professional writing center consultants; liaised between writing center consultants and the Director of the CWC, Professor Rebecca Winter; consulted with students throughout any point in the writing process, including developmental writing and one-credit courses administered through the CWC; designed and initiated the Center's first online student survey and program evaluation tool with the help of the Office of Institutional Research, Planning, & Assessment; promoted CWC services to students and faculty; organized class visits and orientations to the CWC; updated and created new web resources for the CWC website; attended English Department meetings and served on invited committee meetings across the campus, specifically on diversity and social justice issues; administered and publicized the annual CWC Student Writing Contest

Teach For America, St. Louis, Missouri

Program Director

June 2006-July 2007

Supported the on-going professional development of 40 secondary school teachers who taught in St. Louis Public Schools, Normandy, Wellston, and area charter schools; observed first- and second-year teachers and provided formative feedback and mentorship; planned and designed teacher development workshops and weekend retreats;

connected veteran teachers and TFA alumni to new K-12 teachers; served as an interim placement co-director who placed over 90 percent of the 2007 corps of first-year teachers in a 5-week period after inheriting this challenge from a supervisor's departure

CREATIVE WRITING

- "What Does It Mean to Heart This?" long-form essay in *Midwestern Gothic* October 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 *Paddleshots: A River Pretty Anthology, Volume 2*, 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, *Words Matter: Writing to Make a Difference* April 2016
- "Man Lace," flash fiction, published in *The Southeast Review* (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 *The Southeast Review* (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" Forthcoming in [Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy](#) 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, *The Notebook* 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

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

“Art for Art’s Sake: Adjunct Teaching in the 21st Century” Panel for the Two-Year College English Association (TYCA) Midwest Regional Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan 2014

“Risking Together: Cultivating Connection and Learning for Faculty Teaching Online” Roundtable for the Professional & Organizational Development Network in Higher Education, Pittsburgh, PA 2013

“Connecting Pedagogical Principles to Tegrity: Encouraging Active and Diverse Ways of Learning” Presentation with Megan Buckley for the Tegrity Users Conference, Boston, MA 2013

- "Beyond Lecture Capture: Interactive Assessment Uses for Tegrity"*
Presentation with Kyle Collins and Megan Buckley for the Missouri University of Science & Technology's Teaching & Learning Technology Conference, Rolla, MO 2013
- "Food for Thought: Collaborative Course Design and Social Media in the Writing Classroom"*
Presentation with Dr. Jenny Agnew for University of Missouri-St. Louis' Focus on Teaching & Technology Conference, St. Louis, MO 2012
- "Illuminating 'Lived Experiences': Strategic Planning Roundtable"*
Roundtable facilitated for the Professional & Organizational Network in Higher Education, Seattle, WA 2012
- "Universal Access & Web Accessibility"*
Webinar via Adobe Connect presented for the St. Louis Instructional Designers and Technologists group, St. Louis, MO 2012
- "Oh, Pioneers! Crafting Accessible DIY OWL Student Resources"*
Organized and facilitated a 5-person panel on "Assessing the Emerging Spectrum of Tutoring Services in Digital Space" for the Conference on College Composition and Communication, St. Louis, MO 2012
- "Synchronous Online Tutoring and the Possibilities of Adobe Connect: Pedagogy, Practice, & Accessibility"*
Poster for the Conference on College Composition and Communication's Computer Connection and Digital Pedagogy Posters Session, St. Louis, MO 2012
- "Letters Home from Screencast Camp"*
Presentation with Christine Padberg for the University of Missouri-St. Louis' Focus on Teaching & Technology Conference, St. Louis, MO 2011
- "WAC Wonder-Twin Powers Activate! Re-envisioning First-Year Composition as a Writing Center and Composition Department Team"*
Presentation with Michael Keathley for the Midwest Writing Centers Association, Madison, WI 2011
- Multi-writer Twitter Narrative Installation via VoiceThread*
Virtual installation created for the Computers and Writing Online Conference, "Virtual Worlds" at Purdue University (digital installation) 2010
- "So Tweet: Communal Storytelling, Play, & A Social Media Celebration"*
Presentation for the International Writing Centers Association Collaborative at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, Louisville, KY 2010
- "Empowering Silenced Writers: A Radio Documentary & Roundtable"*

Presentation with Tracy Toft Downing for the South Central Writing Centers Association, Norman, OK

2008

LANGUAGES

English – fluent

Spanish – converse and write with basic competence; certificate of completion for 3-week intensive language program via St. Louis Community College-Meramec and Intensa in San José, Costa Rica (2008)

SERVICE

- Plan in coordination with [BJC Hospice Lumina Life Review program](#) for a fall 2016 English 101 service-learning class to “preserve the stories, values, ideas, and experiences that define” hospice patients’ lives, both as a legacy project for patients and families, but also as a powerful lesson for students about why capturing and sharing personal narratives matter.
- [Ready Readers](#) volunteer for two pre-kindergarten classes at the Urban League Head Start in Jennings, Mo. (January - June 2015)
- St. Louis Community College-Meramec’s Campus Community-Building and Wellness Committee (Fall 2014 – Spring 2016)
- [Focus on Teaching & Technology Conference’s](#) Annual Proposal Selection and Program Planning Committee, University of Missouri-St. Louis (2012-2014; resumed in 2016)

MEMBERSHIPS

Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP)

Midwest Writing Centers Association (MWCA)

National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)

National Education Association (NEA)