

Shanan Ballam
1271 West 350 South
Logan, Utah 84321
(435) 754-9119
shanan.ballam@gmail.com
<https://www.shananballam.org/>

Education

MFA in Poetry Writing, Low Residency Creative Writing Program, University of Nebraska Omaha, Nebraska City, NE, July 2007.

MS in English with emphasis in Theory and Practice of Writing, Utah State University, Logan, UT, August 2000.

BS in English with an emphasis in Professional & Technical Writing, *magna cum laude*, Utah State University, Logan, UT, December 1997.

Current Positions: 2021-2022 Academic Year

- ◇ Senior Lecturer. Poetry and Composition. Utah State University Department of English. Logan, UT.
- ◇ Logan City Poet Laureate. Sponsored by Logan City, Logan City Library, and Utah State University Department of English. City of Logan, Logan, UT.
- ◇ Poetry Faculty Advisor for *Sink Hollow*, an online undergraduate literary magazine. Utah State University Department of English. Logan, UT.
- ◇ Internship Coordinator. Utah State University Department of English. Logan, UT.

Teaching Experience

Since 1998, I have taught 134 sections of 13 different courses, including 39 courses in creative writing, 68 courses in composition, 6 courses in literature, 13 sections overseeing students' progress in their internships, and 4 online graduate-level teaching colloquia where I have trained graduate instructors to teach English 2010: Research Writing in a Persuasive Mode. Over the course of my career, I have taught approximately 2,500 students, consistently earning excellent teaching evaluation scores.

Aside from classroom teaching, I have chaired 2 graduate poetry thesis committees, served on 6 creative writing graduate thesis committees, on 1 creative writing undergraduate honors thesis committee, and as the faculty mentor for 7 students' honors project contracts. Additionally, I have mentored, advised, and coached dozens of students as Faculty Advisor for Sink Hollow: An Undergraduate Literary Magazine, as Acting

Advisor and Performance Coach for the USU Creative Club, and as Internship Coordinator for the Department of English.

Courses Taught

English 4900, Internship and Co-Op Experience. Utah State University. 13 sections.

English 4430, Advanced Poetry Writing. Utah State University. 4 sections.

Online Teaching Colloquium for English 2010 Graduate Instructors. Co-facilitator & Co-director. Utah State University. 4 sections.

English 3430, Introduction to Poetry Writing. Utah State University. 23 sections.

English 3420, Introduction to Fiction Writing. Utah State University. 11 sections.

English 3030, Perspectives in Literature. Utah State University. 1 section.

English 3430 Online, Introduction to Poetry Writing. Utah State University. 1 section.

English 2200, Understanding Literature. Utah State University. 5 sections.

English 2010, Research Writing in a Persuasive Mode, Honors Section. Utah State University. 7 sections.

English 2010, Composition, Research Writing in a Persuasive Mode. Utah State University. 45 sections.

English 1010, Composition, Introduction to Academic Writing. Utah State University. 12 sections.

USU 1010, "Connections," Honors section. Utah State University. 1 section.

English 1010 Success Program. Utah State University. 1 section.

Thesis Committees

Graduate Thesis Committee Chair, Maddie Thomas, Poetry Chapbook. March 2021-current.

Graduate Thesis Committee Chair, Brittney Allen, Poetry Chapbook. December 2018-April 2020.

Graduate Thesis Committee Member, Jonathan Blake Heaton, Graphic Poetry Collection. Spring 2018-Spring 2019.

Graduate Thesis Committee Member, Julia Prince, Poetry. Fall 2017-Fall 2018.

Graduate Thesis Committee Member, Keoki Kemp, Short Fiction. Spring 2017-Spring 2018.

Graduate Thesis Committee Member, Jesse Betts, *Hanging by the Fingers* Poetry Chapbook. Spring 2015.

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee Member, Shay Larsen, Graphic Memoir. Spring 2015.

Faculty Mentor, Honors Contracts

Millie Tullis, Flash Fiction (in conjunction with Introduction to Fiction Writing, English 3420). Spring 2015.

Brittney McDonald, Poetry (in conjunction with Introduction to Poetry Writing, English 3430). Spring 2015.

Justin Smith, Fiction, Short Stories (in conjunction with Introduction to Fiction Writing, English 3420). Fall 2015.

Richard Pack, Fiction, Short Stories (in conjunction with Introduction to Fiction Writing, English 3420). Fall 2015.

Brittney McDonald, Fiction, Short Stories (in conjunction with Introduction to Fiction Writing, English 3420). Spring 2014.

Anna Bullock-Brown, Poetry (in conjunction with English 3430). Fall 2013.

Loren Smith, Serio-Comic Poetry (in conjunction with English 3430). Fall 2011.

Undergraduate Student Mentorship & Advising

Co-founder and Poetry Faculty Advisor for Sink Hollow: An Undergraduate Literary Magazine. Fall 2015-current.

In 2015, other Creative Writing Faculty and I collaborated with undergraduate students to create Sink Hollow: An Undergraduate Literary Magazine, an online, bi-annual publication dedicated to publishing the creative writing and artwork of undergraduate students from around the world. Operating with an all-volunteer staff of approximately 30 undergraduate students and 4 faculty advisors, Sink Hollow has received thousands of submissions from all over the world and has published 11 issues containing the work of undergraduate writers and visual artists.

My Duties and Accomplishments as Poetry Faculty Advisor for Sink Hollow include:

- ◇ Collaborating with faculty and students to determine the magazine’s vision, logo, online delivery platform, submission manager, submission screening process, funding sources, publicity and social media campaigns, organizational structure, and design and distribution strategies
- ◇ Training and supervising undergraduate poetry editors and poetry readers
- ◇ Reviewing poetry submissions and negotiating with undergraduate editors about final selections
- ◇ Implementing professional development workshops for staff members to present on special topics, such as social media strategies and USU Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities Grants
- ◇ Coordinating with Utah Division of Arts and Museums and Utah Humanities Council to secure space for staff members in local grant writing workshops
- ◇ Teaching grant writing techniques to the staff
- ◇ Writing and editing Sink Hollow Policies and Procedures Manual
- ◇ Soliciting funding to pay for WIX and Submittable accounts
- ◇ Writing job announcements and conducting interviews for potential staff members

Acting Advisor for “The Bull Pen,” USU’s Creative Writing Club, Utah State University. Fall 2014-Spring 2015.

During the 2014-2015 academic year, I volunteered to act as advisor for USU’s Creative Writing Club while the regular advisor took a sabbatical. The Creative Writing Club—or “The Bull Pen”—is a club dedicated to the professional development of undergraduate creative writers by providing a space to share and critique work, to hear featured speakers, and to have the opportunity to be on the poetry or flash prose performance teams. The club is open to all students and attracts majors from several disciplines.

My Duties as Acting Advisor for The Creative Writing Club included:

- ◇ Collaborating with the club president and vice president to design advertising and to determine the semester meeting schedule
- ◇ Coordinating with the Dean’s Office and USU Clubs and Organizations to secure tables for events such as the College of Humanities and Social Sciences “Light on the Hill” and USU’s “Day on the Quad”
- ◇ Inviting local authors and creative writing faculty members to present at club meetings
- ◇ Offering feedback to students’ work in weekly workshops
- ◇ Initiating the first annual “Bull Pen Slam Team” performance poetry team
- ◇ Coordinating with director of Helicon West, the community’s bi-monthly reading series, to secure a date for the “Bull Pen Slam Team” to perform at the Logan City Library

Coach for Utah State University's Creative Writing Club Performance Teams. Spring 2014-current.

Because Creative Writing majors expressed an interest in Slam and Performance poetry, in spring 2014, we formed the first team of 10 students who had never written or performed slam poetry. I volunteered to coach the team. The first slam event was incredibly successful, drawing a crowd of over 80 people. I have coached 6 teams since March 2014. Two of our slam members have placed in a national slam competition held in Kentucky.

My Duties as coach for USU's Slam and Performance Poetry and Flash Prose Teams include:

- ◇ Offering written feedback on paper copies of student work
- ◇ Watching, evaluating, and giving feedback for students' performances
- ◇ Determining a reading order that creates an interesting, varying performance arc that simultaneously complicates major themes in the students' work
- ◇ Training students in performance techniques, such as pacing and volume
- ◇ Coordinating with the director of Helicon West, the community's bi-monthly reading series, to secure a date for "Bull Pen Slam Team" to perform
- ◇ Emceeing the events at Logan City Library

Internship Coordinator for Utah State University's Department of English. Fall 2015-current.

The Utah State University English Department encourages all of its majors to secure internships so they will have further opportunity to develop essential career skills; to gain real-world, hands-on experience that will both compliment and deepen their understanding and application of coursework; and to establish interpersonal connections crucial to their professional success. As the Internship Coordinator for the English Department, I perform a variety of jobs to aid students in acquiring internships and earning academic credit for their work.

My Duties as Internship Coordinator include:

- ◇ Advise English majors about where to find and how to apply for internships or jobs that will suit and complement their major emphasis and further their professional and personal goals
- ◇ Conduct classroom visits to emphasize in person the value and necessity of obtaining internships and to explain how students can earn academic credit (English 4900) for their internships
- ◇ Coordinate with businesses, organizations, and alumni to write job descriptions to advertise open positions

- ◇ Distribute internship and job opportunities to English majors via department commons website and e-mail and by posting them on the English Department job board
- ◇ Evaluate student interns' Statement of their Goals and Objectives, final reports and timesheets
- ◇ Created internship opportunities within the English department for approximately 80 students by initiating, developing, and acting as advisor for *Sink Hollow: USU English Department's Undergraduate Literary Magazine*
- ◇ Developed the "Internship Spotlight": interns are interviewed and featured in the English Department Newsletter and on the department television

Honors & Awards for Teaching and Service

- ◇ Departmental Service Award for my work with *Sink Hollow* Literary Magazine and work as Internship Coordinator. April 2018.
- ◇ Nominee for College of Humanities and Social Sciences Giraffe Award (an award for innovative, risk-taking teaching) for my work as faculty advisor for *Sink Hollow*, USU's Online Undergraduate Literary Magazine. April 2018.
- ◇ Lecturer of the Year for Utah State University's College of Humanities and Social Sciences, 2014.
- ◇ Lecturer of the Year for Utah State University's Department of English, 2014.

Publications, Poetry Collections & Poetry Chapbook

Inside the Animal: The Collected Red Riding Hood Poems. Poetry Collection. Main Street Rag Publishing. June 2019.

Pretty Marrow. Poetry Collection. Negative Capability Press. April 2013.

The Red Riding Hood Papers. Poetry Chapbook. Finishing Line Press. August 2010.

Honors & Awards for Writing

- ◇ My poem "The Waterfall" was selected by Utah Poet Laureate Paisley Rekdal to be a featured poem for The Utah Poetry Festival. Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3F27Vi8Bik>. April 2, 2021.
- ◇ Featured Poet for Line Rider Press, February 2021.
- ◇ Nominated for a Pushcart Prize in Poetry, February 2020.
- ◇ Nominated for a Pushcart Prize in Poetry, November 2018.
- ◇ Finalist, 2017 Hillary Gravendyk Prize poetry book competition. December 2017.
- ◇ Semi-finalist, Trio House Press Louise Bogan Award for a Full-Length Poetry Manuscript. July 2017.

- ◇ First Place in Utah Division of Arts & Museums Original Writing Contest for Best Single Poem, November 2014.
- ◇ Nominated for a Pushcart Prize in Poetry, December 2014.
- ◇ Nominated for a Pushcart Prize in Poetry, December 2013.
- ◇ Featured Poet for 15 Bytes: Utah's Arts Magazine (online). August 2013.
- ◇ First Place in Utah Division of Arts & Museums Original Writing Contest for Full-Length Poetry Manuscript, September 2012, Judged by Former Poet Laureate of Alabama, Sue Brennan Walker.
- ◇ Semi-finalist, The Louise Bogan Award for a Full-Length Poetry Manuscript, July 2012.
- ◇ Featured Poet for Saxifrage Press (online). January 2012.
- ◇ Semi-finalist, The Philip Levine Poetry Award, December 2010.
- ◇ Semi-finalist, The University of Wisconsin Press, Brittingham and Felix Pollak Prizes, Poetry Series, December 2010.
- ◇ Semi-finalist, May Swenson Poetry Award, January 2011.
- ◇ Nominated by *Indiana Review* for Best New Poets Anthology 2009.
- ◇ Merit Scholarship, Master's of Fine Arts in Poetry Writing, University of Nebraska, Omaha. Spring 2006.

Publications, Individual Poems

“The Waterfall.” *Plume Poetry* 9. Ed. Daniel Lawless. Summer 2021.

“Maguire Primrose.” *Soul, Sand & Sky: Stories and Poems of the Great Outdoors*. Print Anthology. Compiled by The Writers Cache. June 2021.

“Spring Hollow, Thanksgiving Day 2020.” *Line Rider Press*. February 3, 2021. Link to poem: <https://lineriderpress.com/spring-hollow-thanksgiving-day-2020-by-shanan-ballam/>

“Witness.” *The Art of Isolation*. Print Anthology. Compiled by St. George Literary Arts Festival Board Members. January 2021.

“Red Riding Hood to Wolf.” *Sugared Water*. Forthcoming Fall 2021.

“Obituary Addendum #1: Survived by Father.” *Poetflow Anthology*. Fall 2019.

“Obituary Addendum #2: Minor in Possession.” *Poetflow Anthology*. Fall 2019.

“Dark Thomas.” *The Dandelion Review*. Spring 2019.

“Spoiled Thomas.” *The Dandelion Review*. Spring 2019.

“Pica.” *Tar River Poetry*. 58.1, Fall 2018.

“Grandmother Sees Wolf in the Garden.” *Inspired: Words from the Edge*. 5 Sisters Press. Boulder, UT. Fall 2018.

“On the Hogback.” *Inspired: Words from the Edge*. 5 Sisters Press. Boulder, UT. Fall 2018.

“Red Riding Hood’s Grandmother: The Dress.” *Poetry Postcards and Prose Magazine*. Online. August 17, 2018. Online.

“Grandmother, Inside the Wolf.” *Poetry Postcards and Prose Magazine*. July 23, 2018. Online.

“Obituary Addendum #7: Dylan at Practice.” *Sand and Sky Anthology*. Spring 2017.

“The Conversation with my Brother.” *DIAGRAM*. 16.4, Summer 2016. Online.

“Red Riding Hood to Wolf: Revision.” *South Dakota Review*. 52.3 & 4. Double Issue. Summer 2016.

“Wolf Watches Red Riding Hood, Spring.” *South Dakota Review*. 52.3 & 4. Double Issue. Summer 2016.

“Grandmother Waiting for Red Riding Hood: The Footprint.” *The Helicon West Anthology: A Ten-Year Celebration of Featured Poets*. Helicon West Press, Logan, UT. 2016.

“Wolf Wears Red Riding Hood’s Cape.” *The Helicon West Anthology: A Ten-Year Celebration of Featured Poets*. Helicon West Press, Logan, UT. 2016.

“Red Riding Hood and Her Mother: The City.” *The Helicon West Anthology: A Ten-Year Celebration of Featured Poets*. Helicon West Press, Logan, UT. 2016.

“Grandmother Sees Wolf in the Garden.” Poem. *Sugar House Review*. 6: 2014 Five-Year Anniversary Double Issue. Winter 2014.

“Red Riding Hood and Her Mother: The City.” *Sugar House Review*. 6: 2014 Five-Year Anniversary Double Issue. Winter 2014.

“Red Riding Hood’s Prayer.” *Sugar House Review*. 6: 2014 Five-Year Anniversary Double Issue. Winter 2014.

“First Poem After.” *15 Bytes: Utah’s Art Magazine*. Summer 2013. Online.

“Once More to the Lake.” Poem. *15 Bytes: Utah’s Art Magazine*. Summer 2013. Online.

“My Paper Boat.” Poem. *15 Bytes: Utah’s Art Magazine*. Summer 2013. Online.

“Grandmother Waiting for Red Riding Hood: The Footprint.” *Burnt District*. 1.2. Summer 2012.

“Grandmother Waiting for Red Riding Hood: The Canal.” *Burnt District*. 1.2. Spring 2012.

“Grandmother Inside Wolf: The Photograph.” *Burnt District*. 1.2. Spring 2012.

“Clytie in the Grocery Store, Love’s Arrow in Her Chest.” *Main Street Rag*. Spring 2012.

“Kingfisher on Power Line, Highway 89.” *Pilgrimage*. Spring 2012.

“Whiteout, Wyoming.” *Pilgrimage*. Spring 2012.

“While Mowing the Lawn, I Realize I May Be Pregnant.” *Saxifrage Press*. January 2012. Online.

“Once More to the Lake.” *Saxifrage Press*. January 2012. Online.

“My Paper Boat.” *Saxifrage Press*. January 2012. Online.

“Wonderland.” *Sugar House Review*. 3.2. Fall/Winter 2011.

“Lovesong for My Sisters.” *Sugar House Review*. 3.2. Fall/Winter 2011.

“The Letter I.” *Crab Orchard Review*. 16.1. Winter/Spring 2011.

“Wolf Wears Red Riding Hood’s Cape.” *Crab Orchard Review*. 16.1. Winter/Spring 2011.

“Paper Dolls.” *SNReview*. Fall 2010.

“Wolf Remember the Birth of Red Riding Hood, Circe’s Palace.” *American Poetry Journal*. Winter 2010.

“The Wedding Room, Minnetonka Cave.” *Whistling Shade*. Winter 2010.

“Suicide Watch.” *CALYX*. Summer 2009.

“Grandmother’s Bed.” *Spoon River Poetry Review*. 34.1 Winter/Spring 2009.

“Red Riding Hood’s Basket.” *Spoon River Poetry Review*. 34.1 Winter/Spring 2009.

“Both Sides of the Window.” *Cream City Review*. 33.1 Spring 2009.

“Red Riding Hood in the Forest.” *Indiana Review*. 30.1. Summer 2008.

“Red Riding Hood to Grandmother.” *Indiana Review*. 30.1. Summer 2008.

“Shocked.” *Tar River Poetry*. 47.2. Spring 2008.

“Waiting for the Judge to Sign the Protective Order.” *The Sow’s Ear Poetry Review*. 17.4. Winter 2008.

“Still Waiting for the Judge to Sign the Protective Order.” *The Sow’s Ear Poetry Review*. 17.4. Winter 2008.

“At Grandpa’s Nursing Home.” *South Dakota Review*. 45.3. Fall 2007.

“Wolf Feels Something Coming.” *Poetry Now*. On-line. December 2007.

Publications, Book Jacket Blurb & Book Review

- ◇ Book Jacket Blurb for *Wild Roses*, Poetry Collection by Jan Minich. Mayapple Press. June 2017.
- ◇ “Our Foolish, Beastly Hearts.” Book Review of Missouri Poet Laureate William Trowbridge’s *Put This On, Please, New and Selected Poems. New Letters*. Winter 2014.

Poetry Readings

- ◇ My poem “The Waterfall” was the featured poem for the Utah Poetry Festival on April 2, 2021. Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3F27Vi8Bik>
- ◇ Wrote a poem and delivered it at Star Coulbrooke’s Retirement Celebration. Star was the USU Writing Center Director and the former Logan City Poet Laureate. Via Zoom. March 31, 2021.
- ◇ Reading for the Logan City Council via Zoom, December 1, 2020.
- ◇ Heartbeats Beat Poetry Reading sponsored by USU English Department and Nora Eccles Museum of Art, Logan, Utah, November 21, 2019.
- ◇ Weber State University, Hetzel-Hollen Room of Stewart Library, Ogden, UT, November 12, 2019.
- ◇ Reading with Ben Gunsberg, sponsored by Dixie State University and the Utah Humanities Council Book Festival, Dixie State University, St. George, October 10, 2019.
- ◇ Reading with Ben Gunsberg, co-sponsored by Southern Utah University, *Sugar House Review*, and the Utah Humanities Council Book Festival, Artisan’s Gallery, Cedar City, UT, October 9, 2019.
- ◇ Utah State University English Department Readers Series, Merrill-Cazier Library, Logan, UT, September 30, 2019.
- ◇ Author in the House Poetry Reading Series, Marmalade Branch of the Salt Lake City Library, Salt Lake City, UT, July 25, 2019.

- ◇ Utah Poetry Festival, Reading with Northern Utah Poets. Westminster College, Salt Lake City, UT, April 27, 2019.
- ◇ Poetry at Three Poetry Group Reading, Helicon West Reading Series. Logan, UT, April 11, 2019.
- ◇ Reading with William Trowbridge, former poet laureate of Missouri. City Art Reading Series. Sponsored by the Utah Humanities Book Festival. Salt Lake City, UT, October 24, 2018.
- ◇ “Ancient Myth and Fairytales.” Themed reading with poets Nancy Takacs and Danielle Dubrasky. Sponsored by Utah Humanities Book Festival. Ken Sanders Rare Books, Salt Lake City, UT, October 15, 2018.
- ◇ “Ars Moriendi. Artists Confronting Death.” Themed reading with poet Michael McLane, novelist & poet Lance Olsen, and novelist Kirsten Scott. Bountiful Arts Center. Sponsored by Utah Humanities Book Festival, Bountiful, UT, September 28, 2018.
- ◇ “Mic Check” USU Creative Writing Majors Opening Social, Taggart Student Center, Logan, UT, Sept. 2018.
- ◇ Poetry at Three Poetry Group Reading, Helicon West Reading Series. Logan, UT, April 2018.
- ◇ “Poe in the Dark,” Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society Fund-Raising Event, Old Main 225, Logan, UT, Oct. 25, 2017.
- ◇ “Mic Check” USU Creative Writing Majors Opening Social, Taggart Student Center, Logan, UT, Sept. 20, 2017.
- ◇ Poetflow Reading Series, Ogden, UT, Sept. 5, 2017.
- ◇ Poetry at Three Poetry Group Reading, Cache Valley Summerfest, Logan, UT, June 16, 2017.
- ◇ Sand and Sky Anthology of Utah Poets Book Launch. Marmalade Library, Salt Lake City, UT, May 6, 2017.
- ◇ Poetry at Three Poetry Group Reading, Helicon West Reading Series. Logan, UT, April 13, 2017.
- ◇ “Life on the Margins” reading sponsored by National Federation for the Blind. Logan City Library, Logan, UT, April 23, 2017.
- ◇ Garland Reading Series, Garland City Library, Garland, UT, March 22, 2017.
- ◇ City Art Meltdown, Salt Lake City, UT, September 5, 2016.
- ◇ Poetry at Three Poetry Group Reading, Cache Valley Summerfest, Logan, UT, June 2016.
- ◇ Poetry at Three Poetry Group Reading, Helicon West Reading Series. Logan, UT, April 2016.
- ◇ Poetflow Reading Series, Ogden, UT, March 2016.
- ◇ Weber State University Reading Series, Library Lounge, Ogden, UT, October 13, 2015.
- ◇ City Art Meltdown, Salt Lake City, UT, September 4, 2015.
- ◇ University of Nebraska Visiting Faculty Reading Series, Nebraska City, NE, July 18, 2015.
- ◇ Poetry at Three Poetry Group Reading, Cache Valley Summerfest, June 2015.
- ◇ Western Carolina University Literary Festival, May 2015.

- ◇ Helicon West Reading Series, Logan, UT, April 2015.
- ◇ Utah Division of Arts and Museums Original Writing Competition Awards Ceremony, West Valley City, UT, October 2014.
- ◇ Reading with Utah Poet Laureate Lance Larsen for Poetry Out Loud Final Competition, Westminster College, Salt Lake City, Utah, March 12, 2014.
- ◇ Helicon West Reading Series, Logan, UT April 2014.
- ◇ University of Nebraska MFA Alumni, Nebraska City, NE, July 23, 2014.
- ◇ Reading with poet Jen Lambert, Pet Shop Arts Studio, Omaha, NE, July 24, 2014.
- ◇ Reading with poet Cat Dixon, Caine Room, USU, October 2014.
- ◇ Reading with poet Laura Stott, Helicon West Reading Series, Logan, Utah, Oct. 23, 2014.
- ◇ Reading with Novelist Kirstin Scott sponsored by Utah Book Festival, Helicon West Reading Series, Logan, Utah, Oct. 24, 2013.
- ◇ Reading with Novelist Kirstin Scott for Utah Book Festival, City Art Series, Salt Lake City, Utah, Oct. 23, 2013.
- ◇ Utah Division of Arts and Museums Original Writing Competition Awards Ceremony, Salt Lake City, Utah, September 2013.
- ◇ USU English Department's Speakers Series, Logan, Utah, Sept. 18, 2013.
- ◇ Helicon West Reading Series. Logan, Utah. April 2013.
- ◇ Reading with William Trowbridge, Poet Laureate of Missouri, Helicon West Reading Series, October 2012.
- ◇ City Art Meltdown, Salt Lake City, Utah. September 2012.
- ◇ Helicon West Reading Series. Logan, Utah. April 12, 2012.
- ◇ Rocky Mountain Writer's Festival. Pocatello, Idaho. April 6, 2012.
- ◇ Artist's Sculpting Salon. Price, Utah. February 2012.
- ◇ City Art Series, *Sugar House Review* Contributors' Celebration. Salt Lake City, Utah. November 2011.
- ◇ City Art Meltdown, Salt Lake City, Utah. September 16, 2011.
- ◇ Helicon West, Logan, UT, April 28, 2011.
- ◇ City Art Series, Salt Lake City Library, October 13, 2010.
- ◇ Ken Saunders Rare Books, SLC, UT, May 5, 2010.
- ◇ Helicon West, Logan, UT, April 22, 2010.
- ◇ Helicon West, Logan, UT, February 11, 2010.
- ◇ Reading with Katharine Coles, Poet Laureate of Utah, Haight Alumni Center, Logan, UT, September 10, 2009.
- ◇ Reading at Torrey Bookstore, Torrey, UT, July 15, 2009.
- ◇ True Aggie Café, Logan, UT, April 15, 2009.
- ◇ USU English Department's "Creative Writing Sampler," September 10, 2008.
- ◇ Citrus and Sage, Logan, UT, April 23, 2008.
- ◇ Citrus and Sage, Logan, UT, April 12, 2007.
- ◇ Citrus and Sage, Logan, UT, April 2006.
- ◇ Citrus and Sage, Logan, UT, April 2005.
- ◇ Merrill Library, Utah State University, Logan, UT, April 21, 2004.
- ◇ Rocky Mountain Writer's Festival, Pocatello, ID, April 3, 2004.

- ◇ Chapter Two Books, Logan, UT, April 9, 2003.
- ◇ Rocky Mountain Writer's Festival, Pocatello, ID, April 5, 2003.
- ◇ Chapter Two Books, Logan, UT, April 5, 2002.
- ◇ Chapter Two Books, Logan, UT, April 24, 2001.

Service to the USU Department of English

Assistant Director for English 2010: Research Writing in a Persuasive Mode. Utah State University Composition Program. Utah State University. Logan, UT. 2003-2008; 2010-2011; 2015-2017.

The USU Composition Program staffs approximately 350 sections of English 1010: Introduction to Academic Writing and English 2010: Research Writing in a Persuasive Mode each academic year, amounting to the instruction of more than 8,000 students. While many of our sections are staffed by experienced Lecturers and Senior Lecturers, the program relies heavily on Graduate Instructors and Adjunct Instructors. Under the guidance of USU's Writing Program Administrator, I served as one of two Assistant Directors of the English 2010 program. My responsibilities are many, though one of the most important aspects of my position is to train graduate instructors to teach English 2010.

My Duties as Assistant Director for the Composition Program included:

- ◇ Planning, organizing, and facilitating face-to-face orientation for new English 2010 graduate instructors
- ◇ Designing and teaching a four-week summer online English 2010 colloquium for new graduate instructors
- ◇ Providing extensive written feedback for new graduate instructors to help them plan and refine syllabi, lesson plans, and assignment descriptions they submit in the online colloquium
- ◇ Coordinating with librarians to create successful, individual librarian-composition instructor partnerships
- ◇ Conducting classroom observations of all new English 2010 faculty
- ◇ Meeting with and advising new teachers about how to improve their teaching
- ◇ Coordinating and conducting Professional Development meetings for all Composition Faculty
- ◇ Assessing the English 2010 Composition Program by gathering and evaluating student final written projects
- ◇ Evaluating and revising current curriculum
- ◇ Selecting and ordering textbooks for graduate instructors and adjunct faculty

Composition Program Faculty Professional Development

Along with other directors of the Composition Program, I created, planned, organized, and facilitated 4 series of discussions and lectures aimed toward providing composition

faculty with professional development opportunities. Topics and dates for the meetings were as follows:

- ◇ Focused on Composition Program assessment, including assessment rubric development, program goals and learning objectives, data collection, evaluation methods. Spring 2017.
- ◇ Invited speakers lectured on a variety of topics including innovative classroom techniques, proposal writing, and risk and vulnerability in teaching. Fall 2016.
- ◇ Invited speakers lectured on “The Writer’s Craft”; topics included effective use of repetition in writing; teaching students to compose professional correspondence; building complex sentences. Spring 2015.
- ◇ Each week, composition faculty read and discussed chapters from *What the Best College Teachers Do* by Ken Bain. Spring 2011.

Composition Program Assessment Coordinator

From 2010-2013, I served as one of the coordinators for the annual English 2010 Composition Program Assessment. This task involved extensive coordination efforts with committee members and composition faculty teaching approximately 70 sections, each with 23+ students in the course, amounting to the collection of approximately 1,600 final projects.

My Duties as Coordinator for Program Assessment Included:

- ◇ Meeting with the assessment committee to develop a 20-point assessment rubric tied specifically to course description, course learning objectives, and desired learning outcomes
- ◇ Coding all selected essays according to instructor rank—graduate instructor, adjunct instructor, lecturer—in order to determine correlation between student success and teachers’ experience
- ◇ Calibrating our assessment practices by evaluating and discussing student essay samples in committee meetings
- ◇ Gathering and sorting assessment data
- ◇ Coordinating with the Utah State University Office of Analysis, Assessment, and Accreditation to synthesize data into graphs and tables
- ◇ Meeting with composition faculty to evaluate data and formulate strategies to address, in our classrooms, the writing issues that surfaced in assessment

Judging and Directing the USU Creative Writing Contest

Each year, the USU English department sponsors an annual creative writing contest open to all undergraduate and graduate students across the university. The contest has four categories—poetry, nonfiction, fiction, and art; each category has three volunteer judges who judge the work blind. I have served as a judge for the contest 4 times, and in 2004-2005, I served as the assistant director for the contest. Categories and dates I served as judge are as follows:

- ◇ Creative Non-fiction Judge February 2015.
- ◇ Creative Non-fiction Judge February 2014.
- ◇ Creative Non-fiction Judge February 2012.
- ◇ Poetry Judge March 2000.

Assistant Director. Creative Writing Contest. Utah State University. Logan, UT. Fall 2004-Spring 2005.

- As Assistant Director, I contacted and secured judges, advertised the contest, gathered and coded submissions, and distributed them to the judges.

Committee Work

Lecturer Promotion Task Force Member. Fall 2021.

- Worked with other task members to review faculty code and write policy as it pertains to lecturer promotion and annual review in Utah State University English Department

Planning Committee for Helicon West, Logan City's Community Reading Series. Fall 2007-Spring 2020.

- Coordinate with Utah Humanities Council to bring in authors for the Utah Book Festival, occurring during September and October every year
- Assist in organizing and planning the visits of several in-state and out-of-state authors, including William Trowbridge Poet Laureate of Missouri, and Richard Robbins, Director of the Creative Writing Program at Minnesota State University, Mankato
- Serve as the emcee for several readings throughout the year
- Schedule student readings, such as the Creative Writing Club Performance Teams and my own Advanced Poetry Writing Students

Promotion and Advisory Committee Member for Lecturer Robb Kunz. Fall 2019-present.

- Convene with other committee members to advise lecturers as they work toward promotion to senior lecturer. Conduct class observations for lecturers seeking promotion.

Promotion and Advisory Committee Member for Lecturer Mary Ellen Greenwood. Fall 2020-present.

- Convene with other committee members to advise lecturers as they work toward promotion to senior lecturer. Conduct class observations for lecturers seeking promotion.

Promotion and Advisory Committee Member for Lecturer Lianna Mannibog. Fall 2020-present.

- Convene with other committee members to advise lecturers as they work toward promotion to senior lecturer. Conduct class observations for lecturers seeking promotion.

Creative Writing Committee. 2003-present.

- Convene with other creative writing faculty to discuss a variety of issues including, but not limited to, invited speakers, funding, course development, student needs and concerns, curriculum, assessment, development of further extracurricular opportunities for students

Assessment Sub-Committee, Creative Writing Committee. Fall 2016.

- Evaluated poetry, fiction, and non-fiction writing from seniors in the creative writing program using departmental assessment rubric
- Worked with other Creative Writing faculty to discuss information gleaned from student exit interviews
- Designed plans to address student needs and concerns
- Assisted in the composition of the annual assessment report

Lecturer Hiring Committee. March 2015-May 2015.

- Examined and evaluated over 100 application letters and curriculum vitae
- Discussed applications with other committee members to determine our top selections for the position
- Conducted interviews in-person and via skype with potential candidates

Departmental Awards Committee. Fall 2014.

- Evaluated extensive materials, including letters of support, curriculum vitae, and supporting documents for all departmental awards nominees
- Convened with committee to evaluate and vote on nominees for numerous awards, including Teacher of the Year and Researcher of the Year

English 2010 Assessment Committee. Fall 2010-present.

- Evaluate and revise assessment methodology and grading rubric
- Calibrate grading practices with committee members
- In teams, negotiate scores for English 2010 final writing projects
- Discuss data and create goals for overall program improvement

The Five English General Education Courses Committee. December 2009-2012.

- Evaluated English General Education courses and articulated their goals and connections to overall university educational goals

Utah State University Breadth and Depth Committee. Spring 2008-2010.

- Evaluated breadth and depth English general education courses, Understanding Literature (English 2200) and Perspectives in Literature (English 3030) and articulated their goals and connections to overall university educational goals

Composition Program Textbook Selection Committee. Fall 2006-Spring 2007.

- Evaluated current composition textbooks using various criteria, such as comprehensiveness, emphasis, style, alignment to program goals, and cost

English 1010 Curriculum Committee. 1999.

- Reviewed and revised program curriculum for English 1010, Introduction to Academic Writing

Service to the City of Logan, Utah

Logan City Poet Laureate. August 21, 2019-current.

In August 2019, Logan City Mayor Holly Daines appointed me to be the Logan City Poet Laureate and to serve a five-year term. In order to carry out my duties as laureate, I have created two laureate projects: “A Celebration of Cache Valley Voices” and a series of free poetry workshops for the community. “A Celebration of Cache Valley Voices” is a digital collection housed on my website. The project aims to publish poetry from as many community members as possible to represent the diversity of our city. All published poems will be up on the site for a few months and then will be archived as pdfs on the site. The series of free poetry workshops will be held throughout the year, though they will always be scheduled in the fall and in April for poetry month. The workshops will cover various topics. Please see the “workshop” section of this CV for examples of the workshops I teach.

My duties as the Logan City Poet Laureate include:

- ◇ Enhance the presence and appreciation of poetry and the literary arts in Logan
- ◇ Raise awareness of the power of literature, poetry, and the spoken word
- ◇ Create a new body of literary works that commemorate and celebrate the vibrancy of our city
- ◇ Inspire an emerging generation of literary artists
- ◇ Bring the literary arts to people in Logan who have limited access to poetry or limited exposure to the literary arts
- ◇ Encourage both the reading and writing of literature
- ◇ Enhance the legacy of Logan poet May Swenson

My special projects as the Logan City Poet Laureate include:

“A Celebration of Cache Valley Voices,” a digital collection of Cache Valley Community Members’ Poetry housed on my website at <https://www.shananballam.org/a-celebration-of-cache-valley-voice>.

- Solicit and edit poetry from Cache Valley Community Members
- Solicit and edit contributor bios
- Design and update webpage

Free Poetry Workshops for Cache Valley Community Members. September 2019-current.

- Schedule workshops in-person or via Zoom
- Send out invitations to community members
- Lead workshops on various topics (please see the “workshop” section of this CV for a description of the types of workshops I teach)

Service to the State of Utah

Literary Arts Representative, Utah Arts Council Board of Directors. September 2013-July 2017.

In 2013, I was selected by the Director of the Utah Division of Arts and Museums (UDAM) to serve as the Literary Arts Representative for the Utah Arts Council Board of Directors. In September 2013, I was appointed by Utah Governor Gary Herbert to serve a four-year term on the board. Board members perform tasks essential to sustaining and developing the arts in Utah and meet several times a year, in person or via telephone, to vote on crucial proposals and/or procedures, such as art acquisition or policy amendments. Board members also participate in the Grant Review Process.

My duties as the Literary Arts Representative on the Utah Arts Council Board of Directors included:

Utah Poet Laureate Selection Committee. March 2017.

- Along with 5 other committee members, including former poet laureate Katharine Coles and poet laureate Lance Larsen, evaluated applicant portfolios, discussed, voted on, and sent the top three candidate's names to Utah Governor Gary Herbert for approval.

Host for Utah Original Writing Competition Awards Ceremony. Salt Lake City Library. Salt Lake City, UT, November 2016.

- Introduced winners, read excerpts from judges' comments, distributed honorary certificates and monetary awards to the each of the winners in eight categories of the Original Writing Competition, a contest judged blindly by renowned writers selected from other states.

Board Member Representative for Project Arts Grants Panel Review Board. Glendinning Mansion, Salt Lake City, Utah, June 2015 & June 2016.

- As board member representative, I oversaw the panel review board meeting, ensuring that each member followed protocol, and called for votes, offering direction when necessary

Host for Utah Original Writing Competition Awards Ceremony. Utah Cultural Celebration Center. West Valley City, Utah. September 2013, October 2015.

- Distributed honorary certificates and monetary awards to the each of the winners in eight categories of the Original Writing Competition, a contest judged blindly by renowned writers selected from other states.

Host for the Reading of Utah Original Writing Competition 2013 Contest Winners. Utah Cultural Celebration Center. West Valley City, Utah. September 2014.

- Introduced 2013 contest-winning readers and read excerpts from judges' comments about their work.

Member of Project Arts Grants Panel Review Board. Glendinning Mansion, Salt Lake City, Utah, June 2014.

- Reviewed approximately 40 project arts grants applications from arts organizations across the state, including organizations dedicated to music, visual art, literature, dance, and theatre.
- Assessed project description, artistic merit, community impact, ADA compliance, and project's ability to engage with underserved populations.
- Convened with review board to negotiate and adjust scores for each project application.
- Voted on funding percentage for each arts project application.

Poetry Reading with Utah Poet Laureate Lance Larsen for Poetry Out Loud State Finals. March 12, 2014.

- Invited to read and encourage the performers at the NEA-sponsored Poetry Out Loud competition, a poetry performance competition for high school students.

Arts Representative for Arts Day on the Hill. Utah State Capitol Building, Salt Lake City, Utah. February 4, 2014.

- Board members solicit state representatives and discuss various issues pertaining to the arts with state officials.

Other Service to the State of Utah

Member of the Teaching Artist Roster for the State of Utah. 2013-current.

- The Teaching Artist Roster provides opportunities for artists to work as artists/educators in schools, nonprofit organizations and other community settings. Services are funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Utah Legislature and local sponsoring organizations.

Judge. Poetry Out Loud Utah State Finals. Rose Wagner Theater. Salt Lake City, Utah. March 12, 2012.

- Evaluated performers based on five criteria: physical presence, voice & articulation, dramatic appropriateness, evidence of understanding, and overall performance.

Workshops, Lectures, Panels, Radio Appearances & Presentations

Workshops

"Winged Wonders Poetry Walkabout." Monarchs and Other Winged Wonders Festival. Heritage Park, Nibley, Utah, June 24, 2021

- I led participants on a short walk around the wetlands of Heritage Park where we would stop intermittently to read poems and write down our observations. We read poems by Li Po, May Swenson, William Stafford, and Mary Oliver. Participants wrote poems and shared them with the group

“Poetry of Memory: An Online Poetry Writing Workshop.” Workshop conducted through Zoom. April 28, 2021.

- Participants read poems by Star Coulbrooke, Seamus Heaney, Theodore Roethke, and Elizabeth Bishop then wrote poems based on exercises I had created

“Surprise & Delight: An Online Poetry Writing Workshop.” Workshop conducted through Zoom. March 26, 2021.

- Participants read poems by Lucille Clifton, May Swenson, Brock Dethier, and Ted Kooser then wrote poems based on exercises I had created

“Odes & Transitions: An Online Poetry Workshop.” Workshop conducted through Zoom. November 14, 2020.

- Participants read odes by Pablo Neruda and examples of poems using effective transitions then practiced writing their own odes

“Metamorphosis: An Online Poetry Workshop.” Workshop conducted through Zoom. July 29, 2020.

- In this workshop, participants practiced three different kinds of poetic metamorphosis: the metamorphosis of common phrases, the metamorphosis of strong feelings using metaphor, and the metamorphosis of self into an inanimate object.

“Awakening: An Online Poetry Workshop.” Workshop conducted through Zoom. June 10, 2020.

- I chose this title for the workshop—Awakening—because as we’ve been moving through the tie of Covid-19, Theodore Roethke’s quote kept ringing in my head: “in a dark time, the eye begins to see.” Participants read poems including Roethke’s “The Waking” and wrote their own “awakening” poems. |

Commented [SB1]:

“Seeing the Extraordinary in the Ordinary.” Write @ the Logan Library Writers Conference, Logan City Library, Logan, Utah, January 25, 2020.

- Participants read a few examples of poets fascinated with the beauty of the ordinary, practiced tuning their senses and their brains to be aware as well as to verbalize what they sensed, and wrote one short poem that turned something ordinary—like washing dishes or shoveling snow—into something extraordinary.

“The Power of Repetition.” Write @ the Logan Library Writers Conference, Logan City Library, Logan, Utah, January 25, 2020.

- Participants examined and practiced a few of the many kinds of poetic repetition: anaphora and the poetic form, the pantoum.

“A Celebration of Sound and Sense.” Kanab Writers Conference, Kanab Community Arts Center, Kanab, Utah, November 8, 2019.

- Participants learned and practiced basic poetic sound techniques, such as alliteration, assonance, and other types of sonic repetition. They gathered sensory

details and images from nature and wrote poems wherein “sound seemed an echo to the sense.”

“Using Myth and Fairy Tale in Poetry.” St. George Literary Arts Festival, Dixie State University, St. George, Utah, October 12, 2019.

- Participants discussed well-known myths and fairy tales like the Minotaur and Red Riding Hood and examined how poets and artists have reimagined these stories in fresh, surprising ways. They then practiced techniques for writing their own mythic poetry while keeping in mind what Joseph Campbell says: “Whether you call someone a hero or a monster is all relative to where the focus of your consciousness may be.”

“Celebrating the Voice that is Great Within Us.” Cache Valley Women’s Club, Logan, Utah, September 10, 2019.

- Participants examined and discussed poems by May Swenson and Richard Wilbur that focused on childhood experiences and then drew maps of their childhood neighborhoods, selected specific experiences, described the experiences using sensory details, and composed and shared their poems.

“Entering the Labyrinth, Emerging Transformed: Using Myth and Fairy Tale in Poetry.” League of Utah Writers Summer Writers Symposium, Logan, Utah, June 15, 2019.

- Please see description above under “Using Myth and Fairy Tale in Poetry.”

“Engage the Senses, Engage the Reader.” League of Utah Writers Summer Writers Symposium, Logan, Utah, June 15, 2019.

- Participants examined prose and poetry that used vivid sensory detail that engaged readers on a physical level. We discussed connotation and prose rhythm, aspects of writing that are likely to engage the reader on the more abstract levels of emotion and intellect.

“Subtle Beauty: Creating Poetic Prose.” League of Utah Writers Summer Writers Symposium, Logan, Utah, June 15, 2018.

- Participants practiced common poetic sound devices such as anaphora, alliteration, and consonance; discussed connotation; and generated metaphors and similes. We examined the ways all these devices can expand and complicate prose, deepening our connection with our readers. We also discussed message, diction, syntax, and I offered participants hands-on practice with basic sound elements.

“Elegant Solutions: Writing about Difficult Subject Matter.” League of Utah Writers Summer Writers Symposium, Logan, Utah, June 15, 2018.

- This workshop began with an explanation of “elegant solution”—in mathematics, it refers to a solution that solves the problem in the simplest and most effective manner. Artists are forced to confront problems ranging from minor to massive every time we face the page. One common problem is honestly facing difficult subject matter. In this workshop, we discussed: How do we write about things that

hurt us? How do we avoid sentimentality? How do we contend with the complex “truth” of our situations? How can we approach the subject with a new perspective, one that will allow us and our writing to progress? I offered participants various writing exercises to help them write about their most difficult subjects.

“Elegant Solutions: Writing about Difficult Subject Matter.” St. George, Utah, March 3, 2018.

- Please see the description above.

“A Celebration of Sound and Sense.” Poetry in the Park Workshop. Zion National Park. March 2, 2018.

- This workshop included morning and afternoon writing workshops and a mid-day nature walk with a Zion Forever Project Naturalist. The morning session focused on explanation and practice of multiple types of sound sequences in poetry including alliteration, assonance, consonance, and anaphora, and the afternoon session included more practice with close observation, description, and “nonsensical” poetry. Participants included poets ranging in age from high school students to retirees.

Visiting Poet, Weber High School, North Ogden, Utah, May 2016.

- Focused on drawing maps of their neighborhoods, selecting specific experiences, describing the experience using sensory details. Also composed and shared group pantoums.

“Psychic Distance in Poetry.” League of Utah Writers Annual Conference. Logan, Utah, August 28, 2015.

- Defined basic levels of psychic distance in poetry, such as first-person narration and omniscient narration. Discussed ways to diminish or widen the psychic distance between author and reader, such as specificity, abstraction, and syntactical arrangement.

Workshop for Patients with Alzheimer’s Disease and their Caregivers. Brigham City, UT. March 2014.

- Patients and caregivers drew maps of the earliest neighborhoods they could remember living in and discussed and wrote about specific experiences from their childhoods. We focused on the use of sensory detail to create images for a reader of a memoir.

Poetry Writing Workshop for the League of Utah Writers. Park City, Utah. September 2012.

- Students brought copies of their own poems and, as a group, we examined and discussed various poetic elements, such as psychic distance, syntax, repetition, and metaphor.

Memoir Writing Workshop for Senior Citizens. Senior Citizens’ Center, Price, Utah. February 2012.

- Taught various forms of brainstorming, such as visual mapping, listing, and freewriting to help senior citizens recall specific, surprising memories and the details surrounding them. We discussed and uncovered themes present in the memories the participants recalled.

Creative Writing for Male Inmates Incarcerated at the Cache County Jail, Logan, UT. Team-taught with Dustin Crawford. Fall 2005-Spring 2006.

- We read poems from a variety of professional poets, discussed the poems that resonated with the inmates, and defined the poetic elements, such as metaphor. We provided writing exercises; inmates wrote poetry and shared their work.

“The Vagina Monologues’ Decompression Writing Workshop,” team-taught with other USU English department faculty, Logan, UT, February 17, 2005.

- Participants in this workshop first attended “The Vagina Monologues” performance on campus; we then met to discuss and reflect upon the production. Conducted a writing exercise wherein participants drew a “map” of their bodies, marking places where something significant happened to them. Using the experiences, we wrote and then shared our writing.

“Writing as a Way of Healing,” sponsored by USU Women’s Center. Logan, UT, October 12-13, 2004.

- Participants in this workshop were victims of trauma—many of them victims of sexual assault. We discussed healthy methods of recording our stories, practiced the methods, and shared our work and experiences with the group members.

Poetry Writing for Elementary School Children. 5th grade class, Adams Elementary, Logan, UT, April 2004.

- Students practiced sensory details and comparison, describing emotions in terms of objects and colors.

“Poetry and the Power of Metaphor,” Sponsored by Utah State Poetry Society. Logan City Library, Logan, UT, March 30, 2004.

- Community participants of all ages attended this workshop wherein we read poetry by renowned poets such as William Stafford, discussed the poet’s execution of metaphor, and practiced metaphor in our own writing.

Poetry Writing for Youth Incarcerated at Ogden Youth Correctional Facility. Sponsored by Utah State Poetry Society. Ogden, UT. January 2004-March 2004.

- Taught students simple poetic elements, such as sensory detail, and helped them practice different writing methods like journaling and freewriting. Emphasized the importance of developing individual writing voice and presented methods for exploring, healing, and learning from experiences. We read and discussed our connections with the vignettes from Sandra Cisneros “House on Mango Street.”

Lectures

Keynote Speaker for Sigma Tau Delta Induction Ceremony, Weber State University, Ogden, Utah. Speech delivered via Zoom, April 26, 2021.

- Delivered a lecture discussing the necessity of risk and vulnerability in creative writing and research writing. I read a few of my own poems and discussed my own vulnerability and risk and how it shapes my work

“A Celebration of Sound and Sense.” Z-Arts Lecture. Springdale, Utah, March 1, 2018.

- Delivered a lecture explaining multiple types of sound sequences in poetry including alliteration, assonance, consonance, and anaphora and demonstrated how professional poets use sound sequences in their work to achieve various sonic effects.

Keynote Speaker for Book Launch of Sand & Sky: An Anthology of Utah Poets. Marmalade Library, Salt Lake City, UT. May 6, 2017.

- Delivered a lecture entitled “The Poetry of Nature: May Swenson and Elizabeth Bishop,” focusing briefly on each poet’s capacity for imaginative empathy.

“Echoes to the Sense: Sound, Syntax, and Poetic Form.” League of Utah Writers Annual Conference. Logan, Utah, August 28, 2015.

- This lecture touched on Alexander Pope’s “An Essay on Criticism,” discussed message, diction, syntax, and offered participants hands-on practice with basic sound elements, such as assonance, consonance, partial consonance, and rich consonance.

“The Poet’s Vulnerable Embrace.” University of Nebraska MFA Program. Nebraska City, NE, July 17, 2015.

- Using artistic struggles I’ve encountered when attempting to write about my youngest brother’s suicide, I examined poetic vulnerability, creation of an intimate connection with the reader, combatting sentimentality and the “normalizing narratives of catastrophe.”

“Writing Persona Poems.” Western Carolina University. Cullowhee, NC, May 2015.

- Using my own Red Riding Hood persona poems as models, I discussed how persona poetry can provide a place to practice empathy and voice development. They can also create a safe psychic distance for poets wishing to explore dark, emotional territory.

Panels

Aggie Human Library Participant for USU’s Gear Up Program, Serving First-Generation Low-Income Students. Logan, Utah, June 10, 2016.

- Because I was a low-income, first-generation college student, I was invited to speak with high school juniors to share my story and encourage students to seek a higher education.

“Getting a Job in Academia after Earning an MFA” Panel Participant with Authors Gary Dop, Cat Dixon, Phil Weitzl. UNO MFA Residency, Lied Lodge, Nebraska City, NE July 17, 2015.

- Spoke to current MFA students about my experience working in academia and how earning an MFA has enhanced my ability to teach composition and literature.

“So You Got an MFA—Now What?” Panel Participant with authors Gary Dop, Sarah McKinstry-Brown, Liz Kay, Phil Weitzl. UNO MFA Residency, Lied Lodge, Nebraska City, NE July 2014.

- Panel members discussed the different paths they have followed after receiving MFA degrees. I represented someone working in academia, others represented areas, such as non-profit and religious organizations.

Author Discussion. Panel Participant with Novelist Kirstin Scott. Sponsored by Utah Humanities Council in conjunction with Utah Book Festival. Logan, Utah. October 2013.

- Answered questions from the audience about topics such as the writer’s life, title selection, metaphor, and persona.

“The Freedoms and Restrictions of Persona Poems.” Poetry Panel with William Trowbridge, Poet Laureate of Missouri. Sponsored by Utah Humanities Council. Logan, Utah. October 2012.

- Discussed my use of the Red Riding Hood tale to develop persona poetry; Bill discussed serio-comic poetry and his persona, of King Kong.

“A Celebration of May Swenson,” Panel Participant with Mark Doty, Michael Sowder, and Maria Melendez, Haight Alumni Center, Logan, UT, November 4, 2008.

- Discussed May Swenson’s work, including her “playful” style, subject matter, and depiction of animals in her poetry.

“A Celebration of May Swenson,” Panel Participant with Ted Kooser, Michael Sowder, and Maria Melendez, Haight Alumni Center, Logan, UT, March 23, 2007.

- Discussed May Swenson’s work and her influence on our poetry.

Radio Appearances

“Gathering of Gratitude.” Appearance with several other members of the Cache Valley Community. Sponsored by Cache Community Connections Group. Utah Public Radio, Logan, Utah November 29, 2020.

- Invited to read my poem “White-Out, Wyoming,” for the Gathering of Gratitude.

“Writing about Obituaries.” Appearance with author Heather Lende, Utah Public Radio Access Utah Program, Logan, Utah, May 18, 2015.

- Invited to speak about my manuscript-in-progress, “The Obituary Addendum,” a project that explores and celebrates my youngest brother, Dylan Alexander Thomas, who drank himself to death in 2013 at age 24.

“Persona Poetry.” Appearance with William Trowbridge, Poet Laureate of Missouri, Utah Public Radio Access Utah Program, Logan, Utah, October 2012.

- Discussed my use of persona in my chapbook *The Red Riding Hood Papers* with my mentor, William Trowbridge, poet laureate of Missouri, who spoke about his use of King Kong and the archetypal “Fool” as personas.

Presentations

“Healing, Embodiment, and Questioning in the Personal Narrative.” USU Compositionist Conference. Conference conducted through Zoom. August 25, 2020.

- Discussed lesson ideas that lead up to writing the personal narrative and asked audience members to complete an observation exercise, do a walking or movement meditation, and try one activity from Stacey Waite’s *Teaching Queer* that asks us to consider what we do not and cannot know.

Wrote a poem entitled “Negative Capability” to be displayed in conjunction with the Women, Abstraction, and Surrealism in Art Exhibit. Poem on Exhibit in the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art August 2020-July 2021.

- Poem is based on *Untitled Light Study (a)* by Carlotta Corpron

American Association of University Professors (AAUP) Conference on Contingent Labor, Washington D.C., June 2010.

- With a colleague, presented our study of composition instructors at USU, all of whom are contingent laborers. As composition instructors, we included ourselves in this study that examined the many challenges contingent laborers face, such as poverty, low self-esteem, marginalization, and the effects of our position on our teaching and research performance.

Pedagogy Forum, The Association of Writers & Writing Programs, New York City, NY, February 1, 2008.

- Discussed reader participation in creating multiple levels of meaning with metaphor; discussed syntactical arrangement and the role of ambiguous diction in enhancing metaphor.

Professional Development: Participation & Attendance in Professional Writing Workshops and Conferences

Because I am invested not only in honing my poetic skills but in further exploring ideas and concepts to use in my own classrooms, I have enrolled in 10 intensive workshops led by renowned poets, including Heather McHugh and Former Utah Poet Laureate David Lee.

Participation: Creative Writing Workshops

Poetry in the Park Conference, Poetry Workshop led by Rob Carney. Zion National Park, UT, March 5, 2020.

Cliff Notes Writers Conference, Poetry Workshops led by Former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Hass and Former Utah Poet Laureate David Lee. Boulder, UT, October 3-6 2019.

Poetry in the Park, Poetry Workshop led by Kimberly Johnson. Zion National Park, UT, March 4, 2019.

Cliff Notes Writers Conference, Poetry Workshops led by Eleanor Wilner and Former Utah Poet Laureate David Lee. Boulder, UT, October 3-7 2018.

Cliff Notes Writers Conference, Poetry Workshop led by Eleanor Wilner and Former Utah Poet Laureate David Lee. Boulder, UT, October 2013.

Writers at Work Conference, Poetry Workshop led by Former Utah Poet Laureate Katharine Coles. Alta Lodge, Alta UT, June 2013.

Cliff Notes Writers Conference, Poetry Workshop led by Former Utah Poet Laureate David Lee. Boulder, UT. October 2012.

Writers at Work Conference, Poetry Workshop led by Heather McHugh. Alta Lodge, Alta, UT. June 2012.

Cliff Notes Writers Conference, Poetry Workshop led by Nancy Takacs, Boulder Elementary School, Boulder, UT, October 2011.

Jackson Hole Writers Conference, Poetry Workshops led by Laurie Kutchins, Ravi Shankar, Joseph Lagaspi, Cecily Parks, Jackson Hole Center for the Arts, Jackson Hole, WY June 2011.

Writers at Work Conference, Poetry Workshop led by Former Utah Poet Laureate Lance Larsen, Alta Lodge, Alta UT, June 2011.

Writers at Work Conference, Poetry Workshop led by Kim Addonizio, Westminster College, Salt Lake City, UT. June 2008.

Writers at Work Conference, Poetry Workshop led by Olena Kalytiak Davis, Westminster College, Salt Lake City, UT. June 2007.

Participation: Grant Writing Workshop

Participant, Grants Writing Workshop, facilitated by Laurel Cannon Alder, Grants Project Manager for the State of Utah. Logan, Utah October 25, 2016.

Attendance: Professional Conferences

- ◇ Association of Writing Programs Conference, Chicago, IL, February 2011.
- ◇ Association of Writing Programs Conference, Denver, CO, March 2010.
- ◇ Association of Writing Programs Conference, Chicago, IL, February 2009.
- ◇ Association of Writing Programs Conference, NYC, NY, January 2008.

Editing and Design Experience

Designer. *Perspectives*, USU 2010 student reader for English 2010, consisting of student essays. Published by Pearson Custom Publishing, spring 2004.

Editor. *Petroglyph: A Journal of Creative Nature Writing*. Utah State University. 2000-2002.

Designer. *Petroglyph: A Journal of Creative Nature Writing*. Utah State University. 2000-2002.

Assistant Editor. *Petroglyph: A Journal of Creative Nature Writing*. Utah State University. 1999-2000.

Grants Funded

Utah Arts Council, Literary Publications Grant for *Petroglyph, A Journal of Creative Nature Writing*, fiscal year 2001-2002.

Utah Arts Council, Literary Publications Grant for *Petroglyph, A Journal of Creative Nature Writing*, fiscal year 2000-2001.

Utah Arts Council, Literary Publications Grant for *Petroglyph, A Journal of Creative Nature Writing*, fiscal year 1999-2000.

Utah Arts Council, Literary Publications Grant for *Petroglyph, A Journal of Creative Nature Writing*, fiscal year 1998-1999.