

AMANDA GIRACCA

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts

Creative Nonfiction, University of Pittsburgh
Degree Received: April 27, 2013
Peter Trachtenberg, Thesis Chair
Within this Kingdom: Essays

Master of Arts

English, Creative Writing Track, Northern Michigan University
Degree Received: May 2, 2009
Kate Myers Hanson, Thesis Chair
Mother Tongue: Short Stories

Bachelor of Arts

Environmental Studies and Creative Writing, Prescott College
Degree Received: December 13, 2003

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Writing and Critical Inquiry Program, Fall 2013-Present

State University of New York at Albany
UNI 110: Writing and Critical Inquiry
TUNI 110: Honors Writing and Critical Inquiry

Select themed sections of WCI:

Strange Stories: Reading, Writing, and Analyzing First-Person Narratives
Getting Schooled: What Does it Mean to "Get" an Education?
Science Writing and Communication (for Biology majors)

Graduate Teaching Assistant (Instructor of Record), Fall 2010-Spring 2013

English Department, University of Pittsburgh
ENGWRT 0610: Introduction to Nonfiction and Journalism
ENGCOMP 0200: Seminar in Composition

GRADUATE COURSEWORK IN PEDAGOGY

ENGLIT 2500: Seminar in Pedagogy, Teaching Composition and Creative Writing
University of Pittsburgh, Fall 2013

EN 595: Special Topics, Teaching World Literature
Northern Michigan University, Spring 2009.

PROFESSIONAL WRITING & EDITING EXPERIENCE

Senior Editor, *Vela Magazine* (September 2011- present): *Vela* is an online publication of creative nonfiction written by women and a nonprofit organization committed to combatting the byline gender gap. Tasks include: commissioning work from established writers; developmental editing of feature stories; grant writing; contributing feature stories and columns; writing reviews; conducting interviews; training and managing editorial assistants and interns.

Nonfiction Editor, *Hot Metal Bridge* (Fall 2010-Spring 2012): Read, selected, and edited submissions for publication; conducted interviews; wrote for the journal's blog; managed nonfiction contest.

Freelance Writer, *Berkshires Week* (2009-2011): Wrote articles for a weekly arts and entertainment supplement to *The Berkshire Eagle* of western Massachusetts.

Writing/ESL Tutor, Southern Berkshire Literacy Network (2009-2010): Volunteer position helping non-native English speakers with speaking and writing skills.

Managing Editor, *Passages North* (Graduate Assistantship, Northern Michigan University, Fall 2007-Spring 2009): Read, selected, and edited fiction and nonfiction; managed yearly fiction and nonfiction contests, contributor database, and writer contracts; trained undergraduate English majors as editorial interns.

Editorial Volunteer, *Orion Magazine* (2004-2005): Transcribed audio, copyedited, assisted with research for feature stories.

Assistant Editor, *Alligator Juniper* (Prescott College practicum course, Spring 2003): Tasks: read and helped select fiction, nonfiction, and poetry for publication.

HONORS AND AWARDS

"Notable," *Best American Essays* (2015) for "Within this Kingdom" (*Fourth Genre* 2014).

Awarded partially funded residency (2015) to Vermont Studio Center.

Awarded fully funded Residency (2015) to Playa Fellowship Residency Program.

The George F. and Mary Ann McGunagle Memorial Award – A Nationality Room Scholarship of the University of Pittsburgh (Summer 2012): Awarded \$5,000 to travel to Peru to research and write about the Interoceanic Highway.

Boschen Fund for Artists (2009), a grant through The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation of western Massachusetts: Awarded \$1,195 to work on collection of stories.

Pushcart Prize Nominee (2009) for short story "Mother Tongue" (*Passages North* 2009).

Nominated: Most Outstanding Masters of Arts Student, Northern Michigan University (2009).

Excellence in Education Research Grant, Northern Michigan University (2008):
Awarded \$1,500 to work on sense of place essays.

Senior Thesis presentation, Prescott College's Baccalaureate Ceremony (2003).

First place winner in *Alligator Juniper's* 2003 student fiction contest, judged by Kevin McIlvoy.

PUBLICATIONS

LONGFORM JOURNALISM

"The Lure of the Hunt: How the Sport of Kings is Faring in America." *Virginia Quarterly Review*. 91.4 (Fall 2015): 62-81. (Cover story)

"Biological Parents." *The Magazine*. Jul. 2014.

"Yo Soy Perú." *Vela Magazine*. Apr. 2013.

"Below the Surface." *Vela Magazine*. Oct. 2012.

"Concerning cougar." *Terrain.org*. Mar. 2012.

ESSAYS

"The Edge of Extraordinary." *Vela Magazine*. Sep. 2015.

"The Art of Butchery." *Aeon Magazine*. Apr. 2015

"On Reading a Killer's Manifesto." *Vela Magazine*. Jun. 2014.

"Of Bikes and Men." *Vela Magazine*. May. 2014.

"Within this Kingdom." *Fourth Genre*. 16.1 (Winter 2014): 91-106.

"Lives and Past Lives." *Vela Magazine*. Jan. 2014.

"A Life's Work." *Vela Magazine*. Jun. 2013.

"Ausangate." *Flyway: Journal of Writing and Environment*. May 2013.

"Erratics." *Imagination&Place: Cartography*. (2013): 79-95.

"Still Life in Ecuador." *Vela Magazine*. Jan. 2013.

"The Long Haul." *Vela Magazine*. Dec. 2012.

"Erratics." *Vela Magazine*. Aug. 2012.

"Summer People." *Vela Magazine*. May 2012.

"Fear and Loneliness in Sublette County." *Vela Magazine*. Apr. 2012.

- "A Non-Travel Essay." Feb. 2012 ("Wunderbox" in *Vela's* first print edition).
- "A Road Runs Through It." *Vela Magazine*. Jan. 2012.
- "Rekindled." *Vela Magazine*. Nov. 2011.
- "'God Bless Big Oil': Field Notes from the Land of Industrial Tourism." *Vela Magazine*. Oct. 2011.

ARTICLES

- "Art will foster an arc of young minds." *Berkshires Week*. 4 Aug. 2011: 6.
- "Talk to the animals: Ways to volunteer." *Berkshires Week*. 4 Aug. 2011: 9.
- "Crime in the kitchen: A night of mystery." *Berkshires Week*. 28 Jul. 2011: 12.
- "Ridgerunners from Georgia to Maine." *Berkshires Week*. 14 Jul. 2011: 10.
- "Discover Tyler Street on a summer day." *Berkshires Week*. 23 Jun. 2011: 41.
- "Abstract artist walks in southeast Asia." *Berkshires Week*. 23 Jun. 2011: 37.
- "Leonard Bernstein to klezmer music." *Berkshires Week*. 16 Jun. 2011: 5.
- "'Follow the Thread' up to Arrowhead." *Berkshires Week*. 9 Jun. 2011: 5.
- "Prints from an abstract natural world." *Berkshires Week*. 3 Jun. 2010: 10.
- "Dynamic writing: Online response." *Berkshires Week*. 28 Jan. 2010: D5+.
- "A season to search for stories." *Berkshires Week*. 24 Dec. 2009: D3+.
- "A dollmaker and her elves." *Berkshires Week*. 24 Dec. 2009: D3+.
- "Where galaxies clink on the ceiling." *Berkshires Week*. 24 Sept. 2009: 9.
- "Intriguing insects on patrol." *Berkshires Week*. 3 Sept. 2009: 11.

FICTION

- "A House in the Country." *Jabberwock Review*. 30.1 (2009): 12-26.
- "Mother Tongue." *Passages North*. 30.1 (2009): 52-63.
- "Sunday Drive." *Alligator Juniper*. 8 (2003): 131-140.

INTERVIEWS

- "Crafting Memoir and 'Doing Grief': An Interview with Melanie Bishop." In which we discuss the craft of memoir, writing through difficulty. *Vela Magazine*. Feb. 2014.

“Freedom to Speak: Interview with *Sampsonia Way’s* Silvia Duarte.” In which we discuss exiled writers, censorship, freedom of speech. *Vela Magazine*. 2014.

“An Interview With Evan Ratliff.” In which we discuss *The Atavist* and current digital nonfiction forms. *Hot Metal Bridge*. Dec. 2011.

“Influence, Chaos, and the Art of Open Ended Research: An Interview With Eula Biss.” In which we discuss lyric essay, influence, and teaching. *Hot Metal Bridge*. Dec. 2012 (w/ Nikki Carroll).

BOOK REVIEWS

“Not There Yet...” Review of *The Good Girls Revolt: How the Women of Newsweek Sued Their Bosses and Changed the Workplace*, by Lynn Povich. *Vela Magazine*. Nov. 2012.

“Everything Becomes Erstwhile.” Review of *Things That Are*, by Amy Leach. *Hot Metal Bridge*. Dec. 2012.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Book: *In this Kingdom: Our Lives with Animals, Wild and Tame*. I’m currently working on a book proposal for this project. It will be a nonfiction work of reportage, science writing, and personal narrative.

Book: *The Edge of Extraordinary: Essays*. This collection of personal essays examines the idea of work and the search for a meaningful existence.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

UALBANY

Chair, Writing and Critical Inquiry Contest Committee (AY 2014-2015 and 2015-2016): Created, designed, and implemented a university-wide writing contest for first-year students; headed committee of faculty members to serve as judges; created pedagogical plan for using finalist essays in WCI classes.

Using Student Contest Entrants in the WCI Classroom (October 2015): Presentation to WCI Faculty.

Peer Mentoring Program (AY 2015-2016): Worked with Peer Mentor to help students in my classes adjust to the university and to college-level writing.

Hiring Committee (Summer 2015): Review panel and interview panel for hiring seven new Writing and Critical Inquiry lecturers.

Assessment of First-Year Writing (Spring 2014, Winter 2015): Reviewed sampling of student essays for critical-thinking and writing criteria.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Member: Creative Nonfiction Society (AY 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013).

Hiring Committee (Fall 2011): Review panel for hiring incoming Assistant and Associate Professors of Creative Nonfiction in the Writing Program.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Member: Graduate Writers Association (AY 2007-2008, 2008-2009).

CONFERENCES & PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Introductory Remarks: A Celebration of Student Writing (Public Reading) (April 2015): Introduced winners and finalists of UAlbany's first WCI Writing Contest.

Presentation on Digital Storytelling (April 2013): A presentation of projects from graduate nonfiction class, Digital Storytelling, to University of Pittsburgh community.

Associated Writers & Writing Programs Conference, New York (2008): Bookfair representative for *Passages North*.

Associated Writers & Writing Programs Conference, Chicago (2009): Bookfair representative for *Passages North*.

TECHNOLOGY

Pedagogical: Eli Review (peer-review platform), BlackBoard, WebCT, PeopleSoft

Multi-Media & Digital Storytelling: PowerPoint, WordPress, Adobe Photoshop CS5.5,

Adobe Premiere CS6, Creatavist platform, Zeega

Social Media: Twitter, Tumblr, Facebook

Audio: Audacity, Fission, Audition

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Intermediate

French: Basic

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society of Environmental Journalists

AWP
Media Bistro Avant Guild