

AMANDA GIRACCA

Housatonic, MA
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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

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

PROFESSIONAL WRITING & EDITING EXPERIENCE

Senior Editor, *Vela Magazine* (September 2011- 2016): *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 and line 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 line-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 line-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): Read and helped select fiction, nonfiction, and poetry for publication.

HONORS AND AWARDS

“Notable,” *Best American Essays* (2016) for “The Art of Butchery” (*Aeon Magazine* 2015).

“Notable,” *Best American Sports Writing* (2016) for “The Lure of the Hunt” (*VQR* 2015).

“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 South America’s 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

"Falconers and the Raptor Brain." *The Ultimate Guide to the Animal Mind*, Special Interest Publication of Centennial Media, forthcoming 2019.

"Uncooped: Backyard Chickens." *The Ultimate Guide to the Animal Mind*, Special Interest Publication of Centennial Media, fall 2018, pp. 22-27.

"Into the Field: Why Science Education Needs to Leave the Classroom." *Orion Magazine*, May/June 2016, pp. 46-53. (Cover story)

"The Lure of the Hunt: How the Sport of Kings is Faring in America." *Virginia Quarterly Review*, vol. 91 no. 4, Fall 2015, pp. 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

"Teaching my Daughter to Love Nature, One Bite at a Time," *Sierra*, Aug. 2019

"On Stillness." *The Indiana Review*, vol. 40, no. 1, Summer 2018, pp. 99-109.

"The Plight of the Rooster." *Aeon Magazine*. Feb. 2018.

"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*, vol. 16, no.1, Winter 2014, pp. 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, pp. 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.

FICTION

- "A House in the Country." *Jabberwock Review*, vol. 30, no.1, 2009, pp. 12-26.
- "Mother Tongue." *Passages North*, vol. 30, no. 1, 2009, pp. 52-63.
- "Sunday Drive." *Alligator Juniper*, vol. 8, 2003, pp. 131-140.

INTERVIEWS

- "A Slave to the Essayistic Impulse: An Interview with Angela Morales." In which we discuss Morales' debut essay collection, *The Girls in My Town*. Jan. 2014.
- "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: *Wildish: How Rediscovering Our Lost Roots with Animals Makes Us More Human*, a work of narrative nonfiction that blends reportage, science writing, history, and personal narrative to examine human/non-human-animal connections in the 21st century. Represented by Elias Altman, Massie & McQuilkin.

CONFERENCES & PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

“**The Value of Student Writing: The Writing and Critical Inquiry’s Writing Contest as Pedagogical Tool and a Form of Student Conversation.**” SUNY Council on Writing Conference. Syracuse, NY. September 8-9, 2017.

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

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

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

ACADEMIC SERVICE

UALBANY

Director, Student Reading (Fall 2019): Organized and rehearsed with a group of UAlbany students for a student reading at the Albany Book Festival.

Co-Chair, Writing and Critical Inquiry Contest Committee (active chair: AY 2014-2015; AY2015-2016; spring 2017; fall 2017; fall 2018): 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.

Peer Mentoring Program (AY 2015-2016; fall 2017): 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).

TECHNOLOGY

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

Multi-Media & Digital Storytelling: WordPress

Social Media: Twitter, Tumblr, Facebook

Audio: Audacity, Fission, Audition

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Intermediate

French: Basic

References available upon request.