

## Katherine Scott Nelson

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### EDUCATION

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#### **MFA in Creative Writing, Fiction**

May 2016

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Thesis: In progress

Advisors: Philip Graham, Alex Shakar

#### **BA in English and Creative Writing, *cum laude***

2005

University of Wisconsin at Madison

English senior thesis: "Lessons from Master and Peasant: Experiments in 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Literary Naturalism."

Advisor: Craig Werner

Creative Writing senior thesis: Early draft of Have You Seen Me

Advisor: Lissa McLaughlin

### PUBLICATIONS

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#### **Fiction**

Have You Seen Me. Chicago Center for Literature and Photography. 2011

#### **Short Fiction**

"Sierraville." Whiskey Island, Issue #64. 2014

"Winning the Tiger." Anthologized in The Collection: Short Fiction from the Transgender Vanguard, Topside Press. 2012

"Rita in Love." Confrontation Magazine, Issue #111. 2011

"Dad & the Diarybox." Fiction at Work. 2011

#### **Creative Nonfiction and Essays**

"My Justice is Her Justice: toward a new vision of survivorhood." *make/shift* Issue 11. 2012

--Anthologized in *Queering Sexual Violence*, ed. Jennifer Patterson. Magnus Books. 2016

### HONORS & AWARDS -- LITERARY

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Hobart L. and Mary Kay Peer Fiction Prize, for "Internal Combustion." 2016

Hobart L. and Mary Kay Peer Fiction Prize, for "What the Devil Said." 2015

AWP Intro Award Nomination, for "What the Devil Said." 2015

Lambda Literary Awards: Winner in Transgender Fiction, The Collection. 2013

Lambda Literary Awards: Finalist in Gay Debut Fiction and Bisexual Fiction for Have You Seen Me. 2011

Runner-up, Tobias Wolff Award in Fiction, for "Caretaker." 2010

### HONORS & AWARDS – ACADEMIC

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List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent By Their Students (Creative Writing). 2014

Graduate Teaching Assistantship, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. 2013-2016  
University Bookstore Award for Academic Excellence in Research, for undergraduate senior thesis, 2005  
Academic Scholarship, Beloit College. 2001-2002

## REVIEWS & INTERVIEWS

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### Reviews --- Have You Seen Me

Kirkus Reviews, online. October 11, 2011.

Chicago Center for Literature and Photography, online. Jason Pettus. October 18, 2011.

Chicago Center for Literature and Photography, online. Jason Fisk. October 18, 2011.

### Interviews

Interview with Rebecca Kling, May 21, 2012. <http://www.rebeccakling.com>

Interview with Sassafras Lowrey, May 22, 2012. <http://www.pomofreakshow.com>

Interview with Jason Fisk, May 23, 2012. <http://www.jasonfisk.com>

Interview with Ben Tanzer, for podcast This Podcast Will Change Your Life. May 24, 2012.

Appearance on Curbside Splendor podcast, Curbside Sounds. May 29, 2012.

Interview with Jason Pettus, Chicago Center for Literature and Photography podcast. December 2011.

## PERFORMANCES & READINGS

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MFA Class of 2016 Final Reading. Champaign, IL. April 2016.

Creative Writing Awards Reading Series. Champaign, IL. April 2015.

VOICE: MFA Graduate Student Reading Series. Champaign, IL. 2013, 2014, 2015

Topside Press Reading Series, Chicago, IL. 2013

Lambda Literary Nominees Reading Series, Chicago, IL. 2012

CCLaP Reading Series Tour, New York City. 2012

## TEACHING & ADVISING

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### Composition Instructor

2015-present

*Department of Rhetoric, University of Illinois*

- Designed and sole-taught two semesters of first-year composition
- Designed themed Rhetoric section, "Great Ideas in Global Contexts," blending traditional humanities and classics curriculum with contemporary and multicultural themes and ideas. Located and curated readings in support of class theme

### Teaching Assistant and Writing Consultant, Aerospace Systems Design I and II

2015-present

*Department of Aerospace Engineering, University of Illinois*

- Provide editorial feedback and writing support to senior Aerospace Engineering majors enrolled in a year-long design seminar focusing on Spacecraft
- Interface with instructor of record and TAs for technical information to ensure uniform evaluation standards and effective pedagogy
- Design and give guest lectures on the basics of technical writing
- Review drafts of technical reports, grant applications, presentations. Advise students individually and as groups

- Grade student writing assignments for clarity, organization, style, usage, and adherence to AIAA editorial standards

### **Creative Writing Instructor**

2014

*Department of Creative Writing, University of Illinois*

- Instructor of record for one section of Introduction to Fiction Writing
- Designed and sole-taught course, selected textbook and curated diverse selection of readings
- Combined close reading and peer-review workshop approaches to enhance pedagogy
- Developed and assigned weekly challenge assignments designed to sharpen students' understanding of craft, plotting, and technique
- Facilitated workshop discussions and kept peer feedback respectful and constructive
- Advised students individually on revision plans, gaining confidence, and working as a writer

### **Business and Technical Writing Instructor**

2013-2015

*Department of Business and Technical Writing, University of Illinois*

- Designed and sole-taught four sections of Business and Technical Writing to junior- and senior-year undergraduates
- Selected and implemented real-world writing challenges across wide range of disciplines
- Used instructional technology to enhance pedagogy and facilitate collaboration
- Encouraged interdisciplinary collaboration in student projects

### **Online-Only Instruction, Business and Technical Writing**

2014

*Department of Business and Technical Writing, University of Illinois*

- Adapted self-designed Business and Technical Writing curriculum to six-week online-only course
- Collaborated with head of department to ensure pedagogical standards and effectiveness
- Contributed course design to list of standard instructor modules

### **Writing Tutor**

826 Valencia Project, San Francisco, CA

2005-2006

- Advised diverse and underprivileged students on homework help, essays, college applications
- Assisted middle and high school English teachers

## **PUBLISHING & CONTENT CURATION**

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### **Assistant Managing Editor and Assistant Creative Nonfiction Editor, *Ninth Letter***

2015-present

- Served as assistant nonfiction editor for *Ninth Letter* Issue 13.1 (Spring 2016) and Issue 13.2 (Fall 2016), as well as assistant managing editor for *Ninth Letter* print journal.
- Manage nonfiction online submissions database, assign manuscripts to readers, distribute manuscripts for potential publication to editorial team
- Write query letters to authors, detailing editorial comments and requests for revisions
- Lead weekly editorial acquisitions discussion meeting, moderate conversations
- Process subscription orders, author contracts, submission queries, coordinate accepted material
- Assist with event planning for Pygmalion Literary Festival. Coordinate volunteers, schedule transportation for visiting authors, publicize event.
- Serve as point person for *Ninth Letter* table at AWP conference, co-coordinate volunteer schedules and travel reimbursements

- Assistant Fiction Editor, *Ninth Letter*** 2015
- Served as assistant fiction editor for *Ninth Letter* Issue 12.2, published Fall 2015
  - Worked closely with authors to develop a story for publication, wrote query letters and editorial suggestions and comments
  - Managed fiction online submissions database, assigned manuscripts to readers, distributed manuscripts for potential publication to editorial team
  - Led weekly editorial acquisitions discussion meeting, moderated conversations
  - Organized manuscript-reading parties to help process unusually high volume of manuscripts
  - Encouraged readers to solicit favorite authors, particularly writers of color, women writers, and LGBTQ writers
- Fiction and Creative Nonfiction Reader, *Ninth Letter*** 2013-present
- Evaluate manuscripts submitted for publication in *Ninth Letter*
  - Contribute to weekly editorial discussion meetings
  - Solicit authors for possible publication
- Business and Technical Documents Editor, Freelance, San Francisco, CA** 2005-2008
- Managed own freelance editorial business, including billing, office management, lead generation and client relationship maintenance
  - Collaborated with authors on matters related to document organization and structure, audience concerns, technical language
  - Copy edited technical manuals and articles, business Web pages, medical brochures and annual reports, drafted query emails
  - Proofread extensive technical documents for compliance to client's house style
  - Attended professional development meetings at Bay Area Editors' Forum, a professional organization, and studied Developmental Editing through UC Berkeley Extension
  - Clients included Hewlett-Packard, SteriCycle, Hewitt Associates
- Copy Editor and Proofreader, MacAdam/Cage Publishing, San Francisco, CA** 2007
- Proofread novel manuscripts for independent literary fiction publisher, used Chicago style, tracked special considerations including dialogue in vernacular and nonstandard punctuation
  - Coordinated with lead editors and kept to a strict production schedule
- Proofreader, Curve Magazine, San Francisco, CA** 2006-2007
- Edited and proofread 10-15 stories and articles per week for print magazine, following AP guidelines
  - Ensured compliance with house editorial style, contributed to style wiki
  - Entered late proofreading changes using Adobe InDesign
- Editorial Assistant, Bleak House Books, Madison, WI** 2004-2005
- Served as editorial assistant intern for independent mystery and detective fiction publisher
  - Assessed query letters, requested full manuscripts, evaluated manuscripts submitted for publication
  - Co-organized and promoted combination literary reading and rock concert

SERVICE

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**Panel: “Making the Most of Graduate School.”** University of Illinois, Oct. 13, 2015.

**Volunteer, The Pygmalion Festival.** Sept. 23 – 26, 2015, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois.

**Founder, SWAG: Summer Writing Accountability Group.** May – August 2015

- Proposed MFA students’ thesis-writing group, directed and mediated discussion determining group member accountability and incentives for meeting writing goals
- Hosted weekly meetings throughout the summer, kept records of group members’ goals and progress

**Guest Lecturer, CW 200: Reading for Writers.** October 21, 2014

- Discussed short story “Sierraville” (see Publications), gave background on how story was drafted and developed
- Led student Q and A session, answered questions pertaining to authorial intent vs. final project, symbolism and meaning, revision process

**Member, Ecstatic States Writing Group.** 2012-2013

- Participated in supportive online writing workshop formed from class Ecstatic States: Sex, Death and Memoir, taught by Lidia Yuknavitch

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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Association of Writers and Writing Programs

## REFERENCES

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### **Jodee Stanley**

Director of the Creative Writing Program and  
Editor of *Ninth Letter*  
236 English Building,  
608 S. Wright St. Urbana, IL 61801  
(217) 300-4315  
jastan@illinois.edu

### **Philip Graham**

Professor Emeritus of Creative Writing and  
Editor-at-Large of *Ninth Letter*  
107B English Building,  
608 S. Wright St. Urbana, IL 61801  
(217) 244-4500  
p-graham@illinois.edu

### **Alex Shakar**

Associate Professor of Creative Writing  
314 English Building,  
608 S. Wright St. Urbana, IL 61801  
(217) 333-7896  
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### **Steve Davenport**

Associate Director of the Creative Writing  
Program  
245 English Building,  
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