

RS Deeren

Writer...Educator

University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee

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Education

PhD. English (2017-Present)

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, WI

Dissertation: *The Recessionists*

Dissertation Advisors: Valerie Laken & Liam Callanan

MFA Fiction (2016)

Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, IL

Summa Cum Laude

Thesis: *Enough to Lose*

Thesis Advisor: Aleksandar Hemon

B.A. in Creative Writing, B.A. in History (2012)

Saginaw Valley State University, University Center, MI

Magna Cum Laude

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record (2017-2019)

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Department of English

English 233- Intro to Creative Writing. Curated and taught a diverse reading list across fiction and poetry genres to novice writers with emphasis on craft elements and skills used by contemporary working writers.

English 101-Introduction to College Writing; English 102- College Writing and Research. Devised contemporary, engaging Composition & Rhetoric curriculum for first year students. Crafted individual syllabi, in-class writing/investigatory exercises geared towards focusing students on the academic dispositions needed for success in and beyond higher education.

Graduate Student Intern (2016)

College of Lake County, IL

Co-taught an introductory rhetorical writing class with the theme of “Mindfulness.”

Worked with the head professor to create lessons and writing assignments that required students to not only construct compelling essays but to also give the tools needed to be self-aware in both writing and research.

Graduate Teaching Assistant (2015-17)

Columbia College Chicago, IL

Teaching assistant in three separate freshman classes: a philosophy, a literature, and a writing class. In charge of uploading and mediating the online discussions. Led “breakout” lectures during the second half of each class that supplemented the head professor’s lecture. Each class geared towards introducing students to Chicago as a “text” with which to use in their studies as a learning resource.

Prison Writing (2012)

Saginaw County Correctional Facility, MI

Organized and led a fifteen week writing workshop entitled “Writing for Life” for a diverse group of inmates that ranged from those serving life sentences to those close to parole. Weekly classes revolved around core teaching themes, writing prompts, and workshops.

Substitute Teaching (2011-12)

Bay and Arenac Counties, MI

Contracted as a substitute teacher for PCMI responsible for following lesson plans and maintaining class efficiency.

Publications: Fiction

The Recessionists novel excerpt. *Hair Trigger* (2020)

“The Mirror.” *Great Lakes Review* (2020)

“Widow Maker.” *Rosebud* (2018)

“Her, Guts and All.” *Joyland*. (2017)

“Enough to Lose.” *Tales of Two Americas: Stories of Inequality in a Divided Nation*.

Edited by John Freeman. (2017)

“Getting Out.” *Great Lakes Review*. (2016)

“There, but not Really There.” *Midwestern Gothic*. (2016)

“Start all Over All Over Again.” *The Legendary*. Vol. 66 (2016)

“Samson.” *The Corvus Review*. Vol. 3 (2015)

“Bridge Work.” *Bartleby Snopes*. (2015)

“Apres Moi le Deluge.” *Botticelli Literary and Art Magazine*. Vol. 4. (2014)

“The Thing Itself.” *National Day on Writing*. (2011)

“Faith-Based Mind Graffiti.” *Cardinal Sins*. Vol. 29 (2010)

Publications: Scholarly / Nonfiction / Reviews

“Fiction Friction: Teaching the Chronic- Acute-Conflict Rub in Bonnie Jo Campbell’s Short Fiction.” *TITLE TBD*. (Forthcoming)

“Concert Review: Mott the Hoople ’74: Miller High Life Theatre.” (2019)

“The Political Protest as Personal: Inside the ‘Milwaukee Fight the Grad Tax March.’” *Progress and Tea*. (2017)

“Chicago as a Conversation: An Out-of-Towner’s Collective View of Chicago’s Neighborhoods.” *The View from Here*. (2015)

“Review of Jessica Lee Richardson’s *It Had Been Planned and There Were Guides*.”

The Review Lab at Columbia College Chicago. (2016)

“From Phonies to Dogs: Mathias Énard’s *Street of Thieves* Channels Holden Caulfield.”

The Review Lab at Columbia College Chicago. (2014)

Publications: Poetry

“Health Concern.” *Cardinal Sins*. (Winter 2012)

“Kids Get It.” *Cardinal Sins*. (Fall 2011)

“A Work in Progress.” *Cardinal Sins*. (Winter 2011)

Interviewed By:

Hair Trigger 2.0 (2019)

Country-to-City Writing. Asked about how city living gave new perspectives on rural

writing.

Midwestern Gothic- A Literary Journal (2016)

Contributor Spotlight. Ask about my life as a Midwesterner and the region's impact on my writing.

Next Begins Now (2015)

Finding Support as a Young Artist. Asked about the struggles and rewards of writing in Chicago.

Fellowships and Residencies

Advanced Opportunity Program Fellowship (2019)

University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee

Distinguished Graduate Student Fellowship (2019, Declined)

University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee

Union League Club of Chicago Library's Writer in Residence (2016)

The Union League Club of Chicago

Luminarts Cultural Foundation Creative Writing Fellowship (2015)

Luminarts Cultural Foundation

Awards

Wladyslaw Cieszynski Memorial Prose Award (2020)

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Wladyslaw Cieszynski Memorial Prose Award (2019)

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

First Pages Prize (2018)

Stockholm Writers Festival

Chancellor's Graduate Student Award (2017)

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Lya Dym Rosenblum Award (2015)

Columbia College Chicago

Outstanding Graduate (2012)

English Department: Saginaw Valley State University

The Tyner Prize for Writing Excellence in the Humanities (2012)

"ApresMoi le Deluge"

Cardinal Sins Poetry Slam (Winter 2012)

"Health Concern"

National Day on Writing "Best Fiction" (2011)

"The Thing Itself"

Cardinal Sins Poetry Slam (Fall 2011)

"Kids Get It"

Cardinal Sins Poetry Slam (Winter 2011)

"A Work in Progress"

Cardinal Sins "Best Fiction" (2010)

"Faith-Based Mind Graffiti"

Michigan Competitive Scholarship (Fall/Winter 2010)

Saginaw Valley State University

Dean's Scholarship (2007-8)

Saginaw Valley State University
Michigan Promise Scholarship (2007-8)
Saginaw Valley State University

Editorial Experience

Fiction Editor

cream city review, Milwaukee, WI (2018)

Assistant Editor

cream city review, Milwaukee, WI (2017)

Reader

Hotel Amerika, Chicago, IL (2015)

Writing/Research Competition Judge

Milwaukee Collegiate Academy Sustainable Democracy Project Symposium (2019)

Milwaukee Collegiate Academy- Scholar Presentation Judge

Undergraduate Research Symposium (2019)

University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee- Critical Paper Presentation Judge

Young Authors Writing Competition (2017)

Columbia College Chicago- Fiction Judge

Luminarts Cultural Foundation High School Writing Competition (2017)

Union League Club of Chicago- Literature Judge

Invited Presentations and Readings

“An Evening with RS Deeren and Larry Watson” (2019)

Woodland Pattern Book Center, WI

“Living the Write Life: An Evening Reading with RS Deeren” (2016)

The Union League Club of Chicago, IL

Reading from a novel-in-progress started while the Writer in Residence at the ULCC.

The event involved a discussion on life/work/art balance as it pertained to living in a new community. Guests in attendance ranged from college freshmen to tenured professors.

“Anti Memento Mori: The Movement of Cemeteries” (2016 & 2017)

Columbia College Chicago, IL

Lecture to college freshmen about how Western societies handle and perceive death in a growing secular society.

Next Begins Now (2015)

The Union League Club of Chicago, IL

Read original work at a Reception and Salon Celebrating the 2015 Luminarts Fellows.

Bay City’s “First Thursdays” Poetry and Wine Walk (2012)

Downtown Bay City, MI

Read original works of poetry at city-wide art festival.

“The Margins as Center: Influence of Racialized Sex Districts in Kevin Mumford’s *Interzones: Black/White Sex Districts in Chicago and New York in the Early 20th Century*” (2012)

Saginaw Valley State University, MI

A detailed, classroom-styled discussion of how the margins of a society directly influence

the centers of the same society. In this particular presentation, I focused on how perceived “black” inner city sex districts were key factors in shaping perceived “white” ideas about recreation.

Cardinal Sins Poetry Slam (2010-12)

Saginaw, MI

Read original works at four slams.

University and Community Service

Woodland Pattern Book Center Store Volunteer (2018-Present)

Milwaukee, WI

Help center staff with customer service, mailing list organization, readings events, and community outreach.

Submittable Sundays (2015-Present)

Chicago, IL, Milwaukee, WI, & Portland, OR

Founder of a monthly writer’s group focused on collaborative writing and editing.

Created a productive and trustworthy atmosphere. The group has produced numerous publications, fellowships, and awards since its inception.

Midwest Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference (2018, 2019, 2020)

Milwaukee, WI

Scored and ranked conference proposals

Welcomed conference attendees while providing conference material and information.

“Big Chicago” Graduate Teaching Assistant Evaluation Board (2016 & 2017)

Columbia College Chicago, IL

Led a panel tasked with evaluating student work from the revamped freshman curriculum. Created an evaluation rubric and ran hundreds of samples of freshman work to gauge effectiveness of the new curriculum in terms of engaging students with course material and Chicago as a place of learning.

Literature for All of Us (2015)

Chicago, IL

Organized and taught a writing workshop to teens on Chicago’s southside. Worked as a graduate liaison between the Columbia College Chicago and the foundation.

Charity Variety Show (2010 & 2011)

Saginaw Valley State University, University Center, MI

Organized, casted, directed and hosted four improvisational-acting-based variety shows which helped raise money for charities and families in need.

Raised over one thousand dollars over the four shows.

Cardinal Idol (2009-12)

Saginaw Valley State University, University Center, MI

Helped raise money for charities such as Relay for Life and the Make a Wish Foundation as a participating act in this campus-wide talent show.

Red Pride Picnic (2009-11)

Saginaw Valley State University, University Center, MI

Welcomed incoming freshmen to campus by representing Cardinal Sins Literary Magazine, and Work n’ Progress, the on-campus improvisational acting troupe.

Conferences Presented/Attended

- Conference on College Composition & Communication (2020, canceled)
Milwaukee, WI: Workshop Leader
Accessibility Practices in the Classroom and on Campus
- Midwest Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference (2019)
Milwaukee, WI: Presenter
“Streaks of White and Color”
International conference engaging with the theme of “Artifice.”
Read original creative work about the life and death of a rural artist.
- Chicago Teen Literary Festival (2017)
Chicago, IL: Presenter
“Empathy for the Bully: A Characterization Writing Workshop”
Chicago Teen Literary Festival, IL
Writing workshop which uses participants’ experiences with bullying as a starting point for creating more dynamic characters. Following the maxim of, “Liking or disliking a character is secondary to understanding a characters’ motivations.
- Midwest Graduate Students Conference on Writing (2016)
Cape Girardeau, MO: Presenter
“Working Around the Workshop: Creating and Sustaining a Writing Community Outside the MFA”
Midwest Graduate Students Conference on Writing, MO
Presented strategies to keep writers motivated and active when school is not in session and the only deadlines are personal.
- AWP Conference & Bookfair Attendee. (2012, 2013, 2015, 2019)
Chicago, IL; Boston, MA; Minneapolis, MN; Portland, OR

References

Dr. Stephen Asma

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Aleksandar Hemon

National Book Award finalist and National Book Critics Circles Award winner. Author of *The Lazarus Project* and *The Book of My Lives*
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