

Curriculum Vitae

Alison G. Umminger
Associate Professor of English
September 12, 2014

Current Position: Associate Professor, Department of English and Philosophy
University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA

Research and Teaching Interests: Fiction Writing, Screenwriting, 20th and 21st Century
American Literature, Women's Literature, Cultural and Gender
Studies

Teaching

University of West Georgia, 2004 –

- ENGL 1101 – Composition – 1 section
- ENGL 2060 – Intro to Creative Writing – 1 section
- ENGL 2060H – Intro to Creative Writing – 1 section
- ENGL 2130 – American Lit Survey – 6 section
- ENGL 2130H – American Lit Survey – Honors – 3 sections
- ENGL 2190 – Women's Lit – 2 sections
- ENGL 2300 – Practical Criticism – 2 sections
- ENGL 3200 – Intro to Creative Writing/Fiction – 11 sections
- ENGL 3200 – Intro to Creative Writing – Screenwriting – 1 section
- ENGL 3200H – Intro to Creative Writing – Honors – 1 section
- ENGL 3400 – Creative Nonfiction Writing (Advanced Composition) – 2 sections
- ENGL 4/5170 – African American Lit – Neo Slave Narratives –1 section
- ENGL 4/5210 – Advanced Creative Writing – Fiction – 6 sections
- ENGL 4/5210 – Advanced Creative Writing – Screenwriting – 1 section
- ENGL 4384 – Senior Seminar – Bodies and Boundaries – 2 sections
- ENGL 4/5385 – Modern Humor – 2 sections
- ENGL 6385 – Seminar in Special Topics – Race/Gender Lit of the 1940s &
1950s. – 2 sections
- ENGL 6385 – Seminar in Special Topics --Noir in Literature and Film--1 section
- ENGL 6385 – Seminar in Special Topics – Research Based Fiction Writing—
1 section

Indiana University, 1996-2004

- L202 – Introduction to Literature – 3 sections
- L141 – “Literature and the Violence of Representation” – 2 sections
- L141 – “Cultural Constructions of Identity” – 2 sections
- L142 – “Writing Disaster” – 1 section
- W103 – Introductory Creative Writing (poetry and fiction) – 4 sections
- W203 – Advanced Creative Writing (fiction) – 7 sections
- W131 – Elementary Composition – 3 sections
- W231 – Technical/Business Writing – 3 sections

J101 – “Groups” Composition Instructor – 2 sections
J101 – “Groups” Composition Tutor – 1 year/3 sections
Teaching Advisor to Incoming M.F.A. students – 1 semester

University of Missouri, Columbia, 1994-1996

English 20 – Introductory Creative Writing (fiction) – 3 sections
English 50 – Elementary Composition – 3 sections

Honors:

Excellence in Teaching Award, College of Arts and Sciences, 2007-8,
University of West Georgia.

Independent Studies:

Matthew Liner
Sanese Pippen
Tenijah Hamilton

Thesis Director:

Shelly Decker
Trista Edwards
Ben Brown

Capstone/Thesis/Exam Committee:

Donna McDaniel
Pam Murphy
Lisa Cunningham
Brett Ames
Melissa Farley
Abbey Swanson (psychology)

Service to Institution

University of West Georgia

COAS Rules Committee (2012-present)
Orientation Advisor (Summer 2006)
Judge, Big Night (Spring 2007, 2008, 2009)
A-Day Coordinator (Fall 2007)
COAS Executive Committee (2008-10, 2013-present)

University of West Georgia Department of English

Committee Membership:

Member and Chair, Curriculum Committee (2006-7), (2013-14)
Member and Chair, Hiring Committee, composition hire (2012-13)
Member and Chair, Faculty Status committee (2009-10).
Member and Chair, Graduate Committee (2008-10)
Member and Chair, First Year Writing Committee (2007-8)

Hiring Committee, non-fiction hire (2004-5).
Hiring Committee, African-American lit (2005-6)
Graduate Studies Committee (2005-6)
Graduate Committee (2009-10)

Program Directorship:

Program Director for Creative Writing (2014-present).

Counseling Experience:

Mentor to Meg Pearson, Assistant Professor (2006-8)
Mentor to Erin Lee Mock, Assistant Professor (2013-14)
Advisor to incoming students (2005-14)

Advisement of Student Organizations

Eclectic advisor (2005-6).

Graduate Thesis and Oral Exam Committees:

Jennifer Diemert (Oral Defense of Thesis, Thesis Committee)
Stacey Daniel (Oral Defense of Thesis, Thesis Committee)
Robin Worley (Oral Defense of Thesis, Thesis Committee)

Other Contributions to Academic Community:

Atlanta Writers' Meet-Up: Taught workshop on story openings to group of local Atlanta writers (Spring 2007).
Sigma Tau Delta Benefit Reading for the Carroll County Soup Kitchen, Featured Reader (Spring 2006, Fall 2009).
Observed and consulted with first-year writing instructor Brick Barker (2006).
Arms and Letters Conference Sponsored by the Department of Foreign Languages Fiction Panel (Fall 2005).
Atlanta Gallery Project: Presenter for "An Evening of Creative Writing," sponsored by the Department of English (Fall 2005).
"Poetry Out Loud" Advisor to Atlanta area high schools (Spring 2006).
Tutor at Reef House, Facility for high-risk students (2005- present)
Selected as Volunteer of the Month (March 2006).
Selected as Volunteer of the Year (2005-6).
Wrote newsletter for Reef House for larger community (2006).
Toto Pulls the Curtain Luncheon, featured speaker (Fall 2005).
Invited Dana Johnson, Flannery O'Connor award-winning writer to campus for reading (2004)
Arranged fiction/poetry reading – Sheri Joseph and Beth Gylys (2006).
Fools Night – helped in implementing Fools Night, (2006).
Represented the literary magazine *Orchid* at book fair in Atlanta in September (2004)
Taught intro poetry class to 5th graders in Douglasville grade school. (2006)

Academic Achievement

Education

Ph.D., English, Indiana University, 2004.

M.F.A., English, Indiana University, 1999.

M.A., English, University of Missouri-Columbia, 2000.

B.A., History, Harvard University, *cum laude*, 1992.

Honors

Semi-Finalist for Hudson Fiction Prize for short story collection: *Some Girls*, Black Lawrence Press, 2013.

Lawrence Foundation Award, Best Story Published in *Prairie Schooner*, 2006 for "Alien Life."

Professional Growth

Publications

Creative

Forthcoming Monograph -- written as Alison Umminger
My Favorite Manson Girl. Flatiron Books (Winter 2016).

Monograph – written under pen name Grace Carol
Eye to Eye, novel, with Dana Johnson. Red Dress Ink, (November 2008).
French Edition—

Monographs – written under pen name Grace Grant
Flyover States, novel, with P.J. MacAllister (Dana Johnson). Red Dress Ink,
2005.
Italian Edition--

Short Fiction, written as Alison Umminger
"Anna Has Two Mommies," *Waccamaw Review*, Spring 2013.
"What Pretty Means," *LitBridge*, Fall 2013
"Patty Anvil's Devil Boobs," short story, *Terminus*, 2010.
"Alien Life," short story, *Prairie Schooner*, Spring 2005.
"The Shape of the World," short story, *Orchid*, Fall 2004.

Poetry, written as Alison Umminger
"Because," "Memnon's Ashes," "Brief Encounter," "What I Learned from
Daytime Television," and "Who you are and what I want" in
LocusPoint, Fall 2009
"Man Trouble in the Nuclear Age," sonnet sequence, *The Furnace Review*,
Fall 2004.

Nonfiction, written as Alison Umminger
“Don’t Think of Elephants,” Gawker.com, Spring 2013.
“Average is the New Fabulous,” Workstew.com, Fall 2012.

Screenplay, written as Alison Umminger
The Complete Idiots Guide to Gold-Digging.

Scholarly Articles

“Super-Sizing Bridget Jones, What’s Really Eating the Women in ‘Chick Lit’”
In anthology, Chick Lit, published in Fall 2005 by Routledge.

Conference Papers – Conference Faculty

20th/21st Century Conference on Language and Literature, “Extended
Breastfeeding in *Room* and *The Slap*: The Enfreakement of Motherhood
in Contemporary Fiction,” Louisville, KY (February 2013).

20th/21st Century Conference on Language and Literature, Louisville, KY
(February 2010). Panel on Noir in Film and Literature – Chaired and
mentored four of our graduate students as they presented at the Louisville
conference.

MMLA, Presenter of Paper, “Can I get a Witness?: Individual Responses to Mass
Trauma in Sherman Alexie’s Short Story,” Chicago, IL (November
2010).

Decatur Festival of the Book, Invited Reader, (September 2010)

Love as the Practice of Freedom: Participant in Panel on “Romance and Race,”
Princeton, NJ (April 2009) – Conference was by invitation only.

MMLA, Presenter of Paper, “Bringing the Beach Read to the Ivory Tower,
Bridging the Genre/Literary Gap,” St. Louis, MO (November 2009).

Sigma Tau Delta Soup Kitchen Reading, (November 2009)

Twentieth Century Literature Conference, Panel Chair and Presenter,
“Perverse Feminism,” Louisville, KY (February 2008).

Indiana University Writer’s Conference, Reader and Conference Faculty, taught
class on “How to Read Like a Writer,” Bloomington, IN (June 2008).

Twentieth Century Literature Conference, Presenter of Paper, “The Dark Town
Of Our Unconscious, Race and Sexuality in Carson McCullers’s Clock

Without Hands,” Louisville, KY (February 2007).

Twentieth Century Literature Conference, Reader of fiction, “What Pretty Means,” Louisville, KY (February 2007).

Twentieth Century Literature Conference, Panel Chair and Presenter of Paper, “Sexual Tourism and White, Lesbian Subjectivity: Jane Bowles’s Letters from Morocco.” Louisville, KY (February 2005).

Co-Presented a paper at MMLA in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. “Death of the Auteur: Post-Auteurism in Project Greenlight,” with Marjorie Worthington (November 2005).