

Robert Maakestad

Education

George Mason University, 2014-2017, M.F.A. in Creative Writing (Nonfiction), May 2017
Ball State University, 2012-2014, M.A. in English (Nonfiction), May 2014
Taylor University, 2008-2012, B.A. in English (Creative Writing) / Biblical Studies Minor, May 2012
Jerusalem University College, Spring 2011, Study Abroad, Biblical Studies

Teaching Experience

Positions

Associate Professor of Creative Writing (Nonfiction), Point Loma Nazarene University, August 2022-Present
Assistant Professor of Creative Writing (Nonfiction), Point Loma Nazarene University, August 2018-August 2022
Professional Lecturer, George Washington University, August 2017-May 2018
Graduate Teaching Assistant (Instructor of Record), George Mason University, August 2014-May 2017
Graduate Teaching Assistant (Instructor of Record), Ball State University, August 2013-May 2014
Instructor, Creative Writing Club, Burriss Laboratory School, Muncie, IN, January 2014-May 2014
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Ball State University, *Rhetoric and Writing*, Teaching Mentor: Dr. Merrielle Turnbull, August 2012-December 2012

Courses (Instructor of Record)

PLNU

WRI 1010: College Composition
WRI 1016: College Composition—Research
WRI 2020: Introduction to Creative Writing
WRI 3015: Advanced Composition
WRI 3023: Creative Nonfiction
WRI 4000: Writing for the Community
WRI 4090: Experimental Nonfiction
LIT 2000: Literature and Culture: Essays
LIT 2057: American Writers II
LIT 3052: Diverse Voices in American Literature
LIT 4090: Special Studies in Literature

Book In Progress

The City of David: A Biography of Place

Publications

Magazines (nonfiction)

“Edward Robinson and the Legends of Jerusalem’s Springs,” *Gulf Coast Magazine*, 34.2
Winter/Spring

- “The Crossroads of America,” *Essay Daily*, The #Midwessay Project, with Andrew Cartwright and Rajpreet Heir, Spring 2021
- “Church in the Age of COVID-19,” *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, Spring 2020
- “Preacher Man,” *MarchVladness.com*, Spring 2019
- “Sphecius Speciosus,” *Barren Magazine*, Spring 2019
- “Sphecius Speciosus,” *Bestiary Podcast*, April 23 2019
- “@Florida_Man Arrest or Justin Bieber Antic,” *Slippage Lit*, Spring 2019
- “The Secrets of the Excavators,” *The Normal School*, Fall 2018
- “Taylor Swift Lyric or the Book of Lamentations: *The Message* Translation,” *Every Pigeon*, Spring 2018
- “A Most Fragile Organ,” *Boulevard*, Spring 2018
- “Three Things I Hate,” *Hellscape*, Spring 2018
- “Dear Wigleaf,” *Wigleaf*, Winter 2018
- “movie night: a postmodern romance,” *Wigleaf*, Winter 2018
- “An Open Letter to a Cliché,” *Bad Pony*, Winter 2018
- “On Pneumothorax and Writing Medical Trauma,” *Essay Daily*, Summer 2017
- “From the Editors: On Charlottesville and White Supremacy,” *The Rumpus*, Summer 2017
- “What To Do When Trapped in a Tiny Turkish Hotel Elevator While Studying Abroad,” *Bethesda Magazine*, Summer 2017
- “A Potsherd,” *The MacGuffin*, Spring 2017
- “Oh Lung that Keeps Collapsing,” *SFWP Quarterly*, Spring 2017
- “Coke in Jerusalem,” Penguin/Travelex Contest, Spring 2017
- “A Baker’s Dozen,” *The Free State Review*, Spring 2017
- “A Historic/Linguistic Lithostratigraphic Exploration of How David Conquered Jerusalem,” *The Rumpus*, Winter 2016
- “Editors Note: Coruscation,” *Phoebe Journal*, Fall 2016
- “Refuge in Ruins,” *Bethesda Magazine*, Summer 2016
- “The View From Moresheth-Gath,” *Altarwork*, Fall 2015
- “The Sea of Galilee: My Assurance,” *Windhover Journal*, Spring 2015
- “First Night In Jerusalem,” *Mojave River Review*, Winter 2014
- “The Mountain Finds All Climbers: On John Leax’s ‘Recluse Freedom,’” with Daniel Bowman, Jr. and Hannah Hanover, *Antler*, Fall 2012
- “Homeschooling: One Student’s Preparation for College,” *Homeschooling Today*, Summer 2012
- “Seasick,” *Marco Polo Arts Magazine*, Summer 2012

Magazines (poetry)

- “המלווה (Millo),” *Windhover Journal*, Spring 2017
- “Early Morning Overlooking the Temple Mount,” *The Wayfarer*, Fall 2013
- “Akko, Israel – Market,” *The Wayfarer*, Fall 2013
- “I Know What It Is To Be Icarus,” *The Broken Plate*, Spring 2013

Magazines (fiction)

- “Bill Murray Solves Recycling,” *Hobart*, Summer 2021
- “Bill Murray Terraforms Mars,” *Okay Donkey*, Spring 2021
- “Spiderman: Window Washer,” *Linden Avenue Literary Journal*, Summer 2017

Screenplay

“Sign & Date,” produced by Ball State’s *Cinema Entertainment Immersion (CEI)*, Spring 2014

Writing Awards

Notable Essay, *The Best American Essays 2019* for “A Most Fragile Organ,” *Boulevard*.

“What To Do When Trapped in a Tiny Turkish Hotel Elevator While Studying Abroad,” Second Place, *Bethesda Magazine* Essay Contest, Summer 2017

Outstanding Graduate Student Award, George Mason University, Spring 2017 (1 of 6 chosen from graduating cohort)

“Coke in Jerusalem,” Short List, Penguin/Travelex Next Great Travel Writer Award, 2017

“movie night: a metamodernist romance,” Honorable Mention, Dan Rudy Fiction Award, 2017, (Selected by Scott Garson)

“Refuge in Ruins,” Honorable Mention, *Bethesda Magazine* Essay Contest, Summer 2016

“Insignificant,” Winner, Mary Roberts Rinehart Nonfiction Award, Spring 2016, (Selected by Mike Scalise)

“Seasick,” Honorable Mention, *Marco Polo Arts Magazine*’s 100 x 100 Contest, Summer 2012

Teaching Awards

Excellence in Teaching Award for Exceptional Teaching 2019-2020, Point Loma Nazarene University

Conference Panels

AWP Conference, 2022, Panelist, “Navigating Layered Identities in Creative Nonfiction,” March, 2022, Philadelphia, PA, with Liesel Hamilton, Silas Hanson, Rajpreet Heir, and Alysia Sawchyn

Crossing the Lines Conference 2019, Moderator/Panelist, “Researched Nonfiction: Writing the Other/Self,” October 23, 2019 Point Loma Nazarene University with Sarah Cooper, Robert Franklin, Sophia Markoski, and Brandon Parker

AWP Conference, 2017, Moderator/Panelist, “Editors Engage the Digital Age: Transforming the Modern Lit Journal,” with Speer Morgan, Jodey Stanley, Sarah M. Wells, and Joel Haans

Bethesda Literary Festival, “Refuge in Ruins,” Bethesda, MD, April 15, 2016

Practical Criticism Midwest Panel, “Arraba,” Muncie, IN, February 7, 2014

Practical Criticism Midwest Breakout Session, “The Cow,” Muncie, IN, February 7, 2014

Practical Criticism Midwest, “My Grandparents Smell Awesome,” Muncie, IN, February 8, 2013
Panel Proposals (not-accepted):

AWP Conference 2021: “Navigating Layered Identities in Nonfiction”

AWP Conference 2020: “Interdisciplinary Is the New Writing Major”

Editorial Experience

Senior Features Editor, *The Rumpus*, 2019-Present

Features Editor, *The Rumpus*, 2018-2019

Assistant Features Editor, *The Rumpus*, 2017-2018

Editor-in-Chief for *Phoebe Journal*, 2016-2017, George Mason University

Assistant Editor for *Phoebe Journal*, 2015-2016, George Mason University
Nonfiction Reader for *Phoebe Journal*, 2014-2015, George Mason University
Editor for *Parnassus*, 2011-2012, Taylor University

Grants

Selected for *Wesleyan Center Fellowship*, 3-units of release, 2020-2021
Selected for *Faculty Writing Retreat*, Summer 2020
RASP Grant, Travel to Jerusalem and London for research and interviews, 2019
Faculty Writing Retreat, Summer 2019

Guest Lectures & Events

“Writing the Same Essay in Various Forms,” *Article and Essay Technique*, Prof. Liesel Hamilton, Florida State University, Nov. 02, 2021
Alumni Jobs Panel. George Mason University, Feb. 26, 2021.
“Writing Pain and Personal Trauma,” *Personal Essay*, Prof. Rajpreet Heir, Ithaca College, Sept. 10, 2020
“Character-Driven Fiction,” *Introduction to Literature*, Dr. James Wicks, Point Loma Nazarene University, Sept. 17, 2018

Readings

Driftwood Open Mic, Oct. 22, 2021, PLNU
Poetry on Point, Sept. 29, 2021, PLNU
Poetry on Point, Nov. 2, 2020, PLNU
The Butterfly Reading Series, Feb. 11, 2020, San Diego, CA
Poetry on Point, Sept. 26, 2019, PLNU
Driftwood Open Mic, Sept. 18, 2019, PLNU
Sleepless in Portland Reading, for *Boulevard Magazine*, *Willow Springs*, and Cloudbank Books, Mar. 29, 2019, Portland, WA
Homecoming Creative Writing Celebration, Nov. 17, 2018, PLNU
Poetry on Point, Oct. 11, 2018, PLNU
Driftwood Open Mic, Sept. 19, 2018, PLNU
LoudFire Reading Series, Fairfax, VA, December 13, 2016
Kindling Reading Series, “movie night: a postmodern romance,” Fairfax, VA, September 21, 2015
This Is the End Reading Series, “Camping at Karnei Hittin,” Muncie, IN, April 21, 2014
Parnassus 51 Release, Taylor University, February 28, 2013

Interviews

Trigger Warnings, Spring 2021, Lainie Alfaro, *Lomabeat*, PLNU
Maakestad and the Man Bun, April, 2020, Rebecca Elliott, *The Point*, PLNU
Stars to Steer By—Interview, January 23, 2018, Ball State University English Department Website
Something to Write Home About—Taylor University Echo, October 6, 2017, Interviewed by Rayce

Patterson

Mentoring

2021:

Reader: Honors Project: Grace Ramos, 2021-2022

2020:

Chair: Honors Project: Micah J. Renner, “History Forgot About Us,” 2020-2021

Worked with and nominated Madeline Bucci for 2021 AWP Intro Journals Contest

2019:

Chair: Honors Project: Sophia Markoski: “Remembering Karin Potengowski’s Life of Loss, Survival, and Love,” 2019-2020

Worked with and nominated Brandon Parker for 2020 AWP Intro Journals Contest; Parker won Honorable Mention; Parker later published essay at *Boulevard Magazine* due to Maakestad editorial connection

Worked with and nominated Noah Segoria for 2020 AWP Intro Journals Contest

2018:

Worked with Breann Wong on essay for Taylor University’s 2019 Making Literature Conference; essay accepted for conference—“More than the ‘Manapua Man’”

Worked with and nominated Breann Wong for 2019 AWP Intro Journals Contest; Wong later published essay at *The Rumpus* due to Maakestad editorial connection

University and Departmental Service

Designed *Masters in Writing Program* with LJWL Department support, 2019-2023; ELT Committee Approval of proposal, 2021; GESC Approval of program, 2022

Creative Writing Major Advising, 2018-Present

Co-LJWL Search Committee Chair with Dr. Katie Manning, 2021-2022

LIT 4090: Independent study so a senior could study online for health reasons, Spring 2022

WRI 4090: Independent study so a senior could graduate on time, Spring 2022

Developing *WRI 4000: Writing for the Community* course, LJWL, Summer-Fall 2021

Served on *Faculty Social Ethos Committee*, 2020-21

Developed new *WRI 4099: Experimental Nonfiction* course, LJWL, Winter 2020-2021

Appointed to *Faculty Social Ethos Committee*, 2020-21

CTL Presentation: Canvas Peer Review, Summer 2020

Wrote two *WRI APC Proposals* to make necessary curricular changes to WRI program, Fall 2020

Donated *LIT 3052: Diverse Voices in American Literature* course content to PLNU for ADC use, Fall 2020

LIT 4090: Independent study so a junior could get correct LIT general education credit after major change, Fall 2020

LIT 4090: Independent study so a rising senior could graduate with correct general education LIT credits, Spring 2020

LJWL Department Scribe, 2018-Spring 2020

Moderator, Faculty Development & Scholarship Day, Fall 2019

Developed new *LIT 2000: Literature and Culture: Essays* course, LJWL, Fall 2019

LJWL Faculty Representative, Prospective Student Visits, 2019

What Can I Do With an LJWL Major?: Graduate School Panel, Fall 2018

Reworked *Writing Program Curriculum Course Goals* with Katie Manning and Breeann Kirby,
Fall 2018

Developed new *WRI 3015: Advanced Composition: Writing for the Community* course, LJWL,
Fall 2018

Center for Teaching and Learning Workshops

2019-2020

Show Me the Numbers: Putting IDEA Data to Work w/ Jen Lineback, Spring 2020

Student-to-Student Interaction w/ Jo Clemmons, Gayle Sollfrank, April Cordero, Breeann Kirby, Robbie
Maakestad, and Ted Vickey, Summer 2020

Remote Course Development: Moving from Face-to-Face to Remote Learning w/ Donna Marvel and Mark
Maddix, Summer 2020

Creating Dynamic Discussion Boards – Faculty Panel w/ Brittany Johnson, Jamie Gates, Kellye Carroll, Kevin
Doyle, and Bettina Pedersen, Summer 2020

Small Teaching Online w/ Flower Darby, Summer 2020

Facilitating Effective Online Discussions w/ Brian Udermann, Summer 2020

Making Zoom Interactive: Converting Collaborative Content Online w/ Megwen Loveless, Summer 2020

Online Collaboration Tools: Student-to-Student Engagement w/ April Cordero, Gayle Sollfrank, Victor
Labenske, and Donna Marvel, Summer 2020

TNT w/ Gayle Sollfrank, Summer 2020

TNT w/ Matthieu Rouffet, Summer 2020

PLNU Internal Grant Fair Workshop w/ Sam Powell, Kara Lyons-Pardue, and Kendall Lucas, Fall 2019

Getting Students to Read Like a Pro(fessor) w/ Jo Clemmons, Conni Campbell, and Gayle Sollfrank, Fall 2019

Faculty Development and Scholarship Day, Fall 2019

2018-2019

Disability Workshop on Autism w/ Yazmin Pineda Zapata and Jennifer Kritsch, Spring 2019

Disability Workshop on Autism w/ Grace Fantaroni, Spring 2019

iPad FLC w/ Ross Oakes Mueller, Fall 2018

How Learning Works w/ Susan Ambrose, Fall 2018

Disability Accommodation Training w/ Grace Fantaroni, Fall 2018

Appy Hour w/ Andrew Currah, Apple, Fall 2018

Creating Self-Regulated Learners w/ Linda Nilson, Fall 2018

Faculty Development and Scholarship Day, Fall 2018

Observed by Jo Clemmons, LIT 352, Fall 2018; met with her to discuss my teaching and IDEA Evaluations.

New Faculty Seminar, Fall 2018

Observation of Peers Teaching

Katie Manning, *Poetry*, Fall 2021

Breeann Kirby, *Fiction*, Fall 2021

Katie Manning, *Poetry*, Fall 2020

Breeann Kirby, *Fiction*, Fall 2019

Katie Manning, *Poetry*, Fall 2019

April Cordero, *Biology*, Spring 2019

Dan Jackson, *Music*, Spring 2019

