

# Laura S. McKee

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## EDUCATION

2005	M.F.A, Creative Writing/Poetry	University of Maryland
2002	B.A. Humanities/Writing	University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2023-present    Coordinator of Writing Across the Curriculum (Academic Professional Associate/Faculty with Writing Program Administration Focus), English Department, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, University of Georgia.

Work with the Writing Intensive Program and the Willis Center for Writing to support program and curricular initiatives, especially those focused on enhancing STEM and interdisciplinary writing instruction across campus. Courses taught:

- ENGL 3860W: Science Writing for General Audiences
- WIPP 7001: Pedagogy of Writing in the Disciplines

2023            Lecturer II, Writing, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication Program (WRAP) and Comparative Media Studies/Writing (CMS/W), Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

2018- 2022    Lecturer I, Writing, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication Program (WRAP), Comparative Media Studies/Writing (CMS/W), Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Developed curriculum and taught writing and communication focused classes and lab sections within STEM courses in collaboration with STEM faculty. Taught writing and communication in the following courses:

- Product Engineering Processes (Mechanical Engineering)
- Measurement and Instrumentation (Mechanical Engineering)
- Design of Electromechanical Robotic Systems (Mechanical Engineering/Ocean Engineering)
- Advanced Undergraduate Research (Computer Science/Electrical Engineering)
- Computer System Engineering (Computer Science/Electrical Engineering)
- Robotic Manipulation (Computer Science/Electrical Engineering)
- Robotics: Science and Systems (Computer Science/Electrical Engineering)
- Analog Electronics Lab (Computer Science/Electrical Engineering)
- Structure of Materials (Materials Science and Engineering)
- Thermodynamics of Materials (Materials Science and Engineering)

2013-2018 **Instructor** (promoted to Lecturer in 2018), Dept. of English and Philosophy, University of West Georgia.

Designed and taught courses in first-year writing, STEAM-focused composition, creative writing, and literature. Faculty tutor in the University Writing Center for undergraduate and graduate students across disciplines. Courses taught:

- English 1101 and 1102: Introduction to Composition (both literature and STEAM-focused sections)
- Introduction to Creative Writing

### **ADDITIONAL WRITING PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

2015-2018 Co-director of STEM-to-STEAM English Composition Program, University of West Georgia.

Co-directed interdisciplinary STEAM (STEM + the Arts) composition program: a partnership between the English Department and the College of Science and Mathematics to improve writing and humanistic critical thinking in STEM majors. Co-led team of faculty focused on pedagogical innovation and writing curriculum for STEM majors.

### **ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

2018 Visiting Lecturer, Emory University.  
Course taught: Introduction to Poetry Writing.

2006-2014 Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Maryland University College—Europe. Instructor of composition, literature, and creative writing courses for US servicemen and women. Taught face-to-face classes (2006-2007) on US and NATO military bases in the Netherlands and Germany; taught online (2007-2014) for members stationed worldwide through UMUC-Europe's Distance Education program. Courses taught: English 101 and 102; Introduction to Creative Writing; Advanced Expository Writing; Modern Poetry; and Introduction to Writing.

2012-2013 English Instructor, Georgia Gwinnett College.  
Taught Introduction to Academic Writing I and II; writing tutor across the curriculum for undergraduates in the Writing Center.

2009-2011 Instructor, Continuing Studies Program, Stanford University.  
Taught Finding Your Form: An Introduction to Creative Writing; Writing the Great Poem (online); Creative Nonfiction: How to Tell the Story; Introduction to Creative Nonfiction: Telling the Stories of Your Life; In Fine Form: An Introduction to Poetry, Fiction, and Creative Nonfiction.

- 2009 Teaching Assistant, Stanford University.  
Leader of weekly discussion groups for sophomore-level literature course  
Masterpieces of Contemporary Literature.
- 2008-2009 Levinthal Tutorial Fellow, Stanford University.  
Led independent studies in creative writing (poetry) with Stanford undergraduates.
- 2008 Writing Instructor, Education Program for Gifted Youth (EPGY), Stanford  
University.  
Instructor of 2-week Creative Writing course (poetry, fiction, nonfiction) for  
middle-school students in Seoul, South Korea.
- 2005-2006 Language Assistant, Institut Universitaire de Formation des Maîtres.  
Lead Instructor of conversational English classes for student teachers training to  
teach in the French public school system. Developed curriculum and led classes in  
basic English conversation skills and English pedagogy in Châteauroux, France.
- 2004-2005 Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Maryland.  
Instructor of freshman and sophomore-level writing classes including Introduction  
to Academic Writing, Introduction to Creative Writing (fiction, nonfiction, and  
poetry), and Poetry Workshop.

## HONORS, GRANTS, AND RESIDENCIES

- 2023 Zone 3 Press Poetry Book Award Winner, Judge: Tiana Clark
- 2022 St. Botolph Club Foundation Emerging Artist Award in Literature (\$3000)
- 2022 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Grant in Poetry (\$5000)
- 2022 Ghost Peach Press Book Prize: Finalist
- 2021 Copper Nickel Jake Adam York Book Prize in Poetry: Semi-finalist
- 2019 Hambidge Center for the Creative Arts and Sciences Writing Residency Fellow
- 2019 University of Wisconsin Press Poetry Series' Brittingham and Felix Pollak Book  
Prizes: Semi-finalist
- 2019 Palette Poetry Prize: Finalist
- 2018 Orison Book Prize in Poetry: Semi-finalist
- 2018 Virginia Center for the Creative Arts Writing Residency Fellow Vermont Studio  
Center Writing Residency
- 2018 Vermont Studio Center Writing Residency
- 2018 Orison Book Prize in Poetry: Finalist
- 2016 Martha Saunders Excellence in Teaching Writing Award, University of West Georgia
- 2015 Sewanee Writers Conference Tennessee Williams Scholar, University of the South
- 2015 Hub City Press: New Southern Voices Poetry Book Prize: Finalist
- 2014 Crab Orchard Series in Poetry Open Competition: Finalist
- 2014 Crab Orchard Series First Book Competition: Finalist

2013	Hub City Press New Southern Voices Poetry Book Prize: Finalist
2012	Sound Archives Research Fellowship, Berea College
2010	Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Memorial Poetry Prize
2007-2009	Wallace Stegner Fellow in Creative Writing/Poetry, Stanford University
2006	Bread Loaf Writing Conference Waiter Scholarship
2005	Folger Shakespeare Library Lannan Fellow
2003-2005	MFA Program Graduate Fellow, University of Maryland
2003	Girls Incorporated of Chattanooga Fellow (developed and taught writing program curriculum for middle-school girls and assisted in organizing Community Conversation on Serving Girls Conference)

## AREAS OF INTEREST

Representations of science and technology in contemporary literature  
 Hybrid and long-form narrative poetic genres  
 Popular science genres and scientist memoirs  
 Creative Writing and STEM/STEAM writing pedagogies  
 Collaborative teaching, especially in interdisciplinary contexts  
 Supporting equity and inclusion in writing pedagogy  
 Writing program administration

## PUBLICATIONS (under L.S. McKee)

### Book

2023            *Creature, Wing, Heart, Machine*, Zone 3 Press

### Poetry

2022            “Alva Wants to Open the Spam Email Because the Subject Says ‘My Dear,’” *Zone 3*  
 2022            “Alva and Thistle,” *Zone 3*  
 2020            “Alva and the Ode to a Punching Bag,” *Massachusetts Review*  
 2020            “Alva Watches the Previous President Fly Away,” *Narrative*  
 2020            “Alva and the Magnetic Resonance,” *Michigan Quarterly Review*  
 2019            “Midnight Cowboy Always Makes Her Cry,” *Narrative*  
 2019            “Alva and the Beast,” *Fusion Magazine*, Berklee College of Music  
 2019            “The Birth of Alva,” *Cincinnati Review*  
 2019            “21<sup>st</sup> Century Nature Beast,” *Muse/A*  
 2019            “Alva and the Asteroid,” *Muse/A*  
 2018            “Alva and the Fishermen,” *New Madrid*  
 2018            “On Getting Dumped in the Desert,” *New Madrid*  
 2017            “Alva Goes to the Neuro-Ophthalmologist,” *EuropeNow Journal*  
 2016            “In the Taxi,” *Natural Bridge*

- 2016 "The Broken Heart is a Bridge," *Natural Bridge*
- 2016 "Cocktail," *Copper Nickel*
- 2016 "Morning," *Connotation Press*
- 2016 "Parking Lot Pastoral," *Connotation Press*
- 2016 "Alva and the Soldier's Letter," *Connotation Press*
- 2016 "Alva's Prayer," *Connotation Press*
- 2016 "Spy Sonnet: Samaritan," *Madcap Review*
- 2016 "Spy Sonnet: Border Crossing," *Madcap Review*
- 2016 "Spy Sonnet: Gravity," *Madcap Review*
- 2016 "Story," *Chattahoochee Review*
- 2016 "Alva and the Complex Pool," *The Georgia Review*
- 2015 "Parable of the Sleepwalker," *Crazyhorse*
- 2015 "Wing," *Grist*
- 2015 "Alva the Mockingbird," *Birmingham Poetry Review*
- 2015 "Alva and the Field," *Birmingham Poetry Review*
- 2014 "Portrait of Vanishing Woman," *Oversound*
- 2014 "Postcards from the Demilitarized Zone," *RealPoetik*
- 2014 "Shark's Tooth," *Blackbird*
- 2014 "Company Town," *Blackbird*
- 2014 "Adam at the Garden's Edge," *Blackbird*
- 2014 "Alva and the Blackbird," *Appalachian Heritage*
- 2014 "The Creek," *Appalachian Heritage*
- 2013 "Wave" (prose poem), *New England Review Digital*
- 2012 "Sunday Morning, 1918," *The Louisville Review*
- 2012 "Passing Beek-Elsloo," *The Louisville Review*
- 2012 "Cathedral Radio," *B O D Y*
- 2012 "Landscape with Cain and Abel," *B O D Y*
- 2012 "Medusa's Boredom," *B O D Y*
- 2012 "Dead Giveaway," *Ninth Letter*
- 2012 "The Anatomical Heart," *Ninth Letter*
- 2011 "Notes on the Healthy Mind," *Gulf Coast*
- 2010 "Spy Sonnet: Alias," *Indiana Review*
- 2009 "Chattanooga," *New South*
- 2009 "The Marine," *The Rumpus*

## Essays and Reviews

- 2017 Book Review: "Howell's *American Purgatory* proves to be haunting dystopian poetry," *ArtsATL*

- 2014 Essay: "Ordinary Eros," *Blackbird*  
 2011 Essay: "You Can't Go Home Again," *The Hillville*  
 2009 Essay: "Pow'r," *The Owls*  
 2009 Theater Review: "War Music," *The Rumpus*  
 2008 Book Review: "Rae Armantrout's *Next Life*," *Mantis: A Journal of Poetry and Translation*

### **Fiction**

- 2017 "Lullwater: Chapter One," *B O D Y*

### **Multimedia/Artistic Collaborations**

- 2019 "The Alva Album" with sound design by Ben Williams, *Category: Other*

### **Reprinted Work and Work in Translation**

- 2019 "Alva Goes to the Neuro-Ophthalmologist," *Strane*, translated by Mirza Purić into BCS (Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian)  
 2017 "Border Crossing," *Best of the Net 2017*, ed. Eduardo C. Corral, Sundress Press  
 2017 "Medusa's Boredom" and "Parable of the Sleepwalker," *Bona* (literary magazine based in Sarajevo), translated by Selma Asotić and Zerina Zahirović into BCS  
 2017 "Alva and the Complex Pool," *Best New Poets Anthology 2016*, ed. Mary Syzbist, University of Virginia Press  
 2015 "Alva Considers the Valley" (originally "Sunday Morning, 1918"), *Nema Magazin* (a BCS journal of international writing)  
 2012 "The Marine," *The Rumpus Original Poetry Anthology*, ed. Brian Spears

### **SELECTED READINGS**

- 2023 Brookline Booksmith, (featured reader), Boston, MA  
 2023 The Generalist/Atlas Books (featured reader), Johnson City, TN  
 2023 Avid Bookshop Poetry Series (featured reader), Athens, GA  
 2023 Bookish (featured reader), Atlanta, GA  
 2023 Book Launch Celebration and Reading with Tiana Clark (featured reader) Austen Peay State University, Clarksville, TN  
 2022 William Corbett Poetry Series (featured reader), MIT  
 2022 St. Botolph Club Foundation Emerging Artist Award Reception (reader), Boston, MA  
 2019 Blacksmith Poetry Series (featured reader), Cambridge, MA  
 2019 Word Barn (featured reader), Exeter, NH  
 2018 Vermont Studio Center Fellow Reading (featured reader), Johnson, VT

- 2017 B O D Y Journal Reading (featured reader), Shakespeare & Sons Bookstore, Prague, Czech Republic
- 2016 Third Thursday Poetry Series (featured reader), Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, Auburn University
- 2015 Avid Bookstore Reading Series (featured reader), Athens, GA
- 2014 University of West Georgia Creative Writing Reading Series (featured reader), Underground Books, Carrollton, GA
- 2014 *The Georgia Review* Reading Series (featured reader), The Globe, Athens, GA
- 2013 *Oversound Journal*/University of South Carolina MFA Program Reading (featured reader), Columbia, SC
- 2013 New Southern Voices (featured reader), Hub City Writers Project, Spartanburg, SC
- 2012 Voices from the Past (reading and presentation of archival research), Berea College Sound Archives
- 2009 Great Overland Book Co. Poetry Series (featured reader), San Francisco, CA
- 2008 Stegner Reading Series (featured reader), Stanford University
- 2006 Bread Loaf Writers' Conference (waiter-scholar reading), Middlebury College
- 2005 Grace Church Poetry Series (reader), Washington DC

## INTERVIEWS AND PRESS

- 2023 "Poet L.S. McKee explores tensions of love in an era of AI and technology," Beth Ward, *ArtsATL*
- 2023 "In Collapse There is Light: Three new collections illuminate times of transformation," Emily Choate, *Chapter 16* (Tennessee Humanities Council)
- 2023 "New Work by NER authors, Fall 2024 (Part One)," *New England Review*
- 2020 "Ten Questions with L.S. McKee," *Massachusetts Review*
- 2018 "Instructor Invited to Hone Craft at Residency," University of West Georgia Faculty Spotlight, UWG Newsletter
- 2016 *The Writer's Block*, Episode 51 (radio interview), July 2016, Auburn University
- 2009 *Stanford Storytelling Project* (radio interview), Episode 207: "Questions of Travel," Stanford University

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

- 2021 Engaging Practices Conference (workshop co-leader), "Our (not so) Subtle Social Justice Praxis: How to Navigate Constraints to Make Actionable Change," University of Massachusetts, Boston
- 2019 BRAWN (Boston Rhetoric and Writing Network) Summer Institute, attended workshops, including "Practices that Facilitate Future Learning from Current Knowledge: Fostering 'Transfer' as Rhetorical Flexibility" with Christian Donahue and "Advancing the Narrative: Writing for STEM" with Deanne Harper
- 2019 *Muse/A Journal* Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) Conference Off-site Reading (featured reader)
- 2017 Decatur Book Festival (panel moderator), "Tales of the Backcountry Rivers: Taylor Brown and Scott Gould," Decatur, GA

- 2016 Interdisciplinary Humanities Conference (reader and panelist), “Alva and the Beast: Generational Intersections in the Persona Poem,” University of West Georgia
- 2016 University System of Georgia STEM SUMMIT (presenter), “STEAM English: Innovations in Composition Pedagogy,” Middle Georgia State University
- 2016 Innovations in Pedagogy Conference (panelist), “STEM to STEAM: Supporting Student Composition and Creativity across Disciplinary Boundaries,” University of West Georgia
- 2003 Community Conversation on Serving Girls in the Tennessee Valley (assistant organizer), Chattanooga, TN
- 2000-2003 Meacham Writers Conference (assistant organizer), University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

**SERVICE**

**University of Georgia**

- 2023-2024 Faculty Learning Community, Center for Teaching and Learning, “Teaching TAs to TA”
- 2023-2024 Writing Working Group, The Office of the Vice President for Instruction

**MIT**

- 2023 Judge for Karmel Writing Prizes: Robert A. Boit Writing Prize in Short Fiction
- 2022 Judge for Karmel Writing Prizes: Robert A. Boit Writing Prize in Short Fiction
- 2021 Scorer for Summer Freshman Entrance Exam
- 2021 Judge for Karmel Writing Prizes: Robert A. Boit Writing Prize in Short Fiction
- 2021 Judge for Karmel Writing Prizes: Rebecca Blevins Faery Prize for Undergraduate Autobiographical Essay
- 2021 Presenter to WRAP staff (summarized research relevant to WRAP’s pedagogy and curriculum from the Rice Visual Rhetoric Symposium)
- 2020 Host and online workshop facilitator for 2.009 Ideas Fair with MIT Mechanical Engineering students and a representative from the Harvard Art Museum
- 2020 Discussion coordinator for MIT WRAP Program Summer Anti-Racist Reading and Pedagogical Discussion Group (coordinated discussion on bell hooks)
- 2020 Scorer for Summer Freshman Entrance Exam
- 2020 Scorer for Summer Graduate Writing Make-Up Exam
- 2020 Judge for Karmel Writing Prizes: Robert A. Boit Writing Prize in Short Fiction
- 2020 Judge for Karmel Writing Prizes: Rebecca Blevins Faery Prize for Undergraduate Autobiographical Essay
- 2020 Judge for Karmel Writing Prizes: Boit Manuscript Poetry Prize
- 2020 Judge for Karmel Writing Prizes: Ellen King Prize for First-Year Writing
- 2020 Workshop presenter, CMS/W Online Pedagogy (team planning and meetings with CMS/W faculty during transition to online teaching. Presented my experience with asynchronous online teaching during spring break.)



- 2020 Session moderator, IAP Pleasure of Poetry (led discussion on two robotics-focused poems: Jill McDonough's "The Rise and Fall of Robots" and Franny Choi's "Turing Test\_Love")
- 2020 Developer and leader, IAP Workshop: Innovative Language and Poetry (explored figurative language in poetry to enhance writing across genres and disciplines)
- 2019 Judge for Karmel Writing Prizes: Robert A. Boit Writing Prize in Short Fiction
- 2019 Judge for Karmel Writing Prizes: Rebecca Blevins Faery Prize for Undergraduate Autobiographical Essay for Inaugural Autobiographical Essay Prize
- 2019 Host to speakers from Harvard Art Museum, 2.009 Ideas Fair
- 2019 Scorer for Summer and Fall Freshman Entrance Exam
- 2019 Scorer for Summer Graduate Writing Exam

### **University of West Georgia**

- 2018 Faculty Team Leader, EPIC Program (English Pathways in Integrated Curriculum) in First-Year Writing, University of West Georgia. Faculty leader in redesigning all first-year writing (FYW) curriculum through an interdisciplinary lens; co-wrote and developed (on a small team) new standard department rubrics for all major essay assignments and developed standards for FYW assignment design, including multimodal assignments; led a team of new EPIC faculty in collaborative pedagogical practices.
- 2015 Presentation to COSM (College of Science and Mathematics) faculty of STEM to STEAM initiatives and pedagogy, University of West Georgia

### **Literary and Arts Organizations**

- 2021 Judge, Poetry Residency Committee, Hambidge Center for Creative Arts & Sciences
- 2019 Judge, 2018 Plattner Award in Poetry, *Appalachian Review*
- 2016 Reader and organizer, The Borders Project Reading (gathered work from literary collaboration between Sarajevo Writers Workshop and Narrative Collective), The Goat Farm Arts Center, Atlanta, GA
- 2015 Reader and organizer, Narrative Collective Reading/Launch, The Goat Farm Arts Center, Atlanta, GA
- 2015-2019 Cofounder, Narrative Collective literary arts organization and writers' collective, sponsored by grant from the Goat Farm, a premier visual arts and performing arts space in Atlanta. Narrative Collective fostered the work of serious, regional writers, while building a vibrant literary community that engaged collaboratively with artists and writers in Atlanta, Sarajevo, and Boston.
- 2008-2009 Coordinator, Wallace Stegner Fellow Reading Series, Stanford University
- 2004-2005 Coordinator, Graduate Reading Series, University of Maryland