Rachel Bara Sturges

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EDUCATION

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
Master of Fine Arts in English — May 2011
Fiction Writing; Concentration in American Literature
Thesis: *The Pleasures of Drought and Flood: Stories*
Adviser: Associate Professor Charlotte Holmes

Smith College, Northampton, MA
Bachelor of Arts — May 2002
English Language and Literature; Spanish minor

Universidad de Córdoba, Córdoba, Spain
Courses: History of the Roman Empire, Art History, Spanish Literature — Fall 2000

SUMMARY OF INTERESTS

- Teaching first-year writing that prepares students to succeed in a range of future courses.
- Teaching science writing, technical writing, and business writing in a way that also encourages a reflective analysis of technology and culture.
- Writing fiction and creative nonfiction that explores the natural world.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE — 12 total courses / 25 total sections

Post-MFA Teaching Fellow, Lecturer, Graduate Teaching Assistant — Fall 2008-present
The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

- Composition Courses
  First-year writing
  English 4: Basic Writing
  English 5: Composition Tutoring
  English 15: Rhetoric and Composition
  English 15: Social Problems LEAP (composition paired with a sociology course)
  English 15S: Rhetoric and Composition—First Year Seminar
  English 30: Honors Freshman Composition—Science and Nature

  Advanced writing
  English 202A: Social Science Writing
  English 202C: Technical Writing
  English 202D: Business Writing
  English 418: Advanced Technical Writing and Editing

- Creative Writing Courses
  English 50: Introduction to Creative Writing
  English 212: Introduction to Fiction Writing

- Multicultural Engineering Program Courses
  Introduction to College English (Summer Bridge Program)

Summer Reading Instructor Summers 2004, 2005
Institute of Reading Development, New York, NY
Taught reading enrichment classes to students from ages four to adult; Helped enhance their reading skills through phonics, vocabulary building, note-taking, and speed reading techniques; Encouraged an active enjoyment of literature.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Editorial Coordinator Nov. 2006-June 2008
McGraw-Hill Higher Education, New York, NY
Aided in development and marketing of textbooks in the following fields: Sociology, Criminology, Anthropology, World History, Art History, Communications; Oversaw the permissions process; Managed a team of freelancers and interns; Edited a series of profiles of recent college graduates with careers relevant to social science majors.
Titles include: *American Democracy Now*, *Anthropology: Appreciating Human Diversity, Interpersonal Communication: The Whole Story.*

Editorial Assistant Dec. 2005-Nov. 2006
McGraw-Hill/Macmillan, New York, NY
Assisted in development of national social studies textbook for first graders; Maintained editorial process; Reviewed individual state learning standards; Studied competing textbooks.

Library Assistant Aug. 2002-May 2004
Ocean County Library, Manahawkin, NJ
Hosted eight-week bilingual story-time (Spanish/English); Fielded reference questions in both the children's and adult reference departments.

Associate Editor Summer 2001, Sept. 2002-July 2003
Down the Shore Publishing, Harvey Cedars, NJ
Edited manuscripts, focusing on narrative, style, and consistency; Acted as ghostwriter for portions of books; Utilized archives, interviews, periodicals, and books to fact-check manuscripts.
Titles include: *Chance of a Lifetime, Golden Light: The 1878 Diary of Captain Thomas Rose Lake; New Jersey Shipwrecks: 350 Years in the Graveyard of the Atlantic; Under the Lighthouse: Memories of Barnegat City.*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Writing Group Leader Nov. 2012-May 2013
Centre Crest Retirement Home, Bellefonte, PA
Co-led writing group that met once a week for senior citizens; Developed writing prompts and exercises; Encouraged memory retention, relaxation, and expression.

Writing Group Leader Sept. 2009-Aug. 2010
Burrowes Street Youth Haven and Stormbreak Shelter, State College, PA
Co-led writing group that met twice a month for at-risk teens from three local shelters; Developed writing prompts and exercises; Encouraged expression, creativity, and empathy.

Writers to the Rescue Volunteer Feb. 2006-Jan. 2008
McGraw-Hill Companies, New York, NY
Wrote grant proposal for survivors of Traumatic Brain Injury; Wrote chapter for a scouting handbook for inner-city children.

Volunteer June 2010-Aug. 2011
Venture Club of Centre County, State College, PA
Performed community service to raise money and awareness for needy families.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Institute for the Arts and Humanities Summer Residency ($3000), The Pennsylvania State University, 2010.

The Pennsylvania State University Travel Grant ($230) to participate in Pedagogy Forum at AWP Conference, Feb. 2011.

PUBLICATIONS

Fiction
"Helga and Josef." *The Copperfield Review*, Winter 2009.

Book Reviews
Review of *Big Bang Symphony*, by Lucy Jane Bledsoe, and *The Still Point*, by Amy Sackville. *Green Mountains Review*, February 2013.

Review of *American Masculine* (Stories), by Shann Ray. *Rain Taxi*, Summer 2012.

Review of *Bliss and Other Short Stories*, by Ted Gilley. *Colorado Review*, March 2012.

Review of *Mattaponi Queen*, by Belle Boggs, and *Drowned Boy*, by Jerry Gabriel. *Prairie Schooner*, May 2012

Review of *Approaching Ice* (Poems), by Elizabeth Bradfield. *Colorado Review*, October 2011.

Review of *Under Glass* (Nonfiction), by Jen Hirt. *WPSU's BookMark*, April 2011.

Review of *Panic* (Poems), by Laura McCullough. *Coldfront*, July 2011.

Journalism
"Students Confront Sexual Harassment" (Cover Story). *Voices of Central PA*, Sept. 2011.

"Designer Combines Metal and Service." *Voices of Central PA*, July 2011.

"Award-Winning PSU Prof Discusses Her Work." *Voices of Central PA*, April 2011.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member of AWP: The Association of Writers and Writing Programs Sept. 2008-Aug. 2011

Early Americanist Reading Group, The Pennsylvania State University Sept. 2008-Aug. 2010

Contemporary Poetry Reading Group, The Pennsylvania State University Sept. 2008-May 2009

LEADERSHIP

MFA Representative, English Graduate Organization Fall 2010-Spring 2011
The Pennsylvania State University

Reading Series Coordinator/Treasurer, MFA Reading Series Fall 2009-Spring 2010
The Pennsylvania State University

PRESENTATIONS

"Writer in the Community: A round table discussion." Guest visit to Julia Kasdorf's graduate course, The Pennsylvania State University, Jan. 2012.

"Introduction to novelist Rebecca Rasmussen." Delivered prior to Rasmussen's reading at The Pennsylvania State University, April 2011.

"'Your Life's a Story, So Write it Up': Writers Introduce Themselves to the Community." In proceedings of Pedagogy Forum at the Associated Writing Programs Conference, Washington D.C., Feb. 2011.