

KAI HARRIS

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY
500 EL CAMINO REAL
SANTA CLARA, CA 95053

408-551-1923 | KHARRIS2@SCU.EDU

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Assistant Professor, Department of English Sept 2021 – Present
Santa Clara University

EDUCATION

PhD Western Michigan University, Creative Writing Aug 2017 – May 2021
Dissertation: *Any Other Place* (YA novel)
Advisor: Thisbe Nissen

MA Belmont University, English: Creative Writing Aug 2013 – Dec 2015
Thesis: *Love and Proximity* (novel excerpt)
Advisor: Dr. Susan Finch

BA University of Michigan, English Language & Literature Aug 2003 – April 2007
Dean's List; 10+ credits received in Spanish

HONORS AND AWARDS

All-University Graduate Awards, Western Michigan University 2021
Graduate Teaching Effectiveness, Graduate Research and Creative Scholar

Graduate Degree Completion Scholarship, Western Michigan University 2020
Nominated/selected for the Spring 2021 Graduate Completion Scholarship

Gwen Frostic Creative Writing Award, Western Michigan University 2020
Winner in Graduate Fiction for "While We Live"

John Orr Prize, Western Michigan University 2018
Recognized for academic excellence among underrepresented students

Master's Ceremony Benediction, Belmont University 2015
Authored and recited benediction at MA graduate ceremony

Dean's List and Full Tuition Scholarship, University of Michigan 2003
Recognized for academic excellence among undergraduate students

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Santa Clara University**, Santa Clara, CA Sept 2021–
Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, English Department
CTW I – Creative Thinking & Writing I
ENGL 71 – Fiction Writing
ENGL 74 – New Forms for Creative Writing
CTW II – Creative Thinking & Writing II
ENGL 176 – Creative Writing & Social Justice
- Western Michigan University**, Kalamazoo, MI Aug 2019 – Dec 2020
Graduate Teaching Assistant, English Department
Taught ENGL 3660 – “Advanced Fiction Writing,” an advanced course in the writing of fiction, with emphasis on class discussion and criticism of each student's writing
- Western Michigan University**, Kalamazoo, MI Aug 2018 – April 2019
Graduate Teaching Assistant, English Department
Taught ENGL 2660 – “Writing Fiction and Poetry,” an undergraduate course averaging sixteen students, covering poetry, fiction, creative writing, workshop
- Western Michigan University**, Kalamazoo, MI Aug 2018 – Dec 2018
Teaching Practicum, English Department
Practicum in ENGL 2230 – “African American Literature,” a survey course exploring African American writers and literature; course and practicum led by Dr. John Saillant
- Western Michigan University**, Kalamazoo, MI Sept 2017 – April 2018
Graduate Teaching Assistant, English Department
Taught ENGL 1050 – “Thought and Writing,” an undergraduate course averaging 25 students, covering writing styles: narrative, persuasive, research, experimental
- Belmont University**, Nashville, TN Sept 2016 – April 2017
Adjunct Instructor, English Department
Taught ENG 1010 – “First-Year Writing” – Covered intro writing topics
- Nashville State Community College**, Nashville, TN Jan 2017 – April 2017
Adjunct Instructor, English Department
Taught ENGL 1010 – “English Composition” – Covered intro writing topics
- Volunteer State Community College**, Nashville, TN Aug 2016 – April 2017
Adjunct Instructor, English Department
Taught ENG 1010 – “First-Year Writing” – Covered intro writing topics

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

- Third Coast**, Western Michigan University –Editor-in-Chief Aug 2019 – May 2021
Third Coast, Western Michigan University – Fiction Editor Aug 2017 – Aug 2019
Rabble Lit, Online Literary Journal – Fiction Co-Editor May 2017 – May 2018

PUBLICATIONS

Book Publications

What the Fireflies Knew, Tiny Reparations Books, Spring 2022

Journal Publications

FICTION

“While We Live,” *Guernica*, Summer 2021

“What the Fireflies Knew – Novel Excerpt,” *Kweli Journal*, Spring 2020

“No Joy,” *Flash Fiction Magazine*, Spring 2020

“For Jeannie,” *The Hilltop Review*, Spring 2019

“The Waitress,” *Rabble Lit*, Spring 2017 (*Longform Fiction Pick of the Week*)

POETRY

“Sweet Black Angel,” *Rabble Lit*, Spring 2017

NONFICTION

“Mental Health Awareness in the Black Community,” *The Everygirl*, Summer 2020

“Dear White Friends: Here’s What I Need. . . From You,” *The Everygirl*, Spring 2020

“Women of Color: Let’s Give Ourselves Permission to Do Less,” *The Everygirl*, Summer 2020

“The Truth About Slavery,” *Rabble Lit*, Summer 2017

“Them Things,” (essay and interview) *Rabble Lit*, Fall 2017

Conference Papers (Peer-Reviewed)

“The Reimagining and Reinvigorating of a Storied Past,” Proceedings of 14th National Black Writer’s Conference, *Killens Review*, March 2018.

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

Panel, “Reimagining the Workshop as a Space for Self-Care,” Minnesota Writing and English (MnWE) Conference, March 25-26, 2021.

Reading, “What the Fireflies Knew (excerpt),” KWELI: Sing the Truth! Anniversary Celebration (via Crowdcast), December 3, 2020.

Panel, “Feminism in Futurity: Protecting Culture, Protecting Black Women,” Global Pan African Conference, May 25-26, 2020. *Rescheduled due to COVID-19.*

Lecture, “Listening for Voices Other Than Your Own: *Building an Inclusive Workshop Space for Students*,” Mellon Emerging Scholars Conference, November 12, 2018.

Paper Presentation, “Survivor’s Guilt and the Slave Narrative: The Reimagining and Reinvigorating of a Storied Past,” National Black Writer’s Conference, March 23, 2018.

Paper Presentation, “How *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* Birthed Toni Morrison and Maya Angelou and Me: African-American Women in Literature from Slavery Era to Present,” Mellon Emerging Scholars Conference, November 13, 2017.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Read and Write Kalamazoo, 2018–2021

Position Held: Director of Programs

Face Off Theatre Company, 2018–2021

Position Held: Production Manager

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., 2005–Present

Previous Positions Held: Secretary, Financial Secretary, Scholarship/Fundraising Chair

Association of Graduate English Students, 2018–2019

Position Held: President

Western Michigan University Writing Center, 2017–2019

Position Held: Writing Consultant

FELLOWSHIPS AND WORKSHOPS

Workshop Participant, Wild Seeds Writers Retreat; Winter 2021

Fellow, Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation (VONA/Voices); Summer 2020

Fellow, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation/Humanities Without Walls Pre-Doctoral Career Diversity Summer Workshop; Summer 2019

Attendee, Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) Conference; 2018 & 2019