**Leah christianson**

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## Education

### Miami University August 2019

MFA in Creative Writing (Fiction)

Thesis: *Accidental Clarity*

Thesis Committee Members: Margaret Luongo, Brian Roley, TaraShea Nesbit

### University of California, Los Angeles 2013

### Bachelor of Arts, English (Creative Writing), Political Science

### Thesis: *True North*

### Awarded Departmental Highest Honors

## Creative Publications, Articles, and Contributions

**Fiction**

* **Zombie Boyfriend”** *– Flash Fiction Magazine* **Forthcoming 2019**
* **“Cinnamon” –** *California’s Emerging Writers 2019 Anthology, Z Publishing* **June 2019**
* **“Wives”** – California’s Emerging Writers Anthology, *Z Publishing*  **August 2018**
* **“Call Your Daughter”** – *Storm Cellar Quarterly* **Summer 2014/Winter 2016**
* **“Filling Up”** – *3Elements Review* **Fall 2016**
  + Nominations: New Stories from the Midwest Anthology 2018, Pushcart Prize 2017
* **“Like Home”** – *Sun Dog Lit* **Fall 2015**
  + Longform Fiction Pick of the Week, Ruth Brill Scholarship Winner
* **“Boat”** – *Sliver of Stone Magazine* **Fall 2014**
* **“That’s Twice Now”** – *River & South Review* **Summer 2014**
* **“The Only Time I Heard My Father Swear”** – *Westwind Literary Journal* **Winter 2013**

**Creative Nonfiction + Mixed Media**

* **“Banding Together: Portraying Female Friendships in Fiction”** – *Fiction Southeast* **Forthcoming 2019**
* **“Likeness”** – *TriQuarterly* **July 2018**

**Selected Articles**

* **Daily Bruin Publications**: <https://dailybruin.com/author/leah_christianson/>
* [Q&A with J. Cole, headliner of CAC's "Hip Hop Explosion"](https://dailybruin.com/2011/02/24/qampa_with_j-_cole_who_headlined_cac039s_quothip_hop_explosionquot/)
* Sundance Channel to kick off music documentary series
* [Soundbites: Chesapeake](https://dailybruin.com/2011/10/11/soundbites_quotchesapeakequot/)
* [More reviews from Coachella: a sunset performance from Cold War Kids, beach-ball effects from Arcade Fire and a reunion for Death From Above 1979](https://dailybruin.com/2011/04/18/coachella_reviews/)

## Awards

* Jordan-Goodman prize for excellence in Fiction – May 2019

*Awarded to short story, “Is That What You Think?”*

* Outstanding Graduate Student in Fiction – May 2019

*Awarded for all-around writing excellence and MFA cohort service*

* Longform Fiction Pick of the Week – September 2015

*Awarded to short story, “Like Home”*

* Departmental Highest Honors, UCLA English Department – June 2013

*Received for Senior Honors Thesis, “True North”*

* Ruth Brill Scholarship Recipient – May 2013

*Received for excellence in short fiction story, “Like Home”*

* Phi Sigma Theta Honor Society Member – 2011

*Received for academic achievement*

* Wellesley Book Award Recipient – 2008

*Received for academic achievement in literature*

## Teaching Experience

### Miami University, Oxford, OH August 2017 – Present

### *Graudate Teaching Assistant – English 111: Composition and Rhetoric, English 226: Introduction to Creative Writing*

### Led and managed full classrooms (20+ students) of rhetoric/composition and creative writing

* Responsibilities include: Lecturing, developing interactive lesson plans and activities, student conferencing, grading writing assignments, creating a productive and safe learning environment tailored to each individual

### Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China

### Chosen to represent Miami at its partner university by conferencing with Chinese students about their creative work, speaking to undergraduates classes, grading student work, and judging Sun Yat-sen’s writing contest

### Top Tier Consulting, Manhattan Beach, CA (Healthcare Management Consultancy) August 2013 – May 2017

### *Knowledge Management Consultant*

* Designed and Facilitated adult learning sessions, as well as one-on-one trainings, on custom-developed claims configuration software, educating experienced analysts on both their updated processes and associated software

**Writing Advisor & Tutor**, **Los Angeles, CA**   **September 2010- June 2013**

* Met with students one-on-one to improve and advise on analytical papers

**ACT Tutor, Minneapolis, MN June 2010-September 2011**

* Met with students to tutor and advise on ACT Reading and English sections (averaged 5-point gain)

## Editorial Experience

**Oxford Magazine Fall 2017-Spring 2019**

*Editor-in-Chief* **Summer 2018-Summer 2019**

*Magazine rebrand team* **Fall 2017-Spring 2018**

**MU Press, Oxford, OH Fall 2017, Fall 2018**

*Reader: annual novella competition*

**Westwind Literary Journal, Los Angeles, CA September 2012 - June 2013**

*Fiction Editorial Board Member*

* Served on the editorial board of UCLA’s literary journal, meeting weekly to offer feedback to writers and determine which submissions were worthy of publication in both online and print formats

**Los Angeles Review of Books (LARB), Los Angeles, CA September 2011 - March 2012**

*Publicity and Review Intern*

* Worked directly with authors, reviewers, and publicists on Publicity and Marketing for Nonfiction, Politics, Poetry, Young Adult Fiction, Science, and Film literature works for review in LARB’s magazine and blog

**UCLA Daily Bruin, Los Angeles, CA** **January 2011 - January 2013**

*Arts & Entertainment Reporter*

* Reported for UCLA’s campus-wide newspaper (voted 2011’s best college newspaper in the West) and quarterly magazine, *Prime,* on music, film, and theater, reaching over 40,000 readers in the West Los Angeles area
* Led social media expansion via live blogging for nationally publicized events (e.g., Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival)

## Additional WORk Experience

### Top Tier Consulting, Manhattan Beach, CA (Healthcare Management Consultancy) August 2013 – May 2017

### *Senior Consultant* February 2016 – May 2017

* Extensive experience with Knowledge Management and Learning/Development course design and execution
* Facilitated Line of Business Readiness and End-to-End testing for the nation’s largest integrated healthcare organization, facilitating training, testing, and communication efforts with the client’s management team
* Fast learner and creative thinker with excellent communication skills and high emotional intelligence

### *Consultant* August 2013 – February 2016

* Led the Knowledge Management workstream of a testing focused business transformation project that led to a 92% reduction in net payment errors, a 156% improvement in Test Data, and a 72x increase in Test Coverage
* Established a feedback loop between the development team and client during the software development of a financial accuracy testing application for the nation’s largest integrated healthcare organization

*Intern* **June 2012 – August 2012**

### Paradise Charter Cruises, Crew Manager, Minnetonka, MN June 2010 - September 2012

## readings

* Spring Street Reading, Oxford, OH **September 2018**
* Spring Street Reading, Oxford, OH **February 2018**
* UCLA Intro to Creative Writing, Los Angeles, CA **May 2016**
* Westwind Literary Journal Reading, Los Angeles, CA **January 2013**

## Additional Skill sets

* Skilled in entire Microsoft Office Suite, programming skills in C++, basic UX Design knowledge

## References

**Margaret Luongo**, Creative Writing Professor

Miami University, Oxford, OH

[luongomm@miamioh.edu](mailto:luongomm@miamioh.edu)

**Reed Wilson**, Assistant Professor of English

UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

[rwilson@english.ucla.edu](mailto:rwilson@english.ucla.edu)

Additional references available upon request