

KARISSA CHEN

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EDUCATION

SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE, BRONXVILLE, NEW YORK

September 2009 – May 2012

- ♦ Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing – Fiction – GPA 3.98

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, BARNARD COLLEGE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK

September 2000 – May 2004

- ♦ Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, May 2004 – Overall GPA 3.71, Major GPA 3.78
- ♦ Honors: Dean's List 2000 – 2004, Magna Cum Laude

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (EDITING & TEACHING)

CATAPULT, NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Contributing Fiction Editor & Columnist

December 2017 – Present

- ♦ Solicit, review, and edit short fiction to be published on *Catapult* magazine's website
- ♦ Write monthly column around fertility

THE RUMPUS, NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Fiction Editor

October 2017 – Present

- ♦ Solicit, review, and edit short fiction to be published on *The Rumpus*'s website biweekly
- ♦ Manage submissions team of 20 readers

CHINESE CULTURE UNIVERSITY, TAIPEI, TAIWAN

Lecturer — Creative Writing

January 2017 – June 2018

- ♦ Teach two classes of 25 university-level intermediate English-language students in elements of creative writing craft, introducing English literature readings, writing exercises, and the writing workshop

PEN PRISON WRITING PROGRAM, NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Writing Mentor

June 2014 – Present

- ♦ Correspond with inmate through bimonthly letters and offer guidance, feedback, and tutorial on inmate's fiction

SOME CALL IT BALLIN', NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Founding Co-Editor and Webmaster

November 2013 – Present

- ♦ Founded new online sports literary quarterly, featuring solicited personal essays around sports
- ♦ Solicit, edit, and contribute selected essays for each issue
- ♦ Designed and maintain journal's website, Tumblr, and social media accounts

HYPHEN MAGAZINE, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Editor-in-Chief

November 2011 – Present

- ♦ Hire, train, and oversee team of 30 editors as publication transitions from print to a digital-only medium
- ♦ Manage publication calendar and review each piece for final edit before publication
- ♦ Work with business staff to garner visibility for the magazine and create fundraising campaign
- ♦ Handle day-to-day operations in absence of publisher, including contract work and liaising with financial sponsor
- ♦ Submit proposals and represent Hyphen at literary events for greater visibility, including AWP and NYC Lit Crawl
- ♦ Solicited and edited fiction/poetry submissions; conduct corresponding author interviews
- ♦ Created and maintained The Hyphen Reader, a first-of-its-kind monthly email newsletter featuring literary works published by Asian American authors
- ♦ Conceived of and launched first poetry section for magazine's twenty-fifth (tenth anniversary) issue
- ♦ Launched new monthly web-only literature features and online audio companion pieces to drive additional web traffic

THE BOOKMARK SHOPPE, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

Workshop Instructor

January 2014 – April 2014

- ♦ Lead beginner's fiction workshop for community bookstore to a class of 11 adult students
- ♦ Create and deliver lectures and prompts around elements of craft
- ♦ Edit final pieces for inclusion into end-of-workshop anthology, to be given to each student

VALHALLA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, VALHALLA, NEW YORK

Right to Write Program – Writing Workshop Coordinator

September 2009 – May 2012

- ◆ Facilitated two weekly writing workshops for incarcerated male youths aged 16-22 enrolled in boot camp program
- ◆ Managed and guided group of six writing facilitators on a week-to-week basis and oversaw overall workshop logistics
- ◆ Developed writing prompts and lesson plans for workshops
- ◆ Edited participant work for inclusion into annual creative writing anthology
- ◆ Organized and hosted end-of-year pizza party and open-mic reading in jail for all participants

SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE, OFFICE OF CAREER COUNSELING, BRONXVILLE, NEW YORK

Graduate Writing Assistant

January 2010 – May 2011

- ◆ Worked with graduate creative writing department to curate and execute panels related to writing careers
- ◆ Researched and produced guidebooks for panels on topics including teaching, finding agents, and writing query letters

MACMILLAN, NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Tor/Forge Editorial Intern, Picador Publicity Intern

June 2010 – December 2010

- ◆ Crafted press releases for book announcements and emailed pitches to media contacts
- ◆ Researched media contact lists, including both traditional media and online/social networking outlets
- ◆ Created comprehensive catalog detailing rights and options information for Picador title list
- ◆ Responded to general publicity requests and inquiries, including galley distribution
- ◆ Reviewed full-length manuscripts and provided in-depth written assessments regarding further editorial review

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN DIEGO, CA

Rhetoric Writing Tutor and Teaching Assistant

September 2008 – May 2009

- ◆ Met with students on a biweekly basis to aid in reading comprehension, essay development and revision
- ◆ Graded and provided feedback on student assignments for four undergraduate classes of varying levels
- ◆ Provided in-class support to professors, including facilitation of small-group work and classroom activities

GLOBAL VOLUNTEER NETWORK, DANANG, VIETNAM

English Teacher

May 2008 – June 2008

- ◆ Taught basic to intermediate English to local Vietnamese orphans and university students at four different locations, including three orphanages with children aged 8-14 and one university with students aged 17-20
- ◆ Researched lesson plans tailored to vocabulary and pronunciation issues unique to Vietnamese students studying tourism
- ◆ Brainstormed creative activities to engage younger students in learning basic vocabulary and syntax

HONORS & AWARDS

- ◆ New Jersey Council on the Arts Individual Artist Fellow, 2019.
- ◆ Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation Creative Fellow, Millay Colony for the Arts, August 2017.
- ◆ Wigleaf 2017 Top 50 (Very) Short Fictions. “Devils, Our Sons.” May 2017.
- ◆ Featured in Vela Magazine’s “8 Emerging Writers Over 30.”
- ◆ Wigleaf 2016 Top 50 (Very) Short Fictions. “Pomegranate.” May 2016.
- ◆ Fulbright Student Research Scholar — Taiwan, 2015-2016.
- ◆ Runner-up, *Eclectica Magazine*, “Spotlight” award. October/November 2013.
- ◆ Fifth place, *Writers’ Digest*, Annual Short Short Story Competition. “Decency.” June 2013.
- ◆ Recipient of the diFilipis-Rosselli Scholarship, Napa Valley Writers Conference. June 2011.

ARTIST RESIDENCIES & CONFERENCES

- ◆ **Willapa Bay AiR**, September 2018.
- ◆ **Ragdale Foundation**, July-August 2018.
- ◆ **Kimmel Harding Nelson**, November-December 2017.
- ◆ **Virginia Center for the Creative Arts**, September-October 2017.
- ◆ **Millay Colony**, August 2017. Mid Atlantic Foundation Creative Fellow.
- ◆ **Kundiman Retreat**, June 2015. Fiction workshops with Gina Apostol, Sigrid Nunez, and Peter Ho Davies.
- ◆ **Kundiman Fiction Intensive**, February 2014. Weekend intensive with Cathy Chung and Porochista Khakpour.
- ◆ **Voices of Our Nation (VONA) Conference**, July 2013. Fiction workshop with M. Evelina Galang.

- ◆ Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference, attended annually, 2010-15; 2018-19.
- ◆ Enchanted June Writers Workshop, June 2012. Fiction workshop with Mary Morris.
- ◆ Napa Valley Writers Conference, June 2011. Fiction workshop with Lan Samantha Chang.

PUBLICATIONS & READINGS

CHAPBOOK

- ◆ *Meditations on My Name*. Awst Press. March 2017. Nonfiction.
- ◆ *Of Birds and Lovers*. Corgi Snorkel Press, September 2013. Collection of short fiction.

STORIES

- ◆ "Blue Tears." *Go Home! AAWW Anthology*. Ed. Rowan Hisayo Buchanan. Feminist Press. March 2018.
- ◆ "Museum for Those Who Do Not Appear." *Catapult*. June 2, 2017.
- ◆ "Devils, Our Sons." *Gulf Coast*. Winter 2016.
- ◆ "Pomegranate." *Guernica/PEN Flash Fiction Series*. March 10, 2015. *PEN America*, Issue 19.
- ◆ "Return to Sender." *Wigleaf*. March 2, 2015.
- ◆ "What Remains." *Midnight Breakfast*. Issue 2, July 2014.
- ◆ "Altar." *PANK*. Issue 9.6, June 2014.
- ◆ "X." *Outpouring: Typhoon Yolanda Relief Anthology*. January 2014.
- ◆ "The Testimony of Jayce B." *Eclectica Magazine*. October/November 2013.
- ◆ *Of Birds and Lovers*. Corgi Snorkel Press. August 2013.
- ◆ "A Brief Intimacy." *The Good Men Project*. August 9, 2013.
- ◆ "Decency." *13th Annual Writer's Digest Short Story Competition Collection*, June 2013.
- ◆ "The Emperor's Malady." *Necessary Fiction*. July 4, 2012.
- ◆ "Long-Distance Lover." *Monkeybicycle*. February 24, 2012.
- ◆ "The Quiet After." *Kartika Review*. Issue #11, Winter 2011.
- ◆ "Little Birds." *Drinking With Papa Legba*. December 2011.
- ◆ "Fire Lover." *Pindeldyboz*. June 10, 2010.
- ◆ "Finding Beautiful." *Two Hawks Quarterly*. Issue 1, No. 3, Winter 2008.

PERSONAL ESSAYS

- ◆ "My Body, My Story." *Indelible in the Hippocampus*. Ed. Shelly Oria. McSweeney's. Forthcoming September 2020.
- ◆ "How Did I Get to Thirty-Five Without Really Understanding My Reproductive System?" *Catapult*. March 18, 2019.
- ◆ "Thinking About My Future and My Fertility at Thirty-Six (and Eight Months)." *Catapult*. February 19, 2019.
- ◆ "It's Always Hot Pot Season in Taipei." *Eater*. March 6, 2019.
- ◆ "A Letter to My Younger Self As You Begin Your MFA." *Epiphany*. September 19, 2018.
- ◆ "They All Laughed at Edwidge Danticat." *Electric Literature*. December 6, 2017.
- ◆ "This Disease." *The Rumpus*. November 7, 2017.
- ◆ "My Grandfather's Fateful Goodbye, Reimagined." *Longreads*. July 7, 2017.
- ◆ "What Does the Rest of the World Think About the US Elections?" *The Establishment*. November 7, 2016.
- ◆ "In Praise of Brown." *92Y*. June 10, 2016.
- ◆ "The Audacity to Dream: On Asian Women, Feminism, and My Grandmother." *VIDA*. December 8, 2015.
- ◆ "To Write." *The James Franco Review*. September 22, 2015.
- ◆ "On Asian/Pacific Islander American Stories and Why We Need More of Them." *The Toast*. May 28, 2015.
- ◆ "Of Grace and Gold (A Personal Retrospective of Michelle Kwan)." *Some Call It Ballin'*. Issue 1: Winter 2014.

ARTICLES

- ◆ "Behold Addiction Aquatic, Taipei's Leviathan Seafood Paradise." *Eater*. March 6, 2019.
- ◆ "Even Train Rides Are a Chance to Eat Outrageously Well in Taipei." *Eater*. March 6, 2019.
- ◆ "On Tech and Representation: An Interview with Searching Director Aneesh Chaganty." *Hyphen*. September 19, 2018.
- ◆ "UsToo: A #MeToo Conversation with Five Asian American Writers." *Hyphen*. August 15, 2018.
- ◆ "What If You Could Live Forever? Interview with Rachel Heng." *Electric Literature*. July 12, 2018.
- ◆ "'I didn't want there to be a clear hero or villain side' — A Conversation with Celeste Ng." *Hyphen*. September 8, 2017.
- ◆ "'I've yearned for so much of my life to know more about my family' — A Conversation with Laura Chow Reeve." *Hyphen*. August 29, 2017.
- ◆ "Beloved Asian American Literature You Have to Read." *New York Public Library*. May 30, 2017.
- ◆ "The Dazzling Different Worlds of Chinese Vs. Asian American Sci-Fi." *Audible Range*. February 24, 2017.

- ◆ “‘Myth is the only way I have to self-identify’: An Interview with Matthew Salesses.” *The Toast*, September 17, 2015.
- ◆ “An Interview with Speculative Fiction Writer and Translator Ken Liu.” *Hyphen*. August 21, 2013.
- ◆ “In Conversation with Alena Graedon.” *The Tottenville Review*. April 15, 2014.
- ◆ “The Question of Being Human.” *The Brooklyn Rail*. November 2013.
- ◆ “Online Exclusive: Audio Excerpt and Q&A with Tina Bartolome.” *Hyphen*. June 21, 2013.
- ◆ “Online Exclusive: An Audio Reading and Short Conversation with Matthew Olzmann.” *Hyphen*. June 21, 2013.
- ◆ “Online Exclusive: An Audio Excerpt of ‘Deliveries’ and a Short Conversation with Author T Kira Madden.” *Hyphen*. January 27, 2013
- ◆ “Online Exclusive: A Reading of ‘Alma, 1942’ and Q&A with Poet Brynn Saito.” *Hyphen*. January 27, 2013
- ◆ “Demystifying the Music with Award-Winning Poet Patrick Rosal.” *Hyphen*. Issue 25, Spring 2012.
- ◆ “Reconstructing History with Emerging Poet Ocean Vuong.” *Hyphen*. Issue 25, Spring 2012.

HUMOR

- ◆ “If Lea Salonga Were Your Best Friend.” *The Toast*. June 21, 2016.
- ◆ “If Levar Burton and Yo-Yo Ma Were Your Two Dads.” *The Toast*. May 9, 2016.
- ◆ “A Rap Battle with the New Yorker’s Calvin Trillin.” *The Establishment*. April 7, 2016.
- ◆ “If Daniel Henney Were Your Boyfriend.” *The Toast*. December 8, 2015.

READINGS & PANELS

- ◆ Franklin Park Reading Series, April 1, 2019.
- ◆ Awst, Future Tense & SEMO Press Present, Association of Writers & Writing Programs Conference Offsite Event, March 30, 2019
- ◆ Behind the Curtain! The Editors Speak, Association of Writers & Writing Programs Conference, March 28, 2019.
- ◆ Go Home! Anthology Reading, Asian American Writers Workshop, March 12, 2018.
- ◆ Go Home! Asian American Writers Imagine Home Beyond a Place, Association of Writers & Writing Programs Conference, March 9, 2018.
- ◆ Sunday Salon, November 20, 2016
- ◆ Between the Sheets: a Hyphen Magazine Reading on Asian American Sex & Sexuality, Association of Writers & Writing Programs Conference, April 2015.
- ◆ Hyphen magazine at Lit Crawl San Francisco, October 19, 2013
- ◆ Big Words Etc. Reading Series, August 30, 2013
- ◆ Krapp Shot Reading Series, October 19, 2013
- ◆ Drinking with Papa Legba Launch Party, October 19, 2011
- ◆ Le Chat Noir & Alphabet Pony “Works in Progress” Reading, September 28, 2011
- ◆ Barbes Reading Series, June 4, 2011
- ◆ Earshot Reading Series, October 15, 2010
- ◆ Kettle of Fish Reading Series, March 26, 2008

OTHER HONORS & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

- ◆ March 2019: National Scholastic Awards, Personal Essay — Final Round Juror
- ◆ March 2018: *Sbondaland* — “How Do You Define Home?” — Roundtable Discussion
- ◆ May 2016: Tunghai University, Taichung, Taiwan — Literature and Creative Writing Class Visit
- ◆ April 2016: *Writing Like an Asian* — Interview
- ◆ April 2016: University of Houston, Houston, Texas — Classroom Skype Visit
- ◆ April 2016: Quemoy University, Kinmen, Taiwan — One-Day Creative Writing Workshop
- ◆ April 2016: “Eat Your Words” Podcast, Heritage Radio Network — Radio Interview
- ◆ February 2015: *The Toast* — “After Amy Tan: An Asian American Literature Roundtable”
- ◆ February 2015: *Speaking of Marvels* — Interview
- ◆ 2015: Center for Fiction — Reader for First Novel Prize
- ◆ March 2014: Rutgers University, Camden, New Jersey — Classroom Visit
- ◆ 2013, 2014: Brooklyn Arts Council — Panel Judge for Literary Arts Grants