

Tiffin, Ohio 44883
desirae.matherly@gmail.com

Desirae Matherly

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Heidelberg University (2022 - present)
310 E Market Street, Tiffin, OH 44883
Associate Professor, English, School of Humanities
Chair of English & World Languages (2024 - 2025)

Tusculum University (2009 - 2022)
60 Shiloh Road, Greeneville, TN 37745
Professor, English
Chair of English & Languages (2021 - 2022)
Chair of English & Fine Arts (2018 - 2021)

The University of Chicago (2006-2009)
5801 South Ellis Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637
Harper Fellow, Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts
Collegiate Assistant Professor, Collegiate Humanities Division

Ohio University (2004-2006)
360 Ellis Hall, Athens, OH 45701
Postdoctoral Fellow, English Department

EDUCATION

Ohio University (1998-2004), Athens, Ohio
Ph.D. Creative Writing, Nonfiction, awarded 2004, Dissertation: "Aggregaria"
Comprehensive Exam Tradition Area: Essays, Autobiography, Memoir
Period of Specialization: 20th Century American Minority Literatures
Language of Translation: Anglo-Saxon (Old English)
Thirty-seven graduate hours toward M.A. in Philosophy, 2000-2001
M.A. Creative Writing, Nonfiction, awarded 2000, Thesis: "Elemental Leavings"

East Tennessee State University (1992-1997), Johnson City, TN
B.A. Philosophy and English, awarded 1997, Graduated *magna cum laude*

PUBLICATIONS

2025

- o Reprint of 2007 essay "Final: Comprehensive, Roughly." *Fourth Genre: Twenty-Five Essays from Our First Twenty-Five Years*. Ed. Patrick Madden and Joey Franklin. Michigan State UP. June 2025
- o Reprint of 2016 essay "In Defense of Navel-Gazing." *Assay: A Journal of Creative Nonfiction*. Ed. Karen Babine. Forthcoming

2021

- o Introduction. *An Odd-Shaped Casket: Featuring the Winners of the Owl Canyon Press Short Story Hackathon #4*, Ed. Gene Hayworth

2020

- o Collaborative essay "Expectations," in Patrick Madden's *Disparates*, U of Nebraska P, April
- o "Among These Winters There is One So Endlessly Winter" (short story). *When the Ride Ends: The Autumn 2019 Owl Canyon Press Hackathon Winners*. 29 Jan

2019

- o *Echo's Fugue*. 21st Century Essayists Series. Mad Creek Books, an imprint of Ohio State University Press. 12 Sept
- o "Something More than This." *Assay: A Journal of Nonfiction Studies* 5.2 (Spring 2019): Spotlight: New Essays on the Essay

2018

- o "Everything I Know about Water." *December Magazine* 29.2. Winner of the 2018 Curt Johnson Prose Award in Creative Nonfiction
- o "Fragments toward an Index of Birds." *Hotel Amerika* 16

2017

- o "Prose, Essay, Lyric." *Fourth Genre* 19.2. Fall 2017. 157-163
- o "Solo." *Ninth Letter: Featured Writer*. August 2017

2016

- o "Some Notes toward an Essay on Simplicity." *Superstition Review: Guest Blog*, 29 Sept
- o "In Defense of Navel-Gazing." *The Essay Review* 1.2 (Spring)

2015

- o "On the Power of the Imagination." *After Montaigne: Contemporary Essayists Cover the Essays*. Ed. David Lazar and Patrick Madden. U of Georgia Press

2014

- o "Surprise and Subtext." *TriQuarterly* 146. Summer/Fall 2014 (Classified as a "Craft Essay")
- o "Breakfast with Krishna." *Black & Grey Magazine* 3.2: The Satori Issue
- o "Some Say in Ice." *Superstition Review: Guest Blog*, 13 Apr

2013

- o "Vagina Dentata." *Red Holler: An Anthology of Contemporary Appalachian Literature*. Ed. John E. Branscum and Wayne Thomas. Sarabande. This anthology is also the 2011 Karen Bruckheimer Selection in Kentucky Literature

2011

- o "Flashbacks and Proliferations." *Hotel Amerika* 10.1
- o "Study, House in Brown." *Descant* 152

2009

- o "The Maze and the Machine." *Superstition Review* 3. Online
- o "No Discourse to Her Beauty: a Tragic Proem in Thirty-Two Acts." *Painted Bride Quarterly* 80
- o "The Denser of the Two." *Southern Humanities Review* 43
- o "Wagering Pressures." *Lake Effect* 13
- o "Vagina Dentata." *Pleiades: A Journal of New Writing* 29.1

2008

- o "Over the River and through the Wolf." *River Teeth* 9.2
- o "Final: Comprehensive, Roughly." *Best Creative Nonfiction, Vol. 2*. Ed. Lee Gutkind. Norton
- o "Roundtable on Teaching the Classical Essay." With Pat Madden, et. al. *Fourth Genre* 10.1
- o "Compounding the Breach." *Columbia: A Journal of Literature & Art* 46

2007

- o "Trick of the Light." *The North American Review* 292.6
- o "From Dust to Dust." *Eureka Literary Magazine* 15.2
- o "Final: Comprehensive, Roughly." *Fourth Genre* 9.1

2005

- o "Born Again, Freshly Dipped." *Turnrow* 4.2

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Ander Monson's *Neck Deep and Other Predicaments*, Graywolf, 2007. Crossword Puzzle with Prizes from Graywolf Press. *Brevity*. Online

HONORS AND AWARDS

2020	Cicero Lecturer for Holocaust Remembrance Week, October 2020, <i>Tusculum U</i>
2020	Faculty Excellence in Scholarship, College of Civic & Liberal Arts, <i>Tusculum U</i>
2019	First Place in Owl Canyon Press's Autumn Hackathon Short Story Contest
2018	Curt Johnson Prose Award in Creative Nonfiction, <i>December Magazine</i>
2012	<i>Best American Essays</i> 2011 Notable for "Flashbacks and Proliferations"
2010	<i>Best American Essays</i> 2009 Notable for "Wagering Pressures"
2009	<i>Best American Essays</i> 2008 Notable for "Over the River and through the Wolf"
2008	<i>Best American Essays</i> Notable for "Final, Comprehensive, Roughly"
2000	Outstanding Teaching Award in English, <i>Ohio University</i>
1999	Outstanding Graduate Assistant in the College of Arts and Sciences, <i>Ohio U</i>

COURSES DESIGNED AND DELIVERED

2022-present **Associate Professor**, *Heidelberg University, School of Humanities*

- ◇ LIT 232 American Lit 1860 to Present
- ◇ WRI 101 College Writing II
- ◇ WRI 101S College Writing Workshop
- ◇ WRI 210 Creative Writing
- ◇ WRI 310 Special Topics Writing: Fantasy Lit
- ◇ WRI 311 Advanced Poetry
- ◇ WRI 312 Advanced Fiction
- ◇ WRI 314 Advanced Creative Nonfiction
- ◇ WRI 351 Business and Professional Writing
- ◇ WRI 352 Grant Writing
- ◇ WRI 353 Writing and Publishing Industry
- ◇ WRI 354 Writing to Inform
- ◇ WRI 355 Writing for Social Change
- ◇ WRI 356 Writing for a Non-Spec Audience
- ◇ WRI 372 Ind Study: Novel Writing
- ◇ WRI 471 Ind Study: Poetry for Publication

2009-2022 **Full, Associate, and Assistant Professor**, *Tusculum University English Department*

- ◇ ENGL 110, 110L, and 111: Composition I, Lab, and Composition II
- ◇ ENGL 113: Newspaper/Magazine Production
- ◇ ENGL 118: Introduction to Journalism
- ◇ ENGL 204: Introduction to Poetry
- ◇ ENGL 217: Science Fiction
- ◇ ENGL 218: Specialized Journalism: Magazine Design
- ◇ HUMA 222: Philosophy through the Humanities
- ◇ ENGL 225: World Literature
- ◇ ENGL 227: Appalachian Literature
- ◇ ENGL 228: African-American Literature (now Minority Voices in American Literature)
- ◇ HNRS 245: Honors Seminar: *Michel de Montaigne*
- ◇ ENGL 250: Special Topics: *Literary Nonfiction: Form and Theory*
- ◇ ENGL 233: Writing for Organizations
- ◇ ENGL 312: Editing for Publications
- ◇ ENGL 320: Poetry Workshop
- ◇ ENGL 328: Concepts of Language
- ◇ ENGL 337: Literature Abroad (Dublin, Ireland)
- ◇ ENGL 338: Literary Nonfiction Workshop
- ◇ ENGL 420: Senior Seminar (all concentrations)
- ◇ ENGL 449: Senior Seminar in Professional Writing
- ◇ ENGL 450: Independent Study: *Advanced Studies in Nonfiction*
- ◇ ENGL 452: Internship in Writing and Editing

2006-2009 **Harper Fellow and Assistant Professor**, *Univ. of Chicago, Collegiate Humanities Div.*

- ◇ HUM 14000: Reading Cultures: Collecting
- ◇ HUM 14100: Reading Cultures: Travel
- ◇ HUM 14200: Reading Cultures: Exchange

2004-2006 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, *Ohio University English Department*

- ◇ ENG 200: Introduction to Literature
- ◇ ENG 306J: Women and Writing: Junior Composition
- ◇ ENG 308J: Writing and Rhetoric II: Junior Composition
- ◇ ENG 325: Women and Literature (combined lecture section, 70 students)
- ◇ ENG 363: Creative Writing Workshop: Introduction to Creative Nonfiction

2000-2001 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, *Ohio University Philosophy Department*

- ◇ PHIL 120: Introduction to Logic

1998-2004 **Graduate Teaching Associate**, *Ohio University English Department*

- ◇ ENG 151: Writing and Rhetoric I: 1st-yr Composition
- ◇ ENG 305J: Technical Writing

CONFERENCE PANEL PRESENTATIONS

2022. AWP: *The Association of Writers and Writing Programs*. March 23-27

“Where Words & Music Meet: Writerly Revelations of Deep Listening,” with Philip Graham (chair), Francesca Royster, Karen Tongson, and Tom Larson

2021. AWP: *The Association of Writers and Writing Programs*. Virtual. March 3-7

“The End of the World as We Know It: The Nonfiction of Apocalypse,” with Beth Peterson (chair), Joni Tevis, and Matt Donovan

2020. AWP: *The Association of Writers and Writing Programs*. San Antonio, TX. March 4-8

“Unearthing the Female Canon: Recovering Women's Place in the Essay Tradition,” with Joanna Eleftheriou (chair), David Lazar, Beth Peterson, and Jenny Spinner

2018. NonfictionNow: Phoenix, Arizona. Nov 1-4

“Where Fact Meets Fantasy”

With Jennifer Sinor (chair), Susanne Paola Antonetta, Amy Benson, and Paisley Rekdal

2017. NonfictionNow: *University of Iceland*, Reykjavik. Jun 1-4

“When Writers Repeat Themselves: New Disguises or Fresh Approaches?”

With Michael Steinberg (chair), Mimi Schwartz, Hope Edelman, and Richard Hoffman

2017. AWP: *The Association of Writers and Writing Programs*. Washington, DC. Feb 8 – Feb 11
 “The Lyric Invitation: Readers as Collaborators”

With Julija Sukys (chair), Travis Scholl, Patrick Madden, Beth Peterson

2014. AWP: *The Association of Writers and Writing Programs*. Seattle, WA. Feb 27 - Mar 1

“Planning For Surprise: Teaching the Unexpected in Personal Narrative”

With Patrick Madden (chair), Michael Steinberg, Renee D'Aoust, and Thomas Larson

2012. Appalachian Studies Conference: *Appalachian Studies Assoc.* Indiana, PA. Mar 23 - 25

“If You Killed the Sun, How Would the Sky Feel? A Literary Light in Appalachia”

With *Tusculum Review* editors Wayne Thomas, Heather Patterson, and Brent House

2010. AWP: *The Association of Writers and Writing Programs*. Denver, CO. Apr 7 - 10

“Goodbye to All That: Coming of Age in the Personal Essay”

With Kelley Evans (chair), Shannon Lakanen, Nicole Walker, and Alison Stine

2007. NonfictionNow: *University of Iowa*, Iowa City, IA. Nov 1-4

“The Infinite Suggestiveness of Common Things”

With Pat Madden (chair), David Lazar, Shannon Lakanen, and Michael Danko

Audio Archive: Presentation (with projected visuals) is from 19:00 – 35:50 min

2007. AWP: *The Assoc. of Writers and Writing Programs*. Atlanta, GA. Feb 28 - Mar 3

Panel One: “Teaching the Classical Essay: Why, How, and What?”

Panel Two: “Experimental Nonfiction: Inspirations and Applications”

With Pat Madden (chair), Shannon Lakanen, Michael Danko, Kelley Evans, and Michelle Disler

2005. NonfictionNow: *University of Iowa*, Iowa City, IA. Nov 10-12

“Some Lines of Descent from the Montaignian Essay.”

With Pat Madden (chair), Shannon Lakanen, and Michael Danko

Audio Archive: Presentation is from 38:45 – 52:16 min

PUBLIC READINGS AND LECTURES

- o “‘A Station without a Name’: Four Memoirs of Auschwitz.” *Cicero Lecture as a part of Holocaust Remembrance Week*. Tusculum University, Greeneville, TN. Oct 5, 2020.
- o “Solo,” and other pieces from *Echo’s Fugue*. *Arts and Lectures Reading, Faculty Spotlight*. Tusculum University, Greeneville, TN. Oct 8, 2019
- o “Solo.” *Mad Creek Books Author’s Reading*. Home, A Bar. Portland, OR. Mar 28, 2019

- o “Mirror, Mirror.” *Arts and Lectures Reading, Faculty Spotlight*. Tusculum College, Greeneville, TN. Oct 7, 2013
- o “Vagina Dentata.” Promoting *Red Holler: Voices of Contemporary Appalachian Writers*. Appalachian Studies Conference, Indiana, PA. March 25, 2012
- o “In Defense of Navel-Gazing.” *English Department Humanities Series*. Tusculum College, Greeneville, TN. Nov 3, 2009
- o “Sacrificing Atlantis.” *Appalachian Women Writers*. Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH. Feb 9, 2006

SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS

Chair of the English and World Languages Department (2024 – 2025) Heidelberg University

- Staffed course schedules for department courses and faculty
- Supervised department of four full time (including self) faculty
- Prepared assessment documents for English program
- Maintained department Canvas page and lead department meetings
- Wrote letters on behalf of faculty for their portfolios
- Attended monthly department chair meetings
- Oversaw curriculum and budget for English

Co-Chair of the Community Academic Engagement Committee (2023-present), Heidelberg U

- Co-lead meetings with Co-Chairs Sarah Lazzari and Noel Mano
- Assist Co-Chair Sarah Lazzari and Noel Mano with emails, agendas, and research
- Meet with provost to discuss grant guidelines and committee budget requests
- Consult living donor about guidelines attached to Hammel research grant
- Help plan and execute the Minds@Work Research Conference at Heidelberg U

Faculty Adviser (2022-present) Morpheus Student Literary Magazine

Student literary magazine published by student editors at Heidelberg University

- Advise student editors as they plan events and produce an online literary journal
- Perform final copyedit of all stories and layout before publishing

Chair of the English and Languages Department (2021 – 2022) Tusculum University

- Created and staffed master schedules for English and Language courses and faculty
- Supervised department of seven fulltime and part-time faculty
- Prepared assessment documents for English programs
- Maintained department Canvas page and lead department meetings
- Oversaw curriculum and budgets for programs in English and Languages
- Organized textbook and readers lists for university bookstore
- Liaised with the school of education on behalf of the English education program

Chair of the English and Fine Arts Department (2018 – 2021) *Tusculum University*

- Created and staffed master schedules for English and Fine Arts courses and faculty
- Supervised department of 15+ fulltime and part-time faculty
- Prepared assessment documents for English programs
- Maintained department Canvas page and lead department meetings
- Oversaw curriculum and budgets for programs in English and Fine Arts
- Organized textbook and readers lists for university bookstore
- Liaised with the school of education on behalf of the English education program

Nonfiction Editor (Aug 2009 – Dec 2024) *Tusculum Review*

International Literary Journal housed at Tusculum University

- Considered and accepted essays for publication in annual publication
- Supervised assistant/student nonfiction editor in layout of accepted works
- Proofread and copyedited accepted essays according to CMS and house style
- Represented *The Tusculum Review* at annual AWP Conference and Bookfair as needed

Chair of the Programs and Policies Committee (2015 – 2017) *Tusculum University*

- Prepared and distributed agenda and proposals for monthly meetings
- Chaired meetings discussing new programs, courses, and policies
- Presented committee decisions to the full faculty during quarterly meetings

Faculty Adviser (2009-2017) *Pioneer Frontier and Frontier Magazine*

Student newspaper and later, student magazine, available in print and online, published by Journalism and Professional Writing students at Tusculum College, now University

- Advised student editors regarding format and schedule of publications
- Managed the annual budget for the *Pioneer Frontier and Frontier Magazine*
- Performed final copyedit of all stories and layout before going to press

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Dr. David Lazar, Essayist, Editor, Former Professor, Guggenheim Fellow 2015
 Editor, *Hotel Amerika*; Co-editor, *21st Century Essays*, Ohio State University Press
 davidalazar@gmail.com

Dr. Kurtis Miller, Professor
 Chair of Communication & Fine Arts, Tusculum University, Greeneville, Tennessee
 (423) 636-7300 extension 5783
 kdmiller@tusculum.edu

Mr. Wayne Thomas, Former Dean, College of Civic and Liberal Arts
 Former Professor, Creative Writing, Tusculum University, Greeneville, Tennessee
 wthomas@tusculum.edu