

# SARAH N. SHAHAN

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## EDUCATION

M.A. in Tolkien Studies, Signum University 2022 (in progress)

M.A. in English, Azusa Pacific University 2020  
Emphasis in Medieval Literature and Linguistics

B.A. in English, Azusa Pacific University 2019  
Emphasis in Teaching

Minor in Biblical Studies, Azusa Pacific University 2019  
Emphasis in Old Testament Texts

SCIO Programme at Oxford University, Wycliff Hall 2018, 2020  
Psychology and Literature  
Gothic Literature  
J.R.R. Tolkien: The Creation of Other Worlds  
Special Authors: Tolkien

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

Fulbright Grant Recipient 2020: English Teaching Assistant in the Czech Republic

## PUBLICATIONS

"The Service of Samwise: Heroism, Imagination, and Restoration," *Mallorn Journal of the Tolkien Society*, no. 62, 2021.

"Joyous Turns: Episodic, Fatal, and Ultimate Eucatastrophes in The Lord of the Rings," *Anor Journal of The Cambridge Tolkien Society*, is. 56, 2020.

"If I Listen to the Poets," *The West Wind Magazine*. 2020. (Poetry)

"Four Sisters," *The West Wind Magazine*. 2020. (Short Story, Fiction)

"When Your Daddy's an Immigrant," *The West Wind Magazine*. 2019. (Short Story, Memoir)

"There is a River," *The West Wind Magazine*, 2019. (Chapter excerpt)

"Cancer Kid," *The Odyssey Journal*. 2017. (Short Story, Non Fiction)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- 1) Medieval English Literature
- 2) Tolkien Studies
- 3) History of the English Language and Linguistics
- 4) Gothic Literature 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century Prohibition and Transgression

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

Conference of Christian Literature, Azusa, California, 2020

- “That Which is Holy: Apocalyptic Language in Winner and O’Connor”

Acacia Group Annual Graduate Conference, Fullerton, California, 2020

- “Beyond the Shire: Tolkien’s Connection Between Geographical and Cultural Boundaries”

The 29<sup>th</sup> International Virginia Woolf Conference, Cincinnati, OH, 2019

- “Dignity of a Hurting Mind: Virginia Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway*”

The Mid Western Conference on British Studies, Chicago, IL, 2019

- “Walpole’s Convention and Austen’s Parody: Female Friendships in Gothic Literature”

## EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor of English at Azusa Pacific University, Azusa Fall 2021

- WRIT 110
  - This course serves as the first step within APU’s writing composition program for both English major students and general education. The purpose of WRIT 110 is to guide students on how to write various types of essays and professional documents in order to effectively navigate both college level writing requirements and world applications.

Adjunct Professor of English at California Baptist University, Riverside Fall 2020

- ENG 113
  - This course serves as the foundation upon which students build writing skills for other college courses, career goals, and personal expression. The purpose of English 113 is to teach students to become more effective writers and to prepare them for college level writing.

Graduate Writing Coach at Azusa Pacific University Writing Center 2020

- Writing Coach with emphases in style and format, literary analysis, and rhetorical structure

#### Graduate Writing and Research Assistant 2019-2020

- Assisting Dr. Carole Lambert of Azusa Pacific University in researching for her new book entitled *From Proverbs to Parables: Jesus as an Artist*
- Researching Hebrew and Greek texts, etymology, and Christian imagination

#### Teacher's Assistant, 2016-2020

- Assisting professor in Psychology courses such as PSYCH 290 (Human Growth and Development) and PSYCH 450 (Counseling)
- Assisting professor in English courses such as ENG 402 (Principles of Language)

#### Guest Lecturer, Azusa Pacific University 2019

- Writing Composition (ENG 111): Teaching and discussing the definitions of plagiarism, how to avoid it, and why it is necessary
- Poetry (ENG 3XX): Lesson on poetic structure and context in works by Robert Frost and Karl Sandburg

#### Dance Instructor at Sierra Madre Dance Center, 2014-2020

- Ballet teacher at private company in Sierra Madre, CA
- Experience working with students ages 3 through 16
- Creative, imaginative, and kinesthetic learning
- Adaptive in using language that communicates difficult material and movement to various age groups across several genres (ballet, tap, jazz, contemporary)

#### Guest Speaker, San Marino High School 2018

- Invited to teach at San Marino High School's A.P. English Literature Course
- Lesson on "Breaking Away from the Five Paragraph Theme"
- Guiding graduating students through the transition of high school writing to college writing structure and rhetoric
- Focus on the differences between single paragraphs vs. "chunks" of a paper

#### Student Teacher of Math and English at St. Francis of Rome School, Azusa, CA. 2015, 2018.

- Fourth Grade math student teacher, 2015
- Middle School English student teacher, 2018
  - Lessons on writing, reading, and interpreting fables

Student Teacher of English at Slauson Middle School, Azusa, CA. 2017.

- Lessons on characterization, plot, interpretation, and symbolic meaning within certain texts
- Lessons on writing essays, focusing on writing structure and language
- Lesson on plot and characterization in *An Egyptian Cinderella*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UFpWYD5la0>

Student Teacher for C.H.A.M.P. Guidance of Fourth Graders at Charles H. Lee Elementary School, Azusa, CA. 2017.

- Weekly lessons on the importance of a college education and steps taken towards education

SAT/ACT Writing Tutor, 2017-18.

- Writing coach and tutor for standardized tests

English Tutor, 2014-2017

- Private tutor focusing on writing styles, structure, and reading comprehension
- Ages of students ranging from first grade through high school seniors

## **MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS**

Alpha Chi Academic Fraternity

National Society of Leadership and Success

## **AWARDS**

Recipient of Fulbright Grant to Czech Republic, English Teaching Assistantship 2020-2021 (POSTPONED due to COVID-19)

Annual Esselstrom Prize 2019 (Creative Writing)

Magna Cum Laude 2019 (B.A)

La Verna Satre Teaching Award and Scholarship

Director's Scholarship at Azusa Pacific University

Azusa Pacific University Academic Grant

Volunteer Commitment Award 2015-2018 through the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Seminars (Los Angeles)

Dean's List Award Fall 2015 through Spring 2019

## **LANGUAGES**

English (native, fluent)

Arabic (native, spoken)

Spanish (conversational, spoken and written)

## **THESIS AND GRADUATE COURSEWORK**

M.A. thesis, Azusa Pacific University, "Nymphes, Faeries, and Dracas: The Creative Histories of Erdè." Creative Portfolio supplemented by analytical commentary. Portfolio consists of several short poems (<100 lines), three long poems (>300 lines), and several short stories. Each overlap and work together to build the world and history of Erdè. Foundations of each piece are based on Medieval tropes, rhetoric, poetic structures, themes, and language. Committee: Derek Updegraff (Dept. of English), Thomas Allbaugh (Dept. of English), and Emily Griesinger (Dept. of English).

M.A. coursework. 30+ units (semester). Multiple seminars in literature, linguistics, creative writing (fiction and poetry), and pedagogy (adult and youth audiences). Seminar topics include Theology and Literature, British Literature, American Literature, Creative Writing and Rhetoric, and Christian Imagination.

M.A. Independent Course of Study: Old English Literature and Linguistics. Translating Old English poetry such as Exeter Riddles, *Beowulf*, *Deor*, and *Judith*. Translating Old English prose such as *Juliana* and other saints' lives texts. Focus on Medieval culture and linguistics. Final paper on the connection between the nature allegories ("The Whale," "The Phoenix," "The Panther," and "The Partridge" ) and Medieval Christian perspectives found in *Beowulf*.

## **REFERENCES**

Available Upon Request