

AISHA SHARIF

EDUCATION

June 2006 M.F.A. in Creative Writing (Poetry), Indiana University,
Bloomington, Indiana

Title of MFA Thesis: Under Veils, a collection of poems

Director: Maura Stanton

Committee Members: Catherine Bowman, Scott Sanders

May 2003 B.A. in English, Religious Studies minor, Rhodes College,
Memphis
Tennessee Cum Laude

TEACHING INTERESTS

Creative Writing: Poetry, Fiction, and Nonfiction

African American Literature

Islam; Muslim Women

Developmental Writing & College Composition

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Aug. 2015-

Present

Professor, Metropolitan Community College, Longview, Lee's
Summit, MO

Composition I & II – Fall 2015; Spring 2016; Fall 2016; Spring
2017

Designing and facilitating introductory composition
courses in which students transition from reading and
writing personal essays into argumentative, objective
writing.

Aug. 2010-

May 2015 Adjunct Assistant Professor, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS

Composition 1 – Fall 2013

Designed freshman course in the composition of academic nonfiction prose including personal and analytical essays. Introduced students to research and MLA source integration.

Writing Strategies – Spring 2014, Spring 2013, Fall 2012, Spring 2012, Fall 2011, Fall 2010

Facilitated courses that assisted students in developmental writing. Focused on sentence and paragraph building, basic grammar review, and multi-draft writing. Met a variety of learning styles, levels, and needs.

Introduction to Writing – Fall 2014, Fall 2012, Spring 2011

Assisted students in transitioning from paragraph building to essay writing through daily discussion of model essays, elements of craft, and peer review. Students learned various modes of essay writing.

Apr. 2013 Instructor, "The Craft of Crafting Poetry: When It's Time to Roll Up Your Sleeves," Kansas City, MO

Co-developed and facilitated four-part workshop series in honor of National Poetry Month sponsored by American Jazz Museum. Sessions included writing exercises, lectures, & close-reads of student poems.

Jan. 2011-

May 2012 Adjunct Instructor, Park University, Parkville, MO

First Year Writing Seminar II: Academic Research and Writing – Fall 2011, Spring 2012

Crafted 2nd year composition course on research and academic essay writing. Course readings covered various academic genres. Course concluded with reflective portfolio.

First Year Writing Seminar I: Critical Reading, Writing, and Thinking – Spring 2011

Instructed composition course that stressed writing-as-thinking. Students wrote various personal essays with attention to audience and purpose. Course emphasized the writing process, culminating in a final portfolio.

June 2011–

July 2011 Instructor, UpWard Bound Summer Academy, University of Missouri

Kansas City, Kansas City, MO

African American Literature: Identity on the Page

Designed survey course of African American literature. High school students discussed short stories, poems, personal essays and visual texts and wrote weekly responses to assigned readings.

June 2009 –

July 2009 Instructor, Summer Writing Institute, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN

Fiction Writing Workshop

Instructed high school students in college-level course on fiction writing. Emphasized daily writing exercises, analysis of classic and modern short stories, and revision of student work.

Aug. 2006 –

June 2009 Instructor, Whitfield School, St. Louis, MO

Advanced Seminar in Literature and Composition

Developed curriculum for twelfth grade English course including the composition of personal and analytical essays, poetry, and visual analysis. Emphasized daily discussion and process-based writing.

Aug.2003-

May 2006 Associate Instructor, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
Creative Writing (Poetry) – Spring 2006, Fall 2005, Summer 2005

Designed curriculum and facilitated lessons for weekly workshop-based course on the writing of poetry, with specific focus on craft, form, and writing as a process.

Creative Writing (Fiction) – Spring 2005

Developed curriculum and instructed lessons for weekly course on fiction writing. Emphasis on reading diverse array of short stories, engaging in writing exercises, workshop and revision.

Elementary Composition – Spring 2005, Fall 2004

Implemented weekly lessons and assignments in the art of essay writing. Introduced students to analysis via written and visual texts. Special attention devoted to strengthening skills via writing in stages and revision.

Introduction to Creative Writing – Spring 2004, Fall 2003

Introduced students to basic techniques of poetry and fiction writing in consultation with senior instructor. Responsible for leading, grading, and implementing assignments for two weekly discussion sections.

June 2004–

July 2004 Instructor, UpWard Bound Summer Academy, LeMoyne-Owen College, Memphis, TN

Instructed high school summer students in Latin and Etymology lessons. Organized creative writing activities collected in original student handbook. Mentored and prepared first generation college students.

June 2002–

July 2002 Summer Teaching Intern, Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire

Assisted mentor in leading discussions for college level summer Poetry and ESL Essay Writing courses. Designed and instructed curriculum for five class lessons. Attended seminars on the art of teaching.

PUBLICATIONS

Poetry – Periodicals

- "Accent." *Halal If you Hear Me*. Forthcoming.
- "Hot Combs and Hijabs." *Halal If You Hear Me*. Forthcoming.
- "To Muslims Who Do Not Say, 'Salaam.'" *Sapelo Square*. Dec. 2015.
<https://sapelosquare.com/2015/12/08/to-muslims-who-do-not-say-salaam/>
- "You Try to Bring Flowers." *Cave Canem Fellows Anthology XIII*. Willow Books. 2015.
- "Why I Can Dance Down A Soul Train Line and Still Be Muslim," *Rattle*. Ed. Timothy Green. Studio City, CA: The Rattle Foundation. Fall 2014. Vol. 20, No. 3. pp.49-51.
- "Black Islam," *The Muslim Journal*. Chicago: Muslim Journal Enterprises, Inc. June 2013. pp.11
- "The Fitting Room," *Crab Orchard Review*. Ed. Allison Joseph. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Winter/Spring 2013. pp.124-125.
- "To The White Boy Who Pulled Off My Hijab in 7th Grade Gym," *Crab Orchard Review*. Ed. Allison Joseph. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Winter/Spring 2013. pp. 126-128.
- "Security," *Tidal Basin Review*. Tidal Basin Review. Summer 2012. pp. 62
https://issuu.com/tidalbasin/docs/tidalbasinreviewsummer2012?e=1698550/2_613330
- "How To Wear Hijab," *Tidal Basin Review*. Tidal Basin Review. Summer 2012. pp.61
https://issuu.com/tidalbasin/docs/tidalbasinreviewsummer2012?e=1698550/2_613330

"Layl-tul-Qadr" *CALYX Journal*. Ed. C.Lill Ahrens & et al. N.p.
Winter 2012. pp. 62.

"Letters to Parkway," *Tidal Basin Review* Ed. Randall Horton.
Washington D.C: Tidal
Basin Press. Fall/Winter 2011. pp. 66-81.

"In the Parking Lot of a Houston Wal-Mart," *Mythium* Ed. Ronald
David & Crystal Wilkinson. Wind Publications. Summer
2010. pp. 63.

"Moonwalker" *Suss Literary Magazine*. Suss. Fall 2009.

"Puberty" *Suss Literary Magazine*. Suss. Fall 2009

"Michael Knows" *Suss Literary Magazine* Suss. Fall 2009

"A Hijab of My Own," *Callaloo*. Ed. Charles Henry Rowell.
Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press. Fall 2008.
pp. 1124.

"How To Piss Off Your Mother," *Poemmemoirstory*. Ed. Linda Frost.
Spring 2006. pp. 40.

"When I Was 13," *Touchstone*. Ed. Dennis Etzel Jr. Manhattan, KS:
Kansas State University. Spring 2006. pp. 10.

"Under Veils," *Touchstone* Ed. Dennis Etzel Jr. Manhattan, KS:
Kansas State University. Spring 2006. pp. 12.

"Iddah," *Muslim WakeUp!* Winter 2005.

Nonfiction – Periodicals

"Faith and Family." *St. Louis Magazine* Dec. 2008: pp. 59-63.

CREATIVE READINGS

- May 2017 Featured Poet, "Riverfront Reading Series," The Writers Place, Kansas City, MO
- Jun. 2015 Featured Poet, "University Welcome and Opening Poetry" session, Women of Color Leadership Conference, University of Missouri Kansas City, MO
- Mar. 2015 Featured Poet via Skype, "Poems of the Spirit," Palm Beach Poetry Festival, Delray Beach, FL
- Feb. 2015 Reader, "Black Poets Speak Out," The Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, MO
- Apr. 2013 Featured Poet, "Cave Canem St. Louis Reading – Carl Philips and Adrian Matejka Headline," Vaughn Cultural Center, St. Louis, MO
- Mar. 2013 Featured Poet, "Cave Canem Fellows Off-Site Reading at AWP," Simmons College, Boston, MA
- May 2012 Featured Poet, "Johnson County Community College Performing Arts Series - English Faculty Recite Poetry," Barnes and Noble, Leawood, KS
- Apr. 2012 Host and Featured Faculty Poet, "Johnson County Community College Student Creative Writing Reading," Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS
- May 2011 Reader, "Ghosts Over Water" (collaborative renga), America Now and Here, Kansas City, MO
- Apr. 2011 Featured Poet, "Jazz Poetry Jams Series", American Jazz Museum, Kansas City, MO
- Feb. 2011 Featured Poet, "Hearing Voices/ Seeing Visions: Cave Canem Reading at Mizzou," Missouri University, Columbia, MO
- Sept. 2009 Featured Poet, "Alumnae Poetry Reading," Rhodes College, Memphis, TN

PRESENTATIONS

- Jun. 2015 Panel Presenter, "Harnessing Your Creative Spirit," Women of Color Leadership Conference, University of Missouri Kansas City, MO
- Mar. 2015 Panel Presenter via Skype, "Poems of the Spirit," Palm Beach Poetry Festival, Delray Beach, FL
- Feb. 2015 Presenter via Skype, "Best Revision Practices," Senior Seminar in Creative Writing Class, The State University of New York, Geneseo, Rochester, NY
- Mar. 2013 Presenter, "Educational Legacy and Modernity: A Balancing Act," Midwest Leadership Conference, St. Louis, MO
- Mar. 2012 Presenter: "The Muslim Instructor as Text: Sharing the Private to Teach the Public." Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), St. Louis, MO.
- Mar. 2008 Panel Presenter: "Muslim Women in the Media." Sponsored by The International League of Muslim Women, Inc., Memphis, TN Chapter. Memphis, TN
- Apr. 2006 Panel Presenter: "Writing in the Gap: Persona Poems." New Directions in African American Literature, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.
- Dec. 2005 Presenter: "What is Poetry Doing Here?: A Survey of 21st Century Muslim Poets" National Young Adult Association Conference, Kansas City, MO
- Oct. 2002 Panel Presenter: "Ben Johnston's 'To Penshurst'." Rhodes College British Studies Colloquium, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- Feb. 2016 Featured Profile. "I am: Muslim." The Kansas City Star. 21 Feb. 2016.
- Dec. 2015 Featured Poet. "A Poem and Interview with Aisha Sharif." Sapelo Square. 8 Dec. 2015.
<https://sapelosquare.com/2015/12/08/to-muslims-who-do-not-say-salaam/>
- Mar. 2015 Nominated for Pushcart Prize in Poetry, "Why I Can Dance Down a Soul Train Line..."
- Dec. 2011 Selected as the Fall/Winter 2011 Series Poet Center Feature, Tidal Basin Review
- Apr. 2010 Selected as a Cave Canem fellow
- Mar. 2008 Featured Instructor in "Lesson Plans: Portraits in learning at four area high schools," St. Louis Magazine. (March Issue)
- Mar. 2006 Touchstone Graduate Poetry Award
- Jun. 2005 Lynda Hull Memorial Scholarship, Indiana University Writers' Conference
- Aug. 2003
 -2004 Neal Marshall Graduate Fellowship, Indiana University, Bloomington, \$5,000

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Jun. 2016 Conference on Accelerated Development Education (CADE), Baltimore, MD
- Mar. 2016 The Association of Writing and Writers' Programs Conference (AWP), Los Angeles, CA

- Mar. 2013 The Association of Writing and Writers' Programs Conference (AWP), Chicago, IL
- Aug. 2012-
Dec. 2012 Adjunct Certification Training. Johnson County Community College. Overland Park, KS
- June 2012 Cave Canem Poetry Retreat, University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg, PA. Second Year Fellow
- May 2012 Professional Development Conference (Kansas City Professional Development Council), Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS
- Feb. 2012 The Association of Writing and Writers' Programs Conference (AWP), Chicago, IL
- Jun. 2010 Cave Canem Poetry Retreat, University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg, PA. First Year Fellow
- Apr. 2010 The Association of Writing and Writers' Programs Conference (AWP), Denver, CO
- Feb. 2009 The Association of Writing and Writers' Programs Conference (AWP), Chicago, IL
- Nov. 2007 National Association of Independent Schools' People of Color Conference (NAIS), Boston, MA
- Jun. 2005 Indiana University Writers' Conference, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

- Jan. 2016-
May 2016 Shorelines Faculty Advisor, Metropolitan Community College, Longview, Lee's Summit, MO
Advises journal of student creative work. Solicited submissions from student body, selected and guided student editors and graphic designer on copy and layout

design. Worked with administration on budgeting, printing and publicity of the journal.

Member of Professional Development Committee,
Metropolitan Community College, Longview, Lee's Summit,
MO

Working to approve and allot funding for faculty members seeking professional development opportunities.

Jan. 2012-

May 2012 Faculty Sponsor, Park University, Parkville, MO
Comedy Club & Debate Club

Advised two student-led organizations; provided guidance on their general operation and on establishing monthly events

Oct. 2009-

July 2010 Tutor, Project Success, Metropolitan Community College,
Kansas City, MO
Reading and Writing

Mentored and supported students in their reading and writing skills via 1:1 tutoring sessions.

Aug. 2007-

May 2009 Faculty Sponsor, Diversity Awareness Partnership, Whitfield
School, St. Louis, MO

Advised students participating in city-wide diversity program; coordinated school exchange program including tours, discussion, lunch, and diversity activities.

June 2003-

August 2003 Youth Programs Intern, National Conference for
Community and Justice (NCCJ), Memphis, TN
Assumed responsibility for programming and recruiting 28 teens for week long diversity camp. Reported on camp progress at board meetings and luncheons. Handled weekly organizational tasks for nonprofit company.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Jan. 2013-

Jan. 2014 Volunteer Tutor, Keeler's Women Center, Kansas City, KS
Easy English

Met with non-native English speakers for 1 ½ hours weekly to practice conversational English skills in non-threatening environment; increasing women's confidence as English speakers.

June 2010-

Feb. 2012 Member, Board of Trustees, Al-Inshirah Islamic Center, Kansas City, MO

Appropriated funds for various committees, events and operations. Conducted annual performance review & oversaw annual elections. Instrumental in revising the organization's bylaws.

Oct. 2007-

Jun. 2009 Member, Rhodes College Alumni, St. Louis, MO Chapter, St. Louis, MO

Helped coordinate and advertise alumni social events. Represented Rhodes College at local college fairs and private gatherings for prospective students.

Jan. 2005-

May 2006 President, Women's Committee, Islamic Center of Bloomington, Bloomington, IN

Organized educational and social activities and events for female members. Coordinated service projects and holiday festivities. Served as representative on community's executive board.

Aug. 2004-

May 2005 Volunteer, Area 10 Agency on Aging, Bloomington, IN

Phoned elderly on weekly basis to discuss health and social concerns. Served as companion and liaison for isolated senior citizens.