

Lauren V. Highsmith
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Education: Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 30322. PhD in English. Emory Graduate Diversity Fellow.

Hampton University, Hampton, VA, 23668. Honors College, William R. Harvey Leadership Institute; Graduate May 2015. G.P.A. 3.976.

Experience:

-Instructor at Atlanta Institute of Music and Media (Atlanta, GA, October 2018 - present)

Independently teach “finding Poetry in Songwriting”

-Research Assistant for Emory’s QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) Research Team (Atlanta, GA, September 2018 - present)

Assist with implementation of QEP assessment and research (which involves collecting and working with qualitative data); evaluate sample assignments using a given rubric; draft reports and/or presentations of results; maintain research records; assist in the development and coordination of program-related conferences, meetings, or events.

-Intern at Emory Center for Digital Scholarship (Atlanta, GA, September 2018 - present)

Learn and practice digital scholarship skills, theories, and methods relating to research and pedagogy, help faculty, staff, and students with digital research and pedagogy-related questions, work on research-related digital scholarship projects (currently aiding Regina Bradley in website development).

-Graduate Assistant for the UNCF Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Summer Institute (Atlanta, GA, June 2018)

Co-led discussion group of undergraduates from various HBCUs and the University of the Western Cape studying English, Philosophy, and Interdisciplinary Studies, participated in a roundtable discussion about graduate school life, demonstrated “micro-teaching” and gave feedback on undergraduate “micro-teaching” presentations, read and edited drafts of research prospectuses, held office hours, worked with Canvas, acted as chaperone for off-campus trips, met with other graduate assistants, PhDs, and administrators to discuss progress of students, advocated for students, mentored students

-Instructor at Emory University (Atlanta, GA, August 2017 – present)

Taught first-year writing:

Spring 2018 – organized an in-class mini-conference for students in the section, organized activities on and off campus for students, held film screenings, facilitated discussions, graded papers, held office hours for one-on-one meetings with students about writing and course material, took roll, worked with Canvas, mentored students

Fall 2017 – acted as administrator for class blog, organized activities on and off campus for students (also provided free access to ticketed events at Alliance Theater, Atlanta History Center, etc. and created networks for interviews and research opportunities), provided MARTA cards for students with mini-grant funds, facilitated discussions,

graded papers, held office hours for one-on-one meetings with students about writing and course material, took roll, worked with Canvas, mentored students

-Hiring Committee Member for Assistant Professor in African American Literature and Culture (jointly appointed in African American Studies and English) (Atlanta, GA, September 2017 – April 2018)

Provided graduate student perspective in hiring process, participated in interview process, helped to collect reviews from graduate students, met with candidates in the mornings and brought them from the Emory Conference Hotel to the main campus

-Archival Instruction Assistant at the Rose Library (formerly MARBL) (Atlanta, GA, January 2017 – May 2018)

Curated archival visits for particular class sessions, created and led interactive activities for students engaging with archival materials for class, discussed with professors possible activities and assignments to integrate archival materials into classes, pulled materials for archive sessions, worked with Aeon, collaborated with archive's instruction team, handled archival materials during large events at the Rose Library

-Teaching Assistant at Emory University (Atlanta, GA, January 2016 – present)

Facilitate discussions, teach classes/breakout sessions, grade papers, hold office hours for one-on-one meetings with students about writing and course material, take roll, and aid professor with Blackboard/Canvas

-Intern at Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers (Andover, MA, July 2014)

Facilitated discussions, learned about radical pedagogy, and prepared for graduate school through GRE preparation, Statement of Purpose advising, and coursework

-Researcher at Stanford University (Stanford, CA, June-August 2013)

Studied under musicologist Dr. Charles Kronengold for the Stanford SR-EIP with Leadership Alliance, refined research topics, took notes and performed close reading for Dr. Kronengold's research of Ralph Ellison, and presented at LANS in Stamford, Connecticut and at Stanford University

-Tutor at Hampton University's Writing Lab (Hampton, VA, April 2012 – April 2015)

Aided students in any part of their writing process, tutored students in grammar, writing, and writing formats, and performed managerial duties as director of the writing lab and assist advising professor (May 2013 – April 2015).

-Researcher at Emory University (Atlanta, GA, June 2012)

Studied in a cohort led by Dr. Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper for the UNCF MMUF Summer Institute, refined research topics in modernism, and presented a mock-lecture on Maurice Ravel's musical interpretation of Mallarme's "Soupir"

-Camp Counselor at Yashim Studios, founded by President/CEO Nova Tate, director, choreographer, and vocalist (Washington, D.C., June-July 2011)

Mentored older youth, performed warm-ups with youth, and assisted youth with creative writing assignments

-Assistant to Entertainment Publicist Carla Sims, Frederic Yonnet International Music Group (FYIMG); Vacation Rental By Owner (VRBO); Carla's Public Relations (CPR) (Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C., May-July 2010)

Performed duties as webmaster for Frederic Yonnet, professional harmonicist, acted as manager of merchandise team, provided secretarial services, and temporarily managed VRBO

Grants and Fellowships:

- CFDE Mini-Grant for First-Year Teachers** (August 2017)
- Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers** (April 2014)
- Leadership Alliance Fellowship** (February 2013)
- UNCF Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship** (April 2012)
- William R. Harvey Leadership Institute** (September 2010)

Classes and Teaching Assistantships:

- AAS/ENG 261W “Survey of African American Literature Before 1900”** (Emory University, GA, Fall 2018)
 - Professor Michelle Gordon, African American Studies Department
- ENG 181 “Adventures in Awkwardness”** (Emory University, GA, Spring 2018)
 - Lauren Highsmith, English Department
- AAS/HIS 239 “History of African Americans since 1865”** (Emory University, GA, Spring 2018)
 - Professor Carol Anderson, African American Studies Department
- ENG 101 “In My White Tee: The Freshman Review”** (Emory University, GA, Fall 2017)
 - Lauren Highsmith, English Department
 - Featured in the August 2017 Emory Report as one of Emory’s “Cool Courses”
- “Ella Fitzgerald, Improvisation, and Our Contemporary Moment”** (Harper Archer Middle School, GA, Summer 2017)
 - Mini-class for volunteer project, AMMA
- ENG 256W “British Literature Since 1600”** (Emory University, GA, Spring 2017)
 - Professor Paul Kelleher, English Department
- AAS 261W “Survey of African American Literature 1746-1900”** (Emory University, GA, Fall 2016)
 - Professor Nagueyalti Warren, African American Studies Department
- ENG 250W “American Literature, Beginnings to 1865”** (Emory University, Atlanta, GA, Fall 2016)
 - Professor Mirja Lobnik, English Department
- AAS 385/ ENG 389 “Keeping It Real”: Hip Hop Music 1979-1996 and Black Political Critique”** (Emory University, Atlanta, GA, Spring 2016)
 - Professor Lawrence Jackson, African American Studies Department and English Department

Conferences and Papers/Presentations/Proposals/Publications/Projects:

- “Forever”** (July 2018)
 - First single from *From Afar* LP (lyrics, composition, performance, production)
- (Un) Moorings: An Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference** (Atlanta, GA, April 2018)
 - Presented “Beyoncé Reborn: *Lemonade* as Spiritual Enlightenment” (PowerPoint and oral presentation)
- Annual English Graduate Recruitment Colloquium** (Atlanta, GA, February 2018)

- Presented “Beyoncé Reborn: Understanding *Lemonade* as a Story of Spiritual Enlightenment” (PowerPoint and oral presentation)
- Mind Bubble: Civic Engagement Workshop** (Atlanta, GA, November 2017)
 - Spoke on a panel to discuss civic engagement and music with high school students
- Let’s Make a Slave (featuring D. Woods)** (Atlanta, GA, September 2017)
 - Organized event and facilitated discussion with artists and audience
- Positive Music for Positive Minds** (Washington, DC, May 2017)
 - Taught a songwriting and producing session and spoke on a panel about music and messages for students at Woodrow Wilson High School
- College Language Association Conference** (Columbia, MO, April 2017)
 - Presented and participated in “Afro-Creole Ritual in Black Atlantic Women’s Literature – An Interdisciplinary Studies Roundtable in Francophone and African American Studies”
- African-American Arts: Activism and Aesthetics Conference** (Lewisburg, PA, September/October 2016)
 - Presented ““Still Underwater: The Simbi’s Plans and the Community’s Healing” (PowerPoint and musical and oral presentation)
- DuBois Student Research Symposium** (Atlanta, GA, April 2016)
 - Presented “DuBois’s Comet and the Failure of Reconstruction” (oral presentation)
 - Participated in “Social Movements – Diversity Not Dress Code,” “Double Consciousness and Post Racial Society,” “The Great Debate: DuBois and Washington,” “Do Black Lives Matter?,” “The State of Black Women and Men in the 21st Century,” “Popular Culture” (panel discussions)
- Discourse of Disaster Capstone Presentations** (Atlanta, GA, April 2016)
 - Presented “W.E.B. DuBois’s Comet and the Failure of Reconstruction” (PowerPoint and oral presentation)
- Westlake High School Magnet Lunch 'n Learn - Audacious Millennials** (Atlanta, GA, April 2016)
 - Participated in Q&A sessions about Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Predominantly White Institutions, graduate studies, preparation for college, and the climate of academia (panel discussions)
- Women Writing the Harlem Renaissance: A Graduate Student Conference** (Atlanta, GA, December 2015)
 - Presented “The Words and the Bees: Understanding Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God* through the Metaphors of ‘Sun-Up and Bloom’ and ‘Shore and Horizon’”
- Hampton Roads Flute Faire** (Norfolk, VA, February 2015)
 - Played concert flute in C and alto flute in G in the Hampton Roads Flute Choir
- The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Journal 2014**
 - Published “Bloodlines: The Significance of Blood in the Battle Royal” (page 37)
- MMUF Southeastern Regional Conference** (Durham, NC, November 2014)
 - Presented “Bloodlines” (PowerPoint presentation)
- Freddye T. Davy Honors College Capstone Presentations** (Hampton, VA, April 2014)

- Presented “Awkward, Black, and Transcendent: A Look at Issa Rae in Divergent Black America” (PowerPoint and oral presentations)
- College Language Association Conference** (New Orleans, LA, March 2014)
 - Presented “On Being Black and Blue: Five Different Recordings of the Invisible Man’s Blues”
- Hampton Roads Flute Faire** (Norfolk, VA, March 2014)
 - Played concert flute in C in the Hampton Roads Flute Choir
- Intercollegiate Music Association Conference** (Elizabeth City, NC, February 2014)
 - Played first-chair, piccolo
- MMUF Southeastern Regional Conference** (Atlanta, GA, November 2013)
 - Presented “PROJECT Trio, “Peter and the Wolf”, and Cultural Appropriation” (PowerPoint presentation)
- UNCF/Mellon Programs Conference** (Atlanta, GA, October 2013)
 - Presented on Undergraduate Research Panel
- **Leadership Alliance's Summer Research Early Identification Program Research Fair at Stanford University** (Stanford, CA, August 2013)
 - Presented “PROJECT Trio, “Peter and the Wolf”, and Cultural Appropriation” (poster presentation)
- Leadership Alliance National Symposium** (Stamford, CT, July 2013)
 - Presented “The Divide: Modernism and Afro-Modernism” (PowerPoint presentation)
- College Language Association Conference** (Lexington, KY, April 2013)
 - Presented “Inspiring Inferiority” (oral presentation on Ernest J. Gaines’s *A Lesson Before Dying*)
- Intercollegiate Music Association Conference** (Petersburg, VA, February 2013)
 - Played first-chair, piccolo
- UNCF Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Summer Institute** (Atlanta, GA, June 2012 and Hampton, VA, October 2012)
 - Wrote “Providing “Sound” Evidence: An Analysis of Ibsen’s Peer Gynt, Its Musical Translation by Grieg, and Their Shared Symbolist Themes” (Proposal)
 - Presented “Tone in Literature and Music” (PowerPoint presentation)
- Intercollegiate Music Association Conference** (Durham, NC, February 2012)
 - Played first-chair, piccolo
- Intercollegiate Music Association Conference** (Hampton, VA, February 2011)
 - Played first-chair, first flute

Professional Affiliations:

- GrammyU
- ASCAP
- Gamma Iota Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity
- Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society
- Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society
- Golden Key Honor Society

Activities:

- Performer and recording artist (2010-present)
- Black Studies Collective, Treasurer (Fall 2015 – present)
- Hampton University Bands, flute and piccolo player and vocalist (Symphonic Winds, First Flute/Principal Piccolo Concert Band, Principal Piccolo; Flute Choir; Jazz Ensemble) (Fall 2010 – April 2015)
- Kappa Delta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society (Spring 2013)
- Gamma Iota Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Keeper of Muses and Graces (teach ritual music, teach and write performance music, lead chapter songs) (Fall 2012 – Spring 2015), Custodian (holds and sets up ritual materials) (Spring 2014-Spring 2015)
- Mu Gamma Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota, Corresponding Secretary (Spring 2012), Miss SAI and Recital Chairwoman (produce concerts, organize recitals, schedule and run musical rehearsals, teach ritual music and performance music, write and arrange vocal music, direct instrumental and vocal performances, schedule and manage SAI's ushering services for the Hampton University Music Department, coach vocalists and instrumentalists, and aid with stage presence) (2012-Spring 2014), President (acts as executive power of chapter, leads chapter meetings, counsels with advisors and province officer) (Spring 2014-Spring 2015)
- Alpha Beta Zeta Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta International English Honors Society, member (Fall 2012 – Spring 2013), Vice President (assist President with organizing events and volunteer activities for the chapter) (Fall 2013 – Spring 2015)
- Hampton University Renaissance Scholars Program (prepare myself for prestigious scholarships and begin application processes for the Truman and the Rhodes) (Spring 2011 – Spring 2015)
- Golden Key International Honour Society (Fall 2011)
- Berklee College of Music Summer Programs, Vocal Summit and Stage Performance Workshops (2009)
- All County Band, 3rd Chair/1st chair Second Flute; Auditioned for PG Philharmonic Orchestra (2008)
- Salute to the Beijing Olympics (2008)

Volunteer Activities: Community service with AMMA, Stepp Stewart, Black Graduate Student Association at Emory University, UNCF Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Hampton University Music Department, Hampton University's Honors College, Yashim Studios, and MetroStage.