

**Jason Nicholas Vasser-Elong**  
**Curriculum Vitae**

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Seasoned, interdisciplinary higher education professional with over ten years of collegiate experience as a faculty member, workshop developer and researcher, with additional expertise in Diversity Equity and Inclusion, grant management, campus and community engagement.

**Education**

- 2021-2024 University of Missouri – St. Louis  
Ed.D., Higher Education – Educational Practice, ΚΑΠ  
Dissertation title: STEMInism: Analyzing Factors that Improve the Retention of Women in STEM.  
Concentration: Student Retention and Matriculation
- 2012-2014 University of Missouri – St. Louis  
M.F.A., Creative Writing, ΣΤΑ  
Thesis: Shrimp: Poetry that Analyzes Identity in a post-colonial context.  
Concentration: African American Literature
- 2008-2012 University of Missouri – St. Louis  
B.A. Major: Cultural Anthropology, ΛΑ  
Capstone: Rhyme & Reason: Poetics as Societal Dialogue  
Concentration: African Diaspora Studies

**Research and Teaching Interests**

**The African Diaspora**

- a) African American Literature
- b) Epistemology of Black Experience

**Curriculum Development**

- a) Arts-based pedagogy
- b) Abolitionist pedagogy

**Student Retention**

- a) Women in STEM
- b) Student Success

**Literacy Studies**

- a) Critical Discourse Analysis
- b) Poetic praxis

**Professional Development**

NCCJ – St. Louis: Certified Diversity Facili-Trainer  
Certificate in University Teaching: UMSL  
Missouri Historical Society: America I AM: The African American Imprint – Internship  
Diversity Awareness Partnership: Diversity Training  
The Center for Human Origin and Cultural Diversity – Internship  
Regional Arts Commission: Community Arts Training Fellow

### **Competitive grants awarded**

2023 Focus on Teaching and Technology (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Award) for Instruction. Awarded.

The University of Missouri South African Education Program Award. Awarded.

Regional Arts Commission Artist Support Grant. Awarded.

2021 General Anthropology Division: Travel Award, American Anthropological Association. Awarded.

### **Awards**

2025 Lee D. Baker Presidential Service Award, Association of Black Anthropologists.

2022 Best of Sapiens, 'Maize and Okra', Poetry.

2014 Margaret Bush Wilson Scholar, supervised by Dr. Pricilla Dowden – White. Dept. of History: University of Missouri – St. Louis.

2012 Distinguished Service Award: Dept. of Sociology, Anthropology & Languages.

### **Grant Funding & Development**

2013-2025 Your Words STL: Developed funded programs  
Literary Arts Non-Profit  
Board Member  
Interim Executive Director

2016-2021 Midwest Artist Project Services: Community Support  
Grant Funding Organization  
Board Member

2012-2016 Missouri Arts Council: State arts funding organization  
Community Arts Grants  
Missouri Touring

### **Outreach Events**

2025 Saint Louis Art Museum  
Living With Art: Collaboration  
Poetry for the People: Program Development

Music at the Intersection  
The Shirley Bradley Price LeFlore Foundation  
Poetry in Motion

2024 Saint Louis Art Museum  
Art on the Move

- Diving With a Purpose  
Monrovia, Liberia  
The Search for the Guerreo: Data collection
- 2022 Missouri Humanities Council  
“Foodways to Culture”
- 2023 Diving With a Purpose  
The Search for the Guerreo: Program development  
  
Missouri Humanities Council. “Routes and Routes”.
- 2019 COCAedu professional development  
Workshop facilitator. COCAedu Summer Institute  
Lets’ WRAP

### **University-based symposia, panels, lectures**

- 2025 Presenter. “Cultural border Crossing: Reconciling Shared history” Belize Keeping Up with Language, Culture, Heritage, and the Arts (KULCHA) Symposium.

Presenter. American Anthropological Association’s Annual Meeting. Ghosts. “Identity at the Intersection: New Pathways Through Poetry”. Paper.

Panelist. American Anthropological Association’s Annual Meeting. Ghosts. (The George Stocking Jr. Symposium) The New Negro @ 100: Anthropology and The Anthology That Catapulted a Movement.

Feature. American Anthropological Association’s Annual Meeting. Ghosts. What Walks with Us Daily: Dialoguing on Poetics as Ethnological Praxis. Interview.

Organizer. American Anthropological Association’s Annual Meeting. Ghosts. Shadows: Addressing Our Past, Reconciling the Present within the African Diaspora. Oral Presentation.

Presenter: Music at the Intersection: Poetry Panel and Presentation.

- 2024 Presenter and Panelist. PROUD Oak Park Conference. Arts – Integration. Sponsored by Florissant Valley Community College.

Screening Session Panelist. BEAN: (Short Film Premier). Bean is the short story of the overwhelming obstacles to a basic task faced by a normal teenager in this painful examination of the humanity of a community torn apart by the violence that gave rise to a movement. St. Louis Central Library. Presenter.

“Cultural Border Crossing: Developing a Sustainable Educational Curricula for the African Diaspora.” Belize Keeping Up with Language, Culture, Heritage, and the Arts (KULCHA) Symposium.

Co – Presenter. “Cultural Border Crossing: Developing a Sustainable Educational Curricula for the African Diaspora.” Presented with Dr. Deneia Y. Fairweather. American Anthropological Association’s Annual Meeting.

Group facilitator. Improving the Retention for Colored STEM students. University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa.

Panelist. African Americans in History and the Arts, St. Louis Public Library.

Panelist. African Americans in History and the Arts. Black Faculty and Staff Association, University of Missouri – St. Louis.

2023 Panelist and presenter. The African in our American. African Roots and Heritage Foundation: Pan African Conference. The Department of African Literature and Civilizations. University of Yaoundé 1, Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Presenter and panelist. “Americanesque: Excerpts.” Poetry at the Point. Sponsored by the St. Louis Poetry Center.

Panelist. The Intersection of Art and Activism. African American History and the Arts. University of Missouri – St. Louis. Sponsored by the Black Faculty and Staff Association.

2021 Paper presentation. “Treading the Atlantic.” American Anthropological Association’s Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.

2018 Keynote Speaker. Gateway Writing Project: Conference on Writing. Writing with Intention. The University of Missouri – St. Louis. Sponsored by the Gateway Writers Conference.

Presenter. Gateway Writing Project: Conference on Writing. How Arts Stimulate Student Learning. University of Missouri – St. Louis.

2017 Panelist. Black Speculative Art Movement Conference, Harris – Stowe State University. Sponsored by the Department of Humanities.

Panelist. MO Assoc. of Community Arts Agencies Conference, Columbia, Missouri.

Panelist. Diversity Conference, Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri.

2015 Keynote Speaker. “Honoring Maya Angelou, St. Louis Poetry Center Spring Benefit”. Sponsored by the St. Louis Poetry Center.

- 2014 Presenter. LEAP Kickoff: Getting Involved on Campus, University of Missouri – St. Louis.
- Keynote Speaker. Epsilon Lambda Scholarship Foundation, Scholarship Banquet. Sponsored by the Epsilon Lambda Scholarship Foundation.
- Presenter. Leadership Retreat: Fraternity and Sorority Life. University of Missouri – St. Louis.
- Keynote Speaker. New Member Institute: Fraternity and Sorority Life, University of Missouri – St. Louis.
- 2013 Presenter. The University World View: Unity, Harmony, and Respect for Different Points of View, University of Missouri – St. Louis.
- Paper presentation. “Rhyme and Reason: Poetics as Societal Dialogue”, Undergraduate Research Symposium. University of Missouri – St. Louis
- 2012 Paper presentation. “Rhyme and Reason: Poetics as Societal Dialogue”, Departmental Thesis Presentation.
- Presenter. Applied Credit Program, University of Missouri – St. Louis.
- Presenter. First Year Experience, University of Missouri – St. Louis.
- Group facilitator. Imprint of Fatherhood: Missouri History Museum. America I AM: The African American Imprint Exhibit.
- 2011 Presenter. Shades of Brown: Office of Multicultural Relations, University of Missouri – St. Louis.
- 2010 Co – presenter. “Inspiring youth through The Center for Human Origin and Cultural Diversity”. American Anthropological Association’s Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. Co – presented with Dr. Jaqueline Lewis – Harris.
- 2009 Presenter. The Grey Area: Riverfront Radio.
- Poetry presentation. The Last Poets: Opening Poetry Performance. University of Missouri – St. Louis.
- 2008 Presenter. Celebrating a Culturally Rich Mosaic: St. Louis African Arts Festival.

## Teaching experience (\*Courses created)

*The University of Missouri – St. Louis*

### Modern Africa: From Colonies to Nations Department of History (Asynchronous)

This course uses film, fiction, music, and historical sources to explore the history of twentieth century Africa, focusing on African experiences of the colonial and postcolonial periods. This course fulfills the Cultural Diversity Requirement.

### From Civil Rights to Black Power: Department of History

This course highlights numerous activities, ideas, movement centers, and personalities central to the origins and development of the modern Civil Rights and Black Power movements. Primarily concerned with the roles of the African American masses, college students, and leadership in these movements, the course will analyze points of conflict, cooperation, and interaction as these took place between African Americans and the larger American society. This course presupposes some familiarity with the broad contours of recent United States history.

### English Composition: Department of English (Asynchronous)

This course focuses on writing and illiteracies in various contexts. Builds on intellectual maturity, knowledge, and abilities gained through prior university studies. Enhances analytical, communicative, persuasive, and explanatory capabilities. Includes complex readings and research.

### African & African Diaspora Studies: Department of History

I enhanced existing curriculum for this CORE course, designed for students pursuing a certificate in African Diaspora Studies. This course introduces students to the diverse discipline of African & African American Studies (aka Africana Studies or Black Studies), the interdisciplinary field of study dedicated to exploring the history, politics, religions, culture, and social movements of Africans in America and throughout the diaspora.

**Writing the City:** I enhanced existing curriculum of this junior level composition course by adding units on Cahokia Mounds and African American St. Louis History.

### Allies, Spies and Secret Friends \*

This examined how allyship has shaped the lives of important figures throughout history over space and time. Who helped Phillis Wheatley publish her book and cement her legacy as the first African American woman to publish a collection of poetry? How did a printing press aid the abolitionist movement? Who were the Freedom Riders? Who were some of the secret friends behind the scenes? These, and other questions are addressed as we learn how members of the White community have laid their lives and livelihoods on the line for Black Americans.

**Rhyme & Reason: African American Poets in Dialogue with Notions of Slavery, Identity, & Existence \*** This survey course examines African American poetic tradition from its beginnings in the 1700s to the present. This course explores, through poetry, the lived experiences of enslaved African Americans, whose works are read in dialogue with contemporary African American poets who write about issues relating to slavery. This survey course examines poetry from Phillis Wheatley, Jupiter Hammon, George Moses Horton and others who were enslaved

and their works are compared with contemporary writers such as Derek Wolcott, Rita Dove, Jericho Brown, and others. In addition to analytical essays, students will also write their own poetry centered in their lived experiences with identity and the complexities therein.

**Independent study: Supervised Student Research**

Over the course of three years, I supervised student independent research and encouraged student participation in the Undergraduate Research Symposium.

**Independent study: Honors Portfolio Writing (Hybrid)**

Over the course of three years, I supervised student professional development interview preparation, e-portfolio as well as resume development.

**Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies: Lecturer**

This core class introduces students to cultural, political and historical issues that shape gender. Through a variety of disciplinary perspectives in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, the course familiarizes students with diverse female and male experiences and gendered power relationships.

**Introduction to Feminist and Gender Theory: Lecturer**

This course serves as an initial intellectual investigation into gendered ideologies (such as the effects of race, ethnicity, nationality, socioeconomic class, sexuality, and religion) and functions as a bridge to later advanced gender theory and methods courses. Topics included interdisciplinary feminist theories (with a focus on gender equality), including masculinity theory, queer theory, muted group theory, and other evolving frameworks.

**Special Topics in Gender Studies: African American History**

This course selectively surveyed the experiences of African Americans from the period of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade to the late twentieth century. Among the topics covered: the development of the slave trade and the institutionalization of slavery, slave culture and resistance, the role of African Americans during the Civil War and Reconstruction period.

**University of Missouri – St. Louis Bridge Program/Intensive Writing Instructor**

Provides unique and comprehensive year-round pre-collegiate programming for St. Louis area high school students and parents.

*Harris-Stowe State University (Summer Bridge & Trio Academy)*

**English Composition & other ideas \***

This seminar style survey course is designed to offer high school students the rigor of the college classroom while also helping them understand the complexity and use of English as a mode of communication. Students can expect to learn how to craft an email to professors, develop their own writing process, understand the value of peer review, rhetoric, and the basic mechanics of grammar and citation methods.

**English Composition:** Emphasizes the process of writing effectively for a variety of audiences and purposes.

**Advanced Composition:** Builds upon the skills developed in English Composition I and focuses primarily upon the process of writing with sources.

**American Literature Beginnings to 1865 I:** This survey course examines American literature from its pre-colonial beginnings through the Civil War.

**American Literature 1865 to the present II:** This survey course is designed to cover the texts of the major authors in American literature from 1865 until the present day.

**Introduction to Literature:** Involved reading and writing about literature from around the world with an emphasis on literary elements and reader responses.

**Modern English Grammar:** Employs a seminar setting with student recitation and problem solving and includes three moderate exams to assess students on knowledge of useful paradigms.

**Themes & Topics in British Literature:** In the course students examined important aspects of British literature.

**Harris-Stowe State University's Hornet Summer Bridge Program/Writing Instructor:** Is a six-week residential experience that allows incoming first-year students to receive the tools necessary to have a successful transition from high school to college.

#### *Webster University*

**English Composition:** Emphasizes the process of writing effectively for a variety of audiences and purposes.

**Advanced Composition:** Builds upon the skills developed in English Composition I and focuses primarily upon the process of writing with sources.

#### **Courses in production**

- Across the water (with Dr. Deneia Y. Fairweather, John Jay College of Criminal Justice).
- Black and Creative: The Intersection of expression during the Black Arts Movement & Its 'South African' equivalent.

#### **Programming experience**

2025 *Lead Teaching Artist:* Art on the Move: St. Louis Art Museum

As a teaching artist, I written ekphrastic poetry in response to [Home#30](#). In addition, I have created and will participate in programming designed to uplift St. Louis residents affected by the tornados of May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

*Lead Teaching Artist:* Saint Louis Artworks

As Interim Executive Director of Your Words STL, I worked in collaboration with Creative Reaction Lab and Saint Louis Artworks (SLAW) to develop an anthology of poetry for student apprentices at SLAW. I created and led creative writing workshops, edited the manuscript and prepared *Let me introduce Myself* for publication.

- 2024 *Lead Teaching Artist: Art with Us: Saint Louis Art Museum*  
As a teaching artist for the Narrative Wisdom and African Arts exhibit at the Saint Louis Art Museum, I created interdisciplinary curricula, which included a series of art-based learning experiences for participating youth with [The Village](#).
- 2023 *Opportunity Scholars Program: University of Missouri-St. Louis*  
As faculty liaison to the St. Louis Scholars, a cohort of students who are finalists for the OSP Scholarship, I developed professional development and social activities for students.
- 2023 *The Search for the Guerreo: [Diving With a Purpose](#)*  
As Creative Writing Director, I developed a series of creative writing workshops and talking circles that related to the Slave Ship Guerreo for members of the DWP staff as well as the Youth Diving with a Purpose cohort of students.
- Visual poetry: Prison Performing Arts*  
Created creative writing workshops for participants of Prison Performing Arts. As a group, learners wrote poetry, workshopped their work and created visual art based on their poem.
- 2022 *Foodways to Culture: Missouri Humanities Council*  
As a presenter, I developed and moderated a creative writing workshop centered on foodways and the impact that food has as part of our culture. Participants reflected and wrote poetry and short essays on how the food they grew up eating has impacted their lives as adults.
- St. Louis Veterans Writers Workshop: Missouri Humanities Council.*  
As a presenter, I developed and moderated a writing workshop centered on processing trauma for Veterans. Participants reflected and wrote creatively about their experiences as veterans.
- 2021 *Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP): Webster University.*  
In collaboration with DAP, I created and facilitated a workshop as part of their “Give Respect, Give Respect” program. Participants included employees from the Saint Louis Zoo and the Missouri Botanical Gardens.
- 2021 *Presenter: Center of Creative Arts (COCAedu)*  
After piloting *Let’s Write Read Analyze & Process*, I presented to high school teachers as part of the COCAedu professional development training.

## Curriculum Development

### 2026 [From Civil Rights to Black Power](#)

I elevated this course with content relevant to how The Arts have also contributed to the Civil Rights Movement. This course highlights numerous activities, ideas, movement centers, and personalities central to the origins and development of the modern Civil Rights and Black Power movements. Primarily concerned with the roles of the African American masses, college students, and leadership in these movements, the course will analyze points of conflict, cooperation, and interaction as these took place between African Americans and the larger American society. This course presupposes some familiarity with the broad contours of recent United States history.

### Modern Africa: From Colonies to Nations

I elevated this course by adding more to the 8-week syllabus, building out a 16-week course. This course uses film, fiction, music, and historical sources to explore the history of twentieth century Africa, focusing on African experiences of the colonial and postcolonial periods. This course fulfills the Cultural Diversity Requirement.

### 2025 [English Composition & other ideas \\*](#)

This seminar style survey course is designed to offer high school students the rigor of the college classroom while also helping them understand the complexity and use of English as a mode of communication.

### 2024 [Across the water](#) (In-progress) Lead researcher for this new course in development with colleague Dr. Deneia Fairweather (John Jay College of Criminal Justice). We are currently collecting data for the course and will develop course materials post research.

### [Black and Creative: The Intersection of expression during the Black Arts Movement & 'Its South African' equivalent.](#) (In-progress)

With permission from the Robben Island Museum at the University of the Western Cape, I will compare the Arts Movement in Cape Town, South Africa to the Black Arts Movement in the United States of America. The focus of this research is to find out how art was used during these two pivotal moments in history and create a course to highlight how those movements were similar, different and how they brought communities together during moments of political unrest.

### 2023 [Ujamaa](#) (Collective Work and Responsibility)

In collaboration with [Diving With a Purpose](#), I developed an arts-based learning curriculum to aid in participant learning experiences as they related to the Spanish Pirate Ship Guerrero.

### 2022 [Allies, Spies and Secret Friends](#)

It is often said that history belongs to the victors, but this course challenges that notion and examines how allyship has shaped the lives of important figures throughout history over space and time.

2021 [Rhyme and Reason: African American Poets in Dialogue with Notions of Slavery, Identity and Existence.](#)

This survey course examines African American poetic traditions from its beginnings in the 1700s to the present. This course explores, through poetry, the lived experiences of enslaved African Americans, whose works will be read in dialogue with contemporary African American poets who write about issues relating to slavery.

2020 [Let's Write, Read, Analyze & Process \(Let's W.R.A.P.\)](#)

My student-centered curriculum is designed to engage student inquiry. Using what students already know about subject matter, my model aids with self-efficacy as students learn new concepts and ideas.

### Current Research Projects

*Poetry in community* – paper forthcoming

In connection with [Home #30](#), by Al Loving, that is currently on loan at the Saint Louis Art Museum, I wrote seven ekphrastic poems. The poetry is intended to uplift residents in the Saint Louis community after experiencing a tornado on May 16<sup>th</sup>. On Nov. 2, as part of *Art on the Move*, I wrote, shared, and lead teaching demonstrations with members of the community. Those poems are currently on display at the Education Gallery at the Saint Louis Art Museum.

*Across the water* – course in progress

In collaboration with my colleague Dr. Deneia Y. Fairweather (Johns Hopkins University), we are developing curriculum to aid in repairing cultural dissonance within the African Diaspora, caused by coloniality within existing educational curricula. Our course will examine how continental Africans, Afro-Caribbeans, Afro Brazilians and African-Americans experience the legacy of colonization. Lastly, our course will address how that dissonance creates cultural barriers within the African Diasporic communities.

*The Guerrero Project Homeward Bound* – paper in progress

I participated in the joint effort of retelling the historic narrative of the Guerrero Slave shipwreck that occurred off the Florida Coast on December 19, 1827, carrying over 561 captive Africans to Cuba. Through a series of interviews, a symposium and filming in Liberia, West Africa from December 3-15, 2024, I gathered qualitative data from living descendants. My data will contribute to the development of my new course “Across the water”.

*Retaining Colored students at the University of the Western Cape* – paper in progress

In March of 2024, as the recipient of University of Missouri South Africa Educators Fellowship, I collected qualitative data from students who identify as Colored in a post-Apartheid South Africa. The data will be used to compare how students in Cape Town, South Africa absolve lasting legacies of oppression while obtaining a college education.

*Black and Creative: The Intersection of expression during the Black Arts Movement & 'Its South African' equivalent.* – paper in progress

With permission from the Robben Island Museum at the University of the Western Cape, I will compare the Arts Movement in Cape Town, South Africa to the Black Arts Movement in the United States of America. The focus of this research is to find out how art was used during these two pivotal moments in history and create a course to highlight how those movements were similar, different and how they brought communities together during moments of political unrest.

### **Professional Positions**

- 2026 Adjunct Faculty, University of Missouri – St. Louis. Department of History
- 2025 Adjunct Faculty, University of Missouri – St. Louis. Department of English.  
Adjunct faculty, University of Missouri – St. Louis. Department of History.  
Interim Executive Director, Your Words STL.  
Adjunct Faculty, Harris-Stowe State University. Summer Bridge Program.
- 2022 – 2025 Assistant Teaching Professor of English and African American Studies, Pierre Laclede Honors College, University of Missouri – St. Louis (UMSL). NTT.
- 2021 – 2021 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Cohort Manager, College Bound – St. Louis.
- 2020 – 2021 Museum Educator, Contemporary Art Museum.
- 2019 – 2021 Adjunct Faculty, Department of English, Webster University.
- 2014 – 2020 Adjunct Faculty, Department of Humanities, Harris – Stowe State University.
- 2012 – 2014 Graduate Assistant, Student Enrichment & Achievement. Women’s and Gender Studies. UMSL.
- 2012 – 2014 Coordinator, The Writers in the Schools Program, UMSL.
- 2012 – 2016 Program Specialist, Missouri Arts Council. Grant Management.
- 2010 – 2012 Docent, Missouri History Museum. Arts and Culture.
- 2008 – 2012 Teaching Assistant, Center for Human Origin and Cultural Diversity, UMSL.

### **Other Professional Positions**

- 2024 – 2024 *Teaching Artist*, Saint Louis Art Museum. *Art With Us*. Created art-based pedagogy and facilitated workshops for youth in connection with the Narrative Wisdom: An African Arts Exhibit.

*Creative Writing Director*, [Diving With a Purpose](#). Featured in “The Search” for the [Guerrero Documentary – BBC](#).

- 2023 – Pres. *Owner, [JNVE Consulting](#)* – an Educational Consulting Firm.
- 2022 – 2023 *[Poet – in – Residence](#), Sapiens – Anthropology Magazine: An editorially independent anthropology magazine of the Wenner-Gren Foundation & University of Chicago Press.*
- 2021 – Pres. *Executive Board Member, [Association of Black Anthropologists](#). Programming Committee. American Anthropological Association section group.*

### Books

- 2025 *Lavender* (Manuscript in progress). Poetry.
- 2022 Noodin, M., Weeber C., Vasser-Elong, J. *[Indigenizing What it Means to Be Human](#). Sapiens.*
- 2020 Vasser-Elong, J. (Ed.). (2020). *Bamileke Traditions and Globalization*. Chapitre.com
- 2018 Vasser-Elong, J. (2018). *Shrimp*. 2Leaf Press.

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles and Book Review

- Vasser-Elong, J. (2024). Arts – based Pedagogy: More than a Creative Approach to Teaching. *Abolitionist Pedagogy Series*. [Link to article](#).
- Rogers, R., Calle-Díaz, L., Vasser-Elong, J., & Pacheco, S. (2023). Peacemaking in Children’s Literature. *Journal of Children’s Literature*, 49(1), 10–29.
- Rogers, R., Calle-Díaz, L., Vasser-Elong, J. (2023). Family literacies as peacemaking. *Journal of Early Childhood Education*, 1-26. [Link to article](#).
- Vasser-Elong, J. (2022). Transitions. *Canadian Journal for Netherlandic Studies*, 41(2), 123–123. [Link to poem](#).
- Vasser-Elong, J. (2016). Perfect Water. *Canadian Journal for Netherlandic Studies*, 37(2), 7–20. [Link to Essay](#).
- Vasser-Elong, J. (2016). Treading the Atlantic. *Canadian Journal for Netherlandic Studies*, 37(2), 7–20. [Link to the essay](#).

### Articles Under Review

- Vasser-Elong, J., & Fairweather, D. Y. (2025). Cultural Border Crossing: Developing a Sustainable Educational Curricula for the African Diaspora. *Transforming Anthropology*.
- Vasser-Elong, J., Carter K., Kelley, J., Patterson, R. (2024) STEMInism: Analyzing Factors that Improve the Retention of Women in STEM. *Holistic Education Review*.

Vasser-Elong, J., Carter K., Kelley, J., Patterson, R. (2024) STEMInism: Analyzing Factors that Improve the Retention of Women in STEM. *The Norton Guide to Equity – Minded Teaching*.

### Invited Book Review

Vasser-Elong, J. (2022) *Black man in the Netherlands: An Afro-Antillean anthropology*, Francio Guadeloupe. *Canadian Journal for Netherlandic Studies*, 42 (1), 261-266. [Link to the review](#).

### Publicly engaged scholarship

Vasser-Elong, J. (2025). Art on the Move: Pocket Poetry for the Community. [Poetry]. In connection with [Home #30](#) by Al Loving. Saint Louis Art Museum.

Rogers, R., Tharian, A., and Vasser-Elong, J. (2024). *A Visual Journey through the Research and Art of Peacemaking Literacies*. [Paintings]. *Celebrating the Arts 2024*, Honors College, University of Missouri-St. Louis, St. Louis, MO. United States.

Vasser-Elong, J. (2024). *Selected Works*. [Poetry]. *Ferguson and Beyond: Artistic Responses to a Decade of Social Upheaval*. Webster University's Cecille R. Hunt Gallery. Webster Groves, MO. United States. <https://www.webster.edu/art/hunt-gallery.php> Curated by Terri Reilly.

Vasser-Elong, J. (2024). *Excerpts from Americanesque*. [Poetry] *Turn Upon Them Reveal to Heal: An artistic expression of injustice, healing, and communal outreach*. Gallery 210, University of Missouri – St. Louis. Curated by Allena Brazier.

Vasser-Elong, Jason. 2024. *Dear Brother* [Mixed Media Painting on Canvas]. *Terang' ART II: A Celebration of Art and Hospitality*. The Griot Museum of Black History. Curated by Lois Conley and sponsored in part by Mary Strauss.

Vasser-Elong, Jason. 2021. *Farewell* [Watercolor on Canvas]. *Listen, Look: A Reconciliatory Journey through Black Grief and Joy*. The Griot Museum of Black History, St. Louis, MO, United States.

Vasser-Elong, Jason. 2018. *They Hurt* [Poetry on found object]. *Impact HIV/AIDS Initiative*. The Griot Museum of Black History, St. Louis, MO, United States.

Vasser, Jason. 2018. *Global Cultures* [Juror: Exhibition]. Manchester Arts Center, Manchester MO.

Vasser, Jason. 2016. *Context II* [Juror: Exhibition]. Foundry Art Centre, St. Charles, MO. <https://foundryartcentre.org/context-ii>

## Notable publications of essays and poetry

### *Non-Peer Reviewed Essays and poems*

- Vasser-Elong, Jason. 2025. "White Noise." *Anthropology News* website, May 27, 2025.
- Vasser-Elong, Jason. 2024. "I saw Mike Brown at the library". *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, August 4, 2024. pp. B1–B6.
- Vasser-Elong, Jason. 2022. "St. Louis Sound: Then and Now". *St. Louis Symphony Orchestra*. February 1, 2022 <https://www.slsostories.org/post/st-louis-sound-then-and-now>
- Vasser-Elong, Jason. 2021. Red Brick. *New Square: SANCHO PANZA LITERARY SOCIETY*, 4(1). <https://www.sanchopanzalit.com/post/red-brick>
- Vasser-Elong, Jason. 2020. "From Kente cloth to shrimp: symbols can tell powerful stories". *St. Louis Post Dispatch*. June 12, 2020.
- Vasser-Elong, Jason. 2020. Where the 'Shrimp' story begins. *St. Louis American*. June, 17, 2020.
- Vasser-Elong, Jason N. 2019. "The accident", "Delmar Loop Pantoum", "City", and "An ode to Imo's." *The St. Louis Anthology*.
- Vasser-Elong, Jason. 2018. *Shrimp*. 2Leaf Press. February 1, 2018.
- Vasser, Jason N. 2017. "If/Then". *Black Lives Have Always Mattered*, 73–73.
- Vasser, Jason N. 2017. "Foster", "June Bug in the Alley". *Crossing the Divide: From the Poets of St. Louis*, 116–117.
- Vasser, Jason N. 2014. "Sons of Singleton". *The Sphinx Magazine*, 99(2), 41–41.

## Software

Articulate Storyline 360 (Learning)  
 Canvas (Advanced)  
 Blackboard (Advanced)  
 Office 365 (Advanced)  
 Google Suite (Advanced)

## Invited Lectures, Presentations and Workshops

- 2026 *Creative Writing Workshop*. "Poetry in Focus". Saint Louis University – Jesuit Worldwide Learning.
- Creative Writing Workshop*. "Craft & Culture: Illustrating Ideas". Diving With a Purpose.
- Seminar*. Healthy Relationships Series "The form and function of healthy relationships. Devine Daughters at the Haven of Grace.

- 2025 *Workshop moderator.* [Sunday Workshop](#), St. Louis Poetry Center. Drawing Solutions: Creative Pathways Through Poetry – revision workshop.
- Workshop and panelist.* [Poetry in the Woods](#).
- Featured.* Verse and Voice: The Podcast.
- Presenter.* The Shirley Bradley LeFlore Foundation PRESENTS: POETRY IN MOTION: STL POETS TAKE THE MIC. 2025! Three Days. One Mic. Limitless Voices.
- Co-Presenter.* “Anthropology and the Black Experience” Dakar, Senegal. May 14-18. Paper presentation.
- 2024 *Guest Faculty* for English 3030 – 01. Webster University, Department of English. Dr. Elizabeth Hoover. Poetry Workshop.
- Workshop moderator.* [Sunday Workshop](#), St. Louis Poetry Center. Poetry Workshop.
- Guest Faculty* for [Poetry in the Woods](#). Weekend long writer’s retreat, sponsored by Washington University in St. Louis.
- Presenter.* “Education as a metaphor for freedom.” The State of Black UMSL. University of Missouri – St. Louis (UMSL). Arts –based learning presentation.
- Presenter.* “Not just pretty words”. Tennessee Aquatic Project. Creative Writing Workshop, sponsored by the Tennessee Aquatic Project.
- Presenter.* 100 thousand Poets and Musicians for Change. Poetry presentation.
- Presenter and panelist.* “Americanesque: Excerpts”. Ferguson and Beyond: Artists and Poets Speak Out. Sponsored by Webster University.
- Presenter.* “Phillis Wheatley and the Pursuit of Freedom”. City College of San Francisco. Guest lecture, sponsored by the City College of San Francisco.
- 2023 *Presenter.* “Rhyme & Reason: Form and Practice”. Dr. Jerome Morris Lecture Series. Sponsored by the Black Faculty and Staff Association at UMSL.
- Workshop presenter.* “Ujamaa: Collective Work and Responsibility”. Diving With a Purpose. Programming for “The Search” for the Guerrero. Biscayne National Park, Florida Keys. Sponsored by Diving With a Purpose.
- Presenter and poetry performance.* “Sankofa is a bird”. Wenner – Gren: Transforming Anthropology Reception. American Anthropological Association’s

Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada. Sponsored by the Association of Black Anthropologists.

*Presenter.* “Routes and Routes”. Missouri Humanities Council. Sponsored by the Missouri Humanities Council.

Featured Poetry performance. “Re: Born Poetry and Open Mic.”

2022 *Presenter.* “Foodways to Culture”. Missouri Humanities Council.

*Presenter.* “Summer of the Word.” [Nerdacity Podcast](#). Featured. Online/YouTube.

Workshop facilitation. “St. Louis Veterans Writers Workshop”. Missouri Humanities Council.

Poetry presentation. Webster Groves Arts Commission.

Workshop facilitation. “Equity in the workplace”: Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner. Sponsored by Bryan Cave Leighton.

Poetry presentation. “High Noon Reading Series”. Kranzberg Arts Foundation. Sponsored by the Kranzberg Arts Foundation.

Workshop facilitation. “Writing for Liberation”. BJC. Writing Workshop. Sponsored by Barnes Jewish Christian Hospital.

Poetry presentation. “The Black Futurity Group presents a Humanities Week Event: Black Art!”. Sponsored by the University of Missouri – St. Louis.

2021 *Poetry presentation.* “Readings from *Shrimp*”. Open Door Reading Series: The Poetry Foundation. Sponsored by the Poetry Foundation.

Diversity Workshop. “Give Respect, Give Respect”. Diversity Awareness Partnership. Sponsored by Webster University.

Art commentary [“Black St. Louis Artists Explore Generations of Racial Trauma and How Joy Heals”](#), Henderson, A. NPR.

Poetry presentation. “Kuumba: Creativity”, University of Missouri – St. Louis.

2020 *Poetry presentation* “Readings from *Shrimp*”. Missouri Writer’s Series. Missouri State University. Sponsored by Missouri State University.

Workshop facilitation. “Let’s W.R.A.P.” Center of Creative Arts: Summer Institute for Educators. Sponsored by the Center of Creative Arts.

Poetry presentation. Writer in Residence: OneCity Stories. Sponsored by the University of Missouri – St. Louis.

2019 Guest lecture. “Baldwin and beyond”. Department of English, Washington University in St. Louis. Ron Austin. Writing workshop.

Poetry presentation. The Griot Museum of Black History & Culture.

Workshop facilitator. COCAedu Summer Institute. Sponsored by the Center of Creative Arts.

Presenter. One City Stories. University of Missouri – St. Louis

2018 Guest lecture. “What are you studying”. Department of Anthropology. Course: Ethnographic Field Methods. University of Missouri – St. Louis.

Guest lecture. “What is Anthropology”. Department of Anthropology. Course: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. University of Missouri – St. Louis

### Field experience

2025 Art on the Move: St. Louis, MO.

*Teaching Artist: Saint Louis Art Museum*

Community Engagement

- Wrote ekphrastic poetry from Home #30 by Al Loving, and led teaching demonstrations in the community for residents impacted by the May 16<sup>th</sup> tornado. An art installation with their works will be on display Nov. 15.

2024 Guerrero Project Homeward Bound: Monrovia, Liberia

*Researcher: Guerrero Project Homeward Bound*

Data collection

- Co – developed a questionnaire with Dr. Deneia Y. Fairweather to gather data on the descendants of the Guerrero; data will be used to develop a course.

*Teaching Artist: Saint Louis Art Museum*

Curriculum Development and Workshop Facilitator

- Created interdisciplinary workshops for youth in The Village Mentoring Program and creative works related to Narrative Wisdom: And African Arts.

2023 ‘The Search’ for the Guerrero

*Creative Writing Director: Diving With a Purpose*

Curriculum Development

- Developed and presented workshops to students who conducted marine archaeology in Biscayne National Park, searching for the Guerrero.

2021-2022 Center of Creative Arts

*Teaching Artist: COCAedu*

- Presented a final draft of my learning model Let's Write Read Analyze & Process with high school teachers.
- Created curricula and piloted my educational learning model Let's Write Read Analyze & Process with high school teachers.

2014

Writers in the Schools Program: University of Missouri – St. Louis

*Coordinator: Department of English*

- Served as the liaison for area high school English teachers who participated with graduate students who needed teaching experience.

Women's & Gender Studies: University of Missouri – St. Louis

*Graduate Teaching Assistant with Dr. Sara Ebest*

- Developed and expounded upon existing coursework for the Women's & Gender Studies Department.

2010

Archeological Field School: University of Missouri – St. Louis

*Student researcher with Dr. Patti Wright of the Department of Anthropology*

- Surveyed and excavated for artifacts at the Daniel Boone Home and on Main Street in St. Charles, Missouri.

Biological Anthropology: Human Variation

*Teaching Assistant with Instructor of Record: Dr. Pamela Ashmore, (then) Chair of the Department of Anthropology.*

- Facilitated group discussion
- Enhanced existing curricula

Field Researcher with the Schmidt Arts Center

*Researcher: Collected qualitative data and an artifact for the exhibit: "Objects, Stories and Places".*

**Consulting: Workshop development and facilitation**

2026

Consultant. Divine Daughters at the Haven of Grace

Consultant. Saint Louis University. Jesuit Worldwide Learning.

Consultant. Diving With a Purpose.

- 2024 – 2025 Consultant. [The Village](#) on programming at The Saint Louis Art Museum. Workshop.
- 2023 – Present [JNVE Consulting](#) – an Educational Consulting Firm, Owner.
- Consultant. [Tennessee Aquatic Project](#) to prepare students for travel blog writing. Workshop.
- Consultant. [Diving With a Purpose](#) on programming for “The Search” for the Guerrero, a Spanish slave ship that wrecked off the coast of Florida in 1827. Workshop.
- 2022 Consultant. [Missouri Humanities Council](#) on programming for their St. Louis Veterans Writers Workshop.
- 2021 Consultant. Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner for their Juneteenth celebration. Workshop.
- Consultant. Missouri Humanities Council on programming for Foodways to Culture. Workshop.
- 2020 Consultant. Center of Creative Arts for programming for their COCAedu Summer Institute. Programming.
- 2019 Consultant. Center of Creative Arts for programming for their COCAedu Summer Institute. Curriculum Development and Workshop.
- 2014 Consultant. The Foundry Arts Centre, St. Charles, Missouri on exhibit ‘Context II’.
- 2008 – 2013 Consultant. Studio STL for programming for their:
  - Confluence Academy, Creative Writing Workshop, 2013.
  - Pagedale Family Support Center, Superhero Power Book, 2012.
  - Wellston Book Project, *How My Life Has Been*, 2008.

### **Internships**

- 2008 – 2012 Connecting Human Origin and Cultural Diversity (CHOCD), UM-St. Louis  
The CHOCD, founded in fall 1995, was a joint venture between the Anthropology Department, the College of Education and the Maybuye Center (Archive of the African National Congress) at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa. Co-Presenter at American Anthropological Association’s meeting, Nov. 2010.

2010 – 2011 Missouri History Museum, America I Am: The African American Imprint Programming and Development, 2010-2011.

Developed and facilitated the program The Imprint of Fatherhood, 2010.  
Workshop Moderator.

2004 – 2006 Children’s Defense Fund: Freedom School Educator  
Site Coordinator: Reading enrichment  
Site Assistant: Reading enrichment

### **Professional Development**

2023 The Kranzberg Arts Foundation  
*Kranzberg High Low Artist in Residency Panelist*  
Selected by peers to participate in the Kranzberg Residency programs. As a panelist, I reviewed over 20 applications, met with my cohort of fellow reviewers, and sent recommendations to the board for approval.

2018 Gateway Writing Project Conference on Writing  
*How Arts Stimulate Student Learning*  
Arts integration emphasizes creativity and innovation, two skills consistently ranked as important for a 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. In my session, participants considered how they might integrate the arts into their existing curricula. Beginning with curriculum crosswalks, participants were guided to explore natural areas of overlap between their curriculum and the arts.

2016 National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ – St. Louis)  
*Certified Diversity Facilitator*  
NCCJ Promotes understanding and respect among all races, religions, and cultures through advocacy and educational programs that embrace diversity, self-awareness, and community-wide change.

2012 – 2014 Certificate in University Teaching (CUT) at UMSL  
*CUT* offers the option of a formal course or workshops, conferences for professional development, feedback on teaching, and seminars.

- Unit 1: Teaching for Learning in the University
- Unit 2: Preparing for University Teaching
- Unit 3: Teaching with Technology
- Unit 4: Teaching Practicum
- Unit 5: Professional Development

- 2008 Regional Arts Commission (RAC)  
RAC was founded in 1985 to promote, encourage, and foster the arts and cultural institutions in St. Louis City and County and to contribute to the economic development of the area through a strong presence of the arts.
- Professional service**
- 2026 Chapter Advisor: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Iota Pi Chapter.  
As chapter advisor, I work in collaboration with the District Director to aid in the programming and professional development of a college chapter.
- 2025 Chair, Health and Wellness: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. *Alpha Impact* District of Illinois Convention. As chair, I lead the Banned Book Drive and serve as the point of contact for our Health and Wellness series of activities that include a Mental Health Awareness panel, a Well-being and Life Skills panel, a Blood Drive & Health Fair, Looking Good/Feeling Good event, a Banned Book Drive and a 3K Wellness Walk.
- [Webster Groves Safe Streets Taskforce](#): is responsible for supporting the project team in planning community engagement and serving as a vital community sounding board for recommendations to the safety action plan. Furthermore, it functions as the leadership body that advocates for the adoption of the plan.
- [Webster Groves Historical Preservation Commission](#): The Historic Preservation Commission protects, enhances, and promotes historic districts, structures, and land in Webster Groves.
- 2024 [Poetry in the Woods](#), sponsored by Washington University in St. Louis  
Guest faculty
- Undergraduate Research Symposium, University of Missouri – St. Louis  
Juror: Visual presentations.
- 2021 – 2024 Student Conduct Committee: Pierre Laclède Honors College  
Collaborated with colleagues to develop the Honors Code of Conduct
- 2023 Anti – Racists Educators Group, Committee
- Journal of Children’s Literature: Editorial Review Board
- Undergraduate Research Symposium  
Juror: Visual presentations
- 2021 – 2023 Student Conduct Committee, UMSL  
Convened with faculty and staff on appeal hearings pertaining to student conduct.

- 2021 – 2025 Faculty Liaison, Pierre Laclède Honors College, St. Louis Scholars  
The Saint Louis Scholars are finalists for the University of Missouri-St. Louis' Opportunity Scholars Program. This cohort of students represent students who are first generation and members of various socio-economically deprived groups. Through professional development and community service, students take part in various campus – wide and Pierre Laclède Honors College specific events.
- Provided professional development opportunities
  - Organized a food drive in collaboration with the St. Louis Area Food Bank
  - Organized an Etiquette Luncheon
  - Organized a Volleyball De-stress event for students
- 2021 – 2024 Academic Advising  
Advised approximately 60 honors undergraduates each academic semester on course selections, pre-requisites, and offerings in-person, via Zoom, via telephone, via email, or other delivery formats as needed. In addition to registering advisees for courses, I monitored their academic progress and discussed their broader educational aspirations implanting a student-centered theory of advising.
- Conducted prospective student interviews; register admitted students
  - Referred students to a range of campus resources including tutoring centers, Career Services, and major-related student organizations
  - Served as liaison between students and advisors in Arts and Sciences as well as faculty advisors in students' home departments
  - Counseled students about potential career paths based on major and interests
- 2019 – 2025 YourWords STL, Board of Directors  
YourWords STL uses one-on-one tutoring, creative writing workshops to amplify the voices of St. Louis youth. I was an organizer/collaborator for their Louder Than a Bomb poetry event, 2017.
- 2017 –2021 Midwest Artist Support Services: Board of Directors  
MAPS offer free or low-cost resources for working artists in all disciplines—visual artists, musicians, creative writers, craft artists, theater and dance artists, filmmakers, and other originating artists— in the St. Louis region and beyond.

- 1999 – Present      Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. (ΑΦΑ). ΙΙΙ & ΔΕΑ Chapters develops leaders, promotes brotherhood and academic excellence while advocating for our communities.
- Health and Wellness Chair (District of Illinois Convention), 2025
  - Iota Pi: Chapter Advisor, 2025 – Present
  - Executive Board; Assoc. Editor to the Sphinx (ΔΕΑ), 2023-2024
  - Iota Pi 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Service and Advocacy Chair, 2024

**I supervised the following student research projects:**

- 2025      [Macallan Lay](#)  
 “The Orchid of Mirrors”  
 Graduate: MFA Thesis
- 2024      [Rae Miller, Junior Studio Art](#)  
 “Art and Artificial Intelligence”  
 Undergraduate Research Symposium: Paper presentation, 2025
- [Lily Warden, Senior Communications](#)  
 “The benefits of language labs” Capstone project
- [Frederick McCullough, Junior in Anthropology](#)  
 “Reparations: Generational Perspectives”  
 Undergraduate Research Symposium: Paper Presentation
- [Dominique Bell, Senior in \(Cultural\) Anthropology](#)  
 “African American Spiritual Practices”  
 Capstone Project
- [Shannon McCormick, Senior in Social Work](#)  
 “Mental Health in k-12 Learning Environments”  
 Pilot with the Center of Creative Arts
- 2023      [Jay Gaskin, Junior in the College of Communications](#)  
 “Seeing Me: Influential Queer Black Men in Entertainment”  
 Undergraduate Research Symposium: Paper Presentation
- [Diamond Cannady, Senior in the College of Education](#)  
 Data collection for course development “Allies, Spies, and Secret Friends”

**Professional Association Memberships**

- 2025 – Present      St. Louis Arts Chamber of Commerce
- 2024 – Present      St. Louis African Chamber of Commerce
- 2021 – Present      Association of Black Anthropologists (ABA)

2012 – Present	American Anthropological Association (AAA)
1999 – Present	Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
2018 – 2024	Your Words STL, Board of Directors
2019 – 2023	Council on Anthropology and Education (CAE)
2014 – 2023	Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP)
2019 – 2022	Association of Africanist Anthropologists (AfAA)
2018 – 2021	Midwest Artist Project Services Board of Directors
2018 – 2020	Arts and Education Council’s Young Friends, Board of Directors
2014 – 2020	St. Louis Poetry Center, Board of Directors

### Media Appearances

Roberts, T., Gaye, A. Kushner, D., Vasser-Elong, J. (2024, October 9). *The Significance of the Guerrero* [Radio broadcast]. OKFM, Monrovia, Liberia. [Link to our interview on OKFM](#)

Vasser-Elong, J. (2024, August 22). *Race: Listen. Learn. Live. - Voices of Ferguson* [Documentary]. YouTube. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gbj\\_Hx1uOF8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gbj_Hx1uOF8)

Vasser-Elong, J. (2024, March 17). *BBC News: The Documentary – Diving With a Purpose* [Audio]. BBC News. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3ct6p3h>

Christian, D. (Director). (2020, July 12). *Poetry in Motion: St. Louis Poets Take the Mic* [Documentary]. <https://artsci.washu.edu/events/poetry-motion-st-louis-poets-take-mic>

Brown – Ward, D. (Director) (2017, July 1). *Never Been a Time* [Documentary]. 365 Degrees Productions. <https://www.365degreesproductions.com/never-been-a-time>

### References

Dr. Pricilla Dowden-White

Email: [padhist@umsl.edu](mailto:padhist@umsl.edu) Phone: (314) 516 – 5681

Relationship: Current Supervisor

Dr. Dowden-White recruited me to teach in the Department of History at the University of Missouri – St. Louis

Travis Massotti

Email: [admin@poetryinthewoods.com](mailto:admin@poetryinthewoods.com) Phone: (314) 323 – 7447

Relationship: Friend and colleague

I have known Travis for over 5 years as a poet and as a friend and collaborator on projects.

Andrea Purnell

Email: [Andrea.Purnell@slam.org](mailto:Andrea.Purnell@slam.org) Phone: (310) 927 – 0346

Relationship: Friend and colleague

I have known Andrea for over ten years as an artist and as a friend and collaborator on projects.