

THOMAS KNEELAND

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EDUCATION

DATE	DEGREE	FIELD	INSTITUTE
2023	MFA	Creative Writing (Poetry)	Butler University
2021	MA	Ministry (Worship Art Specialization)	Wesley Seminary, Indiana Wesleyan University
2014	BA	English (Creative Writing)	DePauw University

TITLE OF MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN POETRY THESIS

Cienfuegos: The Obsidian Boy, Birthed from Fire, Ocean, & Red Clay

Thesis Advisors

Prof. Alessandra J. Lynch, MFA — Senior Lecturer in English, Poet-in-Residence, Butler University
Prof. Mitchell L. H. Douglas, MFA — Associate Professor of English, Indiana University-Indianapolis

Thesis Reader

Dr. Joshua B. Bennett, Ph.D. — Professor of Literature and Distinguished Chair of Humanities, MIT

FELLOWSHIPS, ACADEMIC HONORS and AWARDS

2024	Poet-in-Residence, Poetic Justice (The Learning Tree) Resident Fellow, Speculative Play & Just Futurities Program <i>IUPUI Arts & Humanities Institute</i>
2023	CICF Artist Ambassador Travel Grant <i>Central Indiana Community Foundation</i> Accepted to Anaphora Arts Writing Residency <i>Anaphora Arts</i> Club 1914 Scholarship <i>Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.</i> Accepted to Juniper Summer Writing Institute <i>UMass Amherst</i> 2022 Frontier Global Poetry Prize Finalist, Africa

Frontier Poetry

- 2022 Sigma Education Scholarship
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
- 2021 Artist Ambassador Grant
Central Indiana Community Foundation
- 2010 LEDA Scholar Full-Tuition Scholarship
Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America
- 2009 LEDA Scholars Program, Cohort 5
*Princeton University, Aspects of Leadership Institute
Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America (LEDA)*
- 2006 Trent Lott Leadership Institute
University of Mississippi

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2023 Grant Proposal Reviewer/Panelist
*On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator
Indiana Arts Commission*
- Poetry Judge,
*Spoken States of Mind Spoken Word Competition
Concept Schools*
- 2022 Poetry Judge
Slam Poetry Competition, Inner Beauty, Inc.
- Panelist
*On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator
Indiana Arts Commission*
- 2020-Present Founder & Editor-in-Chief
[*The Elevation Review*](#)

ACADEMIC/ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

- May 2023-Present Poetry Faculty
Indiana Writers Center
- Aug. 2022 - Aug.2023 Dual Credit English Composition Instructor,
Ivy Tech Community College
- Aug. 2022 - Aug. 2023 English Language Arts Instructor,
The Excel Center - University Heights
- Aug. 2021 - Aug. 2022 Assistant Director of Admission, DEI Specialist
DePauw University
- Dec. 2020 - Apr. 2021 Content Manager (Copywriting)
Metonymy Media LLC
- July 2018 - Dec. 2020 Academic Life Coach & CompTIA Instructor
The Excel Center - Michigan Street

Dec. 2017 - June 2018 Founding Manager of Operations
Circle City Preparatory Academy

July 2015 - Dec. 2017 Founding Academic Life Coach
The Excel Center - University Heights

SEMINARS, COLLOQUIA, and PRESENTATIONS

Public Lectures and Performances

April 2024 Artist-in-Residence, Speculative Play & Just Futurities Residency

March 2024 Host, An Evening of Poetry with Dr. Taylor Byas & José Olivarez,
Tomorrow Bookstore

February 2024 Workshop Facilitator, *Poetry in Real Life*, Carmel Clay Public Library

January 2024 Featured Reader, *Last Sunday Poets*, Bloomington, IN

December 2023 Poetry is LIT, Indianapolis Public Library - Spades Park Branch

 Featured Poet, Dismas, Poetry Reading at Dream Palace Books & Coffee

November 2023 Author & Poet, Louisville Book Festival

 Panelist, “Literary Activism in the American South,” Louisville Book
Festival

 Reader, Youth Read-In, Brownsburg Public Library

 Poetry is LIT, Indianapolis Public Library - Spades Park Branch

October 2023 Keynote Speaker - “Cultivating Equitable & Thriving Communities with
Poetry” at the Poetry Society of Indiana

 Guest Poetry Workshop Facilitator, Indiana Prison Writers Workshop

 Poetry is LIT, Indianapolis Public Library - Spades Park Branch

 Featured Poet - *Tomorrow Bookstore*

 Featured Poet & Reader - Brick Street Poetry, Inc.

September 2023 Writing Faculty, “Poetry as Introspection & Discovery of the Self,”
Writers Block Festival, Louisville Literary Arts

 Commissioned Poet, UNBOXED 2023 Annual Fundraiser, Goodwill
Industries of Central and Southern Indiana

 Poetry is LIT, Indianapolis Public Library - Spades Park Branch

August 2023 Performance Poet, “Culture in Transit,” *Start with Art*, Indy Arts
Council

 Author & Poet, Book Signing, *Tomorrow Bookstore*

 Poetry is LIT, Indianapolis Public Library - Spades Park Branch

Commissioned Poet, "Seeing the Unseen: Quilts by Laurie Gavrin,"
Brick Street Poetry, Inc. & Indiana Humanities

Featured Poet, "August Poetry Launch," *South Florida Poetry Journal*

June 2023 Workshop Facilitator, *Summerbridge Louisville*

Spoken Word Poet, *Juneteenth Celebration*, Newfields

Featured Author, *Indy Juneteenth Bookfest*, Indianapolis Public Library
(Central)

Workshop Facilitator "Embracing Heritage & Culture in Poetry," IPL
Spades Park Branch

March 2023 News Feature, "Thomas Kneeland: Celebrating Black joy, confronting
systemic oppression via poetry" *All-Indiana*, WISH-TV

Spoken Word Poet, "One Way," RE-UP Experience & Awards Show

February 2023 Featured Reader, *African American Read-in*, Fishers Public Library

Spoken Word Poet, Black History Program @ Christel House DORS, Ivy
Tech Campus

Featured Speaker & Poet, *Mad Love Poetry Slam*, UINDY - College of
Applied Behavioral Sciences

Featured Poet, *InKY Virtual Reading Series*, Louisville Literary Arts

Speciality Workshop Facilitator, "A Poem is Worth 1000 Images,"
Butler University, Butler Bridge Program

January 2023 Keynote Speaker, "The Power of Change," Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity,
Inc., State of Indiana

December 2022 Featured Poet, *Kwanzaa Celebration*, Center for Black Literature &
Culture

November 2022 Performance, "Anchorman Sings the Blues," Irvington Theater

Performance, "Anchorman Sings the Blues," White Rabbit Cabaret

October 2022 Virtual Workshop and Seminar, "Heritage, Poetry & Culture," Poetry
Society of Indiana

Workshop Facilitator, "The Poetry of Witness," Barnes & Noble (Perry
Crossing)

September 2022 Workshop Facilitator, "The Power of Poetry," Barnes & Noble (Perry
Crossing)

April 2022 Workshop Facilitator, "What is Poetry," Hamilton Southeastern Middle
School

July 2021 Webinar, “Writing Your Book Despite the Fear”
Performance, “The Day Hell Froze Over,” “Views from Eternity,” Black Lives Matter

June 2021 Graduation Keynote Address, The Excel Center - University Heights

April 2021 Workshop Facilitator, “The Delivery of a Poem,” Inner Beauty Program, Inc.
Workshop Facilitator, “Haikus, Acrostic, and Free Verse: Part 2,” Inner Beauty Program, Inc.,
Workshop Facilitator, “Haikus, Acrostic, and Free Verse,” Inner Beauty Program, Inc.

February 2021 Workshop Facilitator, “Pandemic Poetry: Unpacking the Discomfort,” Jackson Hole Writers

October 2020 Seminar, “Creative Writing & Mental Health,” Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

June 2020 Video, “Creative Outlets for Adults,” Mental Health America of Indiana

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Black & African Diaspora	Latinx/Latine/Cuban Diaspora
Social Justice Writing	Poetry & Poetics

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICE

April 2024 **Resident Fellow**
Speculative Play & Just Futurities Program
IUPUI Arts and Humanities Institute

Nov 2023-Present **Active Member**
Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society

Nov 2023-June 2024 **Poet-in-Residence**
Poetic Justice
The Learning Tree

May 2023-present **Board Member & Poetry Faculty**
Indiana Writers Center

Jan. 2023-present **Director of Education**
Kappa Theta Sigma Chapter
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Feb. 2020-present **Founder & Executive Director**
The Kneeland Center for Poetry

Feb. 2020-present **Editor-in-Chief**
The Elevation Review

Dec. 2019-May 2021 **Board Member**
Fishers Arts Council

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Fall 2021 - Spring 2022 **Diversity, Access & Inclusion Team**
DePauw University Office of Admission

Fall 2021 - Spring 2022 **Student Organization Advisor**
Exalt! Gospel Choir, DePauw University

Fall 2021 - Spring 2022 **Admissions Liaison**
Management Fellows Program
Media Fellows Program
Environmental Fellows Program
Honor Scholar Program
Bonner Scholars Program

Fall 2021 - Spring 2022 **Participant with DePauw University Faculty**
Writing Across the Curriculum

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2023 We Be Walkin' Blackly in the Deep. Indianapolis, IN: Marian University Department of Media, Communication and Design through ENG 401 Publishing and Print Culture. 56 pages. 2023.
- 2022 Guardian. Barnes & Noble Press. 2022.
- 2021 Stop F*cking Killing Us, 2nd Ed. Barnes & Noble Press. 2021.
- 2020 Stop F*cking Killing Us, 1st Ed. Thomas Kneeland. 2020.
- 2019 Uncaged. Thomas Kneeland. 2019.
- 2018 Shades of Gold. Thomas Kneeland. 2018

Poetry

- 2024 "The Sailor, The Soldier, The Savior" in Kitchen Table Quarterly
- 2023 "Why Some People Be Wanting to Erase Us All the Time" in Up the Staircase Quarterly
- 2023 "sermon on the jagged rock," "Black Ghazal I," and "mt. rainier & Black men are the same" in The Aquila Review
- 2023 "ancestors live in the trees we plant" in South Florida Poetry Journal
- 2023 "the chambering," "the boys don't pray 'no more,'" and "saudade in the key of be black" in Rigorous Magazine

	“the chambering” in Clepsydra Literary & Art Magazine
2022	“Views from Eternity” in the Hyacinth Review
2021	“Breakthrough,” “Encore,” and “Young Shepherd’s Dream” in the INverse Poetry Archives
	“Views from Eternity” in You Might Need to Hear This
	“Unjust Perspectives” in High Shelf Press
2020	“Breakthrough” in Up The Staircase Quarterly

RELEVANT TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Indiana Writers Center

Fall 2023	“Embracing Heritage & Culture in Poetry” Generative Poetry Workshop
Summer 2023	“Embracing Heritage & Culture in Poetry” Generative Poetry Workshop

Summerbridge Louisville

Summer 2023	“Embracing Heritage & Culture in Poetry” Generative Poetry Workshop
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The Excel Center, University Heights

Fall 2022	English Language Arts 1 English Language Arts 2 English Language Arts 4
Spring 2023	English Language Arts 3 English Language Arts 4

Ivy Tech Community College

Spring 2023	ENGL 111 - College English Composition
Summer 2023	ENGL 111 - College English Composition

ADVISING

List of Theses Supervised

B.S. or B.A.

2023 B.A., English Literature
DePauw University Honor Scholar Program Thesis (Invited 2nd Reader)
Title: “Visual Literacy and Reading Motivation: Understanding the Impact of
Illustrations and Images on an Individual’s Engagement with Text”
Advisee: Anna McCuaig
Completed; defended April 2023

LITERARY REPRESENTATION

Ms. Trinity McFadden
Senior Literary Agent
The Bindery Agency
tmcfadden@thebinderyagency.com

REFERENCES

Alessandra J. Lynch, MFA
Senior Lecturer — English & Poet-in-Residence
Butler University MFA in Creative Writing Program
ajlynch1@butler.edu

Mitchell L. H. Douglas, MFA
Associate Professor of English
Indiana University - Indianapolis
mlhdouglas7@gmail.com

Joshua B. Bennett, Ph.D.
Professor of Literature & Distinguished Chair of the Humanities
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
joshuab@mit.edu