

# Jason Richard Kesler

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## EDUCATION

The Sewanee School of Letters at **The University of the South**, Sewanee, TN  
2019

*M.F.A in Creative Writing*

Thesis: *Inselberg* (a novel)

Director: Christopher Bachelder

**University of West Georgia**, Carrollton, GA 2004

*M.A. in English*

Creative Thesis: *Fall, Five Years Ago* (a novella)

Director: Dr. Randy Hendricks

**University of Georgia**, Athens, GA 1999

*B.A. in English, Minor in Linguistics*

GPA: 3.78, Magna cum Laude

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of West Georgia

**Senior Lecturer**, Department of General Education

Fall 2022 – Present

ENGL 0999 *Support for English Composition*

ENGL 1101 and 1102, *English Composition I & II*

ENGL 2060 *Introduction to Creative Writing*

ENGL 2110 *World Literature*

**Lecturer**, English Dept.

Fall 2014 – Spring 2022

ENGL 0999 *Support for English Composition*

A co-requisite course designed to support student success  
in ENGL 1101

ENGL 1101 and 1102, *English Composition I & II*

ENGL 2060 *Introduction to Creative Writing*

A course that teaches the basic elements involved in  
literacy production and critical skills necessary in assessing

literacy works which help students produce their own creative material. The initial course in the Creative Writing Minor.

ENGL 2110 *World Literature*

FILM 2080 *Introduction to the Art of Film*

A course that explores the basic elements of film, using classic and current cinema. The initial course in the Film Studies Minor.

**Instructor**, English Dept. (full-time, temporary instructor)

Fall 2011 – Spring 2014

ENGL 2110 *World Literature*

An exploration of both ancient and modern texts from various cultures beginning with *The Epic of Gilgamesh* and ending with J. M. Coetzee's "The Novel in Africa."

ENGL 2050 *Self-Staging*

A communications course that serves as an introduction to the performative basics of oral communication and self-presentation.

ENGL 1101 and 1102, *English Composition I & II*

Along with teaching standard composition classes, I also taught learning community courses, designed to group students together around common interests. Some of these communities were focused around creative writing, vocal performance and linguistics.

**Instructor**, English Dept. (part-time)

Spring 2011

ENGL 1102 *English Composition II*

Teaching part-time while working on a creative project.

**Instructor**, English Dept. (full-time, temporary instructor)

Fall 2005 – Spring 2010

XIDS 2100 *The Creative Process*

An interdisciplinary course dealing with the subject of creativity from a variety of viewpoints that also serves as an introduction to the Creative Writing minor at the University

ENGL 1101 and 1102, *English Composition I & II*

In addition to teaching the standard composition courses, I volunteered to work alongside colleagues to add electronic/digital components to the traditional classroom.

I also worked with enhanced sections of ENGL 1101 designed to give more intensive instruction in the elements of composition by partnering with the University's Writing Center.

Floyd College (Georgia Highlands College)  
**Instructor**, English Dept. (part-time)

Spring 2005

ENGL 1101 and 1102 *English Composition I & II*

Taught students in the Advanced Transfer Program located on the campus of the University of West Georgia

University of West Georgia

**Teaching Assistant**, *American Literature Survey*

Fall 2003 – Spring 2004

Assisted Professor E. David Morgen

Led in-class discussions

Evaluated, graded student papers, tests, and quizzes

#### INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

University of West Georgia

**First Year Writing Committee**, committee member

Fall 2023 – present

Committee is responsible for discussing FYW program policy and working on issues related to plagiarism, classroom behavior, etc.

**GEAC Workgroup**, member

Fall 2019 – present

Constructed tools and rubrics to assess Core Areas A and C in ENGL and FILM classes.

**Writing Center**, Consultant

Fall 2005 -- present

**UWG Commencement**, faculty representative

Spring 2014 -- present

**GenEdTalks**, member

Spring 2023

Retooled the Joy of Teaching with Associate Dean Ryan Bronkema to develop it as a podcast for faculty to share recent teaching experiences

**The Joy of Teaching**, member

Fall 2021 – Fall 2022

Worked alongside Associate Dean Stacy Boyd to develop a series of in-person talks for faculty to share recent teaching experiences

**Early Student Teaching Think Tank, member**

Spring 2021

Involved in group discussion to develop resources and strategies for faculty teaching first-year students.

**English Education Variety Show, participant**

Spring 2020

Provided musical entertainment between presentations

**Creative Writing Committee, committee member**

Fall 2019 -- Fall 2020

Engaged in mock interview for future guest readers.  
Responsible for updating the CW program brochure.

**STEAM poster presentations, Judge**

Fall 2017

**Other Night School Lectures**

Fall 2017

Facilitated relocation of lectures to the Red Rock Room of Hudson Mill in Carrollton

**Faculty Advisor, Sneakerheadz**

Spring 2016 -- Spring 2017

Sneakerheadz was a organization devoted to the appreciation of shoe design created by an ENGL 1102 student.

**Self-Staging Mock Interviews**

Spring 2016

Conducted interviews for Jade Loicano's Self-Staging class

**Let's Get Childish, reader**

Spring 2015

**WOLF Module for Incoming First Year Students**

Spring 2015

Participated in a video presentation on proper etiquette when communicating with college instructors.

**New Faculty Mentor**

Fall 2014 -- Spring 2015

**New Faculty Formal Observations**

Fall 2014 -- Spring 2015

**Composition Lab Group, participant**

Fall 2014-Spring 2015

**Faculty Advisor, JAM (Just About Music)**

Spring 2008 – Spring 2010

JAM was an organization developed by a student in my XIDS 2100 Creative Process course that continued through the spring of 2010. The group was designed to promote a collaborative music community on the University campus. Various meetings, free form musical gatherings, and a concert or two were held on campus.

**FYW Committee, committee member**

Fall 2008 – Spring 2009

Committee was responsible for discussing and approving textbook and program-wide policy decisions.

**FYW Workshop Presentation**

Spring 2007

Part of a group effort that focused on a variety of approaches to teaching analytical writing skills.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

“Resisting AI: Inspiring Transparent Conversations about the Writing Process in the Classroom” (presentation with Dr. Harte) FYW Workshop at the University of West Georgia (Spring 2025)

“Designing and Evaluating Assignments in the AI Age” (workshop presentation by IFE) University of West Georgia (Fall 2023)

“Growth Mindset” (podcast host) *GenEdTalks* trial episode (Spring 2023)

“Friend or Foe: ChatGPT Use in UWG Courses” (workshop presentation by Prof. Sunil Hazari) University of West Georgia (Spring 2023)

“Teaching as Performance Art” (presentation) *The Joy of Teaching Series* at the University of West Georgia (Fall 2022)

“Performing Teacherly Dispositions: Personalizing the Learning Experience” (panel discussion) Innovations in Pedagogy Conference (Spring 2021)

Guest speaker (via video, Fall 2020)

“Literate Discussions with M. David Hornbuckle”

William Faulkner’s “A Rose for Emily” and Sherwood Anderson’s *Winesburg, Ohio*

University of Alabama-Birmingham in Professor David Hornbuckle’s American Lit II 1865 to Present

Discussion of Sherwood Anderson’s “Hands” and songwriting

University of North Georgia (Blue Ridge campus)

in Dr. Phillip Mitchell’s American Lit II

Associate Editor (Fiction) *Steel Toe Review* (Fall 2019 -- Summer 2020)

“King Herod’s Holiday Tweetstorm” (article) *McSweeney’s Internet Tendencies*,  
 22 December 2019  
 MFA Candidate Reading, Sewanee School of Letters, 2018  
 “The High Dive” (short story), *Steel Toe Review*, 2017  
 MFA Candidate Reading, Sewanee School of Letters, 2016  
 “For S.M.A.” (short story), *New Writings*, 2016  
 “N-Touch” (short film) co-writer, 2016  
 Film Pedagogy Workshops, conducted by Dr. Mock for prospective FILM 2080  
 instructors (Fall 2015)  
 “The Bar” (song) “Interior Design” soundtrack, 2011  
 “This Time” and “Unsentimental, Etc.” (songs) *29 Reasons to Run* Soundtrack,  
 2006  
 Soundtrack awarded The Gold Medal for Excellence for BEST IMPACT  
 OF MUSIC IN A FEATURE FILM at the 2006 Park City Film Music  
 Festival and BEST ORIGINAL MUSIC at the 2006 Bare Bones  
 International Film Festival in April 2006  
 “Keepsake” (song) *Westbound and Down*. OttoTone Records, 2005  
 “These, Our Women” (poem) *Eclectic*. University of West Georgia, 2005

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of West Georgia

### **Research Assistant**

Fall 2004

Assisted Dr. Caleb Boyd

Helped with preparation of class *Introduction to Drama*

### **Research Assistant**

Fall 2002 & Spring 2003

Assisted Dr. Randy Hendricks

Compiled bibliography of the writings of David Madden for a  
 future book. Catalogued letters of Robert Penn Warren for  
*Selected Letters of Robert Penn Warren: Triumph and Transition*,  
 1943-1952. Vol. 3 (2006)

## ACADEMIC INTERESTS

Creative Writing, particularly the narrative. I often use narrative writing even in  
 Composition classes to allow students to make personal connections with  
 the material they read and study. These narrative assignments are less  
 formal in nature and can demonstrate that writing can be (and should be)  
 fun! Creative thinking also helps students develop critical responses and  
 analyses to course material in more formal essay assignments.

## HONORS & AWARDS

**Influential Person Award**, The Office of First Year Experience, 2014

**Ben W. Griffith Fiction Prize**, University of West Georgia, 2004

**Sigma Tau Delta Membership**, University of Georgia, 1999