

Michelle F. Richards
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Academic Research Interest

Research Assistant Professor interested in working closely with deans, faculty, and students to facilitate, energize and foster a culture well-versed in science communication. Other research interests include examining the language of science used by the national news media in comparison to scientists and government health officials responsible for getting news to the general public; preparedness and discourse among our students about science communication, the contemporary challenges and the variety of media used to communicate science. I am also interested in exploring the impact of creative storytelling mechanisms on the story of science and whether common fictional devices used to increase interest (hyperbole, personification, metaphor) produce undesirable results (panic, fear).

Education

Lindenwood University St. Charles, MO
M.F.A. degree in Writing (Fiction emphasis), August 2021

Belmont University Nashville, TN
M.A. degree in English (Writing track), December 2013

Belmont University Nashville, TN
B.S. degree in Philosophy, Liberal Arts, June 2007

Professional Experience

2022-Present Vanderbilt University Nashville, TN
*Research Assistant Professor, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Communication of Science and Technology (CSET),
Director of the Technical Writing Collective*

- Primary responsibilities include teaching (Technical Writing, CSET3200/5200), managing and growing the undergraduate program for CSET; handling program finances, events, speakers, facilitating faculty appointments/reappointments, assisting CSET major and minor students, maintaining website, managing internships.

2021-Present Vanderbilt University Nashville, TN
Research Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Communication of Science and Technology (CSET)

- Primary responsibilities include teaching (Technical Writing, CSET3200/5200), managing and growing the undergraduate program for CSET; handling program finances, events, speakers, facilitating faculty appointments/reappointments, assisting CSET major and minor students, maintaining website, managing internships.

2018-2021 Vanderbilt University Nashville, TN
Lecturer & Program Manager, Communication of Science and Technology (CSET)

- Primary responsibilities include teaching (Technical Writing, CSET3200/5200), managing program for CSET; handling program finances, events, speakers, facilitating faculty appointments/reappointments, assisting CSET major and minor students, maintaining website, managing internships.

2007-Present Vanderbilt University Nashville, TN
Research & Science Editor, Department of Chemistry

- Primary responsibilities included preparation and submission of grant proposals (both federal and non-federal) including development of complex budgets, post-award management (~5M annually) including spending analysis and projections, compilation of monthly accounting reports, approval and monitoring of spending, assistance in writing and editing of grant proposals and milestone reports, editing scientific manuscripts for publication in professional and academic journals, coordinate, monitor and communicate grant objectives between departments

2014 Summer & Fall Semester ITT Technical Institute Nashville, TN

Adjunct Faculty Member

- Taught *Written Analysis and Critical Thinking* to a diverse population of students including traditional students, veterans and adult learners with a variety of backgrounds and experience levels; developed curriculum and provided personal feedback on all writing and projects as assigned; administered mid-term and final exams; attended requisite faculty in-service seminars, substitute taught for other courses

2004-2007 Vanderbilt University

Administrative Officer, Department of Chemistry

- Primary responsibilities included oversight of administrative and financial staff, submission of grant proposals and post-award oversight (Total projects ~65M, Annual expenses ~12M), training and supervision of administrative staff; communicated with Dean of Arts and Science regarding financial matters including negotiation of cost-sharing requests, addition of staff to department, and annual operating budget and graduate aid budget requirements for the department of chemistry

2003-2004 Vanderbilt University

Administrative Director, Department of Technology Transfer & Enterprise Development Development (now Center for Technology Transfer and Commercialization, CTTC)

- Primary responsibilities included oversight of administrative staff for both Technology Transfer & Enterprise Development, maintenance of complex database, reporting using Crystal Reports & R&R Report Writer, monitoring of contracts, review of balance sheets for pre-seed/seed investment businesses, collection of legal reimbursements from licensees, collection and distribution of licensing and royalty fees, monthly reporting of revenues and expenses to Director and Associate Director as well as quarterly reports to the Vice Chancellor of the Office of Investments

2001-2003

Administrative Manager, Department of Technology Transfer & Enterprise Development

- Primary responsibilities included oversight of administrative staff for both Technology Transfer & Enterprise Development, maintenance of complex database, reporting using R&R Report Writer, collection of licensing and royalty fees, monthly reporting of revenues and expenses to Director and Associate Director as well as quarterly reports to the Vice Chancellor of the Office of Investments.

Grants

Funding Sponsor	Title	Amount	Year
Grand Initiative Challenges PI	<i>Analysis of Scientific Messaging in Broadcast News</i>	\$7,500	2022-2024
Course Development Grant PI	<i>Science and the Scientist in Fiction</i>	\$5000	June-Nov 2022
Immersion Scholars Grant PI	<i>Science Communication: Changing the Game</i>	\$30,000	Nov 2022-May 2024
NEH Course Development Grant PI	<i>Laughable: The Science of Humor and the Humor of Science</i>	\$5,000	Aug-Mar 2023
Provost's Faculty Grant for Culminating Projects in Immersion PI	<i>Grant for Culminating Projects in Immersion</i>	\$5,000	Spring 2023
Richard D. Donchian Foundation Co-PI	<i>Ethical and Responsible Research Training for the Humanities and Social Sciences</i>	\$25,000	2023-2025

Awards

Covid Innovation Teaching Award for Student Inclusivity, Engagement and Well-being, Spring 2021

National Honor Society 2021

1st place (Thriller, medical), Bookfest, Fall 2023

2nd place (Thriller, military), Bookfest, Fall 2023

Courses Taught

Technical Writing CSET 3200W/5200W 2019-present

The War on Science, Spring 2019

Laughable: The Science of Humor and the Humor of Science, Spring 2023

The Art of Choosing, Spring 2024

Service

Director, Undergraduate Studies, CSET 2021-present

Director, Technical Writing Collective 2022-present

Immersion Adviser 2021-present

Steering Committee, CSET 2018-Present

University Research Integrity and Compliance Committee (RICC) 2023-present

Publications

Books

The November Molecule, Summer 2023, Fiction Novel

Literary

October Hill Magazine, “Cruz”, Summer 2022, Fiction

The Meadow, “Something’s Bugging Me”, Summer 2022, Fiction

Waxing and Waning, “In the Seven Years Before She Knew”, Winter 2022, Fiction

Jonah Magazine, “Second Life”, Winter 2021, Fiction

The Blue Lake Review, “Things I’d Waited to Say”, Spring 2020, Fiction

The Coachella Review, “No Good Place to Die”, Spring 2020, Fiction

bioStories, “Click Here to Chat with an Online Therapist”, Spring 2020, Creative nonfiction

Bending Genres, Summer 2019, “Skin”, Lyric Essay

The Cream City Review, Spring 2014, “The Strike”, Creative nonfiction

The Oatmeal Magazine, Winter 2014, “Lunatic Fringe”, Fiction

Literary Juice, Fall 2013, “World Without End”, Fiction

The 2012 Best of Anthology: Storm Cycle, Spring 2013, “Errands”, Poetry

The Belmont Literary Journal, Spring 2012, “The Price of Doubt”, Fiction, “South Carolina in July”, Poetry

Tabula Rasa, Spring 2012, Volume 6, “The Diagnosis”, Nonfiction

The Chaffey Review, Spring 2012, Volume 8, “Primetime”, Creative nonfiction

B, Fall 2012, “Malibu Dreamer”, Poetry

Bartleby Snopes, January 2012, Issue 8, “Quick and Painless” (Winner, story of the month), Fiction

Pyrokinection, Summer 2012, “On the Way to Gautreau’s” Poetry

Mindless Muse, Summer 2012, “One Horse Town Life”, “Errands”, “Academia Unraveled”, Poetry

Jellyfish Whispers, Summer 2012, “Dusk”, “The Hundred Year Flood”, Poetry

The Belmont Literary Journal, Spring 2010, “Pass the Abuse”, Poetry

Professional Societies and Activities

Porch Nashville Writer Collective (Founding member) 2019-present

Association of Writers & Poets (member) 2010-present

Society for Research Administrators (member) 2007-2015

NCURA (member) 2004-2012

Grants 101 Panel for Junior Faculty, Vanderbilt (panelist)
STOP Task Force Committee, Vanderbilt (Member)
NCURA Regional Meeting Miami (Invited speaker)

Spring 2009
2007-2009
2005