



## **Erin Thomas, Instructor of English**

### **Education**

Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Creative Nonfiction, George Mason University, VA, 2008

- 2007 Research Assistantship

Master's Certificate in TESOL, Brigham Young University, UT, 2003

- 2003 Pilot study: "Impact of Latin and Greek Root Instruction on Vocabulary Acquisition through Inference"

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Visual Arts, TESOL Minor, Brigham Young University, UT, 2002

- 2001 First Place in the Vera-Mayhew Short Story contest, 2001
- 2001, 2002, 2003 Second Place/Honorable Mention in the Vera-Mayhew Poetry Contest
- 2003 Honorable Mention for digital image "God of the Mountain"
- 2002 Juror's Award for painting Figure #1
- 2003 First Place in the Elsie C. Carroll Essay Contest
- 2003 Second Place Graduate Division David O. McKay Essay Contest

### **Awards & Honors**

- 2002 Young Communicators Grant from the Institute for Humane Studies
- 2010 Eugene England Personal Essay Award
- 2013 Mountain West Evans Handcart Award
- 2017 IBM Communication Specialist Manager's Choice Award (2)
- 2025 Weber State Thrive Award: Outstanding Adjunct

### **Courses Taught**

- **ENGL 900** Fundamentals of College Reading and Writing
- **ENGL 1000** College Writing 1
- **ENGL 1010** Introduction to College Writing
- **ENGL 2010** Intermediate College Writing
- **ENGL 2250** Introduction to Creative Writing

### **Research & Publications**

- 2005 Poem: Erin A Thomas: "Whiteness" and "Blackness" in *Kalliope*
- 2006 Grant: State Education Agency Teacher Research: "Primary Student Motivations for Attendance and Homework Completion in the ESL Classroom"
- 2007 Grant: State Education Agency Teacher Research: "Student Perceptions of Goal-Making in the ESL Classroom"
- 2008 Article: Erin A Thomas: "The Battle for Blair Mountain" in *The Order of the Earth*
- 2009 Poem: Erin A Thomas: "Toad's Kisses" in *JuiceBox: A Journal of the Ordinary*
- 2009 Poem: Erin A Thomas: "Standing Next to Andy Goldsworthy at the National Gallery" in *Lines + Stars: A Journal of Poetry and Short Prose*
- 2010 Essay: Erin A Thomas: "Ghost Towns" in *Dialogue*
- 2011 Research Study: Erin A. Thomas: "Teaching College Writing Using Learner Generated Materials and Self Review," *Inquiry*
- 2012 Book: Erin Ann Thomas: *Coal in Our Veins: A Personal Journey*, Utah State Press
  - Interviewed on UPR, KUER, and KBYU



- 2014 Trade Journal Article: Erin Ann Thomas, Kimberly Newman, Cheryl Lloyd, Carrie Frandsen, and Emily Breed: “Putting the Enterprise in ERM” in *College and University Auditor Journal*
- 2014 Trade Journal Article: Erin Ann Thomas, Kimberly Newman, and Erica Webber: Dashboards: “A Window into Higher Ed Risks” in *URMIS Journal*
- 2021 Grant: Presidential Teaching Innovation for curriculum development, “Grammar Instruction Using Learner Generated Materials for Developmental English Students”
- 2022 Research Project: dual institution, “Impact of Research Groups on Retention, Engagement, and Achievement of Higher Ed Composition Students”
- 2024 Grant: George and Beth Lowe Innovative Teaching for English 1002 curriculum development project, “Research and Curriculum Development for Developmental Reading”
- 2024 Research Project: “English Reading Curriculum Effectiveness Review: Pilot”
- 2025 Grant: Steward Library, Project Lead for OER workbook for English 1000

## Professional Activities

- 2001 Assistant to the Artist Mural Arts Project, Utah Arts Council
- 2007-8 Art Editor of *So To Speak: A Feminist Journal of Language and Art*
- 2007 Participant in *Summer Literary Seminars* (St. Petersburg, Russia), 2007
- 2008 Mormon Literature Panel Member at *Sunstone Magazine* conference
- 2010 Presenter and Talking Head at New Horizons Conference 2010 for Virginia Community Colleges, “Teaching College Writing Using Learner Generated Materials and Self Review”
- 2019 Workshop Presenter for Mountain West Center – Evans Biography Awards – Writer’s Workshop for Auto/Biography
- 2022 Panel Participant at Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association (RMMLA), “Impact of Research Groups on Retention, Engagement, and Achievement of Higher Ed Composition Students”
- 2023 Presenter Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning 2023 Thrive Symposium, “Customizing Learning to Fit Specific Learning Populations”

## Service

- 1996-7 Americore Volunteer United States Forest Service
- 2003 Volunteer ESL Teacher at Boulder Apartments
- 2007-2011 Provided Free Personal Statement and Resume Workshops
- 2010 IBM Women’s Networking Group Service Initiatives
- 2012-2013 Volunteer ESL Teacher in Menlo Park, CA
- 2024-5 Volunteer at South Clearfield Elementary
- 2025 South Clearfield Elementary PTA Reflections Chair

## Fun Fact

I love adventure. I lived in Mongolia for three months, where I taught at a university for the first time when I was nineteen. I got stung by a jellyfish in Ecuador while surfing, visited St. Petersburg, Russia during White Nights, and jumped off a 250-foot Tarzan swing in Costa Rica. Now, I spend my summers hiking in the mountains of Utah with my three young daughters.