

Ellen Sprague

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Education

Master of Fine Arts in Writing – Creative Nonfiction, with secondary concentration in Translation (2013) **Vermont College of Fine Arts – Montpelier, VT**

- Completed an eight-essay, 85-page creative manuscript, “Angling for Normal.”
- Completed a 40-page French-English translation project and an accompanying translator’s note.
- Delivered lecture on connections between the translation and essay writing processes.
- Attended nine-day residency in Skofja Loka, Slovenia (2012).
- Participated in special workshops with Barry Lopez (2011) and Richard Bausch (2013).
- Awarded academic merit scholarship each semester.

Master of Arts in French (1994)

Middlebury College – Middlebury, VT, and Paris, France

- Coursework at University of Paris X and Business Institute of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Paris.
- Thesis – The Popularization of Science in the 19th Century: The *Voyages Extraordinaires* of Jules Verne.

Bachelor of Arts in English & French (1993)

Principia College – Elsau, IL

- Awards: Phi Alpha Eta Honorary Scholastic Society (1990–1993), Charles F. Buckwalter Athletic and Academic Honors Award (1993), and Foreign Language Award for French (1992).
- Study Abroad: Semester in Paris (Spring 1992). School of Nations Grant for study abroad in music and art history in Paris, Munich, and Vienna (December 1990).

Other coursework:

- **Center for Slovene as a Second and Foreign Language**, Ljubljana, Slovenia (May 2016, May 2017) – Elementary Slovene
- **Coeur de France Ecole de Langues**, Sancerre, France (2015) – Two-week advanced French course focusing on language, grammar, and culture review.
- **Washington University**, St. Louis, MO (2009) – Fiction Seminar

Professional Experience – Teaching

Assistant Professor of Writing, Principia College – Elsau, IL (2012–2013, 2014–present)

Writing/Reading Specialist, Principia College – Elsau, IL (August 2013–May 2014)

Instructor of Writing, Principia College – Elsau, IL (2007–2012)

- Design and teach courses and workshops in academic, developmental, and creative writing, including Teaching the Writing Process, Editing and Style, Revising and Editing, Journaling: Writer’s Practice, Reading and Writing Inquiry, Fundamentals of Academic Writing, and Intro to Creative Nonfiction. Team-taught Translating with Integrity, an integrated learning course for freshmen.
- As Writing/Research Tutor Supervisor, train, hire, and manage peer writing and research tutors, including providing continuing education. Certify tutors per College Reading and Learning Association’s International Tutor Training Program Certification requirements. Develop and assess program’s impacts.
- Evaluate student writing for writing-across-the-curriculum proficiency standards and participate in faculty development by helping other faculty evaluate such writing.
- Assist faculty in designing and/or revising writing assignments.
- Collaborated to develop Academic Writing Fundamentals rubric for all-campus Writing Program.
- As part of the Mobile Education Technology Group (2012–2013), one of 20 faculty tasked with exploring the academic potential, including instructional delivery of iPads.

- Committees Served: Principia Abroad Advisory Committee (2015-present), ELL (English as a Learned Language) Strategic Initiatives Team (2014); General Education (2014); co-chair, Learning Excellence Center Committee (2012); Writing Advisory Board (2007–2012) ; faculty search committees; and Sustainability Minor Committee (2010).

Program Director, Faculty, Slovenia Abroad, Principia College – Slovenia and Croatia (May/June 2017; projected May/June 2019)

- Developed Principia College’s first Slovenia Abroad program focusing on “Stories from a Homeland of Shifting Borders” to encourage liberal arts students to engage with the language, literature, and culture of these people of a former communist country in ways that embody all Principia student learning outcomes. Additional foci include cultural competence, global citizenship, and understanding nationalism. Have traveled to Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina in preparation for the academic program.

Instructor, Freshman Writing Seminar at Principia College – Elmhurst, IL (August 2001–2012)

- Instructed and coached groups of new students in writing and thinking skills during intensive workshop based on the Bard College Language and Thinking program.
- Introduced students to independent and group work in college academic atmosphere.
- Worked with Writing Center faculty to plan and develop themed program each year.

Faculty, Principia Lifelong Learning – Elmhurst, IL (July 2011 & 2012, June 2014–2016)

- Taught two-week course in essay and memoir writing called *Essaying Your Stories to Life and/or 31 Flavors of Revising and Editing* to adult learners. Included lecture, in-class writing and workshopping, and instructor feedback.

Writing Instructor, Creative Expressions in Nature for Principia Upper School – Jackson Hole, WY (January 2007)

- Taught journaling, poetry, and creative writing techniques to high school group at the Teton Science School.

Professional Experience – Writing

Submissions & Contest Reader for *Hunger Mountain* (2010–Present)

- Read and evaluate creative nonfiction submissions for Vermont College of Fine Arts’ literary journal.

Writer/Editor/Photographer at The Principia, Publications & Marketing Dept. – Elmhurst, IL & St. Louis (1996–2007)

- Wrote and edited for alumni magazine, including profiles of students, faculty, and programs and articles on study-abroad programs, Principia’s award-winning solar car, NCAA Division III athletics, and other campus events and issues. Produced *Gold & Blue* athletics newsletters and *PrinLink* e-newsletter.
- Collaborated with other departments on marketing, development, and recruiting pieces. Edited press releases, speeches, and letters for CEO, College president, and Special Events office.
- Worked with team of writers, designers, and clients to develop Principia’s website.
- Photographed athletic and other events. Managed student photographers and wrote copy for PrinWeb feature.

Editorial Assistant/Staff Writer for *The Florida Times-Union* – Jacksonville, FL (1995–1996)

- Wrote book reviews for Sunday Insight section and columns for Family, Travel, and Teen sections.
- Wrote brief items for Metro and Travel sections.
- Directed phone calls concerning breaking news, comments, and complaints to appropriate editors or ombudsman.

Publications, Presentations, and Awards

“**Requiem for a Pen**,” Honorable Mention, Principia College Writing Contest. Personal essay. (principiaawritingcontest.wordpress.com)

Bilingual readings from *Le Tour du Monde*, my English translations of Paul Fournel’s *A la ville, comme à la campagne*. American Literary Translator’s Association conference (Oakland, CA, 2016).

"Why Everyone Should Translate." Panel discussion at the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA in Writing program residency in Montpelier, VT, with Tomas Morin, Dominic Scopa, and Mary-Kim Arnold (June 2016).

The Laurel Review, Fall 2015 issue. **"One Man's Prison Is Prison."** Personal essay.

Bilingual readings from *Sidewalk in the Sun*, my English translations of Philippe Delerm's *Le trottoir au soleil*. American Literary Translator's Association conferences (Tucson, AZ, 2015; Milwaukee, WI, 2014; Bloomington, IN, 2013).

"Using iPads in the Liberal Arts: From Geology to Music to Writing." Lilly Conference on Evidence-Based Teaching and Learning in Traverse City, MI, with Principia Academic Technology Director Christian Borja (October 2015).

Asymptote (asymptotejournal.com), Fall 2014 issue. Essays translated from the French, Philippe Delerm's *Le trottoir au soleil* (Gallimard, 2011).

Emrys Journal, 2014 issue. **"Braking for Buntings."** Linda Julian Essay Award winner, a cash prize annually given to "the most outstanding creative nonfiction essay."

4x4: Four Writers. Four Paths. Principia College (2011). At the invitation of the English Department, offered a reading of creative work and participated in two panel discussions for undergraduate writers.

NewPages.com, April 1, 2011. Nonfiction book review: *The Made-Up Self: Impersonation in the Personal Essay* by Carl H. Klaus (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2010. 147 pp.)

The Florida Times-Union - Jacksonville, FL (1995-1996)

Travel Section

"Trip along with the Dead: Following the trail of Grateful Dead concerts is a must-see." July 16, 1995

"History on Horseback: Trail ride reveals serene mountains, silent ghost towns." February 25, 1996

"Yes, it's OK to drink the water - but good luck finding any." April 28, 1996

Family Section

"Nothing beats having friends in faraway lands." October 2, 1995

Featured Book Reviews

"Forced back into the game." *Our Game* by John Le Carré. April 16, 1995 | "'Rainmaker' pours it on." *The Rainmaker* by John Grisham. May 7, 1995 | "This P.I. is no one-trick pony." *Come to Grief* by Dick Francis. October 15, 1995 | "Seeking others, finding himself." *Finding Moon* by Tony Hillerman. December 17, 1995 | "A risky, riveting 'Runaway Jury.'" *Runaway Jury* by John Grisham. May 26, 1996

Professional Associations

American Literary Translators Association (2013-Present)

National Council of Teachers of English (2007-Present)

Association of Writers & Writing Programs (2010-2014; 2017-2018)

Writing and Translation Workshops/Institutes/Conferences

American Literary Translator's Association Conference, (2012-2016)

Attended panels, workshops, and discussions on all aspects of literary translation, including scholarship and theory, reviewing translations, and the practice of translation. Presented bilingual readings of my translations (2013-2016).

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute - The Centrality of Translation to the Humanities: New Interdisciplinary Scholarship - Urbana, IL (July 2013)

Invited to participate as one of 25 scholars at NEH institute to work through case studies in such areas as literary and Bible translation with distinguished faculty including Elizabeth Lowe, Rainer Schulte, and Gregory Rabassa.

Association of Writers & Writing Programs Conference & Bookfair - Chicago (2012) & Washington, DC (2011)

Attended sessions on the essay, creative nonfiction, publishing, creative writing pedagogy, and translation.

Brown University Summer Writers' Symposium, "Real World Tales" - Providence, RI (2008)

Weeklong workshop in creative nonfiction writing with Brown professor Ed Hardy, MFA (Cornell).

Washington University Summer Writing Institute in Creative Nonfiction - St. Louis, MO (2007)

Two-week workshop to study and practice the craft of creative nonfiction with memoirist Kathleen Finneran. Other writers and publishers facilitated a variety of talks and readings for institute participants.

Teaching and Writing Workshops

"Writing to Learn" Professional Development Workshop - Elsah, IL (May 2015)

Coordinated and participated in workshop for 30 Principia colleagues led by associates from Bard College's Institute for Writing and Thinking. Workshop focused on techniques for using writing strategies to enhance student learning.

"Writing to Learn" Writing Seminar Teacher Training Workshop - Elsah, IL (June, 2001-2012)

Led by an associate from Bard College's Institute for Writing and Thinking, this workshop explored techniques for using generative writing and collaborative reading strategies to enhance student learning.

NCTE Conference on College Composition & Communication - Tampa, FL (2015), St. Louis (2012), and San Francisco (2009)

Attended sessions focusing on reflective writing, teaching creative writing, knowledge transfer, evaluating student writing, peer tutoring, writing in the disciplines, composition and rhetoric, and second-language writers.

Integrated Course Design for Significant Learning at Principia College - Elsah, IL (2009)

Two-day workshop focusing on course design, including cooperative learning and syllabus building. Led by Barbara J. Millis, Ph.D., Teaching and Learning Center director at the University of Texas, San Antonio.

Evaluating Student Learning at Principia College - Elsah, IL (2008)

Interactive half-day Teaching Excellence workshop led by Ed Neal, Ph.D., director of faculty development at UNC Chapel Hill's Teaching and Learning Center.

Teaching Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Students at Principia College - Elsah, IL (2008)

Interactive half-day Teaching Excellence workshop led by Kimberly Johnson, Ph.D., of Hamline University and The Collaboration for the Advancement of College and University Teaching.

Lilly Conference on College & University Teaching, Learning by Design - Greensboro, NC (2008)

Three-day conference focusing on active learning techniques and teaching strategies for the college classroom.

"Teaching the Academic Paper" at Bard Institute for Writing & Thinking - Annandale-on-Hudson, NY (2007)

Three-day workshop that included defining academic writing and strategies for teaching academic essays (including research papers) led by Nicole Wallack, Ph.D., of Columbia University's Undergraduate Writing Program.

Technology

GoogleDocs and Google Classroom, Canvas LMS, Blackboard LMS, SMART Board, Socrative (with iPads), Prezi, Microsoft Office suite