

Ellen Sprague

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Career Profile – Experienced educator, writer, and editor with creative, progressive, and diverse leadership, communication, and marketing skills. Big-picture strategic thinker who excels at program building. Interculturally experienced global citizen who can develop productive learning communities in a variety of settings.

Professional Experience

Principia College

July 2007–present

Assistant Director, Center for Teaching and Learning, May 2020–present

- Designed and led professional development for faculty, including assignment and course design, grading practices, classroom management, and writing assessment.
- Designed and led programs and learning communities for all types of students:
 - Spearheaded development and managed team delivering academic New Student Welcome Week.
 - Conceived and delivered original WISE Write-In Series workshops.
 - Collaborated to develop, market, and deliver time management and literacy workshops.
- Managed and mentored seven departmental post-graduate teaching interns and dozens of writing/research tutors.
- Created online and print marketing plans for Center for Teaching and Learning programming.
- Planned and taught workshops for First-Year Experience (FYE) and other faculty learning communities.
- Collaborated with team to build the Center for Teaching and Learning from previous Writing and Teaching Excellence centers.

Associate Professor of Writing, July 2018–present; **Assistant Professor**, 2012–18; **Instructor** 2007–12

- Developed and taught courses and workshops in academic and creative writing, including Teaching the Writing Process, Editing and Style, Revising and Editing, Creative Nonfiction, and World Literature (focus on Balkan literature).
- Designed and co-taught four interdisciplinary (creative writing, photography, conservation, and translation-focused) integrated learning FYE programs.
- Evaluated student writing for writing-across-the-curriculum proficiency standards and led faculty development workshops. Collaborated to develop, assess, and revise Academic Writing Fundamentals rubric for all-campus Writing Program.

Additionally,

- Tapped by College President as only faculty to coach students elected to give speeches to college community.
- Elected by students as Phi Alpha Eta honorary scholastic society sponsor.
- Strategized academic advising plans with new students.
- Committees Chaired: co-chair, Learning Excellence Center Committee; search committees; Community Board panel chair

- Committees Served: General Education, Strategic Plan Task Force, Principia Abroad Advisory Committee; ELL (English as a Learned Language) Strategic Initiatives Team; Faculty Handbook; Writing Advisory Board; Sustainability Minor Committee.

First-Year Experience (FYE) Coordinator July 2020–present

- Worked with academic dean to develop, promote, deliver, and assess FYE programs.
- Provided leadership and professional development for FYE faculty.
- Maintained and oversaw FYE budget.

Writing/Research Tutor Supervisor, 2007–present

- Developed and delivered multi-dimensional program that certifies tutors per the College Reading and Learning Association’s International Tutor Training Program Certification requirements.
- Continually assessed program’s impacts and developed and redesigned as needed.
- Trained, hired, and managed up to 14 peer tutors each year.
- Initiated, curated, and edited WriteOn blog (principia.edu/writeon), written by writing tutors; led tutors to develop Instagram presence with writing tips.

Program Director, Faculty, Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina Abroad, May 2015-present

- Conceived, proposed, and developed curriculum, itinerary, and budget for Principia’s first abroad program to Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina (May/June 2017, 2019, 2021).
 - Key focus: “Stories from a Homeland of Shifting Borders” theme to encourage liberal arts students to engage with the language, literature, land, and culture of these new countries.
 - Additional foci: intercultural competence; understanding nationalism.

The Confluence Guild Jan. 2020–present
Freelance Editor/Writer

- Completed in-depth copy editing and proofreading projects for corporate clients at Buzzword, Inc., and scholars at Tufts University Climate Policy Lab.

Michigan State University Press Aug. 2019–present
Submissions Reader for *Fourth Genre, Explorations in Nonfiction*

- Read and evaluated creative nonfiction submissions for biannual literary magazine.

Vermont College of Fine Arts July 2010–July 2018
Submissions & Contest Reader for *Hunger Mountain*

- Read and evaluated creative nonfiction submissions for literary and arts journal.

Principia College June/July 2011, 2012, 2014–2016
Writing Faculty, Principia Lifelong Learning

- Taught two-week course in essay and memoir writing, “Essaying Your Stories to Life,” and/or “31 Flavors of Revising and Editing” to adult learners.

Principia College Aug. 2001–Sept. 2012
Faculty, Freshman Writing Seminar

- Instructed and coached groups of new students in writing and thinking skills during intensive two-week workshop based on the Bard College Language and Thinking program.
- Created learning community where students were poised for college coursework.

Principia Upper School Jan. 2007

Writing Instructor, Creative Expressions in Nature – Experiential program in Jackson Hole, WY

- Taught journaling and creative writing to high schoolers at the Teton Science School.

The Principia School and College, Publications/Marketing Dept. June 1996–July 2007

Writer/Editor/Photographer

- Wrote and edited for website, admissions and other marketing materials, and alumni magazine, including profiles of people and programs, as well as articles on campus events and issues.
- Edited press releases, speeches, and letters for CEO, president, and Special Events office.
- Photographed athletic, classroom, arts, and other events.
- Collaborated with dozens of departments on marketing, development, and recruiting pieces.
- Produced Gold & Blue athletics newsletters and PrinLink e-newsletter.
- Managed student photographers for PrinCam web feature.

The Florida Times-Union Jan. 1995–June 1996

Editorial Assistant/Staff Writer

- Wrote brief items for Metro and Travel sections; book reviews for Sunday Insight section; and articles and columns for Family, Travel, and Teen sections.
- Reviewed proposed/submitted travel stories for travel editor.
- Fielded and directed phone calls concerning breaking news, comments, and complaints to editors or ombudsman.

Education

Master of Fine Arts in Writing – Creative Nonfiction; secondary concentration in Translation

Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier, VT (with one residency in Skofja Loka, Slovenia)

- Wrote and produced eight-essay creative manuscript, “Angling for Normal.”
- Completed 40-page French–English translation project with accompanying translator’s note.
- Delivered lecture on connections between the translation and essay writing processes.

Master of Arts in French

Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT, and Paris, France

- Thesis – The Popularization of Science in the 19th Century: The *Voyages Extraordinaires* of Jules Verne.

Bachelor of Arts in English and French

Principia College, Elmhurst, IL

- Awards: Charles F. Buckwalter Athletic and Academic Honors Award and Foreign Language Award for French; Phi Alpha Eta Honorary Scholastic Society.
- Study Abroad: France, language and literature. Music and art history in Paris, Munich, and Vienna.

Other coursework:

- Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville – Design and Development of Online Lessons, Modules, and Courses (2020)
- Cleveland State University, online – Beginning Slovene I and II (2017–18)
- Center for Slovene as a Second and Foreign Language, Ljubljana, Slovenia – Basic Slovene (2015–19)

- Coeur de France Ecole de Langues, Sancerre, France – Two-week advanced French course (2015)
- Washington University, St. Louis – Fiction Seminar (2009)

Selected Publications, Presentations, and Awards

- **“Sidewalk in the Sun.”** *InTranslation (The Brooklyn Rail)*, intrantranslation.brooklynrail.org), April 2019. Eight essays translated from French, Philippe Delerm’s *Le trottoir au soleil* (Gallimard, 2011).
- **“WISE Write-In SEries: A Learning Community for All Writers,”** individual presentation at Lilly Conference on Teaching for Active and Engaged Learning (2019).
- **“WISE Write-In SEries as a Community Builder,”** panel presentation at International Writing Centers Association conference (2018).
- **“French Fry Fail,”** contribution to “What happened on June 21st” project at *Essay Daily*, (www.essaydaily.org), 2018.
- **Honorable Mention for “Requiem for a Pen,”** Principia College Writing Contest. Personal essay (principiawritingcontest.wordpress.com), 2016.
- **“Why Everyone Should Translate.”** Panel discussant at the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA in Writing program residency in Montpelier, VT (2016).
- **“One Man’s Prison Is Prison.”** *The Laurel Review, Fall 2015 issue*. Only narrative nonfiction essay selected for biannual publication.
- **“Using iPads in the Liberal Arts: From Geology to Music to Writing,”** co-presenter at Lilly Conference on Evidence-Based Teaching and Learning in Traverse City, MI (2015)
- **“Sidewalk in the Sun.”** *Asymptote (asymptotejournal.com)*, Fall 2014 issue. Six essays translated from French, Philippe Delerm’s *Le trottoir au soleil* (Gallimard, 2011).
- **Linda Julian Essay Award for “Braking for Buntings.”** *Emrys Journal, 2014 issue*. Cash prize annually given to “the most outstanding creative nonfiction essay.”
- **4x4: Four Writers. Four Paths. Principia College (2011).** By invitation, 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 (University of Iowa Press, 2010).

Selected Teaching Workshops/Institutes

Annual Conference on the First-Year Experience (2020)

Lilly Conference on Teaching for Active and Engaged Learning, presenter (2019)

International Writing Centers Association (2017; 2018, presenter; 2019)

POD (Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education) (2018)

“Writing to Learn Across the Disciplines” – Elsayh, IL (2017)

“Writing to Learn” – Elsayh, IL (2015)

Coordinated and participated in workshops for 30+ Principia colleagues led by associates from Bard College’s Institute for Writing and Thinking. Using writing strategies to enhance student learning.

Lilly Conference on Evidence-Based Teaching and Learning, presenter (2015)

“Writing to Learn” Writing Seminar Teacher Training Workshop – Elmhurst, IL (June/August, 2001–12)
Workshops led by a Bard College Institute for Writing and Thinking associate explored techniques for using generative writing and collaborative reading strategies to enhance student learning.

Principia College Teaching Excellence workshops – Elmhurst, IL
Integrated Course Design for Significant Learning (2009)
Evaluating Student Learning (2008)
Teaching Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Students (2008)

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

“Teaching the Academic Paper,” Bard Inst. for Writing & Thinking – Annandale-on-Hudson, NY (2007)
Three-day workshop focused on strategies for teaching academic essays.

Selected Writing Workshops/Institutes

Post-Graduate Writers Conference – Vermont College of Fine Arts, August 2019

- Master class and workshops with Dinty W. Moore

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute (NEH) – The Centrality of Translation to the Humanities: New Interdisciplinary Scholarship – U. of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, July 2013

- Selected as one of 25 scholars for NEH institute to work through case studies including literary and Bible translation with distinguished faculty including Elizabeth Lowe, Rainer Schulte, and Gregory Rabassa. Offered public reading and presentation.

Brown University Summer Writers’ Symposium, “Real World Tales” – Providence, RI, 2008

Washington University Summer Writing Institute in Creative Nonfiction – St. Louis, MO, 2007

Professional Associations

American Literary Translators Association
Association of Writers & Writing Programs
International Writing Centers Association
National Council of Teachers of English