

Ellen Sprague

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Career Profile – Experienced educator, program builder/manager, editor, and writer with creative, progressive, and diverse communication, leadership, and marketing skills. Interculturally experienced traveler and global citizen who can develop productive and equitable teams and opportunities in a variety of professional and educational environments. Detail-oriented, big-picture strategic thinker.

Professional Experience

Principia College 2007–present
Professor of Writing, 2023–present; **Associate Professor**, 2018–2023; **Assistant Professor**, 2012–18;
Instructor 2007–12

- Developed and taught courses and workshops in academic/creative writing and world literature.
- Designed and co-taught four interdisciplinary (creative writing, photography, conservation, and translation-focused) integrated learning First-Year Experience (FYE) programs (GEN 101).
- Evaluated student writing for writing-across-the-curriculum proficiency standards and led faculty development workshops. Collaborated to develop, assess, and continually revise Academic Writing Fundamentals rubric for all-campus Writing Program.
- Elected by students as Phi Alpha Eta honor society vice president/sponsor (2018–2021).
- Strategized academic advising plans with new students.
- Committees Chaired: Search committees; Learning Excellence Center Committee co-chair; Community Board panel chair.
- Committees Served: Strategic Plan Tactic Group; HIPs (High Impact Practices working group); General Education; Faculty Handbook; Principia Abroad Advisory Committee; ELL (English as a Learned Language) Strategic Initiatives Team; Writing Advisory Board; Sustainability Minor.

Classes taught:

- Teaching the Writing Process / Advanced Writing Seminar (ENGL/EDU/WRIT)
- Capstone: Creative Nonfiction (ENGL)
- Editing and Style (WRIT)
- Revising and Editing (WRIT)
- Reading and Writing Inquiry, Translation themed (WRIT)
- Journaling: Writer’s Practice (WRIT)
- Fundamentals of Academic Writing (WRIT)
- Intro to Creative Nonfiction / The Creative Essay (ENGL)
- Country Studies: Slovenia/Croatia/Bosnia (SPST)
- Stories around the Globe (WLIT)

Director, Writing Center, July 2022–present

- Guided stakeholder process for envisioning and implementing the all-college Writing Program, including curricular and supplemental initiatives regarding writing and re-instituting and chairing the Writing Advisory Board, a cross-disciplinary curricular committee, in 2023..
- Led Writing Center in achieving strategic and operational initiatives.
- Managed three direct reports and 8-12 peer writing tutors per semester. Introduced Trello project management software and Slack collaboration space to the team.
- Developed, delivered, and assessed programming to support writing instruction and guidance for faculty and a broad range of student writers/learners.

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

- Developed, promoted, delivered, and assessed FYE programs.
- Provided leadership and professional development, including 3-day institute, for FYE faculty.
- Observed classroom sessions and offered constructive feedback to professors.
- Maintained and oversaw FYE budget.

Writing/Research Tutor Supervisor, 2007–present

- Transformed basic tutoring service into multi-dimensional program that certifies tutors per the College Reading and Learning Association’s International Tutor Training Program requirements.
- Trained, hired, and managed up to 14 peer tutors each year, including course-embedded tutors.
- Initiated, curated, and edited WriteOn blog (principia.edu/writeon), written by writing tutors; led tutors to develop Instagram presence (@prin_writes) with writing tips.
- Continually assessed program’s impacts and developed and redesigned as needed, including providing regular professional development for tutors.

Program Director, Faculty, Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina Abroad, 2015–2022

- Conceived, developed, and led three one-month study abroad programs to Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina called “Stories from a Homeland of Shifting Borders.” Curriculum focused on language, literature, land, and culture. Additional foci: intercultural competence; understanding nationalism. Program [website](#).

Assistant Director, Center for Teaching and Learning, May 2020–June 2022

- As Acting Director in 2021, managed 4 direct reports, department/assessment meetings, budgets.
- Built partnerships and allies for Center for Teaching and Learning initiatives.
- Designed and led faculty professional development, including assignment and course design, grading practices, classroom management, and writing instruction and assessment.
- Hired, managed, and mentored 8 departmental post-graduate teaching interns.

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

Writer/Editor/Photographer

- Wrote, edited, and photographed for admissions, marketing, and development materials and the alumni magazine. Edited projects for CEO, president, and Special Events office.

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.

Other Professional Contributions

Asymptote Journal Aug. 2022–present

Copy editor for AsymptoteJournal.com, a quarterly world literature in translation journal.

Honest Heart Journeys [Slovenia: Land of Shifting Borders](#) July 2023-present

Trip developer and leader. Designed and marketed a transformative travel program for women.

The Confluence Guild Jan. 2020–present
Editor/Writer, freelance. Completed in-depth editing, copy editing, proofreading, and grant writing projects for corporate clients, scholars, and nonprofits.

Michigan State University Press Aug. 2019–July 2021
Creative Nonfiction Submissions Reader for *Fourth Genre, Explorations in Nonfiction*, a biannual literary magazine

Vermont College of Fine Arts July 2010–July 2018
Creative Nonfiction Submissions & Contest Reader for *Hunger Mountain*, a literary and arts journal.

St. Louis Literary Translators 2014–2018
Co-founder and member of informal group of professional and emerging translators

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 “*31 Flavors of Revising and Editing*” to adult learners.

Education

Organizational Development Certificate (2023)
Portland State University, Center for Executive and Professional Education

- Coursework: Change Management, Systems Thinking, Leader as Coach, Teams

Master of Fine Arts in Writing – Creative Nonfiction; secondary concentration in Translation
Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier, VT (incl. 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 public 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 J. Verne.*

Bachelor of Arts in English and French
Principia College, Elmhurst, IL

Other coursework:

- *Designing and Developing Online Courses* – Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville (2020)
- *Slovene Language* – Center for Slovene as a Second Language, Ljubljana, Slovenia (2015–21)
- *Beginning Slovene I and II* – Cleveland State University, online (2017–18)
- *Advanced French* – Coeur de France Ecole de Langues, Sancerre, France (July 2015)
- *Fiction Seminar* – Washington University, St. Louis (2009)

Selected Awards/Honors

Moller Fellowship awarded for academic sabbatical leave during fall 2021, Principia College.

“Requiem for a Pen,” honorable mention, Principia College Writing Contest. Personal essay, 2016.

“One Man’s Prison Is Prison.” *The Laurel Review*, Fall 2015 issue. Only narrative nonfiction essay selected for biannual publication.

Linda Julian Essay Award for “Braking for Buntings.” *Emrys Journal*, 2014 issue. Cash prize annually given to “the most outstanding creative nonfiction essay.”

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. Offered public reading and presentation.

Selected Publications and Presentations

Higher Education Teaching and Learning

“Innovation as Practice in Building a Tutor Program,” individual presentation at International Writing Centers Association conference (2021).

“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 with writing tutors at International Writing Centers Association conference (2018).

“Using iPads in the Liberal Arts: From Geology to Music to Writing,” co-presenter at Lilly Conference on Evidence-Based Teaching and Learning (2015).

Creative Nonfiction and Translation (French)

“Sidewalk in the Sun.” *InTranslation (The Brooklyn Rail)*, intranslation.brooklynrail.org), April 2019. Eight essays translated from French, Philippe Delerm’s *Le trottoir au soleil* (Gallimard, 2011).

“French Fry Fail,” contribution to “What happened on June 21st” project at *Essay Daily*, (www.essaydaily.org), 2018.

“Why Everyone Should Translate.” Panel discussant at the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA in Writing program residency in Montpelier, VT (June 2016).

“Le trottoir au soleil/Sidewalk in the Sun” bilingual readings of original text by Philippe Delerm and my translations, American Literary Translator’s Association conference, 2013, 2014, 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).

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 Conferences/Workshops/Institutes

Culturally Responsive Leadership Lab (fall 2023) – approaches, strategies, and tools

International Writing Centers Association (2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023)

“Reflective Writing for Agency, Equity, and Community” – Elsah, IL (2023); “Writing to Learn Across the Disciplines” (2017); “Writing to Learn” (2015) Coordinated and participated in workshops for 30+ Principia faculty led by associates from Bard College’s Institute for Writing and Thinking.

Council of Writing Program Administrators (CWPA) workshop (2022) focusing on reimagining diverse, equitable, and inclusive writing programs, participant

AAC&U Institute on High-Impact Practices and Student Success (2021), Principia team member

Annual Conference on the First-Year Experience (2020, 2021, 2022), proposal reviewer for 2021, 2022

Assessing General Education Online Series, Higher Learning Commission (2020), team member

Forum on Education Abroad national conference (2020)

Lilly Conference on Teaching for Active and Engaged Learning (2019, 2020)

POD (Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education) (2018, 2020)

Principia College Teaching Excellence workshops – Elsah, IL (2008-09): Integrated Course Design for Significant Learning, Evaluating Student, Teaching Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Students (2008)

Selected Writing Workshops/Institutes

Post-Graduate Writers Conference and master class – Vermont College of Fine Arts, 2019

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

Present

American Literary Translators Association
College Reading and Learning Association
International Writing Centers Association

Past

Association of Writers & Writing Programs
National Council of Teachers of English