

COURTNEY WARD - ZBEETNOFF

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604.360.4292

EDUCATION

Western University

September 2016-Present

Honours Bachelor of Arts

- Honours Specialization in Creative Writing and English Language and Literature
- Major in the School for Advanced Studies in the Arts and Humanities
- Dean's Honour List 2017-2020

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Student Writer-in-Residence

September 2020-Present

Western University

- Served as a mentor for student writers at Western University by providing support through office hours.
- Planned and hosted a variety of workshops, writer panels, and readings to maximize student engagement.
- Collaborated with Writer-in-Residence Alicia Elliott to foster Western's creative community.

Editor-in-Chief

September 2020-Present

Arts and Humanities Students' Council Publications

- Managed Western's Arts and Humanities publications: *Symposium*, *Semicolon* and *Premier*.
- Tasked with fielding student submissions and delegating roles and tasks to an editorial team of five people.
- Stood as the 2019 academic managing editor, supervising submissions of academic essays and preparing them for publication in *Semicolon*.

Festival Intern

July 2019-August 2019

Vancouver Writers Festival

- Conducted outreach and assisted in marketing and distribution of promotional material leading up to the annual fall literary festival.
- Drafted and edited the Festival Program Guide before publication.

Outreach Coordinator

June 2018-May 2020

Active Minds Western

- Developed mental health education workshops and presented them at high schools in the London community.
- Trained a four-person outreach team to assist with the workshop presentations.

Advisory Board Member

May 2017-Present

Art with Impact

- Elected as an advisory member of a North American wide board to discuss the use of the arts to cultivate mental wellness.
- Tasked with aiding the selection committee to choose a short film to win \$1,000 each month.

Arts and Humanities Orientation Leader

August 2017-April 2020

Western University

- Acted as a mentor for first-year students in the faculty of Arts and Humanities.
- Provided support to help students adjust to university and work through academic and personal issues while connecting them with London's arts community.

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Volunteer

November of 2016-2020

Words Fest

- Assisted in the running of events at London's annual literary festival for four years.
- Stood as a student editor in the festival's zine in 2016 and a senior editor in 2020, preparing submissions for publication.

Fiction and Poetry Writer

September 2016-April 2018

Western Mind

- Developed content for an online publication about mental health and wellness.
- Submitted pieces of fiction and poetry on a monthly basis.

PUBLICATIONS

Creative Nonfiction: "There's a Story." *Polemical Magazine*, forthcoming February 2021

Creative Nonfiction: "At-Home Agoraphobia." *Wordsfest Zine*, December 2020

Poem: "Cool Mint." *SNAPS Poetry Chapbook*, December 2020

Experimental Poem: "[glamour facts.](#)" *Polemical Magazine*, October 2020

Creative Nonfiction: "[Sweet Pea.](#)" *Occasus Literary Journal*, September 2020

Interview: "[Writer-in-residence coaches others to find their voices.](#)" *Western News*, September 2020
An interview with Alicia Elliott, Western University's Writer-in-Residence

Poem: "[Body Gap.](#)" *Re-Side Magazine*, June 2020

Hybrid Art and Poetry: "[This Moment.](#)" *Intermissions*, June 2020

Poem: "[Stasis.](#)" *ang(st) zine*, May 2020

Zine: [Arch](#), Spring 2020

A collaborative zine about LGBTQ+ history in London, Ontario

Fiction: "Float." *Symposium*, November 2019

Poem: "As the Crow Flies." *WordsFest Zine*, November 2019

Poem: "Man, I Feel Like a Woman." *Symposium*, March 2018

Poem: "Butter." *Symposium*, November 2017

Poem: "Process." *WordsFest Zine*, November 2016

AWARDS

Arts and Humanities Student Council Award 2020
Selected for academic standing and extra-curricular and philanthropic work

Shortlisted for the Bridge Prize National Short Story Award 2020
Top 10 of 340 national story submissions for the story "A Letter, Love"

Third Place Submission in *Occasus Literary Journal* 2020
For the creative nonfiction piece "Sweet Pea"

Admission Scholarship of Excellence for Outstanding Academic Achievement 2016
Admissions to Western University with an average above 90%

Tan Seagull Scholarship for Young Writers 2015
Attended the Surrey International Writers Conference on the youth writing scholarship

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- Community Diversity & Inclusion Strategy (CDIS) Planning, City of London *Spring 2020*
- Contributed to a working group focusing on removing accessibility barriers to services, information and spaces.
 - Conducted research and outreach to create awareness and make tangible change in London's accessibility policies, which was then compiled into an informational brochure that amalgamated our findings.

EVENTS FACILITATED

- An Afternoon with Alicia Elliott, as Student Writer-in-Residence *November 2020*
- Planned and executed a reading featuring Writer-in-Residence Alicia Elliott.
 - Managed pre-registration, promotion, and student applications for featured readers.
- How to Get Published, as Student Writer-in-Residence *October 2020*
- Hosted and planned an event for students on how to get their writing published in literary magazines and as full-length collections.
- Transformation: Writing Workshop, with AHSC Publications *February 2020*
- Featured readings from professors and students, then led writing exercises for students and provided tips for publishing their work in AHSC Publications.
- Launch Event, with AHSC Publications *November 2019*
- Planned catering, booked a venue and hired performers for the launch of AHSC Publications.
- Mental Health Education Workshop, with Active Minds Western *April 2019*
- Presented the mental health education workshop that was developed for over 8 months with the Active Minds outreach team to a local high school, A.B. Lucas Secondary.

WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

- Preparing Your Manuscript, Edmonton Poetry Festival ft. Jordan Abel *August 2020*
- Writing Disability, Saskatchewan Festival of Words ft. Amanda Leduc *July 2020*
- From Idea to Publication, Grit Lit ft. Casey Plett *June 2020*
- Writing Disabled Characters, Grit Lit ft. Dorothy Ellen Palmer *June 2020*
- Writing Non-Fiction, Grit Lit ft. Jenny Heijun Wills *June 2020*
- Voice in Fiction, Grit Lit ft. Mona Awad *May 2020*
- Nonfiction Workshop, Festival of Literary Diversity ft. Helen Knott *May 2020*
- Fiction Workshop, Festival of Literary Diversity ft. Kagiso Lesego Molohe *May 2020*
- Breaking Down Poetry, Festival of Literary Diversity ft. Billy-Ray Belcourt *April 2020*
- Zines and the Art of Resistance, WordsFest ft. Jenna Rose Sands *November 2019*
- Writing the Body, Poetry London ft. Joshua Whitehead *November 2019*