

(WINNIEBELL) XINYU ZONG

winniebellxzong.com

POET, WRITER, EDITOR, EDUCATOR

Award-winning poet with an MFA in Poetry, an MA in English, a graduate minor in Asian American Studies, & a graduate certificate in Gender, Women, & Sexuality Studies. Demonstrated practice in teaching creative writing & expository writing at the college level. Experienced in publishing & literary editing, having interned at Copper Canyon Press, tutored at 2 university writing centers, & served on 3 literary editorial boards: *Pleiades Magazine*, *Frontier Poetry*, & *Touchstone Literary Magazine*. Current lecturer at Cornell University & chapbook editor at Newfound Press. Fluent in Mandarin & English. Intermediate in Japanese.

EDUCATION

Cornell University – Ithaca, NY	Summer 2023
Master of Fine Arts, Poetry	GPA: 4.028
Graduate Minor: Asian American Studies (first graduate in Cornell history)	
Thesis: “You Are Stranded, Child” —book-length poetry manuscript	
Kansas State University – Manhattan, KS	Spring 2021
Master of Arts, English – Creative Writing	GPA: 3.909
Graduate Certificate: Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies	
Thesis: “Mama, I am Not Okay – Poems on Womanly Kinship, Healing, & Intersectional Feminism”	
Franklin & Marshall College – Lancaster, PA	Spring 2018
Bachelor of Arts, English – Creative Writing	GPA: 3.35

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Cornell University – Ithaca, NY	
Lecturer	Fall 2023 – Present
ENGL 2810: Creative Writing	
ENGL 1134: First-year Writing Seminar – True Stories	
Graduate Instructor	Fall 2022, Spring 2023
ENGL 1160: FWS – Intersections: Race, Writing, & Power	
“Writing on the Other Side – Power Narratives & BIPOC Poetics”	
Ellipsis Writing – Virtual	Summer 2023
Advanced Poetry Workshop Instructor	
“Fiery, Futures, & Fun!: Learning to Transform & Create Poetic Forms”	
Kansas State University – Manhattan, KS	
Graduate Instructor	Fall 2019 – Fall 2020
ENGL 200: Expository Writing II	
Visiting Poet	Summer 2020
K-State Young Writers Workshop	

LITERARY PUBLICATIONS

“At Home, You Hold No Space Between Names” *Untitled AAPI Anthology*, Haymarket Books 2024

"there is no child born without ancestors" <i>Cherry Moon: Emerging Voices from the Asian Diaspora</i> , GASHER Press	2023
" What If Tomorrow Blooms Overhead " <i>whatiftomorrow.org</i>	2023
"Ma, Let Me Tell You Your Story" <i>The Southern Review</i> , Winter 2023 Issue	2023
"What I Wish My Dog Understands" <i>The Southern Review</i> , Winter 2023 Issue	2023
" sundress: a burning haibun " <i>Poetry Magazine</i> , October 2022	2022
"At Home, You Hold No Space Between Names" <i>Crazyhorse</i> (now <i>swamp pink</i>), no. 102	2022
"Ode to Singlehood" <i>Water~Stone Review</i> , vol. 24	2021
" Duplex: An Appendix to Goddess is God " <i>Poetry Online</i>	2021
"Let the Wild Things Grow" <i>Meridian</i> , Issue 45	2021
" Wrinkles as Ocean's Trenches " <i>Glass: A Journal of Poetry</i>	2021
" Imago " <i>Barren Magazine</i> , Issue 17: Chimera, Editor Pick	2020
" The Bungalow Chicken " <i>Poetry Daily</i> , Today's Poem	2020
" I carried around for the whole day a fresh banana " <i>The Penn Review</i> , Issue 69: Spring	2019
" Woman with an Elephant " <i>Underwood Press</i>	2019
"i kill the day of nothingness" <i>Sierra Nevada Review</i> , Volume 30	2019
"To the Florida Cab Driver I Never Met" <i>F&M Alumni Arts Review</i> , Volume VIII SWING	2019
"TuRNT Appetite" <i>Whiskey Island</i>	2019
" Dripping " <i>Not Your Mother's Breast Milk</i> , Sex Week	2019
"The Bungalow Chicken" <i>Little Patuxent Review</i> , Winter 2019 Issue	2019
" Butcher in Waiting " <i>High Shelf Press</i> , Issue II	2019
" How Can I Ask for His Forgiveness Now? " <i>littledethlit</i> , Issue 1	2018
" Countdown " <i>Rigorous</i> , Volume Two, Issue 4	2018
" I like my puppy more basic than this one " <i>Rigorous</i> , Volume Two, Issue 4	2018
" Jenna Classi of the Back Alley " <i>Rigorous</i> , Volume Two, Issue 4	2018

FEATURED READINGS

Launch Reading: <i>Cherry Moon: Emerging Voices from the Asian Diaspora</i> – New York, NY	2023
2023 MFA Graduation Reading , Cornell University – Ithaca, NY	2023
Launch Reading: <i>UNDERSHORE</i> by Kelly Hoffer, Buffalo Street Books – Ithaca, NY	2023
MFA Reading Series, Buffalo Street Books – Ithaca, NY	2022
" Liminal: A Group Reading " (04:24-14:30) Spring Writes Literary Festival – Ithaca, NY	2022
"Alchemy of Care: Poetry Night" Cornell Asian American Studies Program – Ithaca, NY	2022
"Omiptom: Cornell x UMass x Iowa MFA Reading" – Virtual	2022
"Farewell Reading" Department of English, Kansas State University – Manhattan, KS	2021
"Mother Tongue Open Mic" American Poetry Museum – Virtual	2020
Driptorch Reading Series, Arrow Coffee Co. – Manhattan, KS	2019
Issue 25 Launch Reading, <i>Little Patuxent Review</i> – Baltimore, MD	2019
"Turning Wheels" DogStar Books – Lancaster, PA	2018

CONFERENCE & LITERARY FESTIVAL PRESENTATIONS

"Dystopian Present Utopian Crescent: Dreaming of Reciprocity with Futuristic Writers of Color." EGSO Conference: Reciprocity, Cornell University – Ithaca, NY	2023
Creative Writing Panel, EGSO Conference: Aspiration, Cornell University – Ithaca, NY	2022
"Is Anyone Out There? Fostering Community in Rural Places" C. D. Wright Women Writers Conference – Virtual	2020
"Poet This!" 16th Annual CityLit Festival – Baltimore, MD	2019

COLLABORATIVE ART EXHIBITIONS & SCREENINGS

“Two of Cups: Expts & Collabs. in Poetry, Movement, Music, & Film” – Ithaca, NY	2023
short film documentary & poetry reading in collab. w/ Yuan Chen Spring Writes Literary Festival	
Moving (Images): Experiments in Poetry & Film – Cornell Cinema, Ithaca, NY	2023
short film documentary & poetry reading in collab. w/ Yuan Chen	
Pursuit: Exhibition – Cherry Gallery, The Cherry Arts Inc., Ithaca, NY	2022
short film documentary & misc. assemblage in collab. w/ Yuan Chen Mellon Collaborative Studies for Architecture: “Seeing to Be in the Aftermath”	

CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS & HONORS

Longlist, Gregory Djanikian Scholars in Poetry , <i>The Adroit Journal</i>	2023
Finalist, 2022 Love & Eros Prize , Palette Poetry	2023
Honorable Mention, Robert Chasen Memorial Poetry Prize , Cornell University	2022
Semi-finalist, 92NY Discovery Poetry Prize , Unterberg Poetry Center	2022
Finalist, Emerging Poets Prize , Palette Poetry	2022
Runner-up, Graduate Creative Writing Award: Nonfiction , Kansas State University	2021
Shortlist, DISQUIET Literary Contest , DISQUIET	2021
Finalist, Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contest , Winning Writers	2021
Longlist, Frontier OPEN , Frontier Poetry	2021
Winner, Graduate Creative Writing Award: Poetry , Kansas State University	2020
Runner-up, Graduate Creative Writing Award: Fiction , Kansas State University	2020
Winner, Womxn’s History Month Special Issue: Poetry , <i>Columbia Journal</i>	2020
Seaton Fellowship for Graduate Students in Creative Writing , Kansas State University	2020
Winner, World Food Day Poetry Contest Student Category , Kansas State University	2019
Seaton Fellowship for Graduate Students in Creative Writing , Kansas State University	2019

ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, & HONORS

East Asia Research Travel Grant , Cornell University	2023
Graduate School Research Travel Grant , Cornell University	2023
David L. Picket Thesis Fellowship , Cornell University	2023
Mellon Fellowship for the Urban Justice Lab , Cornell University	2022
International Leadership Award , Alumni Association, Kansas State University	2021
Triota Women’s Studies National Academic Honor Society , Kansas State University	2021
Graduate Professional Development Award , English Department, Kansas State University	2021
Edwards Scholarship for Academic Excellence , Kansas State University	2020
Alumni Association International Student Scholarship , Kansas State University	2020
International Student Center Scholarship , Kansas State University	2020
Graduate Student Support Scholarship , Kansas State University	2020
Edwards Scholarship for Academic Excellence , Kansas State University	2019
Honaman Japanese Study Fund Award , Franklin & Marshall College	2018
Mu Upsilon Sigma Music Honors Society , Franklin & Marshall College	2018
Nolt Music Award for Musical Excellence , Franklin & Marshall College	2017

NOMINATIONS

The Pushcart Prize , nomination by <i>Crazyhorse</i> (now <i>swamp pink</i>)	2022
--	------

The Pushcart Prize , nomination by <i>Meridian</i>	2022
Best of the Net , Sundress Publications, nomination by Glass Poetry Press	2021
Best New Poets , <i>Best New Poets Anthology</i> , nomination by K-State	2020
“Make Your Mark 2020 Scholarship Contest” LewerMark Student Insurance nomination by K-State International Student & Scholar Services	2020
Intro Journals Project , <i>Association of Writers & Writing Programs</i> , nomination by K-State	2019

LITERARY EDITING & ADVISING EXPERIENCE

Adroit Journal Summer Mentorship Program – Virtual Summer 2023

Instructor

- Drafted personalized syllabi for two emerging poets on themes of “Familial Lineage & Poetic Lineation: Forms for Connection, Identity, & Joy”
- Mentored poets for six weeks over weekly individual meetings & written feedback

Newfound Press – virtual July 2021 – Present

Chapbooks Editor

- Edited *Spells of My Name* by I.S. Jones, winner of the 2021 Emerging Poets Chapbook Series
- Select winning manuscripts for the Emerging Poets Series & the Anzaldúa Poetry Prize
- Edit & publish the chosen book, serving as a liaison between author & interior/cover designers
- Promote the book via social media & other publicity duties

Cow Creek Chapbook Prize – virtual Spring 2020 – Present

Editorial Staff

- Evaluate & select first tier & second tier manuscripts for the chapbook prize

Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, Cornell University – Ithaca, NY May – August 2022

Pedagogy & Writing Center Intern

- Tutor writing for students & fellows in the Summer Writing Center in-person & virtually
- Observe summer writing classes as part of the pedagogy training for “Writing 7100: Teaching Writing”

EPOCH Magazine, Cornell University – Ithaca, NY Fall 2021 – Spring 2022

Assistant Editor

- Provided expertise in digital publishing & diversity amplification
- Evaluated & selected first tier & second tier manuscripts for poetry & fiction

Copper Canyon Press – Port Townsend, WA (virtual due to COVID-19) January – May 2021

Publishing Intern

- Engaged in independent & group projects in editing, marketing, publicity, & production, such as live event captioning, advising on Submittable workflow, & consolidating 1973-2021 press book data
- Read & evaluated at least 5 manuscripts weekly & composed AI docs for upcoming books
- Proposed & negotiated with management to restructure the intern program for equity
- Planned for monthly racial equity dialogues with the IDEA committee

The Writing Center, Kansas State University – Manhattan, KS Spring 2020 – Spring 2021

Tutor & Front Desk Worker

- Provided writing consultation services for undergraduate, graduate, & faculty clients
8 hours per week via in-person, online written feedbacks, & live video tutoring
- Oriented clients through email, phone, & in-person services

Frontier Poetry – virtual January 2020 – February 2021

Editorial Fellow/Associate Editor (January 2020 – February 2021), **Poetry Reader** (March 2019 – January 2020)

- Created and solicited for the “[Director Insights](#)” interview series, which answers highly requested questions from potential applicants, in the perspectives of Directors from the best MFA programs
- Selected & reviewed new poetry books & solicited author interviews for two series: “[How It’s Made](#)” & “[Poet in the Mirror](#),” both of which demystify the book-making process & the lives of today’s best poets
- Generated posts for & managed the @FrontierPoetry Twitter, which grew 2,000+ followers in my tenure
- Short-listed chapbook contests & discovered exceptional pieces for the “New Voices” submissions

Touchstone Literary Magazine – Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

Fall 2019 – Spring 2021

Editor-in-Chief (Summer 2020 – Spring 2021), **Poetry Editor** (Fall 2019 – Spring 2020)

- Transformed the locally circulated magazine into an online platform that is committed to amplifying underrepresented voices by opening submissions internationally, offering every contributor an honorarium & free submission for BIPOC writers, & soliciting audio recording for literature from contributors
- Lead the editorial, communicatory, and web design initiatives for *Touchstone’s* debut digital annual issue: [Spring 2021 Issue](#) & other publications, including personally designing the issue cover, the full landing page, & individual posts during publication
- Registered the platform on Submittable & CLMP & created “The Debut Prize” series for unpublished writers
- Designed [new website](#) & manage social media accounts among other publicity outreach
- Drafted the “*Touchstone Handbook*” for future mastheads

Pleiades: Literature in Context – virtual

December 2019 – January 2021

Associate Editor (July 2020 – January 2021), **Poetry Reader** (December 2019 – July 2020)

- Edited print issues, selected poems for online features, & suggested BIPOC writers for work solicitation
- Communicated with & solicited contracts from contributors & read for poetry submissions

College Advising Corps – Chapel Hill, NC

September 2018 – June 2019

eAdviser, Class of 2020

- Advised 200 low-mid-income HS students from Michigan via phone/video calls, emails, texts, & newsletters
- Supported their matriculation journey in areas such as college awareness, course selection, SAT/ACT, FAFSA, scholarships, financial aid, starter college list, college application & essays, & career & major exploration

GRADUATE ACTIVITIES & LEADERSHIP

English Graduate Student Organization, MFA Mentor – Cornell

Fall 2022 – Summer 2023

- Host community space for addressing MFA student needs & mentorship via Q&As & social gatherings
- Created the one-on-one mentorship program for incoming students

Asian & Asian American Center, Graduate Intern – Cornell

Fall 2021 – Fall 2022

- CommUNITY Graduate Intern (Fall 2022): led an event on Basic Needs in the APIDA Community to spread awareness on student needs, encourage community building, & promote identity development
- Special Projects Graduate Intern (Fall 2021-Spring 2022): organized events to serve & connect the APIDA graduate students and international students on campus. Past events include the Graduate Ice Rink Social, Studio Ghibli *Ponyo* Screening at the Cornell Cinema, Lunar New Year Take-Home Kit with the Big Red Barn, & A3C Annual Photo Hunt

Graduate Policy & Curriculum Committee, MFA Student Rep. – Cornell

Fall 2021 – Spring 2022

- Represent the interests of the student body regarding graduate policy and graduate curriculum in the Department of Literatures in English

English Dept. Diversity Committee, Graduate Student Representative – K-State Fall 2019 – Spring 2021

- Planned & wrote grants for campus-wide & departmental events

College of Arts & Sciences Diversity Committee, Grad. Student Rep. – K-State Fall 2020 – Spring 2021

- Monitored campus-wide university climate, collaborate across departments & with Student Senate to initiate diversity engagement
- Represented the A&S student body to advise General Counsel, Deans, & other leadership of the university to address campus needs on equity

Creative Writing Track Committee, Grad. Student Rep. – K-State Fall 2020 – Spring 2021

- Wrote university grant to successfully bring Viet Thanh Nguyen to KSU as a visiting writer
- Planned, promoted, & occasionally moderated departmental events & Visiting Writers series
- Acted as a liaison between the department to student organizations & projects such as *Touchstone*

Dance Ensembles – K-State Fall 2019 – Fall 2020

Modern Dance Ensemble Dancer (Spring & Fall 2020), African Ensemble Drummer & Dancer (Fall 2019)

- Performed at bi-annual university concerts: Winter Dance & Spring Dance (virtual due to COVID-19)
- Engaged with community outreach through performances at Third Thursday, the Sunset Zoo, & local school

UNDERGRADUATE ACTIVITIES & LEADERSHIP

Emerging Writers Festival Planning Committee, Member Spring 2018

- Planned in a team of 10 the 3-day festival to showcase new writers through readings, workshops, craft talks, etc.
- Introduced poet, Raymond Antrobus, at craft talk & worked as his personal assistant during his stay

Office of Multicultural Affairs, OMCA Agent & Diversity Change Agent Fall 2015 – Spring 2017

- Designed & led activities monthly to pilot the diversity workshop: “Social Justice 101”
- Organized events such as Multicultural Concert & Celebration to promote representation on campus

African Drum Ensemble/African Drum Studio Class, Conductor & Player Fall 2015 – Spring 2018

- Conducted rhythms on Djembe & Dunduns in the Ensemble Concert, Studio Recital, & Spectrum (all musical groups) Concert
- Performed in various music festivals, banquets, & other cultural events around Pennsylvania, which included the Pennsylvania Musical Educator Associators (PMEA) Annual Conference

Phi Sigma Pi Honors Fraternity, Member Fall 2016 – Spring 2018

- **Initiate Advisor** (Fall 2017): Led a 6-week educational program for new members dedicated to the ideals of fellowship, leadership, & scholarship. Hosted Unity Events, interviews with members, & weekly meetings
- **Fundraising Committee Head** (Spring 2017): Raised money through bake sales, Buffalo Wild Wings night, & served as part of the campus work team to send a member to the National Conference

Japanese Club, Fundraising Chair Fall 2017 – Spring 2018

- Organized events such as Sakura Festival & bake sales & raised more than 500 dollars for club development

- Chinese language course at East McCaskey High School**, tutor Fall 2017
- Proofread homework for grammar & content errors; taught the students authentic expressions
 - Practiced spoken Chinese & shared cultural customs with students
- International Orientation**, Mentor Fall 2016
- Organized & led a 3-day orientation program for 100+ incoming international students
 - Provided ongoing mentorship & emotional, cultural, & academic support to students
- IU 13 & Literacy Council Citizenship Program**, Volunteer Fall 2014 – Spring 2015
- Tutored participants on American history, government, & English to prepare them for the U.S. citizenship exam

STUDY-ABROAD EXPERIENCES

- Hokkaido International Foundation** Summer 2018
- Japanese Language & Culture Summer Program Hokkaido, Japan
- Sponsored by the Honaman Japanese Study Fund Award
- Tam Tam Mandingue Djembe Academy** Summers 2016 & 2017
- Djembe & Dance Performance Workshop Monterrey, Mexico
- Sponsored by the Nolt Music Award for Musical Excellence
- F&M in South Africa/University of Cape Town** Summer 2016
- Human Rights in Post-Apartheid South Africa Cape Town, South Africa