

# OLIVE BREND

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## EDUCATION

**MFA in Creative Writing**, the University of Washington (*In-Progress*)

2023 **BA in English — Literature and the Environment**, University of Alaska Southeast

*Selected as the 2023 Most Outstanding English Student*

Minor: Biology

Thesis: *Receding Glaciers: Memories in Rock Walls*, Advisor: Dr. Math Trafton

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Composition Academic Student Employee – Autumn 2023 to Present**

University of Washington Program on Writing and Rhetoric

- Formulated a comprehensive course syllabus and schedule for a 100-level composition course (ENGL 131), aligning with program outcomes and ensuring a structured learning experience for first-year students. Crafted engaging reading and writing assignments in accordance with program outcomes.
- Used pedagogies rooted in Critical Race Theory, embodied translanguaging, Universal Design, and multimodality to promote diverse and inclusive learning.
- Created and led classes of twenty-three students two hours in length twice weekly. Created lectures, discussions, and activities based on class readings and inspired by *Writer/Thinker/Maker* textbook.
- Utilized feedforward models of response to provide constructive feedback on writing assignments, fostering a supportive and developmental approach to student learning.

**Writing Tutor – Spring 2019 to Spring 2022**

University of Alaska Southeast Writing Center

- Provided comprehensive tutoring to students in both creative and academic writing, specializing in science writing and creative non-fiction, to contribute to their writing skill development and academic success.
- Researched teaching and learning styles to develop new ways of working with students in interdisciplinary ways. Led tutor trainings on science writing, creative non-fiction, and neurodiverse learning styles.
- Collaborated with a team of tutors to conceive, plan, edit, and publish an undergraduate research journal. Sustained the project across multiple years, providing a platform for students to showcase their research and academic writing.
- Attended professional development trainings focused on general pedagogy, English Second Language students, and race, gender, and neurodiversity in the Writing Center.

**Chemistry Teaching Assistant – Autumn 2019**

University of Alaska Southeast

- Collaborated with professors and students to facilitate independent research in the chemistry laboratory and in class work. Connected with students one-on-one to ensure needs were met and pedagogy was inclusive of diverse learning styles.
- Graded papers and researched subjects of import to provide in-depth explanations and solutions for students.

## RESEARCH/WORK EXPERIENCE

**Lead Marine Naturalist** – Spring 2022 to Autumn 2023  
Alaska Tales Whale Watching

- Managed a team of 15+ naturalists and deckhands. Established and implemented a pre-season training schedule for all new and returning naturalists. Led bi-weekly trainings on relevant topics throughout the season to elevate the team's knowledge on marine biology and ecology.
- Collaborated in the development and refinement of company policies and procedures, contributing valuable insights to enhance operational efficiency and customer satisfaction.
- Provided expert commentary on the behaviors and characteristics of humpback whales, killer whales, and the local ecosystems, enriching the passenger experience. Delivered informative presentations on local history and living in Alaska. Implemented Traditional Ecological Knowledge and the Tlingit language into presentations.

**Fall Editor** – Autumn 2022  
*Tidal Echoes* Regional Literary Journal

- Developed the theme “Queer Southeast Alaskans” for the 2023 issue of the *Tidal Echoes* literary journal. Selected featured artists through meetings and interviews with notable writers and artists throughout Southeast Alaska.
- Interviewed the featured artists and writers about their relationship to queerness, their journey as artists and writers, and future projects. Interviews were published in final manuscript.
- Demonstrated proficiency in data organization by creating and managing an Excel spreadsheet cataloging all written and artistic submissions, streamlining the judging process and ensuring accuracy. Meticulously compiled the final 450+ page manuscript, showcasing the diverse array of writing and artistic submissions.

**Research Assistant** – Spring 2021  
University of Alaska Southeast *Faculty Fellows Program* (Dr. Emily Wall)

- Authored a comprehensive handbook addressing the fundamentals of fiction and creative non-fiction, including specialized guidance on instructing and tutoring students within these genres. Developed instructional content covering elements such as syntax, diction, voice, tone, mood, plot, character, setting, titles, and various literary genres to provide a well-rounded education in creative writing and increase student support.
- Directed the integration of anti-racist and translingual pedagogies into tutoring strategies, fostering an inclusive environment that caters to diverse writing styles and cultural perspectives.

## PUBLISHED/PRESENTED WORK

### Projects

- *Alaska Tales Naturalist Guidebook: Áak'w Kwáan Aaní káx', Kútaan áyá 2023*. Spring 2023.
  - Wrote a 100+ page handbook for new and returning naturalists that covered local flora and fauna, local ecology and natural history, the history and development of Southeast Alaska, and an introduction to the Tlingit language.
- *Receding Glacier: Memories in Rock Walls*. ENGL 499 Thesis. Directed by Dr. Math Jakaitis Trafton. Committee Members: Dr. Kevin Maier, Professor Forest Wagner, and Professor Ernestine Hayes. Spring 2022. Accepted April 14, 2022. Bachelor's thesis.
- *Summit: The University of Alaska Southeast's Student Academic Journal*. 2019, 2020, 2021.
  - Led the end-to-end execution of the University of Alaska Southeast's first academic journal. Planned journal development, secured funding, led multiple advertising campaigns, selected student and faculty judges, and compiled the final manuscript.

### Academic Publications

- “Queering Quake Lake: Liminal and Historical Geology in *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*.” *Summit: The UAS Writing Center's Collection of Exceptional Academic Works for 2022/23*. 4 (2023).

- “Estimating future population trends in Hawaiian monk seals (*Neomonachus schauinslandi*) via climate downscaling.” *Summit 2021/2022: The University of Alaska Southeast’s Collection of Exceptional Academic Works*. 3 (2022): 17–31.
  - “Identifying pinniped entanglement problems and finding solutions.” Co-authored with Dr. Heidi Pearson, Alyssa Baldwin, Delton Claggett, and others. Pinniped Entanglement Group, 2021: 27–29.
  - “A Study in Milk.” Co-authored with Rayne Billings. *Summit: The UAS Writing Center’s Collection of Exceptional Academic Works for 2019/20. 1* (2020): 51–63.
- “Revise, Revise, Revise: Alaska Writer Laureate Ernestine Hayes.” *Whalesong*. November 2019.

### Creative Publications

- “A Cartography Lesson.” *Tidal Echoes*. 2022.
- “Continuous Juneau.” *Tidal Echoes*. 2021.
- “Nana’s Quilt.” *Tidal Echoes*. 2021.
  - Received the 2021 Mac Behrend’s Prize for achieving the highest possible score.

### Presentations

- “Leading Ecotourism Áak’w K̄wáan Aaní káx’ (On the Auke Peoples’ Lands).” Private presentation, Alaska Tales Whale Watching. Juneau, Alaska. 2023.
- “An American Sunrise: Southeast Alaskan Writers Celebrate U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo.” With Ernestine Hayes, X’unei Lance Twitchell, Jared Olin, and Shaelene Moler. 49 Writers, Alaska State Museum. Juneau, Alaska. 2022.
  - Invited to speak about my relationship to U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo’s work at a public symposium at the Alaska State Museum. Symposium was broadcast live on local news and radio.
- “Disability and Ableism in the Writing Center.” Private presentation, University of Alaska Southeast Writing Center. Juneau, Alaska. 2021.
- “Transgender Alaskans.” With Jesse Gordon, Kimberly Lea, Alexander Moriarty, and Sam Vivegnis. 4th Annual Power & Privilege Symposium. Juneau, Alaska. 2019.
- “Sustainability on Campus.” With Rayne Billings, Michael Ciri, Will Elliott, Sonia Nagorski, and Lora Vess. 4th Annual Power & Privilege Symposium. Juneau, Alaska. 2019.

## LANGUAGES SPOKEN

- **English:** Native speaker.
- **Spanish:** Advanced in reading, proficient in conversation, and beginner in writing. Speaking for 10 years.
- **Tlingit:** Intermediate. Speaking for three years.