

# THOMAS KNEELAND

## EDUCATION

DATE	DEGREE	FIELD	INSTITUTE
2023	MFA	Creative Writing (Poetry)	Butler University
2021	MA	Ministry (Worship Art Specialization)	Wesley Seminary, Indiana Wesleyan University
2014	BA	English (Creative Writing)	DePauw University

## TITLE OF MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN POETRY THESIS (Forthcoming)

*Cienfuegos: Blackness & Self Crafted by Fire, Ocean & Red Clay*

## FELLOWSHIPS, ACADEMIC HONORS and AWARDS

2023	Accepted to Anaphora Arts Writing Residency <i>Anaphora Arts</i>
	Club 1914 Scholarship <i>Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.</i>
	Accepted to Juniper Summer Writing Institute <i>UMass Amherst</i>
	Frontier Global Poetry Prize Finalist <i>Frontier Poetry</i>
2022	Sigma Education Scholarship <i>Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.</i>
2021	Artist Ambassador Grant <i>Central Indiana Community Foundation</i>
2010	LEDA Scholar Full-Tuition Scholarship <i>Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America</i>
2009	LEDA Scholars Program, Cohort 5 <i>Princeton University, LEDA Aspects of Leadership Institute</i>
2006	Trent Lott Leadership Institute <i>University of Mississippi</i>
2005	Summer Enrichment Program <i>Mississippi School for Mathematics &amp; Science</i>

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2023 Grant Proposal Reviewer/Panelist, *On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator*, Indiana Arts Commission
- Poetry Judge, *Spoken States of Mind Spoken Word Competition*  
Concept Schools
- 2022 Poetry Judge, *Slam Poetry Competition*, Inner Beauty, Inc.
- Panelist, *On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator*  
Indiana Arts Commission

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2023-Present Poetry Faculty, Indiana Writers Center
- 2022-2023 Dual Credit English Composition Instructor, Ivy Tech Community College
- 2022-2023 English Instructor, The Excel Center - University Heights

## SEMINARS, COLLOQUIA, and PRESENTATIONS

### Public Lectures and Performances

- January 2024 Workshop Facilitator, *Poetry in Real Life*, Carmel Clay Public Library
- December 2023 Poetry is LIT, Indianapolis Public Library - Spades Park Branch
- November 2023 Author & Poet, *Louisville Book Festival*
- Poetry is LIT, Indianapolis Public Library - Spades Park Branch
- October 2023 Keynote Speaker - "Cultivating Equitable & Thriving Communities with Poetry" at the Poetry Society of Indiana
- Poetry is LIT, Indianapolis Public Library - Spades Park Branch
- Featured Poet - *Tomorrow Bookstore*
- September 2023 Writing Faculty, "Poetry as Introspection & Discovery of the Self," *Writers Block Festival*, Louisville Literary Arts
- Poetry is LIT, Indianapolis Public Library - Spades Park Branch
- August 2023 Performance Poet, "Culture in Transit," *Start with Art*, Indy Arts Council
- Author & Poet, Book Signing, *Tomorrow Bookstore*
- Poetry is LIT, Indianapolis Public Library - Spades Park Branch
- Commissioned Poet, "Seeing the Unseen: Quilts by Laurie Gavrin,"  
Brick Street Poetry, Inc. & Indiana Humanities

June 2023  
 Featured Poet, "August Poetry Launch," *South Florida Poetry Journal*  
 Workshop Facilitator, *Summerbridge Louisville*  
 Spoken Word Poet, *Juneteenth Celebration*, Newfields  
 Featured Author, *Indy Juneteenth Bookfest*, Indianapolis Public Library (Central)  
 Workshop Facilitator "Embracing Heritage & Culture in Poetry," IPL Spades Park Branch

March 2023  
 News Feature, "Thomas Kneeland: Celebrating Black joy, confronting systemic oppression via poetry" *All-Indiana*, WISH-TV  
 Spoken Word Poet, "One Way," RE-UP Experience & Awards Show

February 2023  
 Featured Reader, *African American Read-in*, Fishers Public Library  
 Spoken Word Poet, Black History Program @ Christel House DORS, Ivy Tech Campus  
 Featured Speaker & Poet, *Mad Love Poetry Slam*, UINDY - College of Applied Behavioral Sciences  
 Featured Poet, *InKY Virtual Reading Series*, Louisville Literary Arts  
 Speciality Workshop Facilitator, "A Poem is Worth 1000 Images," Butler University

January 2023  
 Keynote Speaker, "The Power of Change," Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., State of Indiana

December 2022  
 Featured Poet, *Kwanzaa Celebration*, Center for Black Literature & Culture

November 2022  
 "Anchorman Sings the Blues," Irvington Theater  
 "Anchorman Sings the Blues," White Rabbit Cabaret

October 2022  
 "Heritage, Poetry & Culture," Poetry Society of Indiana  
 "The Poetry of Witness," Barnes & Noble (Perry Crossing)

September 2022  
 "The Power of Poetry," Barnes & Noble (Perry Crossing)

April 2022  
 "What is Poetry," Hamilton Southeastern Middle School

July 2021  
 "Writing Your Book Despite the Fear"  
 "The Day Hell Froze Over," "Views from Eternity," Black Lives Matter

June 2021  
 Graduation Keynote Address, The Excel Center - University Heights

April 2021  
 "The Delivery of a Poem," Inner Beauty Program, Inc.  
 "Haikus, Acrostic, and Free Verse: Part 2," Inner Beauty Program, Inc.,  
 "Haikus, Acrostic, and Free Verse," Inner Beauty Program, Inc.

February 2021	“Pandemic Poetry: Unpacking the Discomfort,” Jackson Hole Writers
October 2020	“Creative Writing & Mental Health,” Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
June 2020	“Creative Outlets for Adults,” Mental Health America of Indiana

**FIELDS OF INTEREST**

African Diaspora	Cuban Diaspora
Afrofuturism	Poetry & Poetics
Social Justice Writing	Cultural Identity

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICE**

May 2023-present	Board Member, Indiana Writers Center
Feb. 2020-present	Founder & Executive Director, The Kneeland Center for Poetry
Feb. 2020-present	Editor-in-Chief, <i>The Elevation Review</i>
Dec. 2019-May 2021	Board Member, Fishers Arts Council

**INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE**

Fall 2021 - Spring 2022	Diversity, Access & Inclusion Team <i>DePauw University Office of Admission</i>
Fall 2021 - Spring 2022	Advisor <i>Exalt! Gospel Choir, DePauw University</i>
Fall 2021 - Spring 2022	Admissions Liaison <i>Management Fellows Program</i> <i>Media Fellows Program</i> <i>Environmental Fellows Program</i> <i>Honor Scholar Program</i> <i>Bonner Scholars Program</i>
Fall 2021 - Spring 2022	Program Participant with DePauw Faculty <i>Writing Across the Curriculum</i>

**PUBLISHED MATERIALS**

*Books*

2023	<u><i>We Be Walkin’ Blackly in the Deep.</i></u> Indianapolis, IN: Marian University Department of Media, Communication and Design through ENG 401 Publishing and Print Culture. 56 pages. 2023.
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- 2022 Guardian. Barnes & Noble Press. 2022.
- 2021 Stop F\*cking Killing Us, 2nd Ed. Barnes & Noble Press. 2021.
- 2020 Stop F\*cking Killing Us, 1st Ed. Thomas Kneeland. 2020.
- 2019 Uncaged. Thomas Kneeland. 2019.
- 2018 Shades of Gold. Thomas Kneeland. 2018

*Published Poetry*

- 2024 “The Sailor, The Soldier, The Savior” in Kitchen Table Quarterly
- 2023 “sermon on the jagged rock,” “Black Ghazal I,” and “mt. rainier & Black men are the same” in The Aquila Review
- “ancestors live in the trees we plant” in South Florida Poetry Journal
- “the chambering,” “the boys don’t pray ‘no more,’” and “saudade in the key of be black” in Rigorous Magazine
- “the chambering” in Clepsydra Literary & Art Magazine
- 2022 “Views from Eternity” in the Hyacinth Review
- 2021 “Breakthrough,” “Encore,” and “Young Shepherd’s Dream” in the INverse Poetry Archives
- “Views from Eternity” in You Might Need to Hear This
- “Unjust Perspectives” in High Shelf Press
- 2020 “Breakthrough” in Up The Staircase Quarterly

**UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS**

Forthcoming/Confirmed

*Published Poems*

- 2024 “The Sailor, The Soldier, The Savior” in Kitchen Table Quarterly

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Indiana Writers Center

- Fall 2023 “Embracing Heritage & Culture in Poetry” - Generative Poetry Workshop
- Summer 2023 “Embracing Heritage & Culture in Poetry” - Generative Poetry Workshop

### Summerbridge Louisville

Summer 2023                      “Embracing Heritage & Culture in Poetry” - Generative Poetry Workshop

### The Excel Center, University Heights

Fall 2022                              English Language Arts 1  
English Language Arts 2  
English Language Arts 4

Spring 2023                         English Language Arts 3  
English Language Arts 4

### Ivy Tech Community College

Spring 2023                         ENGL 111 - College English Composition

Summer 2023                        ENGL 111 - College English Composition

## **ADVISING**

### List of Theses Supervised

#### **B.S. or B.A.**

2023                                      B.A., English Literature  
DePauw University Honor Scholar Program Thesis (Invited 2nd Reader)  
Title: “Visual Literacy and Reading Motivation: Understanding the Impact of Illustrations and Images on an Individual’s Engagement with Text”  
Advisee: Anna McCuaig  
Completed; defended 2023

## **REFERENCES**

Alessandra J. Lynch, MFA  
Senior Lecturer in English  
Butler University MFA Program  
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