

# Kristina Gaddy

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## **BOOKS**

- *A Most Perilous World: The True Story of the Young Abolitionists and their Crusade Against Slavery* (forthcoming from Dutton, 2025)
- *Go Back and Fetch It: Recovering Early Black Music for Fiddle and Banjo* with Rhiannon Giddens (forthcoming from UNC Press, 2025)
- *Well of Souls: Uncovering the Banjo's Hidden History* (W.W. Norton, 2022)
  - *The New Yorker* best books list 2022
  - Reviewed by the *The New Yorker*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *The Economist*; starred review in *Booklist*
- *Flowers in the Gutter: The True Story of the Teenagers Who Fought the Nazis* (Dutton, 2020)
  - Starred review in *Kirkus* and *School & Library Journal*
- Contributor, *A Harp in the Stars: A Lyric Essay Anthology* (University of Nebraska Press, 2021)

## **JOURNALISM (Selected)**

How an abolitionist painting set in D.C. became proslavery propaganda, *The Washington Post* (December 2022)

[Finding Ben's Ten](#), *Chesapeake Bay Magazine* (July 2021)

[Burial Grounds](#), *Washington City Paper* (August 2020)

[The Day the Music Died](#), *Washington City Paper* (March 2020)

Articles have appeared in *The Washington Post*, the *Baltimore Sun*, *Chesapeake Bay Magazine*, *Shore* monthly, *Bitch* magazine, *She Shreds Magazine*, *Atlas Obscura*, *Goucher Quarterly*, *UMBC Magazine*, *Culture Trip*, *The Old Time Herald*, and *All Frets*.

Contributing writer for *OZY*, focusing on history, music, and culture:

[A Soldier in Suriname Accidentally Wrote an Anti-Slavery Memoir](#)

[Meet the Anti-T-Swift Bringing Folk Music Back to Its Protest Roots](#)

[The Grandfathers of Guinean Pop](#)

[Why Early American Feminists Owe It to the French](#)

## **ESSAYS AND CREATIVE NONFICTION (Selected)**

Brood X, *Museum of Americana* (June 2023)

The Treachery of Words, *Brevity's* craft blog (May 2023)

[These Forgotten Essays Reveal the Secrets and Dreams of Jewish Teens As Hitler Drew Near](#), *Narratively* (June 2021)

Wake, *Fearsome Critters* (April 2019)

*Labors*, *Proximity Journal* Issue 18 (August 2018)

How an Army of Suffragettes Helped Save America from Starvation, *Narratively* (May 2018)

### **EDUCATION**

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Nonfiction Writing, <i>Goucher College</i>	2015
Thesis: "The Midwife Problem: The Crusade for Safe Childbirth in the Progressive Era"	
Bachelor of Arts in History, <i>UMBC</i>	2009
Thesis: "Central Park: Improvement of the Lower Class through Social Control, 1853-1880"	
Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages & Linguistics, <i>UMBC</i>	2009
Thesis: "Creating National Identity and Memory: The German Historical Museum"	

### **AWARDS**

Baker Artist Award Finalist	2024
ASJA Best Reported Essay	2022
2nd place winner for Arts Feature, Association of Alternative News Media Awards	2021
Logan Nonfiction Fellow, Carey Institute for Global Good	2019
Writer-in-Residence, The Inner Loop at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House and Arcadia Farm	2019
The William Reese Company Fellowship, the James Ford Bell Library at the University of Minnesota	2019
Robert W. Deutsch Foundation Rubys Artist Award	2018
Proximity Journal Narrative Journalism Prize Finalist for "Labors"	2017
Swedish Women's Educational Association Research Fellowship	2015
Julia Rogers Research Prize	2015
Phi Beta Kappa	2009
Bell-Maas Prize for Achievement in History	2009
Honors College Graduate	2009
Germany Society of Maryland Award	2008
Sondheim Public Affairs Scholarship	2005

### **READINGS & PRESENTATIONS (Select)**

*The Tangible Culture of Music and Dance in the Circum-Caribbean* (American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, October 2019)

*A (Short) History of the Banjo* (National Folk Festival, September 2019)

*The Early Banjo in Images and Words* (American Musical Instrument Society, May 2019)

*Revealing the Banjo's Earliest History* (Brooklyn Folk Festival, April 2019)

*Playing Banya: New Discoveries in Early Banjo History* (The Banjo Gathering, November 2018)

*Playing Banya: The Banjo's Early History* (North Carolina Folk Festival, September 2018)

*Up in the Cool Podcast* (Interview on the history of the banjo, July 2018)

*Playing Banya: The Evidence and Legacy of Shared Cultural Practice Among Enslaved Africans throughout the Americas* (Legacy of Slavery and Indentured Labor, Anton de Kom University, Paramaribo, Suriname, June 2018)

*Hey Baltimore Podcast* (Interview on the history of the banjo, March 2018)  
*Creole Culture: An examination of two early banjos, a reinterpretation of the Old Plantation Painting, and a secret history of the word 'Banjo'* (The Banjo Gathering, November 2017)  
*The Gourd Banjo: Deep Roots* (Seedtime on the Cumberland, June 2017; the Banjo Gathering, November 2016)  
*The Edelweiss Pirates: The Teenage Rebels Who Resisted the Nazis* (Levin Jewish Community Center, October 2017)  
*Labors* (Highlandtown First Fridays Reading Series by Yellow Arrow Publishing, April 2018)  
*Birth in Sweden and the U.S.* (Panel discussion, Sibley Memorial Hospital, January 2017)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

PART TIME FACULTY, Goucher College Writing Department 2023-Present

- WRT 181 - Writing studies, with a focus on community and place. Provided instruction on the writing process, rhetorical techniques, research, and arguments in a variety of writing styles.
- WRT 206 - Professional communication, with a focus on understanding and writing to a variety of audiences in a professional setting. Provided instruction on tone and style, rhetorical techniques, research, and professional presentation.

LECTURER, Goucher College MFA in Nonfiction 2022-Present

- First Year Graduate Seminar, focusing on composition and revision.

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, Towson Freshman Transition Program 2018-2019

- ENGL 101 - Provided instruction for a writing process that allowed students to form a topic, access and evaluate outside material and support, and organize, write, revise, and edit essays.

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, Community College of Baltimore County 2018-2019

- ACLT053 and ENGL 101 - Provided advanced instruction in critical thinking, reading, and writing. Theme-based readings provided a background for the composition of writing, using primary and secondary sources to form arguments and integrate their ideas into texts.

Additional writing lectures and workshops delivered at Association of Writers and Writing Programs (2019, 2020, 2022), Bay to Ocean Writer's Conference (2023), and Baltimore's City Lit (2019, 2022).

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

FREELANCE WRITER 2014-Present  
 COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR, International Youth Foundation 2016-2017  
 PROGRAM & EVENTS COORDINATOR, There Goes My Hero Foundation 2014-2016  
 GRADUATE ASSISTANT, Goucher College 2014-2015  
 OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR, Apex Counseling Center 2014  
 LEGAL ASSISTANT, Cortes Law Firm, Ngole Law Office 2012-2013  
 AMERICORPS MEMBER, Appalachian Forest Heritage Area 2009-2011  
 VISITOR SERVICES ASSISTANT, Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge 2007-2009

***LANGUAGES***

Fluent in English, German, Swedish, and Spanish; Reading proficiency in Dutch and French