

## **Robert James Cross, MFA**

**3519 Glade Street | San Diego, CA 92115 | 858 262 1917**

### **Education:**

- High Tech High Graduate School of Education (San Diego, CA, August 2022-June 2024)
  - o Degree Pursuing: Master of Education
  - o Concentration in Teaching and Learning
- San Diego State University (San Diego, CA, August 2017-May 2020)
  - o Degree Obtained: Master of Fine Arts [Terminal Degree]
  - o Concentration in Creative Writing (Fiction)
- San Diego State University (San Diego, CA, August 2015-May 2017)
  - o Degree Obtained: Bachelor of Arts [with Departmental Honors]
  - o Concentration in English
  - o GPA: 3.7/4.0
  - o Graduated Magna Cum Laude
  - o Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society Member
  - o Dean's List 2015-2017
- San Diego Mesa College (San Diego, CA, August 2011-May 2015)
  - o Degree Obtained: Associate of Arts [with Departmental Honors]
  - o Concentration in English
  - o GPA: 3.6/4.0
  - o Graduated Cum Laude
  - o Dean's Honor List 2012-2015

### **Licenses and Certifications:**

- California Preliminary Single Subject Teaching Credential in English with embedded English Learner Authorization
- California Single Subject Teaching Authorization in Social Science (Predicted Issuance Date: TBD)

### **Work Experience:**

- Long-Term Substitute Teacher (Whittier K-12 School and Special Education Center, June 2023-Present)
  - o Lead a classroom of high school students with extensive support needs, direct paraeducators, and communicate closely with guardians.
  - o Plan and implement curriculum reflecting students' IEP goals, supervise community-based instruction, and collect data for the behavior support team to analyze each student's progress.

- Work with a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst to support challenging student behaviors and ensure behavior intervention plans reflect classroom observations.
  - Attend all monthly staff meetings and learning opportunities.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Teaching Resident in Humanities (High Tech High Mesa, August 2022-June 2023)
  - Collaborated with my cooperating teacher to design and implement project-based learning curriculum in Humanities subjects that meet 11<sup>th</sup> grade California Common Core State Standards.
  - Facilitated student-led inquiry and exploration of Humanities topics through hands-on projects and activities that included work with community partners at University of California San Diego and NASA.
  - Provided individualized support and guidance to students as they developed critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
  - Participated in ongoing professional development to stay current with best practices in project-based learning and Humanities education at High Tech High.
- Site Coordinator for VAPA Summer Program (San Diego Unified School District, Oak Park Elementary, June 2022-July 2022)
  - Aided the principal with enforcing policies and guidelines for students and faculty.
  - Helped to conceptualize the goals of the summer program and identified methods for instruction.
  - Oversaw student discipline and health.
  - Met with parents to discuss student behavior and other concerns.
- Resident Visiting Teacher (San Diego Unified School District, Oak Park Elementary, March 2022-June 2022)
  - Observed and evaluated classroom instruction and provided feedback to teachers and students.
  - Participated in professional development workshops for teachers on best practices in teaching elementary school students.
  - Collaborated with teachers to develop curriculum and assessments for students in grades UTK-5.
  - Taught various music classes such as violin, guitar, and band when needed.
- Visual Arts/Performing Arts (VAPA) Teacher (San Diego Unified School District, Various Schools, August 2021-March 2022)
  - Supplied instructional support related to music, art, theater, and dance for classroom teachers.
  - Organized and taught rhythmic and choral music, drawing and painting, stage acting, and performative dance to conform to the ability and interest of students in K-5 at elementary schools around San Diego County.
  - Worked collaboratively with San Diego Unified School District staff to help roll out VAPA classes in a wide variety of underrepresented and economically disadvantaged schools in San Diego.
- Substitute Teacher (Various Schools, April 2021-Present)
  - Still serving San Diego Unified School District and Santee Unified School District.

- o Have served San Marcos Unified School District, Fallbrook Union High School District, Bonsall Unified School District.
  - o Step in for absent teachers on short notice, delivering lessons across a range of subjects and grade levels that include UTK-12.
  - o Maintain a positive and engaging classroom environment while adhering to school policies and procedures.
  - o Demonstrate flexibility and adaptability in adjusting lesson plans to meet the needs of students.
  - o Collaborate with other teachers and staff to ensure continuity of instruction.
- Teaching Associate in the College of Arts and Letters (English 280, SDSU, January 2020-May 2020)
  - o This course was aimed at teaching students how to evaluate and articulate elements of craft and technique for fiction and poetry with special attention paid to how the students could imaginatively and rigorously employ those elements into their own work.
  - o To show students how to hone their understanding of the writing process and become skilled analytical and critical readers who learn about form, technique, methods, and structures from everything they read and discuss.
  - o Designed course around contemporary poetry and prose along with several writing exercises meant to put the students through their paces creatively.
  - o Aimed course towards introducing writing and the understanding of writing as an outlet both academically and creatively.
  - o Overall Student Evaluation score of 4.79/5.0.
- Teaching Associate in the College of Arts and Letters (English 220, SDSU, August 2019-December 2019)
  - o This course was aimed at teaching students how to analyze written, visual, and performed texts with sensitivity to their diverse cultural contexts and historical moments.
  - o To show students descriptions of how various aesthetic and other value systems are communicated across time and cultures.
  - o Designed course around the application of literary theory to multiple formats of the written word: novel, graphic novel, memoir, novella, play, short story, and poetry.
  - o Aimed course towards introducing literature and literary concepts to students who otherwise would never meet it in their extended studies.
  - o Overall Student Evaluation score of 4.54/5.0
- Teaching Associate in the College of Arts and Letters (Rhetoric and Writing Studies 100, SDSU, August 2019-December 2019)
  - o This course was aimed to enhance students' academic reading and writing skills, with a focus on the rhetoric of the written argument.
  - o Students analyzed and evaluated arguments, as well as considered how an argument is constructed from its origin point.
  - o Designed course around three interdisciplinary topics: human consciousness, the Vietnam War, and the teachings of Niccolò Machiavelli.
  - o Aimed course towards overall development of students' critical thinking skills in addition to their reading and writing abilities.
  - o Overall Student Evaluation score of 4.74/5.0

- Teaching Associate in the College of Arts and Letters (Rhetoric and Writing Studies 200, SDSU, January 2019-May 2020)
  - o This course was aimed to further enhance students' academic reading and writing skills coming in from Rhetoric and Writing Studies 100, with an added focus on the rhetoric of the written argument in context.
  - o Students continued to analyze and evaluate arguments, as well as consider how an argument may be tailored for various audiences and situations.
  - o Designed course to be a collaborative experience that explores the various rhetorical effects and strategies of texts throughout the semester.
  - o Aimed course towards overall development of students' critical thinking skills in addition to their reading and writing abilities.
  - o Overall Student Evaluation score of 4.82/5.0
  
- Instructional Student Assistant in the College of Arts and Letters (SDSU, August 2018-December 2018)
  - o Graded assignments and papers in the following classes:
    - English 250B: Literature of the United States
    - English 401: Children's Literature
    - English 581W: Introduction to Creative Writing
  - o Taught a class in English 581W: Introduction to Creative Writing on Plotting and Outlines.
  
- Academic Writing Tutor in Educational Opportunity Program (SDSU, January 2016-May 2016)
  - o Worked with students in all majors on their grammar and formatting.
  - o Helped students in all majors grasp reading, writing, and rhetoric in academic papers.

### **Skills and Relevant Experience:**

- Writing
  - o Published in *& Magazine 019* ("Hellcion")
  - o Published in *Rinnan Literary Magazine #2* ("Heaven Can Wait")
  - o Published in *Journal of Experimental Fiction #98*: Polyphony ("A Roundtable Discussion on Harold Jaffe's *Porn-anti-Porn*")
  - o Published in *& Magazine 018* ("Have@It")
  - o Published in *Fiction International 2023* issue #56: Refugee ("Galilee")
  - o Published in *Black Scat Review 26: Crime Wave* ("Father Joseph")
  - o Published in *California English Journal* Vol.28, No. 2; November 2022 ("Equity and Diversity Column")
  - o Published in *Fiction International 2022* issue #55: Dream ("Emergence")
  - o Published in *Black Scat Review 21: The Travel Issue* ("Review – BRUT: Writings on Art & Artists")
  - o Published in *Fiction International 2020* issue #53: Algorithm ("Datagrid")
  - o Published in *The Lit Quarterly* Winter 2019 issue ("Countdown to Harvest" and "Controlled Faith")
  - o Published in *Fiction International 2019* issue #52: The Body ("B.K.")
  - o Published in *pacificREVIEW 2019* issue ("Arcane Arcade")

- o Published in *Magee Park Poets: 2017 Anthology* (“sin”)
- o Published in *Mesa Visions* 2015 issue (“Life in the Key of C” and “Death Flutter of the Atlas Moth”)
- Editorial Work
  - o Associate Editor for *Fiction International* (August 2021-January 2022)
  - o Contributing Editor for *Fiction International* at SDSU (August 2019-May 2020)
  - o Intern for *Fiction International* at SDSU (August 2017-December 2017)
  - o Web Editor for *Aztec Literary Review* at SDSU (August 2015-May 2017)
  - o Editor and Art Design for *Mesa Visions* at San Diego Mesa College (January 2015-May 2015)
- Graduate Work
  - o Presented short fiction piece; *B.K. (Brother’s Keeper)* at “San Diego State University English Graduate Student Symposium 2019: Present Paradox” in SDSU Love Library.
- Undergraduate Work
  - o Honors Thesis, *Anno Domini 1985*, presented and archived in Special Collections in SDSU Love Library.
  - o Presented paper; *Junkie Jamboree: The Prevalence of Heroin Addiction in New York’s Early Rock Scene* at “A Panel on Familial and Literary Legacies in Special Collections” in SDSU Love Library.
  - o Participated in the 2016 SDSU Student Research Symposium presenting research in income inequality within the SDSU student population and labor rights.
  - o Participated in Labor Rights Forum held at SDSU in 2015.

### **Grants, Scholarships, and Awards:**

- Awards
  - o Top Ten-Minute Play Regional Finalist for The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (“Shadow City”) (2022)
  - o Nominated for the Pushcart Prize (“B.K.”) (2020)
- Graduate
  - o Virginia Warner Endowed English Scholarship (2019)
  - o Robert K. Knauer Endowed Scholarship for Writers and Poets (2019)
  - o John and Flora Olsen Endowed Scholarship (2018)
  - o Graduate Equity Grant (2017-2018)
  - o State University Grant (2017-2018)
- Undergraduate
  - o Sidney W. Brossman Memorial Scholarship (2015)