

Laura Jo Underwood
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EDUCATION

M.F.A. in Fiction, Converse College, June 2028 (Expected)
Thesis: TBD
Supervisors: Marlin Barton
South-85 Scholarship Recipient

B.A. in Secondary Education: English, Charleston Southern University, May 2025
Cum Laude, Dean's List
Teaching Fellows Recipient, Jairy C Hunter Scholarship Recipient

TEACHING AND WRITING EMPLOYMENT

Social Media Manager for Dan Leach (2026-Present)
Fiction Reader, *South-85* (2026-present)
English Teacher, Berea Middle (2025-present)
Fiction, Poetry, Non-Fiction Reader, *Sefer* (2022-2025)
Tutor, Charleston Southern University Writing Center (2022-2025)
Associate Editor (Flash, Poetry, Fiction), Ambient Heights Publishing (2018-2020)
Social Media Assistant, Ambient Heights Publishing (2018-2020)

LEADERSHIP

Sigma Tau Delta President (Alpha Eta Alpha chapter) 2024-2025
The Charleston Southern Writer's Guild President 2023-2025

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (FICTION, POETRY, AND NONFICTION)

"Brushstrokes" The Lindenwood Review, 2026
"Signs" Olive and Ash, 2025.
"C A U T I O N" Olive and Ash, 2025.
"The Greatest Honor a Woman Could Imagine" Olive and Ash, 2025.
"For the Butter to Soften" Olive and Ash, 2025.
"Slow Down, Breathe In, Hit Hard" The Lindenwood Review, 2025
"Be Not Afraid" Sefer, 2024.
"What If I Died?" Sefer, 2024.
"Drowned Barbies" Trace Fossil Review, 2024.
"Making Coal Out of Diamonds" Sefer, 2023.
"Table For One" Expressions - The Library of Poetry Collection, 2021.
"Red" Ambient Heights Publishing, 2019.
"The Human Giving Tree" Ambient Heights Publishing, 2019.
"Fight, Flight, Freeze" Ambient Heights Publishing, 2019.
"Breathe Again" Ambient Heights Publishing, 2019.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP)

"Unclean! Unclean!" : Dracula and the Return of the Bubonic Plague" The Sigma Tau Delta Review, 2025.

“‘Get in Touch with Mother’ : Future Home of the Living God and a New Leper Village”
Immersed: A Journal of Faith, Arts, and Letters, 2025.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (AUTHOR INTERVIEWS/JOURNALISM)

“Write Like A Boozehound And Keep Looking: A Conversation With Dan Leach About *Junah At The End Of The World*,” South-85, June 2026

AWARDS AND HONORS

2025 Charleston Southern University English Service Award

2024 Gilmore Award for Excellence in Creative Writing

2022 SOOPCast Short Story Contest Winner (First Place in Creative Non-Fiction/Biography)

SELECTED READINGS

Advanced Fiction Student Chapbook Reading. April 2024. Charleston, SC.

Charleston Southern English Tea *Sefer* Contributor Reading. April 2024. Charleston, SC.

Converse M.F.A. Student Reading. June 2026. Spartanburg, SC.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Charleston Southern Symposium (April 2024, Charleston, SC)

Presented research titled “‘Unclean! Unclean!’: Dracula and the Return of the Bubonic Plague”
in undergraduate symposium.

Victorian Institute Conference (September 2025, Greenville, SC)

Presented research titled “‘Unclean! Unclean!’: Dracula and the Return of the Bubonic Plague”
on undergraduate panel

Sigma Tau Delta National Conference (March-April 2026, New Orleans, LA)

Presented research titled “‘Get in Touch with Mother’ : Future Home of the Living God and a
New Leper Village” on undergraduate panel

References Available Upon Request