

KAREN LLAGAS

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

- Over 15 years of developing and teaching courses in Filipino at UC Berkeley and at the Bayanihan Community Center, for college students and adult learners
- 5 years of teaching French, Filipino, Poetry, Math and Reading to levels K-12.
- 18+ years experience as a Tagalog/Filipino interpreter and translator in the healthcare, legal and business industries, in federal and county courts, hospitals, corporations, and government agencies.
- A strong business and management background, over 3 years experience writing business plans and conducting marketing and data analyses for small and midsize businesses.
- Excellent writing, editing, research, communication and analytical skills.

EDUCATION

Warren Wilson College, North Carolina, MFA, Creative Writing, 2007

Ateneo de Manila, Philippines, BA, Major in Economics, Minor in French Studies, 1999

Visiting Scholar, Alliance Française, Toulouse, France, 1998

St. Paul College of Pasig, Philippines, High School, 1995

RELATED EXPERIENCE

- Presented a panel in NHLRC's Third International Conference on Heritage/Community Languages conference in UCLA, 2018, "More than Tourists: Using Critical Pedagogy to Teach Filipino Heritage Learners."
- Presented in Symposium organized by the Center for Philippine Studies at the University of Hawai'i. a paper entitled "Aswang Update: Notes on the Use of Philippine Folklore in Diasporic Poetry and Short Fiction."
- Presenter in the panel, "Archipelagos of Dust, Habitations of Language: Reiterating Landscape, History, and Origin at the Threshold of a New Century," at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) Conference, February 2009, with Philippine-American writers Luisa Igloria, Angela Torres, Marianne Villanueva, Grace Talusan
- Instructor, Poetry Workshop, San Francisco Main Library, December 2008.
- Featured reader in public literary events in numerous venues in the SF Bay Area, 2008-present.
- Developed the curriculum and taught the Filipino courses for adult and children at the Bayanihan Community Center, ABC Language Exchange and in La Peña in Berkeley (www.tagalogclasses.com)
- Completed two and a half year creative writing apprenticeship with mentors Steve Orlen, Heather McHugh, Rick Barot, C. Dale Young and Mark Jarman, Warren Wilson MFA Program for Writers (2005-2007)

- Taught a graduate class: “Quarrelling with Ourselves: The use of the interrogative to implicate, complicate & modulate the poem’s meditative stance” Warren Wilson College, (Summer 2007)
- Participated on three thesis committees, Warren Wilson MFA Program (Summer Residency, 2007)
- Gave a public reading at the MFA graduation, Warren Wilson Fellowship Hall (Summer Residency, 2007)
- Completed the medical interpreter’s training with CHIA (California Healthcare Interpreters’ Association) and Kaiser Permanente.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

In language teaching:

Honorary Grand Marshall, Pistahan Festival Parade, 2010 – for teaching and co-organizing the Tagalog classes at the Bayanihan Community Center

In poetry:

Hedgebrook Writer in Residence, 2010

Elizabeth George Foundation Award, 2010

Filamore Tabios Sr, Memorial Poetry Prize, 2009-2010 Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Memorial Fund Poetry Prize 2007 Levis Scholarship, Warren Wilson College, 2005-2007

Nominee, Departmental Award for Economics, Ateneo de Manila 1999 Recipient, French Study Tour Scholarship in Toulouse, France, 1998 Consistent Honors Student, Ateneo de Manila, 1997-1999

Passed the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) 5/2004

Passed the written test for the California Court Interpreters (Tagalog), 3/2005

PUBLICATIONS

501 Tagalog Verbs (Tuttle Publishing, forthcoming)

Southeast Asian Women in the Diaspora: Troubling Borders in Literature and Art

(University of Washington Press, 2013)

Archipelago Dust: A Collection of Poems (Meritage Press, 2010)

“From a Lighthouse Keeper,” Broadsided Press, February 2009

3 poems: “From a Lighthouse Keeper,” “The Muse Speaks,” “Tannins” in PAWA’s *Field of Mirrors, An Anthology of Philippine-American Writers*, February 2008

2 poems: “Archipelago Dust,” “Biology Class” in Crab Orchard Review, Summer 2008

3 poems: “Archipelago Dust,” “Manananggal,” “Open” in dorothyprizes.org, February 2008

Archipelago Dust: A Collection of Poems, MFA Thesis, Warren Wilson College, 2007 “Rhythm and Revision: The use of repetition in the poems of Walt Whitman, Larry Levis and Elizabeth Bishop,” Degree Essay, Warren Wilson College, 2006

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Teaching & Interpreting/Translating Experience:

Continuing Lecturer in Filipino

UC Berkeley 2013 – Present

lectures at UC Berkeley's Beginning and Intermediate Filipino classes; co-teaches a seminar in Southeast Asian Literature and Filipino Spirituality, and a course in Philippine Myths and Legends

Tagalog Interpreter & Translator

Philippine Cultural Consultant

Self Employed 2005 – Present

a highly trained and provisionally certified CA Court Interpreter; provides consecutive and simultaneous interpretation in healthcare settings, legal & administrative proceedings, court trials, depositions & QMEs ; translates, localizes and proofreads documents, subtitled films, interviews and videos for business, legal, biotech, medical and tech industries; lead Tagalog specialist for LinkedIn and Pinterest localization; designs courses and conducts training on Philippine culture and language for military, government and private agencies; teaches Filipino/Tagalog privately and in group classes in San Francisco Bay Area and online

Math and Reading Instructor, Catapult Learning, 1/04 to 9/05 and from 9/07 to 8/08
taught Reading and Math in Cathedral School for Boys, Monroe Elementary School and Epiphany Elementary School under the Title 1 Program; did initial and ongoing assessment of students' progress; managed classroom behavior and coordinated with the school administration

Writing Teacher, Freelance & with California Poets in the Schools (CPITS), 3/06-3/09
Did manuscript consultation with poets and writers, which involves literary critiquing and doing structural and line-by-line edits to the work at hand; teaches creative writing and composition privately, to individuals and groups; Taught poetry and writing to levels k-12 through CPITS

Substitute Teacher, Archdiocese of San Francisco, 10/03 – 10/04
Substituted at Archbishop Riordan High School and St. Anthony's – Immaculate Conception.

Computer and MS Office Tutor, Freelance, 8/03 – 8/04
Tutored adults on QuickBooks, the Internet, Word and Excel, Photoshop and Dreamweaver and general computer use.

Trip Leader & Translator (French), Edu-Culture International 5/04-8/04
Coordinated and led a group of middle-school students attending the international bilingual school in Aix-en-Provence, France; tasks included problem solving and translating in everyday situations as well as advising students on various cultural, educational, logistical and emotional issues that arose during the trip.

French Teacher, Ateneo Grade School, Philippines, 3/98-3/99 Taught basic French grammar and culture to grade school students.

Business & Corporate Experience:

Marketing Associate, PsPrint, Oakland, CA, 8 /03 – 10/03

Implemented the company's marketing communications: participated in the design, production and maintenance of sales and marketing collateral including website, corporate materials, customer email announcements and press releases; implemented the company's web marketing: monitored Internet marketing programs, business development: assisted in expansion of new affiliate marketing programs by developing and maintaining relationships with online partners.

Bookkeeper, Freelance, 10/03 – 7/06

Worked with artists and small businesses to optimize their processes and efficiently reach their business goals. Diverse services included database and office management, organization and bookkeeping.

Marketing Associate, Wells Fargo Bank & Comcate Inc, 4/03 – 8/03

Responsible for the copyedit and proofreading of marketing collateral, project coordination as well as marketing data analysis of the business card team. Project coordination responsibilities include time and production management of the direct mail campaigns, maintenance of the marketing budget and vendor lists. Data analysis responsibilities include write-ups and significance testing of various direct and telemarketing campaigns as well as audits of ongoing programs.

Data Analyst , Buck Consultants, San Francisco, 6/00 – 3/03

Responsible for implementing marketing and business development efforts as well as data services of the compensation survey department. Marketing and business development responsibilities included execution and improvements to the current marketing plan to increase the number of new survey subscribers and expand the participation of current subscribers. Data responsibilities included coordination of the survey workflow from call solicitation to data submission and results publication.

Staff Accountant, Accounting Principals, San Francisco, 8/99 - 6/00

Reconciled balance sheet accounts for multiple legal entities; performed detailed research to resolve outstanding issues—this included interpreting notes on Rhumba Total Systems Screens, analyzing previous journal entries and adjustments and coordinating with the respective department managers involved with the accounts; created and inputted corrected journal entries; prepared monthly audit reports.

Jr. Financial Analyst, Alan J. Blair, San Francisco, 4/99-8/99

Edited and updated company presentations using PowerPoint and Presentation Macros; researched and put together client information from the Internet; made spreadsheets and typed documents using Excel and Word; organized expense reports and company files.

Market Research Jr. Analyst, Citibank, Philippines, 3/98-6/98

Analyzed the performance of the Money Market department by researching the investment behavior and preferences of their corporate clients through phone and face-to-face interviews;

analyzed the gathered data to compare Citibank's and their competitors' share in the financial market using statistical tools; made recommendations to attract higher investments and new clients

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

PAWA – Philippines-American Writers and Artists

CHIA – California Healthcare Interpreters Association AAWAA – Asian American Women Artists Association

AWP – Association of Writers & Writing Programs

Friends of Writers – Warren Wilson MFA Alumni Association CPITS – California Poets in the Schools

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Localization and Translation Software: Wordfast, WorldServer, SDL Trados, SmartLing Web design: Dreamweaver, Fireworks, Frontpage, Photoshop, HTML, Illustrator Analytical software: SPSS, Econometric Views, Excel and Access

File management and word processing: Filemaker, Word, PowerPoint

Bookkeeping: QuickBooks, Quicken, Smartscreen, MS Money

Foreign languages: Filipino/Tagalog (native speaker), Italian and Spanish (intermediate), French (advanced beginner)