

Dear Committee,

I am attaching this additional document to my application because I believe that it might serve to illustrate a point that runs throughout my statement of purpose: that poetry, whether in its analysis or creation, is something that is more intimate to me than simply a field of study. It is one of the greatest motivating forces in my life, one that would even drive me to pursue a doctorate in its name. I do not expect this to count for any potential requirement of acceptance or consideration: I am confident that my application can stand on its own in that regard. I simply hope to share with you a bit of the person that I am.

I recognize that several members of the department are poets themselves. This is one of the primary reasons I am excited about your program. I hope you can understand my motivations for sending this; I spoke in my statement and sample of poetry, but poetry is the only one that could speak for itself.

What follows is my first chapbook, released in September. I have been writing since I was 7, and only recently have felt ready to compose a complete 'work'. It was distributed around the entire country by a band, whose members I am quite close with, while they were on tour. I plan on sending it out for publication in the new year.

Though the collection is meant to be taken as a whole, it is on the longer side, and so I would direct you to the following poems, for your consideration:

"Would you bear witness..." pg. 5;
"The sudden understanding..." pg. 14;
"My life feels like a flood..." pg. 19;
"I looked back to just now..." pg.39;
"And why shouldn't I..." pg. 45

I hope that you enjoy them, and that this does not for some reason offend or detract. I only intend to share with you my person, who would love the opportunity to study with you at your esteemed institution.

Warmly,
David Rips