

APPROVALS

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Kim Todd: Mouthpiece to the Voiceless

When Worlds Collide: Humanities and the Sciences

Two-In-One: How Science Can Enrich the Humanities

(by order of preference)

TEASER TEXT Write this after you finish the story. All 3 must be different.

WEBSITE TEASER <i>This will appear in both the department newsletter and on their website.</i>	
CLA FACEBOOK TEASER	

<p>CLA TWITTER TEASER</p> <p><i>280 characters or fewer--URL and @/# count as characters</i></p>	
<p>DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK POST</p> <p><i>This is not the same as the CLA teaser.</i></p>	
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By Harrison Nelson

[Insert image & caption here when ready. Standard caption: Photo by [photographer's name], CLAgency student]

Kim Todd is the director of the creative writing program at the University of Minnesota. She showcases the value of an interdisciplinary approach to language and science through her nonfiction work of the natural world. Her literature is dually influenced by her MFA in creative writing and Master's degree in environmental studies. Todd's interests may vary over time but her approach to research remains the same, offering a glimpse into the process of how one may go about coalescing the humanities and sciences.

Path to Present

Todd was an avid reader growing up and points to her early fascination of literature as a fundamental motivation to write. Even before the idea of novelist presented itself to her, Todd had always kept a journal and wrote stories in her freetime. After graduating from college she started a job as a newspaper reporter in Seattle, which is where she first fostered her devotion to science. Todd reported on a broad range of topics at the company, "it was a small enough paper that during my two years there we covered all the beats. So I was the education reporter and then I was the crime reporter, and then I was telling people 10 things to do with chicken." Although she was capable of covering nearly all subjects, Todd took a particular liking to the theme of science and the environment and discovered her readers' stake in her features, "they were really about

what people thought of the world that they wanted to live in.” This idea stuck with her as she decided to attend graduate school to further hone her craft.

Humanities and Sciences

Todd attended the University of Montana and credits her time there for strengthening the connection between writing and science, “I started just doing the MFA and it was similar to our program here; you have a certain number of classes that you have to take outside of the department. So by the end of my MFA I realized, ‘oh look at that, I’m already more than halfway to this environmental studies degree just with what I took by being interested in the subject.’” The complementary nature of her courses allowed Todd to develop the two simultaneously, especially since both departments respected the importance of the other. The rugged expanse of Montana offered Todd a peak into a landscape teeming with native wildlife. This led to her understanding that one’s own environmental literacy must begin from a hyperlocal perspective, through the knowledge of native species and which watershed feeds into which waterway. Therefore, her writing has assumed the responsibility of planting the seed of curiosity into her readers and thus advocates for an amplification of environmental awareness at the individual level.

Future

Todd has recently changed pace and is currently working on a project about the history of girl stunt reporters. Her first book, *Tinkering With Eden*, sought to unearth the untold stories of how non-native species were introduced to the United States, and she is continuing to bring marginalized stories to the foreground, “I think that I can trace that trajectory to the current project. Here’s all these women doing what I consider to be pioneering undercover investigative journalism but because it’s framed as this joke genre of girl stunt reporters, which is considered silly, it was dismissed right after they did it and has consequently been forgotten.”

The convergence of the humanities and sciences through Todd’s writing have amplified the significance of both. The two disciplines succeed as a single practice, and stand as a testament to the advantage of employing a breadth of knowledge from various schools of thought. Regardless of the subject matter, Todd will continue to champion the voices of the forgotten.

This story was written by an undergraduate student in CLAgency. [Meet the team.](#)