

David Williams

STORYTELLER

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PROFILE

PhD in Writing, BA in Anthropology. Emmy-winning songwriter with PBS. Former Professor of Creative Writing, Environmental, Science Writing, and Literature. Strong background in the sciences, as showcased in the book The Trickster Brain: Neuroscience, Evolution, and Narrative. Skilled in all genres of writing, research, copywriting, content writing, as well as UX writing & design, strategic planning, cartooning, animation, and graphic recording/whiteboarding. A versatile storyteller with creativity and expertise in multiple domains. Author with Random House. Founder of Trapdoor Media—a multi-media company. Songwriter with over a dozen CDs: <https://danjo53.wixsite.com/realdavidwilliams>.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in English/Creative Writing, University of Illinois at Chicago
 M.A. in English, Northern Illinois University
 B.A. Anthropology, Minor in English, Northern Illinois University

CERTIFICATIONS

AI Prompt Engineering in ChatGPT from Vanderbilt University, Human Factors in AI from Duke University, Career Essentials in Generative AI from LinkedIn and Microsoft, Generative AI: the Evolution of Thoughtful Online Search from LinkedIn and Microsoft, Contact Center Ai: conversational Design Fundamentals from Google, Digital Marketing Intensive from Boulder Digital Arts, UX Elements of Design from Google. Created the following animated videos to show users how AI works: <https://youtu.be/iXpyd7MlaVM?si=IDKtIHuLEEsqAjxq> AI Introduction
<https://youtu.be/sRE6vjJuukk> Prompts for ChatGPT

EXPERTISE & SKILLS

Writing in all genres (fiction, non-fiction, copywriting, science writing, and more), Educator
 AI certification, UX Writing, cartoonist, graphic designer.

WEBSITES

<https://www.zentrickster.com> THE TRICKSTER INSIDE, book
<https://danjo53.wixsite.com/mysite-3> TRICKSTER CAROUSEL
<https://danjo53.wixsite.com/realdavidwilliams> MUSIC, CARTOONS, PBS
<https://www.newsandhumannature.com/> OPINION, CARTOONS, SOCIOLOGY
<https://danjo53.wixsite.com/davidwilliamswriting> WRITING

CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

- Emmy Award-winning writer with PBS.
- Published author of The Trickster Brain: Neuroscience, Evolution, and Narrative, (Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group) as well as fiction books with Random House, and more.
- Former Professor of Writing. Face-to-face & Head of Fiction Writing Program within the English Department.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Editor-in-Chief/Head Writer/Cartoonist.** Jan. 2 023—present
 A weekly news magazine that examines contemporary life through the lenses of neuroscience, evolutionary biology, genetics, and the Arts; NHM is a subsidiary of the Human Nature Forum: <https://www.newsandhumannature.com/>.

- **Founder, Trapdoor Media, Boulder, CO.** Jan. 2017—present.
Creative Media Arts company, providing creative media and instruction to various clients on various projects in multiple genres.
- **AI Prompt Engineer**--Trained in AI Prompt Engineering from Vanderbilt University, Duke University, and LinkedIn. Prompt Engineering used in freelance work for customers such as GREEN OUR PLANET, NEWS & HUMAN NATURE MAGAZINE, and Illustrated Guides to AI and ChatGPT: https://youtu.be/iXpyd7MlaVM?si=nYCzgjND_lpdIBJ, <https://youtu.be/FJmrjDdioc?si=dtlyCIXPdFOftPBp>.
- **Cartoonist**—worked for The Chronicle of Higher Education, Carlton Cards, Soultrader of London, Barons, String World, and The Rocky Mountain News.
- **Graphic Recorder/Whiteboard Artist** for ATT, McKesson, EDUCAUSE, and others. Attended conferences nationally and facilitated whiteboarding recording sessions during company meetings.
- **Emmy-winning songwriter for PBS KIDS**—about animals and the environment. These songs have had over 100 million hits on YouTube. The Rhino Song became a hit in South Africa through the anti-poaching movement-- <https://davidwilliamsanimals.wordpress.com/the-amazing-rhino-story/>.
- **CU Boulder, Boulder, CO.** August 2010-- January 2017
Professor of Writing and Literature
Curriculum Development and Instructional Design for face-to-face and online courses.
Taught courses in Creative Writing, Science Writing, Environmental Writing, Women’s Literature, African American Literature, Blues Music/Poetry, Business Writing, Shakespeare, and more.
Founder of Eco Video Program, working with students to create environmental videos for YouTube.
Taught media development for Environmental Writing with the goal to bring environmental issues to the greater public.
Training in “Best Practices” for online education in collaboration with the University of Colorado (CU) Department of Continuing Education.
- **Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO.** June 2008-August 2010
Professor of Writing and Literature
Curriculum Development and Instructional Design for face-to-face and online courses.
Taught a course on Man & Nature for engineers that covered Western and Eastern Philosophy, as well as Ethics, and the History of Environmental Worldviews from various cultural traditions.
Won best teacher of year award from student input.
Served on English Committee for Best Practices in Writing, in which we did joint grading of assignments and talked over our responses to come to a collective consensus.
Developed video essays on environmental issues with students for YouTube.
- **Metro State University, Denver, CO** August 1998--August 2008
Professor of Writing and Literature
Curriculum Development and Instructional Design for face-to-face and online courses.
Head of Fiction Writing Program within the English Department.
Won best teacher of year award from student input.
Produced and directed a film with students titled I Love English in a Major Way, a 45-minute mockumentary about being an English Major.

TOP AWARDS & GRANTS

- Recipient of 2011 Encompass Research in China Cultural Exchange Travel Grant to meet with students from grade school to college, teaching environmental songs.
- Emmy Winner in Songwriting for work on The Big Green Rabbit, PBS television program.
- National Association of Parenting Publications Award, NAPPA, for children’s music, for the album Rainforest and Tropical Animals.
- Award in Songwriting for Route 66, from the Springfield Arts Council, Illinois Arts Council, and the National Endowment.
- Award in Literature for the short story, "A Living That Means Something," Illinois Arts Council.
- Folk Music Apprenticeship Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.