# Melissa B. Rooney

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**Formal Education and Experience**

2019 – present: Scientific Writing Instructor, University of North Carolina; Chapel Hill, NC; USA.
For Biological & Biomedical Sciences graduate students regarding writing for academic journals and grant applications, providing independent services to faculty and students upon request.

2001 – 02: Lecturer, Monash University; Melbourne, VIC; Australia.
For first-year chemistry students.

2000 – 03 Research Fellow of the Australian Research Council. Monash University; Melbourne, VIC; Australia.

1999 – 03 Post-doctoral Research Assistant. Monash University; Melbourne, VIC; Australia.
Under direction of: Alan M. Bond.

1993 – 98 Ph.D., Chemistry. University of North Carolina; Chapel Hill, NC; USA; Awarded May 1998.
Thesis title: *Voltammetric Analysis of Biogenic Amines*
Advisor: R. Mark Wightman.

1993 – 94 Teaching Assistant, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC; USA.
For students in graduate-level electronics and undergraduate analytical laboratories, with biweekly tutorials for the latter.

1992 – 93 Laboratory Assistant, The College of William and Mary; Williamsburg, VA; USA
For general chemistry and analytical students.

1988 – 93 B.S., Chemistry; B.A., English. Summa Cum Laude with Highest Honors in Chemistry and English.
The College of William and Mary; Williamsburg, VA; USA; Obtained May 1993.
Advisor: Gary Rice.

**Writing Experience**

2022 — present: Grant Management Specialist, Urban Sustainability Solutions (501c3), https://www.urbanss.org:
Train and hire local youth and teachers to design and implement sustainability projects on low-income properties that improve air, water and green space.

2022 — present: Author, Writing Judge and Director of Children's Anthologies, Froward Press Publishing (@FrowardPress).

2022 — present: Children's Book Reviewer, New York Journal of Books (https://www.nyjournalofbooks.com).

2021 — present: Performing Arts Reviewer, Triangle Review (Triangle Arts and Entertainment). https://trianglereview.org

2010 – present: Contract Editor of Academic Research, American Journal Experts LLC Corporate, Durham, N.C.

2010 – present: Newspaper/Serial Columnist
Including Durham News, Chapel Hill News, and Raleigh News and Observer, Mark Schultz, Ed. See publications below.

2016 – present: *MelissaRooneyWriting* Blog. http://www.melissarooneywriting.com/blog/.

2005 – present: Children's and Freelance Author and Editor (Prose and Poetry). See publications below.

April 2010: Children's Writer's Bootcamp (Charlotte, NC).
Intense instruction and exercises for writing children's fiction (all ages), with emphasis on character and plot development, dialogue, descriptive writing, point of view, writing strong beginnings, editing one's own work and submitting manuscripts to publishers.
Instructors: Linda Arms White (Christopher Award-winning author ) and Laura Backes (Publisher, *Children's Book Insider*).

**Arts and Educational Experience**

2023-present: Writer in Residence, E.K. Powe Elementary and YE Smith Elementary Schools; Durham, NC: Conduct 1-hr writing workshops, 6 sessions with 2nd through 4th graders, including underperforming students; then design, publish, print and provide the resulting anthologies to each student author at release parties.

2022 —present: Writer in Residence, Summit School; Winston Salem, NC: Conduct 1-hr writing workshops, 6 sessions with 3rd grade students, including those with dyslexia; then design, publish, print, and provide the resulting anthologies of short stories (beginning-middle-end curriculum) to each student at a release party.

2022 — present: One-on-one Reading Tutor, E.K. Powe Elementary School; Durham, NC.

2009 — present: Teaching Artist, Durham Arts Council's Creative Arts in Public & Private Schools program (CAPS) and Freelance: Create and run workshops with schools and community partners throughout Durham, Orange, and Granville counties to build students' academic achievement as well as self-esteem, confidence, and appreciation for the arts and diverse cultures. Programs: The Australian Didgeridoo and the Science of Sound; Eddie the Electron and Your Future in Science; Your Water Resources and The Fate of the Frog. *References available upon request.*

2014 – present: Regularly invited participant in Career Symposiums, Creative Careers Industry Nights and related events at the University of North Carolina for graduate and undergraduate students entering the workforce.

2015 – present: Educational Exhibitor at annual Community and Science-based Museum Events:
Conduct hands-on book readings, tables and/or workshops at museum and community events, including UNC Science Festival (Morehead Planetarium, Chapel Hill, NC); Roanoke Science Festival (Virginia Museum of Transportation, Roanoke, VA); Danville Science Center (Danville, VA); Virginia Museum of Natural History; Science Museum of Western Virginia; Rockfish Valley Community Center (Afton, VA); Durham County Libraries (Durham, NC); and NC and VA Book Festivals and Elementary School Events. *References available upon request.*

Jan 2021*:* Inclusive Pedagogy for Teaching Artists, Parts I and II:
Virtual (Durham, NC) workshop facilitated by master teaching artist Heather Bryce. 3 hours credit.

2008 – 2014: Northeast Creek Neighborhood Group Developer and Creek Week Organizer:
Inform and educate neighborhoods about the importance of water quality and threats to the water quality of Northeast Creek. Projects include booths/crafts at events like RTP's IBM annual Earth Day Fair.
Organize educational activities centered on the importance of preserving our waterways, including story- and craft-times at local libraries and elementary schools.

April 2010: Learning Through Empowerment and Creativity: Integrating Drama and Theater into the Curriculum (Part II).
Carrboro (NC) workshop facilitated by master teaching artist Virginia Queen. 1.5 hours credit.

April 2010: Turn Your Students into Learning Stars: Integrating Music and Creative Movement into the Curriculum, Parts I and II.
Carrboro (NC) workshop facilitated by master teaching artist Jody Cassell. 3 hours credit.

March 2010: Building Student Literacy and a Caring Community: Integrating Visual Arts into the Curriculum, Parts I and II.
Carrboro (NC) workshop facilitated by master teaching artist Rachel Galper. 3 hours credit.

2008 – 2009: Piedmont Festival for Wildlife, Northeast Creek Exhibitor/Organizer, including live animals.

2006 – 2008: Workshops for Durham County Public Library Children's Programs:
Mrs. Samantha Wikstrom, Parkwood Branch contact; Margaret Anderson and Sandra Lovely, South Regional Branch contacts.

2006 – 2007: High-school Chemistry Tutor.

2005 – 2008: In-home Caregiver and Educator for toddlers aged 1 to 4.

**Boards and Committees**

2022 — present: Grants Committee, Urban Sustainability Solutions (501c3), https://www.urbanss.org:
Train and hire local youth and teachers to design and implement sustainability projects on low-income properties that improve air, water and green space.

2013 – 2022: Associate Supervisor, Durham Soil and Water Conservation District:
Promote, conserve, and educate the public about Durham County's natural resources and sustainability, including partnering and facilitating projects with local schools and government departments as well as monthly board meetings and administrative commitments.

2017 – 2022: Garden Club Administrator and Grounds Grant Writer, EK Powe Elementary School Parent Teacher Association: Write grants and obtain funding for Garden Club and Sustainable Landscaping at EK Powe Elementary School; Purchase plants, amendments and equipment from local distributors; Educate students during installation and maintenance of gardens (rain, butterfly, rose, tea, herb, vegetable, etc.) and rainwater harvesting methods with a focus on environmental engineering and sustainability.

2015 – 2017: Beautification & Horticulture Committee Chair and Grant Writer, Jordan High School Parent Student Teacher Association: Wrote grants and obtained funding for Horticulture and Science programs and Sustainable Landscaping plans at JHS; Purchased plants, amendments and equipment from local distributors; Educated students during installation and maintenance of gardens (rain, butterfly, rose, tea, herb, vegetable, etc.) and rainwater harvesting methods with a focus on environmental engineering and sustainability.

2015 – 2017: Grants Writer, Creekside Elementary School Parent Teacher Association:
Researched local, state and federal grant funding, assessing the applicability and probability of attaining each grant, and composed grant applications for those most appropriate for Creekside Elementary School.

2014 – 2015: Beautification and Horticulture Committee Chairperson, Lowe's Grove Middle School Parent Teacher Association:
Wrote grants and obtained funding for Horticulture and Science programs and Sustainable Landscaping plans at LGMS; Purchased plants, amendments and equipment from local distributors;
Educated students during installation and maintenance of gardens (rain, butterfly, rose, tea, herb, vegetable, etc.) and rainwater harvesting methods with a focus on environmental engineering and sustainability.

2012 – 14: Lowe's Grove Parent Teacher Association President (reinstated the LGMS PTA in 2012).

2010 – 2014: Community Awareness Committee Chair and Interneighborhood Council Representative, Fairfield Homeowners Association, Durham NC.

December 2011: Jordan Watershed Oversight Committee (WOC) member:
NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality. Appointed by the Director to represent environmental interests. The WOC oversees fair implementation of the Jordan Agriculture Rules (Jordan Lake nutrient reduction strategy).

August 2011: County-appointed participant in the Durham County Strategic Planning Focus Group.

2011 - 2014: Grounds Committee Chairperson, Creekside Elementary Parent Teachers Association:
Worked with elementary teachers, students, and parents to utilize available funding (through the PTA, grants, etc.) for vegetable and fruit gardens and other gardening/sustainability projects on school grounds. Oversaw the gardening program (Adopt-A-Plot) during recess blocks, including gardening with students aged 5 to 10 years.

2009 – 2014: Grants Committee Chairperson, Creekside Elementary Parent Teachers Association:
Researched local, state and federal grant funding, assessing the applicability and probability of attaining each grant, and composed grant applications for those most appropriate for Creekside Elementary School.

Spring, 2010: City Council-nominated member of the Non-City Agency Review Panel:
Reviewed and evaluated applications submitted by non-profit organizations (Durham) seeking local funding.

2009 – 2011: Creekside Elementary School Site-Improvement-Plan Committee, Parent representative.

2008 – 2010: Creekside Elementary School Site-Based Committee, Parent representative.

2004 – 2006: Director, Fairfield Homeowner's Association.

**Honors:**

* Durham Public Schools Foundation Innovation Grant, 2023, for 6 six-session elementary-school writing residencies.
* North Carolina Arts Council Artist Support Grant, 2022, for website design, overhaul and transfer.
* Beverly Hills Children's Book Award in Children's Fiction, 2018, for *The Fate of the Frog.*
* First Place, Stories for Children, Burlington Writer's Club, 2016, for "Milk Drinkers Turning to Powder".
* First Place, Children's Poetry, Burlington Writer's Club, 2016, for "Counting on Me".
* Inaugural recipient of the Durham Public Schools' Get Involved! Award, 2011, chosen from 3,691 DPS volunteers.
* Finalist, Carrboro Arts Center Photo Exhibition, May, 2011, for "Tortuga".
* Honorable Mention (3rd place), Adult Fiction, Burlington Writer's Club, 2010, for *Forgiven.*
* First Place, Charles Shull Traditional Poetry, Poetry Council of North Carolina, 2009, for "Hope".
* First Place in 'Poetry for Children' category, Burlington Writer's Club, 2009, for "Beyond the Dark".
* "Eight to Watch", Raleigh News and Observer, 2008.
* Neighborhood Hero, Interneighborhood Council of Durham, 2006.
* Collier Charitable Fund Recipient, 2002.
* Australian Research Council Post-Doctoral Fellowship, 2000-2003.
* Eastman Travel Grant, 1997.
* Reilley Fellowship for First Year Chemistry Graduate Students, 1993.
* American Chemical Society Undergraduate Award, 1993.

**Select Publications:**

Rooney, M.B. (2024) *Larry the (Roanoke) Logperch*, Froward Press; Jane Gabrielle (illustrator), https://roanoke.com/news/local/education/roanoke-kiwanis-club-larry-the-roanoke-logperch-childrens-book/article_126e5c66-d669-11ee-a994-dfcd79f51644.html

Rooney, M.B. (2018) *The Fate of the Frog,* Mascot Books, with Stacy Stubbs Fabbre (illustrator), https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/40402609-the-fate-of-the-frog.

Rooney, M.B. (2017) *Eddie the Electron Moves Out,* Amberjack Publishing, with Harry Pulver (illustrator), https://www.chicagoreviewpress.com/eddie-the-electron-moves-out-products-9781944995140.php.

Rooney, M.B. (2015) *Eddie the Electron,* Amberjack Publishing, with Harry Pulver (illustrator), https://www.chicagoreviewpress.com/eddie-the-electron-products-9780692467435.php.

Rooney, M.B. (2013) *I Chalk*, Createspace, https://www.amazon.com/Chalk-Dr-Melissa-Rooney-Ph-D/dp/1492875651.

Rooney, M.B. (2010) "Southern Rainbow," *Alamance Magazine*, Volume 8, Number 1, August, 2010.

Rooney, M.B. (2010) *Imagining Heaven* Anthology, published by Hospice.

Rooney, M.B. (2009) "When I Kicked the Ball Down the Field," *Highlights Magazine.*

Rooney, M.B. (2009) "Hope" in *Bay Leaves* Anthology (2009), published by the Poetry Council of North Carolina (PCNC).

Rooney, M.B. (2009) *Eddie the Electron*, Createspace.

**Select Articles:**

Rooney, M.B. "Sound Problems Make Ride the Cyclone a Bumpy Ride," *Triangle Review,* 10 June 2023.

Rooney, M.B. "John Frazier Lights Up the PSI Stage as Ladies' Man Garry Essendine in Noël Coward's *Present Laughter*," *Triangle Review,* 23 Feb 2023.

Rooney, M.B. "Paperhand Puppet Intervention's *The Meanwhile Clock* is like a Pilgrimage to a Corroboree," *Triangle Review*, 5 Sep 2022.

Rooney, M.B. "Hamilton at DPAC is a Cultural Phenomenon," *Triangle Review,* 19 May 2022.

Rooney, M.B. "Playmaker's One-Man Show of August Wilson's *How I Learned what I Learned* is a Gift to Triangle Theatergoers," *Triangle Review*, 5 May 2022.

Rooney, M.B. "*Grace* and *Mercy* at UNC's Memorial Hall," *Triangle Review*, 10 March 2022.

Rooney, M.B. "Let's Be Smart, Economical, and Let Nature Take its Course," *The Herald Sun* (9 October 2018).

Rooney, M.B. "Society Supports Sexual Harassment: Admission is First Step to Recovery," *The Herald Sun* (14 Dec 2017).

Rooney, M.B. "The UNC Science Festival: Reuniting our Left and Right Brains", *The News and Observer* (April 12, 2017).

Rooney, M.B. "About CAPS (Creative Arts in Public and Private Schools)," *Stir Crazy Moms of Durham* (29 March 2016).

Rooney, M.B. "Mothers and Daughters," *The News and Observer* (5 December 2014).

Rooney, M.B. "Durham's Bionomic Education and Training Center Program and the Future of our Youth," *Transformations*, Alliance for Innovation (December 2014).

Rooney, M.B. "A Lesson in Life and Dying," *The Durham News* (Viewpoints, Feb 2014).

Rooney, M.B. "4-Wheeled Litmus Test," *The News and Observer* (20 Aug 2014).

Rooney, M.B. "When Parents Can't Read," *The News and Observer* (9 Jun 2014).

Rooney, M.B. "Letters to My Mother, Myself," *The Durham News* (9 May 2014).

Rooney, M.B. "Jesus Takes Backseat to the Easter Bunny," *The News and Observer* (Apr 2014).

Rooney, M.B. "Unplugging the Drug," *The News and Observer* (11 Mar 2014).

Rooney, M.B. "My Place in the Current," *The Durham News* (Jan 2014).

Rooney, M.B. "Discrimination Against Edible Plants," *The Durham News* (Oct 2013).

Rooney, M.B. “From an Agnostic Christian,” *The Durham News* (31 Mar 2013).

Rooney, M.B. "Don't Worry, Be Bored," *The Durham News* (Jan 2012).

Rooney, M.B. “All or None,” *The Durham News* (14 Feb 2012).

Rooney, M.B. “From Down Under,” *The Durham News* (21 Aug 2011).

Rooney, M.B. "Why Not Free Choice," *The Durham News* (23 Mar 2011).

Rooney, M.B. "The Perils of Christmas," *The Durham News* (14 Dec 2010).

Rooney, M.B. "Shortchanging Babies," The Durham News (20 Oct 2010).

Rooney, M.B. “The 2nd Time Around,” *The Durham News* (16 Jun 2010).

Rooney, M.B. "Mail Order Ministers", *The Durham News* (17 Aug 2010).

**Children’s Anthologies (M.B. Rooney, Ed.):** *available upon request.*

**Blog:** http://www.melissarooneywriting.com/blog/

**Scientific Journal Articles:** *available upon request.*