



University of New Hampshire
College of Liberal Arts

REvisions: UNH English

Write your own story:
Join the UNH English major

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banner courtesy of Kayla Barron, UNH '20



Congratulations, Graduates! *Saturday, May 19, 10 AM*
Join Commencement Speaker **SHAWN GORMAN**,
'89 UNH English Alumnus and
L.L. Bean Executive Chairman of the Board

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Gorman
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How Far Six Miles Can Take You: Tali Cherim's Odyssey from Dover to Durham and Beyond

by Kathy Kiely



Tali Cherim has a healthy skepticism about the familiar. It's what made her hesitate before deciding to come to the University of New Hampshire, and it's what made her hesitate

again before deciding to major in English.

For the highly honored UNH senior, however, home—both physical and intellectual—turned out to be the place that allowed her to grow the most.

Winner of the English Department's [Edmund Miller prize](#) for outstanding writing on literature, and one of the Class of 2018's commencement marshals, Cherim hails from nearby Dover.

"I grew up on this campus," she said.

That's because her mother, [Nancy Cherim](#), has worked at UNH since 1984, helping to train scientists on the use of the university's electron microscopes.

So Tali and her twin sister, Lilah, wondered whether it might be better to go to college elsewhere. Then practical considerations came to the fore.

"It came down to the fact we would have to pay for two people to go to school at the same time," Tali Cherim said. "It was just so expensive."

When it came time to pick her major, Cherim took a long pause before following the route that seemed most obvious. "I declared at the last possible moment," she said.

Torn among a broad array of interests, Cherim finally picked English, the subject she learned to love from a "fantastic" high school teacher named [Marcia Goodnow](#).

Her decision was rewarded with the flexibility to explore all her intellectual interests.

"I like that a lot English classes here bleed over into women's studies," said Cherim, who is double majoring in Women's Studies and minoring in French. Through the study of literature, she has been able to write about topics as "women and gender, feminist theory, race and social dynamics."

Along the way, Cherim managed to squeeze in a semester in London, a January term in Washington, D.C. and a trip to the 2016 Democratic National Convention—all while making regular appearances on the Dean's List.

Cherim said her English degree has helped in her job search. "It hasn't been

hard to write cover letters and resumes," she said.

Besides marketable skills as a communicator, her English major has given Cherim something of perhaps even more value: A deeper understanding about who she is.

As a senior, she worked with Professor [Diane Freedman](#) on an honors thesis about the poetry of the Holocaust. For Cherim, it was a deeply personal project: Her maternal grandparents fled to America to escape the Holocaust; her father's parents came earlier, from Russia, because of the pogroms.

The project was the most difficult she undertook in the course of her career at UNH, she said. "I sat alone in a room and cried so many times." But she added: "I think it was a good experience."

If she had it to do all over again, even if money were not a factor, "I would still pick UNH," Cherim said, "because of the faculty I've met here, and the people I've met here and the organizations I've been involved in. It's fantastic."

Tali Cherim, English major, will serve as Commencement Class Marshall on May 19

Student Profile: Madison Pierce
UNH Create Your Own Story Winner
2018 Commencement Class Marshal

What is your UNH English major and graduation year?

I am an English Teaching major graduating in May 2018.

How has your UNH English major prepared you for your current and future work?

The major has allowed me to both have real-world experiences in the classroom through internships and also pursue relevant, meaningful coursework for my teaching career. In particular, my class with Alecia Magnifico, English 726, has helped me to think about my approach as a teacher, my pedagogical goals, and has permitted me to apply those directly to my mini-internship at Dover Middle School. It is wonderful to bring insights and questions about my internship back to class and dissect them with a group. It has also been extremely beneficial for me in terms of thinking about how I envision my future classroom and my pedagogical goals as a teacher.

Aside from preparing you for work, how has your UNH English major enriched your life?

A lot of the connections I've made with students and professors through this major, through our close-knit community, have enriched my personal relationship with the school and my ability to thrive within it. These relationships have also aided me in seeing that the "it takes a village" mentality is crucial to have as a prospective educator. Having a small yet strong community of prospective teachers to collaborate with has been one of the best parts of my experiences at UNH.

What is your most valuable UNH English memory?

I have many great memories as a part of the English department, but I think my best memory is yet to come! I'm really looking forward to the Honors English Undergraduate Research Conference. I am writing a thesis that analyzes four comedic plays from the Elizabethan and

Jacobean eras through the lens of companionate marriage, and I have been fortunate enough to work with Professor Dennis Britton throughout the semester on this project. As we're all getting ready to graduate, the URC is a



kind of testament to the work we've done and the community we have created. I am looking forward to celebrating that day with my peers and those who have supported us in the community. I have been a part of the URC twice before at UNH, and I find it to be an extremely rewarding experience and a valuable opportunity to see how others in the community have pursued research of interest to them.

What advice do you have for incoming or current UNH students?

Not enough students take advantage of office hours! I have learned the most from going through the drafting process with my professors on nearly every paper I have written at UNH. I very rarely just turn in a final product, and I often work through outlines and drafts. Going through this process not only helps to build relationships with professors, but to also learn from their analytical insights and pedagogical approaches. It's dually valuable as a prospective teacher to go through that process to experience different ways of approaching feedback and aiding students in developing their writing skills. I've gained a lot of help and grown as a writer and person from taking the time to go to office hours and get to know professors beyond class. So visit your professors, ask lots of questions, and get the most out of your time here at UNH!

Read more about Pierce here:



Undergraduate Research Conference

April 2018

Nearly 30 English majors presented their original works of research in poster and oral presentations. Share your own work next year! Read more at



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