

McNamara Joins UNH English Department

Professor and journalist Mei-Ling McNamara joined the UNH English Department this spring, teaching English 721: Advanced Reporting as well as English 401: First-Year Writing. She sat down with Laura Smith to discuss journalism, teaching, and writing; here's their conversation, edited for length and clarity.

How does your experience in journalism guide your teaching?

What I've noticed about when I do journalism whilst I still am a teacher is that I'm able to look at all the things that are facing society now and to see those reflected in my classroom. We talk about breaking the story, and this is not about breaking the story in the sense of getting to the news first, but about breaking narratives, dominant narratives in society. A journalist's job, I believe anyway, is to really question those narratives, those ideas around how it's always been and to try to find a new way of telling stories.

What are students working on in your classes?

One of the classes I do is an advanced reporting class and the topic I picked this semester was storytelling in society. We try to find ways of telling stories that fit the people and the story itself. So, for example, we use multimedia, or more immersive reporting, or different ways to look at important issues in society now. My students, for example, are working on issues like gun laws, the Greek system, development issues. So how do we report these stories? How do we talk to people; how do we deal with sensitive subjects? These are the kind of things that I'm more interested in finding out from them in terms of process, rather than just product.

What should students know about writing, reporting, or composing today?

It's in the public interest to get stories out that are untold or underreported that people wouldn't know about otherwise. You have to provide context, you have to explain, you have to dig, you have to give people platforms, an agency. There's a lot involved rather than just saying what you've seen or saying what you hear. It's a craft, it's a discipline. And it's a critical service to society.

And my hope is to meet [students] where they are and to try and make them feel as if their voice and their work counts. And it's all a learning process that we're all learning. And I learn from them as much as they learn from me. So it's a dialogic experience that I have with them.



Photo courtesy of
Mei-Ling McNamara

Watch for Professor McNamara's classes this fall at <https://courses.unh.edu/>

Flarity Publishes Movie Review

Jess Flarity (PhD candidate in Literature) has published his first professional movie review in *SFRA Review*, the journal for the Science Fiction Research Association. His review of [Free Guy](#) is influenced heavily by his work with feminist theory for his dissertation on the intersection between gender,

race, and science fiction. He is indebted to his wonderful committee members, Siobhan Senier, Robin Hackett, and Matthew Cheney, for this unique opportunity. For anyone else looking to get some professional reviews under their belt, the journal has a long list of [items for review](#), check it out!



Summer 2022

UNH-Managed, Short-Term Study Abroad Program

ENGL 565.01 Literary Dublin - May 23 to June 9, 2022

5-days pre-departure on Zoom learning history, culture, religions, and reading literature
10 days in country exploring Dublin

Participants reside at the Village Residences, University College Dublin, in individual rooms with private baths.

Students from all disciplines welcome to apply.

Interested graduate students welcome to contact the program director: monica.chiu@unh.edu

Info Sessions

Tuesday, Feb. 15, 12:40-1:30, HS 108

Friday, Mar. 4, 12:10-1:00, HS 108

Apply by March 15: www.cola.unh.edu/dublin

Literary Dublin

The UNH “Literary Dublin” Summer Program allows students to spend five days pre-departure, on Zoom, learning about Irish history and culture and reading its contemporary literature. Immediately following, we explore Dublin, for 10 days, staying at the Village Residences of the University College Dublin (UCD). Program benefits include:

- Experience 20th- and 21st-century literature firsthand while exploring the cosmopolitan city of Dublin and its surroundings
- Ask and explain what is meant by “Irish” to discover the many identities in Ireland beyond that of the Celt, including Jewish, African and Asian Irish.
- Gain an appreciation of Ireland’s many challenges of self- and other identity related to its location, conquest, colonization, emigration, religions, and recent global immigration
- If you have Irish heritage, research your genealogy
- Understand the interconnections among Ireland and America
- Appreciate and respect the culture, people, and places of Ireland

Write your own story:
Join the UNH English major





2021-2022

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

WRITERS SERIES

Author of
I Know You Love Me, Too

AMY NESWALD

Thursday

March 3rd, 2022

5:00 p.m.

**Hamilton Smith
Room 210**



Visit the English Department website for more information about this speaker. <https://cola.unh.edu/english>

This event is free and open to the public. Contact the UNH English Department for more information: (603) 862-1313.