

English Department PhD Program: 50th Anniversary of
Awarding of First Degree (1972)

PROGRAM of Celebration and Conference

Friday, September 22, 2023

Hamilton Smith Hall

University of New Hampshire, Durham

This event celebrates the achievements and insights of our English PhD Program alumni/ae.

All events take place on the first floor of Hamilton Smith Hall. Social events and a book exhibit occur in the Atrium, while roundtables featuring alumni/ae of the program are scheduled in Room 150.

In the Atrium

All Day: Exhibit of Alumni/ae Books.

10:00-11:00: Bagels, coffee, tea, juice, name tags.
Welcome Remarks by English Graduate Coordinator and Associate Professor Samantha Seal and English Graduate Organization President and PhD student Michaela George.

12:30-1:30: Lunch (sandwiches, salads).

2:45-3:15: Break (coffee, tea, water, cookies).

5:00-7:00: Reception and general mingling. Cash bar.
Remarks by English Department Chair Rachel Trubowitz, Professor Emerita Sarah Sherman, and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Wayne Jones.

In Room 150

We are holding three roundtables on scholarship, administration, teaching, other areas of work, and the state of the humanities.

All talks are by English PhD Program alumni/ae. These talks draw on careers shaped by the speakers' training in the study of literature, writing, rhetoric, and culture.

Each roundtable will conclude with Q&A and conversation.

11:15-12:30: First Roundtable – Origins and Applications of the PhD Program in English

Co-Chairs: Douglas Lanier, Professor of English at UNH, and EGO President and PhD in Literature student Michaela George.

Participants:

Michael Michaud (PhD Comp), Professor of English and Chair, Writing Board, Rhode Island College: "Fifty Since Fanny: The UNH English Department at the Dawn of its Third Epoch."

Paul Lewis (PhD English), Professor of English Emeritus, Boston College: "From Durham to Boston: A Long and Winding Road."

Timothy Thomas Dansill (PhD Comp), Professor of English Emeritus, Quinnipiac University: "The Rise, Fall, and Death of the Writing Across the Curriculum Program at Quinnipiac."

Drew Lopenzina (PhD Lit), Professor of English and MA Graduate Program Director, Old Dominion University, "Bringing Scholarship on Native American Literature into the Public Sphere."

Alexandria Peary (PhD Comp), Professor of English, Salem State University, and New Hampshire State Poet Laureate: "Putting one's expertise into action in the community (i.e.: mindful writing in my case)."

1:30-2:45: Second Roundtable – Research and Writing

Co-Chairs: Christina Ortmeier-Hooper (PhD Comp), Associate Professor of English at UNH, and PhD in Literature student Cameron Netland.

Participants:

Matthew Cheney (PhD Lit), Associate Professor and Director of Interdisciplinary Studies, Plymouth State University: "Wearing Many Hats Is More Than a Fashion Statement: Literary Scholarship, Creative Writing, and the Academic Life."

Etta Madden (PhD Lit), Professor of English Emerita, Missouri State University: "Openness in the Archives of Women Writers: Moving through an Unknown Future."

Bronwyn Williams (PhD Comp), Professor of English, Endowed Chair in Rhetoric and Composition, University of Louisville: "A Feeling for Research: Ongoing Explorations in Literacy and Identity Started from Ham Smith."

Meaghan Dittrich (PhD Comp), Director of University Writing Programs at UNH; Cinthia Gannett (PhD Comp), Associate Professor Emerita of English, Fairfield University; and Kate Tirabassi (PhD Comp), Director of the Center for Research & Writing, Professor of Communication, Affiliate Faculty in English, Keene State College : "Legacies of Composition & Rhetoric at UNH: Creating 'Usable Pasts,' Presents, and Futures with the National Archives of Comp/Rhet."

3:15-4:30: Third Roundtable – Bringing Humanities Values into Other Careers and into Academic Administration

Co-Chairs: Robin Hackett, Professor of English at UNH, and PhD in Composition Studies student Mali Barker.

Participants:

Beth Sheckler (PhD Lit), Business Development Manager, Creative and Digital Works, at New York University Technology Opportunities and Ventures: "Bring your ethics with you: A Humanist's Journey to the Business Side of Higher Education Administration."

Jennifer Beard (PhD Lit), Clinical Associate Professor of Global Health, Boston University School of Public Health; Director, Public Health Writing Program; Associate Editor, Public Health Post; Public Scholarship Shop, Center for Antiracist Research: "How to use your English PhD to forge career paths you never imagined."

Lisa M. Stepanski (PhD Comp), Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor of English, Interim Chair Modern Languages Department, Emmanuel College: "This Administrative Life, or, Why I Chose to Become a Dean."

Eden Wales Freedman (PhD Lit), Academic Vice President and Dean of Faculty, Professor of Arts and Sciences, Colby-Sawyer College: "Becoming the Unicorn: Navigating Tenure, Promotion, Administration, the Humanities, and Higher Ed."

Sharon Kehl Califano (PhD Lit), previous Director of General Studies Strategy at Western Governors University, and Associate Dean of Programs, Writing, Composition, and Literature at SNHU Global Campus: "'I Feel the Earth Move': The Ever-Changing Roles of Administrators in the Future of Work & Higher Ed."

Thanks. Event organizer Brigitte Bailey is grateful to Janine Wilks, Cameron Netland, Mali Barker, Rachel Trubowitz, Monica Chiu, Alecia Magnifico, Douglas Lanier, Lisa MacFarlane, Michaela George and the EGO, Carla Cannizzaro, and James Krasner for their help. The Michael DePorte Book Fund enabled us to purchase our alumni/ae's impressive books.