

REvisions:

UNH English Department
Newsletter

Vol. 7, No. 2

Spring 2024

UNH English Department Welcomes You to the 2024 Nossrat Yassini Poetry Festival:

A full weekend of readings, workshops, teen programming, multi-genre performances, a small press fair, a poetry carnival, and a celebration of our book prize winners

Free and open to all!

Learn more at
<https://www.unhpoetry.com/>

See the full program here:



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE'S
nossrat yassini
poetry festival

APRIL
12-14
2024

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nossrat yassini poetry festival

The Nossrat Yassini Poetry Festival

What: A full weekend of readings, workshops, teen programming, multi-genre performances, a small press fair, a poetry carnival, and a celebration of our book prize winners. Free and open to all, on a fully accessible campus!

When: April 12-14, 2024

Where: University of New Hampshire (Hamilton Smith Hall, 95 Main Street, Durham, NH)*

* Some headline events will be livestreamed. Register to receive links for virtual events or find information on [our website](#) a week prior the Festival.

Who: Adobo-Fish-Sauce, Diannely Antigua, Camille Dungy, Mckendy Fils-Aimé, Diane Foley, Daniel Johnson, Nathan McClain, New Hampshire Poet Laureate, Alexandria Peary, and many more.

How: [Register here](#)

Schedule of Events

Friday, April 12, 2024

5:30 - 6:30: Opening Celebration & Reception - Hamilton Smith Hall | Atrium
*This will include opening remarks by **Michele Dillon**, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts; Entrepreneur, philanthropist, and Festival founder, **Rouzbeh Yassini**; and a poem read by UNH graduate student, **Katayoun Hashemin**. After the reception, there are additional surprises in store for attendees.*

7:00 - 8:00: Headline Event - Dimond Library | Courtyard Reading Room
**Featuring Diannely Antigua, Mckendy Fils-Aime, Nathan McClain
& the New Hampshire Teen Prize Winners: Leonardo Chung, Pearl Hoekstra-Toste, Pranavi Vedula**

Saturday, April 13, 2024

10:00 - 5:00: A myriad of workshops, readings, panel discussions, multi-genre performances, a poetry carnival, a small press fair, and more! Over 70 poets!

4:00 - 5:00: Headline Event - Dimond Library | Courtyard Reading Room
Diane Foley, Daniel Johnson & Ebele Okpokwasili-Johnson

5:30 - 6:30: Headline Event – Hamilton Smith Hall | Atrium Amphitheater
Adobo-Fish-Sauce

7:00 - 8:00: Headline Event - Dimond Library | Courtyard Reading Room
Kweku Abimbola, Camille Dungy, Kevin McLellan, Alexandria Peary

Sunday, April 14, 2024

11:00 - 12:00: Closing Celebration & Brunch - Hamilton Smith Hall | Atrium

12:00 - 1:00: Headline Event - Dimond Library | Courtyard Reading Room
**Bianca Stone & Myles Taylor
& USNH Prize Winners: Dan Harrison, Caleb Jagoda, Julia Roch, Ginger Schoff**

Aside from [registering](#), folks can stay up to date on these and other details by following us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [X](#). Questions or suggestions? Email nossratyassinipoetryfestival@gmail.com

www.unhpoetry.com

“Just keep doing what you're doing and look for opportunities”: UNH Alumnus Melissa Crawford ('01) Shares Advice for English Majors

by Laura Smith

Don't be afraid to try different opportunities—each experience can lead you closer to where you want to be.

UNH alumnus Melissa Crawford (BA in English, '01), an information technology (IT) project manager at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, urges current students to pursue opportunities and to follow where they lead, as she did.

Crawford visited campus last November to describe her work, and she spoke recently via Zoom about her journey and opportunities at the Library of Congress.

“What are you going to do with your life?” Crawford's father asked as she was closing in on graduation. Crawford struggled to answer the question. She had tried student teaching and appreciated the experience, and then tried journalism.

“I knew that wasn't for me either, and I was like, ‘What is for me?’ I just started panicking a little bit.”

UNH English professors advised her, “Just keep doing what you're doing and look for opportunities.”

During her sophomore year, Crawford did just that, participating in a UNH study abroad program to London: “It was one of the first times in my life that I was nervous and excited equally. But it ended up being one of the best experiences I had at UNH.”

Then, a UNH English professor connected her with an anthropology professor seeking an editorial assistant for a journal.

“I knew pretty quickly that it was something that I really loved doing,” Crawford explains. In fact, the editorial assistant opportunity led her to her job in Boston at Houghton Mifflin Company as a social studies book editor, eventually specializing in securing copyright permissions for passages and photos to be used in the books.


She soon made the leap to the US Copyright Office at the Library of Congress.

“I was hired as a visual arts copyright specialist. And I thought, ‘Oh, I'll be mainly looking at things that are in books, like photographs or art that's used in books,’ but it wasn't that at all. I was a registration specialist for fabrics, maps, games, tiles, anything that you can think of visual arts related.”

Crawford next moved to her current position as a Library of Congress IT project manager. She manages internal projects that keep the library running, such as an enterprise scheduling system and an enterprise ticketing solution for attending a library event or daily entry ticket.

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

WHAT TO DO WITH AN ENGLISH MAJOR




MELISSA CRAWFORD '01
IT SPECIALIST AT LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Join us as a UNH English alumna talks about her successful career path with jobs in book publishing, as a freelance/writer editor of children's books to project manager at the Library of Congress.

RSVP

Monday, November 20th
4pm-5pm
Hamilton Smith, 140



This event is open to all students and faculty at UNH

A flyer for Melissa Crawford's November visit, "What to Do With an English Major"

In fact, Crawford is working on an upcoming project titled "Treasures," opening in June, to display some of the collections' highlights, including maps and the contents of Abraham Lincoln's pocket when he was killed at Ford's Theatre.

Crawford is also working on The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song event this March honoring Elton John and Bernie Taupin.

“For me to be able to work on that is just such a privilege and an honor, and I'm very excited.”

“A lot of my job as a project manager uses communication skills because I end up being a translator between software developers and product owners and security and making sure that everyone works well together,” she explains.

“Being a really good communicator is something UNH helped me with through the English Department,” she says. “You're not just reading a book for a class; you're looking at a

lot more than that. What does that teach you, and what does that teach you as a person in the world?”

First-year English major and COLA peer navigator Maggie Buglino attended Crawford’s November campus visit.

“I learned from Melissa Crawford that it is beneficial to explore your possible career paths both during college and following your graduation to find the right fit for you,” Buglino wrote via email.

“Overall, I think other people should consider the possibility that you might not land the career you want straight out of college, but persistence is important in finding your dream job. The first job you have doesn’t have to be where you work for the rest of your life. There’s many

careers that you can pursue with an English degree, you just have to find the one that works best for you.”

While at UNH, Crawford took a tour of the renovated Hamilton Smith Hall with her English 401 instructor, Lecturer Emerita Meredith Hall, and the UNH English Department’s Academic Coordinator Carla Cannizzaro, who arranged the visit.

Reflecting on her November visit to UNH, Crawford says, “I really feel like the English Department is part of my family because it’s generally changed my life. I just wanted them to know what I was doing. They invited me to come and speak about my path and where it’s taken me.”

Learn about the Library of Congress’s Junior Fellows Internship Program

The Library of Congress is, clearly, more than just books. It’s a campus with nine different reading rooms and on- and off-site storage of its 164 million items as well as events such as the National Book Festival.

“We have an entire map room that spans four or five football fields under the three different buildings on Capitol Hill. The map room is my favorite place at the library. I like to think of it as a hidden gem,” says Melissa Crawford (’01).

The Library of Congress has opportunities for students too, including the [Junior Fellows Internship Program](https://www.loc.gov/programs/of-the-people/learn/junior-fellows-internship/). Junior Fellows work in and across various departments of the Library, learning from curators and specialists.

Crawford has worked with four junior fellows in her time at the Library of Congress and has kept in touch with them over the years, watching their careers evolve from that work at the library.

“And I try to bring them around as much as I can and then expose them to different people. And they may think, ‘Why are we meeting with somebody from the map room? I’m not a cryptographer,’ but you don’t have to be. I’m an IT specialist. I work in it, but I don’t have a degree in it.”

“So there are jobs everywhere at the library like that you may not think your path would lead you to, but if it’s something you’re passionate about, then why not?”

Read more at <https://www.loc.gov/programs/of-the-people/learn/junior-fellows-internship/>

Alumni and students:

Please share your story for the “English Spotlight”!

<https://cola.unh.edu/english/people/english-spotlight>

Write your own story:
Join the UNH English major



A Block Party of a Different Kind: UNH Alumnus Publishes New Book about Women Block Printers in the Early 20th Century

by Chrissy O’Keefe

English alumnus Elena M. Sarni (B.A in English, MA in History and Museum Studies, both from the University of New Hampshire) published the first history of the Folly Cove Designers, entitled *Trailblazing Women Printmakers: Virginia Lee Burton Demetrios and the Folly Cove Designers* with Princeton Architectural Press (PA Press). Brigitte Bailey, Sarni’s English and American Studies course professor and honors thesis advisor, notes the book’s contribution to New England 20th Century visual and material culture studies. Her work demonstrates the myriad of ways English majors contribute to the field, as well as to the humanities at large.

According to the PA Press [description](#), the book explores the work of the Folly Cove group, a women’s

group started by children’s book author and illustrator Virginia Lee Burton Demetrios (best known for the Caldecott Award winning book *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*) in 1916 in Gloucester, Massachusetts. This group of women designed more than 300 unique block prints between its founding and 1969.

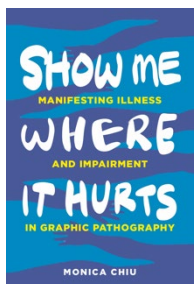
In her work, Sarni “celebrates the group’s tremendous success and the incredible artistry of its members” and explores its “history, work and group dynamics.” The book includes 250 photographs of the block prints.

An article in the [Guardian](#) about Sarni’s book showcases the striking beauty of the color block prints

UNH English Faculty Publish New Works

David Blair, UNH Lecturer in English, recently published an essay, “Several Beginnings, a Neglected Essential Collection: *Vaudeville for a Princess and Other Poems*,” about the poetry and prose of Delmore Schwartz and his wide-ranging influence. The essay for *Great River Review* from the University of Minnesota describes how Schwartz was influenced by teaching college writing.

Read Blair’s essay at <https://www.greatriverreview.com/issue-69-toc/david-blair>



Courtesy of
Monica Chiu

Monica Chiu, UNH Professor of English, published *Show Me Where It Hurts: Manifesting Illness and Impairment in Graphic Pathography*, with Penn State University Press.

In *Show Me Where It Hurts*, Chiu argues that graphic pathography—long-form comics by and about subjects who suffer from disease or are impaired—re-vitalizes and re-visions various negatively affected corporeal states through hand-drawn images. By the body and for the body, the medium is subversive and reparative, and it stands in contradistinction to clinical accounts of illness that tend to disembodiment or objectify the subject.

Employing affect theory, spatial theory, vital materialism, and approaches from race and ethnic studies, women and gender studies, disability studies, and comics studies, Chiu provides readings of recently published graphic pathography. Chiu argues that these kinds of subjective graphic stories, by virtue of their narrative and descriptive strengths, provide a form of resistance to the authoritative voice of biomedicine and serve as a tool to foster important change in the face of social and economic inequities when it comes to questions of health and healthcare. *Show Me Where It Hurts* reads what already has been manifested on the comics page and invites more of what demands expression.

Read more at <https://www.psupress.org/books/titles/978-0-271-09682-7.html>



Courtesy of
Jim Rioux

Jim Rioux, UNH Senior Lecturer in English, published *Too Close to Be So Far Away: Selected Sonnets*, available at <https://burstandbloom.wordpress.com/too-close-to-be-so-far-away-by-jim-rioux/>





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