ReVisions:
UNH English Department Newsletter

Pictured above: Professor James Krasner, Michaela George, Rachel Roy, Professor Cris Beemer, and Professor Robin Hackett
Photo courtesy of Cris Beemer

Members of UNH English Honored at Graduate School Celebration

Professor Robin Hackett, last year's recipient of UNH's Graduate Mentor Award, delivered the keynote address at the UNH Graduate School event on April 30.

Michaela George, Ph.D. Literature candidate, and Rachel Roy, Ph.D. Composition candidate, were honored with Dissertation-Year Fellowships, "the university's most prestigious and most competitive award" for graduate students, in recognition of their scholarship.

George and Roy attended the event with their mentors, Professor James Krasner and Professor Cris Beemer.

Congratulations, Graduates!

Commencement Ceremonies:

Friday, May 17, 2024
Graduate School
4 PM

Saturday, May 18, 2024
College of Liberal Arts
9 AM

Learn more at https://www.unh.edu/university-ceremonies-and-events/commencement

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

GRADUATION RECEPTION 2024

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS & PRESENTATION OF GRADUATION CORDS

May 17, 2024 • 1PM
Hamilton Smith Atrium
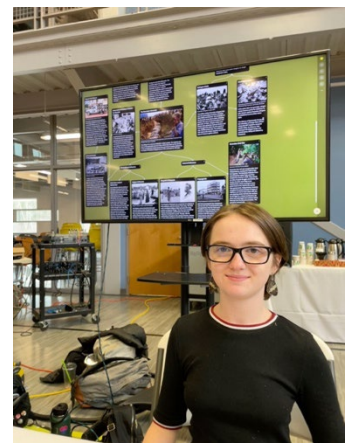
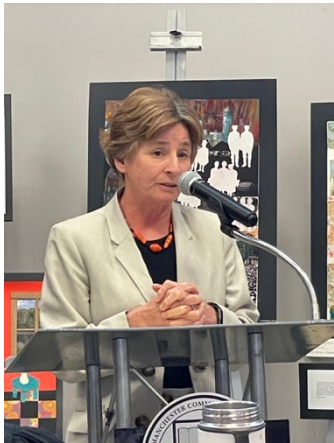RSVP

Friends and family are welcome!

UNH English Students Present Their Work at Spring Celebration

Members of English 401: First-Year Writing, English 419: How to Read Anything, and English 789/889: Teaching Media & Information Literacy presented their work at the "Memory and Memorials" Symposium, sponsored by the New Hampshire Humanities Collaborative and the Global Racial and Social Inequality Lab, UNH College of Liberal Arts. The event was hosted April 19, 2024, at Manchester Community College.

UNH COLA Dean Michele Dillon shared opening remarks.

Right to left: Hunter Peters, Ryan Ciarametaro, Aimee Cusimano share their work at the symposium

Right to left: UNH COLA Dean Dillon; Caroline Hanna, Angelina Meyer, Mikaela Hart

English 401 instructor Katayoun Hashemin and member of English 401 Addie Smith

Featured right to left: Ryan Ciarametaro, Hunter Peters, Aimee Cusimano, Dana Anger, Carolina Hanna, Ella Carmody, Allyson Chelidona; Photo courtesy of Allyson Chelidona
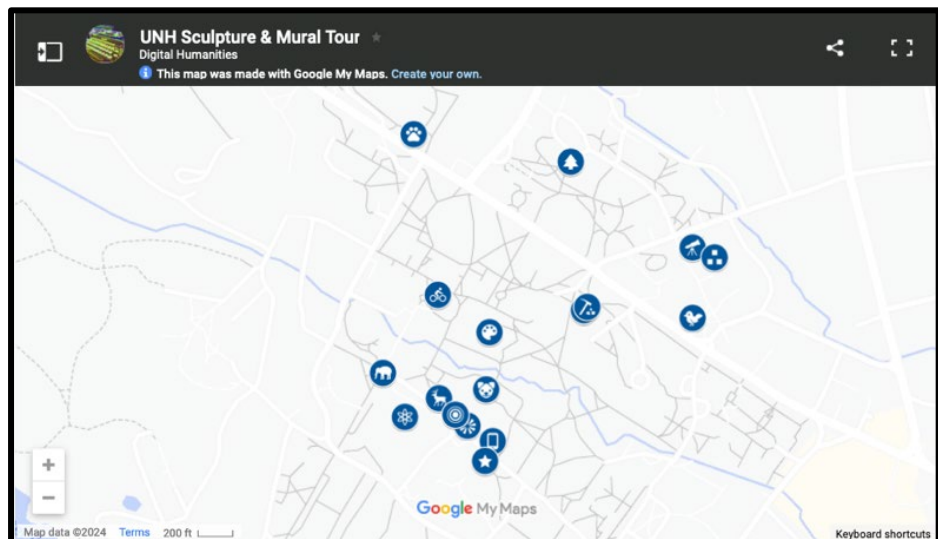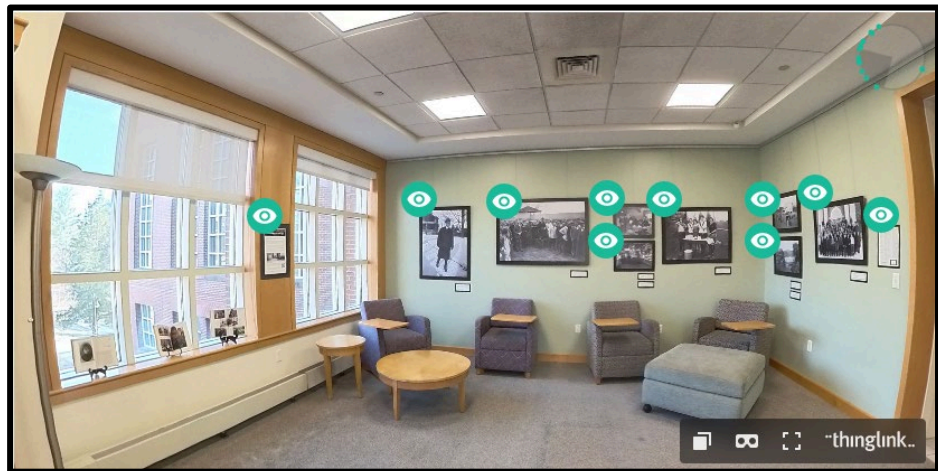
Take a Virtual Tour with Members of English 510: Introduction to Digital Humanities

Members of Professor Melinda White's English 510: Introduction to Digital Humanities class collaborated with UNH Dimond Library and University Archives as well as the UNH Department of Art and Art History to produce virtual tours of campus artwork.

One student group used a 360-degree camera and ThingLink to create a virtual tour of the Dimond Library exhibit, "This Is UNH 100 Years Ago."

Another group produced an interactive map of UNH's public art, including murals and sculptures, using GoogleMaps.

Each point on the map or exhibit leads to photos, descriptions, or reflections. A few points also lead to excerpts of ekphrastic writing produced by members of White's English 501: Introduction to Creative Nonfiction class.

Screenshots of the virtual tours of "This Is UNH 100 Years Ago" (top) and UNH's public art on campus

Take your own tours here:

A virtual tour of the Dimond Library exhibit, "This is UNH 100 Years Ago":

An interactive map of UNH's public art:

UNH English Department Dedicates Staff Lounge

Faculty and staff gathered April 25 to dedicate a new sitting area in the English Office, 230F.

"We've designated it the English Department Staff Lounge in honor of all the staff past and present. There are pictures of some of our staff on the walls (the ones that would agree to it). Since the English Department

Staff have always been a constant supportive presence in the main office, keeping us all grounded and helping us help our students, it seemed only right to honor them," explains Professor James Krasner, chairperson of the English Department.

UNH English Faculty Publish New Works

The special issue of *English Teaching: Practice & Critique* co-edited by **Alecia Magnifico**, UNH Associate Professor of English, won the Divergent Publication Award for Excellence in Literacy in a Digital Age Research. The issue, titled "Playful Literacies Across Cultures: Pleasure, Affect, & Living Texts," encourages K–16 educators to "to think beyond traditional academic structures to imagine playful possibilities."

Stephanie Harzewski, UNH Principal Lecturer in English, recently published an essay, "My Father's Gift," in *The Boston Globe Magazine* about questions surrounding her father's donation of his body for science. Read Harzewski's essay here. Content warning: bodily desecration.

Alumni and students:

Please share your story for the "English Spotlight"!

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

UNH's SLATE Program Is Out of This World!

STEM-Language Arts Teaching/learning Ecosystems (SLATE) is wrapping up its second full year of boosting cross-disciplinary learning for students.

Middle school students in Manchester receive tutoring as well as an enriched curriculum in language arts, science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in order to learn and communicate their understanding of sciences—fostering their future success in STEM fields, according to SLATE's website.

SLATE supports students in Manchester schools, particularly English-language-learning students who are "often underrepresented in the STEM field," according to an article in *UNH Today* describing the goal of the project.

The SLATE program is led by UNH English Associate Professor and Director of the New Hampshire Literacy Institutes Christina Ortmeier-Hooper, UNH Professor and Director of the Leitzel Center Julie Bryce, and UNH Research Assistant Professor and Community Literacy Center Director Bethany Silva. Ann DiCiccio, English Ph.D. student in Composition, serves as a graduate assistant and research assistant.

SLATE, funded by a $3.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, is a joint effort of UNH English, UNH's NH Literacy Institutes, UNH's Community Literacy Center, in partnership with the UNH STEM Discovery Lab, UNH's Leitzel Center, and the Manchester school system.

The project unites Manchester students and their teachers, tutors from UNH Durham, and SLATE directors. For instance, UNH's Community Literacy Center hires UNH students to serve as remote tutors for the Manchester middle school students. SLATE's website explains that Manchester teachers participate in "a year-long development program" to support their work with STEM-language arts cross-curricular units.

For example, SLATE's February newsletter reports,

Teachers worked in cross-disciplinary teams (Science and ELA) to build units on planets and what sustains life on Earth. For their final projects, they creatively designed their own planets and then wrote persuasive letters and brochures convincing other beings to come to their planets!

This unit also included students reading a wonderful sci-fiction novel that considered the experiences of new immigrants and refugees to a new planet: *We're Not From Here* by Geoff Rodkey.

Feedback from students has been positive: they enjoy the language games and inquiry projects as part of the SLATE program.

"I learned to never give up. If you give up too soon, you won't be successful," reports a Parkside Middle School student in the April issue of the SLATE newsletter.

SLATE's Co-Director Christina Ortmeier-Hooper explains via email, "This summer, we are organizing our second cohort for the Summer SLATE Institutes. We will be working with over 28 teachers, selected for the grant, from Parkside Middle School in Manchester, NH. In summer 2025, the SLATE program will grow to include six middle schools from New Hampshire and over 100 teachers. SLATE is an exciting project that has helped us to forge new ties to the STEM disciplines and develop a stronger understanding of the writing needs of students in today's schools."

Interested in working with middle school students this fall as a SLATE tutor? Watch for opportunities on UNH's Community Literacy Center website.

Write your own story:
Join the UNH English major

University of New Hampshire
NH Literacy Institutes
Learning Through Teaching

2024
Summer Literacy Institutes

1-WEEK SESSIONS
JULY 8-26
Earn Graduate Credits

Be part of a vibrant community of readers, writers, and teachers thoughtfully considering and practicing their crafts.

Scan the QR code for course information

Questions? Get in touch.
nhliteracy.institute@unh.edu