



# UNCW Creative Writing Alumni Career Placements and Other Successes

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Alumni placement information available from the UNCW Department of Creative Writing and Graduate School

The rapid rise of technology has increasingly relied upon the talents, innovations and entrepreneurial skills of employees with degrees in the liberal and fine arts, according to a July 2015 article in *Forbes* titled “That ‘Useless’ Liberal Arts Degree Has Become Tech’s Hottest Ticket.”

In all major U.S. technology hubs (Silicon Valley, Seattle, Boston and Austin are cited as examples), “software companies are discovering that liberal arts thinking makes them stronger.” Similarly, a recent front-page story in *The New York Times Magazine* discussed the increase of creative jobs in the United States’ increasingly tech-driven economy (according to an analysis of data spanning the past 14 years), noting that “the creative class modestly outperformed the rest of the economy.”

UNCW’s Creative Writing alumni from both our graduate (M.F.A.) and undergraduate (B.F.A.) degree programs exemplify this trend, with growing numbers of graduates holding leadership and entrepreneurial positions in a wide range of disciplines and business sectors.

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## Media & Publishing

Our graduates are thriving in all areas of the global publishing industry – marketing, publicity, multi-media development, design and editorial. Below is a sampling of positions held by recent graduates. Many of them trained as students in Creative Writing's Publishing Laboratory, working on our national magazines (*Ecotone* and *Chautauqua*) and book imprint (Lookout Books).

Deputy Marketing Director, Little, Brown (NYC)  
Contributing Editor, *Runner's World* Magazine (PA & online/global)  
Marketing Editor, MaxPoint (online/global)  
Editor, SeaChange Global PR  
Marketing Director, Oxford University Press (UK)  
Product Trainer, Oxford University Press (UK)  
Publicity Assistant, Penguin Random House (NYC)  
Director, Bateman Group PR (San Francisco, CA)  
Account Director, Lewis PR (UK)  
Founder, Madras Press (Boston, MA)  
Television News Director, WMBF (Myrtle Beach, S.C.)  
Television Associate Producer, UNC-TV (N.C.)  
Vice President of Sales & Marketing, John F. Blair, Publisher (Winston-Salem, N.C.)  
Mortgage Loans Acquisitions Specialist, Wells Fargo (global)  
Publishing Assistant, Graywolf Books (MN)  
Deputy Director, Hub City Press (Spartanburg, S.C.)  
Solutions Analyst, Impact Financial Systems (Davidson, NC & online / global)  
Associate Producer, FX Network (Los Angeles, CA)  
Assistant Managing Editor, Highlights for Children (PA & online / global)  
Oral Historian, Southern Foodways Alliance (Oxford, MS)  
Grant Writer, Idaho Public Television (Boise, ID)  
Development Assistant, Boise Legal Aid Services, Inc. (Boise, ID)  
Editorial Assistant, *Harvard Review* (Boston, MA)  
Content Marketing Specialist, Sage Island Marketing Agency & Design Firm (Wilmington, N.C.)  
Media Event Coordinator, *Wilma* and *Greater Wilmington Business Journal* (Wilmington, N.C.)  
Digital Content Coordinator, *New Homes & Ideas* Magazine (N.C.)  
Web Editor, YesYes Books (online/global)  
Literary Assistant, Trident Media Group (NYC)  
Executive Director, Poplar Grove Plantation (N.C.)  
Visual Arts Specialist, UNCW College of Health and Human Services (N.C.)  
Executive Assistant, Warner Bros. Entertainment (Burbank, CA)  
Media & Publicity Writer, Starbucks (Portland, OR)

## Teaching & Academic

Our graduates hold teaching and administrative positions at all levels at local, regional, national and international venues. The list below is a sampling of positions held by recent graduates from our B.F.A. and M.F.A. degree programs:

Instructor – Teach For America (national)  
Senior Research Analyst, Office of Development – Duke University  
Assistant Professor, Journalism – Ashland University (OH)  
Assistant Professor, English – Lynchburg College (VA)  
Executive Director, Bowers Writers House – Elizabethtown College (N.C.)  
Assistant Professor, English – University of Mt. Union (OH)  
Visiting Professor, English / Creative Writing – Kent State University (OH)  
Associate Professor, English / Creative Writing – University of Rhode Island  
Adjunct Professor, English – Trinity Washington University (Washington, D.C.)  
Instructor, Creative Writing – UCLA Extension Writers' Program (CA)  
Instructor, English – Auburn University (AL)  
Adjunct Associate Professor, English / Writing – University of Maryland University College  
Assistant Professor, English / Creative Writing – University of North Carolina Greensboro  
Instructor, English, Business Writing, Composition, etc. (multiple alumni) – Cape Fear Community College, Brunswick Community College, Miller-Motte Business College, Coastal Carolina Community College

## Alumni Publications & Media Appearances

Our students and alumni have published more than 85 books – novels, memoirs, works of historical fiction and nonfiction, poetry and short story collections – with major commercial publishers as well as small independent companies. Many of these books originated as M.F.A. thesis projects or creative works written for our undergraduate courses. Our alumni have published their short work – articles, essays, fiction, poetry – in pretty much every commercial and literary magazine and journal published in the U.S. and internationally, too many to list here. Our students' endeavors regularly receive national media attention; this fall, current M.F.A. student Katie O'Reilly appeared twice on Good Morning America to discuss her essay about infertility and egg donation (published in *The James Franco Review*, a magazine founded by another UNCW Creative Writing alumnus, then

reprinted online at BuzzFeed.com). Last year, M.F.A. alum Amelia Morris's online video series – featured on her cooking blog – was picked up by PBS.org as an online series, and her website was cited by *TIME* as one of the top 25 cooking blogs in the country. She has since published her collected blog writings in book form, *Bon Appetempt* (Grand Central/Hachette Book Group, 2015), receiving rave reviews from Kirkus, Booklist, and *People Magazine*. Other books by UNCW alumni have received glowing reviews in *Entertainment Weekly*, *USA Today*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Library Journal*, and *The New York Times Book Review*. B.F.A. / M.F.A. alum Jason Mott's recent novel *The Returned* was adapted by Brad Pitt's production company into the television series "Resurrection," which ran on ABC for two seasons.

To conclude with more good news from *Forbes*: “The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that by 2022, some 1 million more Americans will enter the workforce as educators. Another 1.1 million newcomers will earn a living in sales. Such opportunities won’t be confined to remedial teaching or department store cashiers. Each wave of tech will create fresh demand for high-paid trainers, coaches, workshop leaders and salespeople. By contrast, software engineers’ ranks will grow by 279,500, or barely 3 percent of overall job growth. ‘Narrowly defined tech jobs, by themselves, aren’t going to be the answer for long-term employment growth,’ says Michael Chui, a partner at McKinsey Global Institute.”



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