



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Creative writing resides within the English department, sharing and contributing to its distinguished faculty and achievements. Our program appeals to majors, minors and students from nearly every field. The major includes workshops, literature, studio art and independent study, leading to creative work of high caliber, along with a historical and contemporary grasp of literature and culture. The honors thesis option culminates in a book-length manuscript of poetry or fiction developed in close contact with writing faculty during the senior year. A one-semester honors project of smaller scope is also offered. Graduates include writers, cinematographers, doctors, lawyers, comedians and professors.

What makes the program distinctive?

Our undergraduate program is taught and administered entirely by established authors, unlike many comparable schools. Our faculty members have extensive publications, national honors and a dedication to teaching

and mentoring. Our impressive roster of visiting writers has included Alice Walker, Louise Glück, Rafael Campo, Mark Doty, Henri Cole, Jay Wright, Jayne Anne Phillips, Bapsi Sidhwa, Adrienne Rich and Thylis Moss.

FAST FACTS

Current number of majors and minors: 29

Number of faculty: 7

Can you minor in this program? Yes

Emphasis within the major: fiction; film and media; foundational texts; mixed genre; multicultural and Anglophone literatures; poetry; screenplay

Popular second majors: English, theater arts

Website: brandeis.edu/departments/english

ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

Visiting writers

Our School of Night Reading Series brings outstanding writers to campus to share their work and meet with students. Recent guests have included Poet Laureate Louise Glück, Li Young Lee, Colin Channer, Tony Hoagland and Lorrie Moore.

Resources

The Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Creative Arts sponsors student-run initiatives: an anthology of student literature, writer/artist collaborative projects, installations and spoken-word performances. Social gatherings and workshops on publishing and the honors thesis are organized throughout the year.

Internships

Creative writing majors have held internships at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, Conde Nast Publications and Poets House in New York City. Lauren P. '11 was invited to the New York State Summer Writers' Institute. Recent graduates have interned for a year with Ann Collette, a literary agent with the Rees Literary Agency.

Interdisciplinary study

Majors also take classes in related disciplines such as theater, comparative literature, African-American studies and philosophy. Double majors have ranged from the humanities to neuroscience, biology, math, computer science and psychology.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Student-run publications and clubs

Students contribute to literary publications on campus, including Laurel Moon (poetry and fiction) and Where the Children Play (poetry, short fiction, artwork, photography). VOCAL, Brandeis' spoken-word poetry/activism group, aims at inspiring its audiences to action. All clubs meet regularly and host events.

Study abroad

Majors have studied for a semester or summer in France, Italy, Ireland, India, Australia, Scotland and Israel. Programs, some of which focus on literature and writing, are available in 70 countries.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Student awards

The department annually awards nearly \$1,000 for outstanding student work. The Dafna Zamarripa-Gesundheit Award, for example, is awarded for the best fiction published in each year's Laurel Moon, and the Andrew Grossbardt Award recognizes the best poem. Several more awards are given for creative honors theses.

Distinguished faculty

Our authors have strong records of books and honors. Stephen McCauley's sixth novel, "Insignificant Others," appeared in June to wide acclaim. McCauley has been named a *Chevalier des Arts* by the French Ministry of Culture, and his novel "True Enough" was produced in France as a film under the title "La Vérité ou Presque." Olga Broumas received an NEA Translation Fellowship in 2010.

AFTER BRANDEIS

Real grads

Pearl Gluck '93, a Fulbright Fellow, is a prize-winning cinematographer. Mytili Jagannathan '94 won a \$50,000 Pew Fellowship for her poetry. Ross Martin '95, who holds an M.F.A. from Washington University, is an author and senior vice president for programming at MTVU (MTV Networks' college channel). Elisa Albert '00, who earned an M.F.A. at Columbia University, had two books of fiction translated into Dutch, leading to a residency at the Netherlands Institute of Advanced Study. Melissa Buckheit '01, an M.F.A. recipient at Naropa University, teaches at Pima College in Tucson, Ariz., and is a member of the Zuzi Dance Company. Joel Christensen '01, who has a Ph.D. in classics from New York University, teaches at the University of Texas, San Antonio. Yael Shinar '03 served in Teach for America, studied ancient texts in Israel and received an M.A. in divinity from Harvard with a creative thesis. Aaron Schwid '05, recipient of a J.D. in international human rights from George Washington University, is the legal adviser for the International Legal Consortium Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. Jennifer Stella '05 served in the Peace Corps in Cameroon and is now in medical school. Maria Pinto '08 held a fellowship at the Boston Writers' Room to complete a novel.

"It's not necessary to write a New Yorker-level story to have a successful workshop experience; it's about learning the craft of writing and, ultimately, becoming a close, careful reader," says novelist Stephen McCauley.



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