Alumni Highlights

- BFA and MFA alumnus Jason Mott’s first novel became the ABC TV series *The Returned* and his fourth, *Hell of a Book*, won the 2021 National Book Award.

- MFA alumnae Nina de Gramont’s recent novel *The Christie Affair* is an international and *New York Times* bestseller, and the Reese Witherspoon Book Club pick for February 2022. Actor Daisy Ridley will star in Miramax TV’s adaptation of the novel. *The Distance from Me to You*, published in 2015, is also slated to be adapted for HBO Max.


- BFA and MFA alumnae Hannah Dela Cruz Abrams received a $25,000 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer’s Award and a $50,000 Whiting Writers Award.

- MFA alumnus Ben Hoffman received a $30,000 Fellowship from the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing and a $25,000 Creative Writing Fellowship from the NEA.
More than 200 alumni books


In addition to books, alumni have published thousands of poems, stories, essays, and reviews in prominent venues, including the New York Times, the New Yorker, the Paris Review, the Nation, the Guardian, the New York Review of Books, the New York Times Magazine, Orion, Sierra, Runner’s World, Lit Hub, Oxford American, the Georgia Review, the Rumpus, Prairie Schooner, Indiana Review, Colorado Review, Creative Nonfiction, Fourth Genre, and Granta.
Recent Poetry and Story Book Prize Winners

- **May Sarton New Hampshire Poetry Prize**, Alex Doran
- **Philip Levine Prize for Poetry**, Arianna Nadia Nash
- **Barrow Street Book Prize**, Rochelle Hurt
- **Wick Poetry Prize at Kent State**, Leah Osowski
- **New Measures Poetry Prize**, Emily Carr
- **Cowles Poetry Book Prize**, Emma Bolden
- **Prairie Schooner Book Prize**, Xhenet Aliu
- **C. Michael Curtis Short Story Prize**, Ashleigh Bryant Phillips
- **Tampa Review Prize**, Keith Kopka
The Publishing Laboratory complements our BFA and MFA programs in creative writing by offering students foundational courses and in-house apprenticeships in literary publishing—helping them better understand the process by which book manuscripts, including their own, are edited, designed, and marketed to a wide audience.
“The department’s Publishing Lab affords it professional instruction in publishing that, probably, no programs in the U.S. have yet matched, partly because UNCW’s affiliated literary magazines and press are so excellent, and partly because the program integrates publishing so well into its curriculum. The department has developed a new hybrid program, a studio/research/publishing type.”

—Association of Writers & Writing Programs
16-station desktop publishing suite and adjacent bindery
Foundational Publishing Courses

• Introduction to Book Publishing
• The Editorial Process
• Book Design and Production
• Literary Magazine Practicum: *Ecotone / Chautauqua*
• Book Publishing Practicum: Lookout Books

Selected Special Topics

• Book Marketing and Publicity
• Writing for Grants and Fellowships
• The Debut Book
• The Handmade Book
• Access in Publishing
• The Job of Being a Writer
• Publishing Speculative Fiction
New for 2023
Graduate Certificate in Publishing

• The only post-baccalaureate publishing certificate within the UNC system, and one of few such programs in the Southeast.

• The certificate is a professional credential in literary publishing.

• Prepares graduates to work in publishing, editing, publicity, marketing, grant writing, and book and magazine design and production

• Skills beneficial in a variety of adjacent fields—from public relations to arts administration

• Foregrounding our department’s nationally award-winning imprints, this track offers in-depth apprenticeships in both book and magazine publishing.

• Students are required to complete 15 hours within the MFA course of study.
Our literary magazines, *Ecotone* and *Chautauqua*, and book imprint, *Lookout*, are the centerpieces of the Publishing Lab, and offer students engaged learning experiences in the art and craft of publishing.
“...one of the most auspicious launches in publishing history.”

— Washington Post reviewer Ron Charles
Under faculty leadership, students read *Ecotone*, *Chautauqua*, and Lookout Books submissions and recommend promising writers. They participate in editorial conversations, copy edit, fact check, and proofread. They design book interiors and magazine spreads, and research artwork for book covers, as well as develop marketing and publicity strategies, including author tours.

Students shape the dissemination of literature through the art and craft of publishing.
Preparing the Future of Independent Publishing

“I always liked that at Lookout we were called on to talk about the books in public often. I learned how to summarize a book, while communicating its important themes and resonances—a skill I use often now, pitching reps and booksellers.”

Meg Reid, Executive Director, Hub City Press

“Ecotone taught me how to compile a book as an art object, how the pieces in an anthology relate to one another, how they relate to the visual and document design. Lookout taught me how to technically master these kinds of designs, how to market a book, how to structure a production schedule, how to write marketing copy.”

Caitlin Taylor, Editor, Southern Humanities Review
Winner, National Book Critics Circle Award in Fiction
Winner, PEN/Malamud Award
Winner, Edward Lewis Wallant Award
Finalist, National Book Award in Fiction
Finalist, The Story Prize
Finalist, Los Angeles Times Book Prize
Finalist, Foreword INDIE Book of the Year (x3)
Winner, Paterson Fiction Prize
Shortlist, William Saroyan International Prize
Best Book of 2022, Library Journal

Big Indie Book of Fall, Publishers Weekly
Finalist, Georgia Author of the Year Award
Joseph Brodsky Rome Prize, American Academy of Arts & Letters
Finalist, PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Fiction
Finalist, Young Lions Fiction Award, NY Public Library
Finalist, Shirley Jackson Awards
Winner, Bard Prize
Winner, Nonfiction Discovery Prize, Writers’ League of Texas
Medalist, Independent Publisher Book Award in Nonfiction
Winner, **AWP Small Press Publisher Award**, 2022
Finalist, **Whiting Literary Magazine Prize**, 2021
Finalist, **ASME Award for Fiction**, 2020
Finalist, **CLMP’s Firecracker Awards**, 2020
Finalist, **AWP Small Press Publisher Award**, 2020

Work first published in the magazine is featured in
**The Pushcart Prize anthology**
**Poetry Daily**
**The Best American Essays**
**The Best American Short Stories**
**The Best American Poetry**
**The Best American Science and Nature Writing**
**The O. Henry Prize Stories**
HarperCollins Partnership

Our ongoing affiliation with HarperCollins, the world’s second-largest English-language publisher, provide opportunities that are typically available only to students in NYC-based publishing programs.

The partnership brings HarperCollins’ senior publishing professionals into our program to teach, as well as to visit our capstone practicum. Visitors answer questions, provide career counseling, and offer networking opportunities, within and outside of HarperCollins.
Our alumni thrive in all areas of the publishing industry and adjacent fields—editorial, design, author representation, marketing, publicity, nonprofit leadership, development, and arts management, among others.

Associate Publisher, Ecco, HarperCollins
Executive Director, Hub City Press
Managing Editor, Hub City Press
Marketing Director, Oxford University Press
Editor, Orion magazine
Adventure Editor, Sierra magazine
Editor, Southern Humanities Review
Communications Director, NC Writers’ Network
Executive Producer, WRAL
Production Coordinator, Bookmobile
Subsidiary Rights Manager, W. W. Norton & Company
Agent, Triangle House Literary
Agent, Howland Literary

Vice President of Sales & Marketing, John F. Blair, Publisher
Senior Marketing and Social Media Specialist, nCino, Inc.
Contributing Editor, Runner’s World
Interim Director, Cameron Art Museum
Publishing Assistant, Graywolf Press
Assistant Managing Editor, Highlights for Children
Oral Historian, Southern Foodways Alliance
Founder, Lookout Books
Founder, Pine State Publicity
Founder, Seabreeze: A Literary Diaspora
Founder, Madras Press
Founder, Athenian Press and Workshops
Founder, The James Franco Review
Thank you.

Prepared by Publishing Laboratory Director Emily Louise Smith. Images of the Pub Lab by Jeff Janowski for UNCW.