WHAT DO STUDENTS LEARN?
Chatham’s Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Creative Writing degree is designed to develop and hone your skills through a focused sequence of creative writing courses, culminating in your capstone seminar. You’ll also acquire a firm grounding in literary forms and history, along with genre theory, literary theory, and upper-level literature study that will enhance your development as a writer.

WHAT DO GRADUATES GO ON TO DO?
Graduates of Chatham’s BFA in Creative Writing are well-prepared to pursue careers in editing, copywriting, advertising, teaching, or nonprofit and grant writing, as well as for further study in MFA programs or other writing-based graduate programs.
As a student of Chatham’s BFA program, you’ll receive individualized instruction, attention, and feedback from your professors, as well as mentoring from students in our MFA in Creative Writing program. Your talents will flourish as you immerse yourself in our community of writers and seize the many opportunities to read and showcase your work at literary events on- and off-campus. Chatham’s unique atmosphere encourages you to experiment with media and genres, while gaining valuable knowledge and skills in the art of writing.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

• Chatham’s undergraduate literary magazine, Minor Bird, is student-managed, including copy editing, design, and marketing. All Chatham students are welcome to submit poetry, fiction, and nonfiction to the magazine.
• Chatham’s Creative Writing Club sponsors readings and events, such as the open-mic night at Rea Coffeehouse each term. The club welcomes first-year students.
• You will be encouraged to present your academic and creative work at professional conferences through Sigma Tau Delta, the International Honor Society, and other organizations, helping you develop your professional identity as you prepare to move on to employment or graduate work.
• Students have many opportunities to showcase their work in University publications, peer-reviewed journals and magazines, local events, and contests.
• Qualified students may apply for admission to our 5-year BFA/MFA in Creative Writing or our BFA/MA in Teaching program. Both programs give you the immersive undergraduate creative writing experience while enabling you to further your education and start your career even faster.
• Our dedicated and supportive faculty is comprised of published writers who serve as mentors, instructors, collaborators, and peers.
SAMPLE COURSES

Creative Writing I
Students present a selection of their work each week for class comment and criticism. In addition, special problem topics are assigned weekly to develop writing skills. Readings concentrate on contemporary prose and verse.

Minor Bird Lab
This course is a practicum for publishing Chatham’s undergraduate literary journal, *Minor Bird*. All phases of the publishing process are addressed, especially copyediting, design, and marketing. The course is designed to allow students to gain experience and knowledge of the creative, technical, and professional aspects of publishing a literary journal.

Multi-Genre Writing
This is an upper-level course for BFA students focusing on creative writing for experienced writers, geared toward preparing a finished manuscript or portfolio of work for potential publication in the student’s primary genre. Students read and write in the craft of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction.

INTERNSHIPS
Students have interned at a variety of settings, including organizations such as the
- Upstart Crow Literary
- Inklings Literary Agency
- Autumn House Press
- Dzanc Books
- Shaw Galleries
- Pittsburgh Downtown Development Association
- Schenley, a digital content consultancy firm

PUBLICATIONS
Undergraduates in Chatham’s BFA in Creative Writing have been published in literary journals, magazines and anthologies, including:
- *Ruminate Magazine*
- *Pretty Owl Poetry*
- *Pittsburgh Poetry Review*
- *Rogue Agent*
- *Three Rivers Review*
- *Voices in the Attic*
- *1932 Quarterly*
- *Pittsburgh Pride Magazine*
- *Cold Creek Review*
- *The Good Men Project*
- *Impossible Archetype Literary Journal*
- *Life in 10 Minutes*
- *The Forge Literary Magazine*
- *Underscore Review*
- *Pennsylvania’s Best Emerging Poets Anthology (Z Publishing)*
- *Honey Bee Review*
“Students in Chatham’s creative writing program are given a supportive setting of faculty and students alike. The faculty take undergraduate work seriously, motivating students to develop their crafts and experiment with their voices. Student who major in creative writing graduate with an understanding of multiple literary genres, of how to revise and refine their creative and academic writing, and of how to get their work in print.”

JESS TURNER ’17