

Connecting with Careers & Community: Publishing

Experiential learning characterizes several advanced writing courses at Ithaca College, ranging from preprofessional classes in editing and publishing and feature and magazine journalism to hands-on practicums in proposal and grant writing and image-text production. Our group presentation, a four-poster exhibition showcasing experiential learning in the Department of Writing, discusses students' application and reflection.

Students will display how they've taken understanding acquired in their coursework and applied it — through writing, editing and publishing; collaborating with professionals in the community; creating artistic and expressive products shared via readings or public exhibits; and interning at a range of professional organizations in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

Writing's advanced course in **Editing & Publishing (WRTG-35000)** prepares students for careers in writing, editing, and publishing through instruction and experiential learning. It focuses on the role of book publishers in both print and digital cultures as well as literary journals and consumer magazines, emphasizing the responsibilities and skills of editors, agents, and copyeditors. Students are introduced to different jobs available in publishing and have the opportunity to speak directly with editors and others during a field trip to New York City. In the course these three students proposing this poster session (two writing majors and an English major) visited large publishers including HarperCollins, Penguin Random House, Scholastic, as well as smaller houses like Grove Atlantic and Skyhorse.

In their own words: These experiences have taught us not only the editing skills and preparation to enter the competitive field of publishing, but also an understanding of the scope of this work and its importance in maintaining a literate world. As students in the Department of Writing, we've been able to take advantage of numerous opportunities to apply what we learn in the classroom to the professional world. As a result of our love for publishing, we all currently hold credit-bearing internship positions at Cornell University Press. In marketing there, we learn to communicate with writers and the general public directly by writing emails and making cold calls, acquiring essential skills that help promote and sell books. In acquisitions, we learn the processes behind approving a manuscript for publication and the many considerations a press must acknowledge even before the editing process begins — such as production costs, public interest, content fluidity, and the timing of the book's availability to the public.

We have all also previously completed publishing internships elsewhere, including Split Oak Press and Buffalo Street Books in downtown Ithaca, as well as Flame Tree Publishing in London, England. Additionally, we actively practice our professional skills by working as peer tutors in the Writing Center, editing literary submission for on-campus journals, enrolling in courses like the Distinguished Visiting Writers Series, and reading our own work at the Handwerker Gallery.

All these experiences have helped us achieve goals toward our future careers. Post-graduation, Kelly will attend the NYU Summer Publishing Institute, to further learn about book, digital, and magazine media publishing. Christine will pursue a master's in publishing, having been accepted to NYU as well as Pace graduate programs. We value the knowledge and skills provided by our writing courses, internships, and opportunities, which have helped us realize our goal of entering the publishing industry and reinforced our passion for words and the power they hold.