What happens when you graduate with a degree in English? Well, if you’re like Warren Adler, you’ll publish a bestselling novel, author a hit mystery series, and oversee the film production of several of your fictional works. Adler graduated with a B.A. in English from NYU in 1947, and afterwards attended the New School, where he studied creative writing. As an undergraduate, Adler studied English and creative writing under Professor Don Wolfe, who inspired him to pursue a career as a novelist. He was also deeply influenced by several courses he took while completing his bachelor’s, including a course on the European novel and another called “The Bible as Literature.” In 2009, Adler received the “Alumni of the Year” award from the College of Arts and Science. He published his bestselling novel, *The War of the Roses*, in 1981, and it has since been made into a popular film (starring Danny DeVito, Michael Douglas, and Kathleen Turner) and an upcoming Broadway play (produced by Tony Award winners Jay and Cindy Gutterman). Adler’s Fiona Fitzgerald mystery series is currently being made into a new television series called *Capitol Crimes*, and his latest thriller *Treadmill* hit the shelves earlier this year. Adler plans to oversee the production of the film sequel to *The War of the Roses*, entitled *The War of the Roses: The Children*, in the coming months.

### Anna Russell

Anna currently works at the Wall Street Journal, where she writes for the national arts section, “Arena,” and the WSJ’s arts and culture blog, Speakeasy. She also helps run the Wall Street Journal Book Club. Anna was a participant in the department’s honors thesis program and says she is particularly grateful to her thesis advisor, Professor Maureen McLane, who emphasized observation before interpretation, a principle that Anna says has guided her journalistic writing.

### Cate Mahoney

A second-year graduate student in the department of English at Princeton University, Cate examines mourning, trauma, and recovery in American poetry from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. While an undergraduate student at NYU, Cate wrote an honors thesis on Emily Dickinson, a project which she says motivated her to apply to graduate school, along with kind encouragement from her advisor Professor Catherine Robson.

### Daniel Merzel

Since graduating from NYU, Daniel has worked at the Securities and Exchange Commission and at the prestigious New York City law firm Skadden, Arps; now he’s a law student at Harvard University. Building on his undergraduate research on *The Indictment and Trial of Sir Richard Rum* (a popular eighteenth-century text read by Benjamin Franklin, among others), Daniel’s current work investigates early American law codes regarding alcohol use and abuse and American society’s progression toward Prohibition in the 1920s and the War on Drugs in the 1970s and 80s. Daniel says his experiences in the English department helped him develop the critical acumen he draws on in his work with legal texts.

### Caroline Marris

Caroline is currently completing her Ph.D. in Early Modern European and Early Modern Atlantic history at Columbia University. After receiving her bachelor’s degree in English and History from NYU, Caroline worked for a year at the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, where she put together lectures and workshops for elementary and high school social studies teachers. She then decided to pursue an advanced degree in history, motivated in part by her thesis work under Professor Susanne Wofford. Her current work focuses on political geography, maritime warfare and trade, and the Dutch Revolt.

### Katie Schmidt

Katie currently works as the Assistant to the CEO of Midpoint Trade Books/Beaufort Books in the Flatiron District, where she reviews proposals and manuscripts for publication, helps publicize author book signings, and manages contracts between Midpoint and its publishers. She found her current job after taking the Columbia Publishing Course, a six-week program designed to prepare participants for careers in book, magazine, and digital publishing. The close reading and communications skills she honed in her coursework in the English department, Katie explains, have helped her handle the particular challenges of a job in publishing and book sales, especially when it comes to reviewing manuscripts.

### Alumni!

If you have news you would like to share with the English department, please contact The Blotter at jarcho@nyu.edu.