



# Celebrating 50 years of NU Trailblazers!

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## A Literary Legacy: Celebrating Norwich's Women Writers

In the rich tapestry of Norwich University's alumni, the contributions of women writers shine brightly, illuminating the world with their words and ideas. Among these luminaries are Anela Arcari, Arnita Brown, Roxane Gay, Marjorie Welsh, and Nazanin Afshin-Jam, whose writing achievements have left an indelible mark on the literary landscape.



Anela Arcari '91

### **Anela Arcari '91: Literary Storyteller**

A gifted writer and storyteller, Anela graduated from Norwich University with a civil engineering degree and was commissioned into the US Army Corps of Engineers where she served for 28 years. The highest-ranking female Norwich cadet both her Junior and Senior years, Anela was the second woman to compete for the Regimental Commander position and among the top three cadets interviewed for the position. It would be seven more years before the first female Regimental Commander was selected. Arcari's literary works have captivated readers with personal stories about growing up and serving in the military. She is a two-time Amazon Best Selling Contributing author and an executive producer of a transformational documentary film. Anela's commitment to her craft exemplifies the values of excellence and perseverance instilled at Norwich.



Roxane Gay '99

### **Roxane Gay '99: Voice of Empowerment**

Roxane Gay has emerged as one of the most influential voices in contemporary literature. A graduate of Norwich's Vermont College creative writing program, Roxane's bold and unapologetic writing tackles issues of race, gender, and power, challenging readers to confront uncomfortable truths and engage in meaningful dialogue. From her bestselling essay collection *Bad Feminist* to her acclaimed memoir *Hunger*, Roxane's writing transcends boundaries, inspiring readers to



Marjorie Welish '03

embrace their complexities and advocate for social change. Her profound impact on the literary world reflects Norwich's commitment to fostering inclusive and diverse perspectives.

### **Marjorie Welish '03: Trailblazer in Experimental Poetry**

Marjorie Welish, a distinguished poet and scholar, is renowned for her innovative approach to language and form. Also a graduate of Norwich's Vermont College creative writing program, Marjorie's poetry defies convention, pushing the boundaries of what is possible on the page. Her work challenges readers to engage with language in new and unexpected ways, inviting them to explore the intersections of art, philosophy, and culture. Marjorie's contributions to the literary landscape have earned her numerous accolades, cementing her place as a trailblazer in experimental poetry.



Arnita R. L. Brown M'07

### **Arnita R. L. Brown M'07: "Imagination is a part of all of us."**

The lessons Arnita R. L. Brown took from her master's degree in justice administration have benefited both her career in law enforcement for the LA Police Department and as an author. Under the pen name Nita Nae, Arnita teaches life lessons by providing "Truthful Imagination" for those who love to read. Her books look inside the imagination of the writer and real life itself where life, love, forgiveness, murder, mystery, laughter, pain, dreams, passion, ministry, and purpose are all part of everyday living. Arnita says, "My ultimate hope and prayer is that by what I write, you can laugh and enjoy life more abundantly."



Nazanin Afshin-Jam M'11

### **Nazanin Afshin-Jam M'11: Advocate for Human Rights**

Nazanin Afshin-Jam, another alumna of Norwich's online master's program has leveraged her platform as a writer and activist to effect meaningful change in the world. As the author of *The Tale of Two Nazanins*, she sheds light on the plight of women facing oppression and injustice, drawing from her own experiences as an Iranian-Canadian immigrant. In addition to her work as a writer, Nazanin is a passionate advocate for human rights, dedicating her life to combating violence against women and promoting gender equality. Her tireless efforts to empower marginalized communities and amplify their voices embody Norwich's commitment to service and leadership.

These women exemplify the diverse talents and extraordinary achievements of Norwich's alumnae. As Norwich celebrates its rich heritage of academic excellence and innovation, the contributions of these remarkable authors serve as a beacon of inspiration for current and future generations.

*Records documenting women's history and experience at Norwich are available through the University Archives. <https://archives.norwich.edu/>*

### **Attend a Women Kicking Glass Event.**

- Sunday, June 23, 2024 - [Washington DC Women Kicking Glass Reception](#), Military Women's Memorial, Arlington, VA
- Friday, September 20, 2024 - [Women Kicking Glass Gala](#), Plumley Armory, Norwich

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### **Sullivan Museum Seeking Women's Uniforms and Other Objects for Women Kicking Glass Exhibit**

The Sullivan Museum and History Center is planning an exhibit highlighting the history of Norwich women. In preparation for that exhibition, and to expand the museum's collection, they are seeking women's uniforms, athletic gear, mementos of student life and other items reflecting the experiences of Norwich women over the past 50 years. To learn more or to donate/loan items for this exhibit, contact Amber Wingerson at [awingers@norwich.edu](mailto:awingers@norwich.edu) or 802-485-3288.