ANNELIESE BREI

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Research Interests

Natural Language Processing, Natural Language Generation, Narrative Understanding, Text Evaluation

Education

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH)
Ph.D. Candidate in Computer Science   Aug 2022 – Present
M.Sc. in Computer Science   May 2024
Advisor: Prof. Snigdha Chaturvedi

William & Mary (W&M)   Aug 2018 – May 2022
BS in Computer Science (with Honors)   Summa Cum Laude 4.0/4.0 GPA
Minor in Creative Writing
Undergraduate Advisor: Prof. Bin Ren, Prof. Qun Li (research)

Study Abroad at Christ's College, Cambridge University, UK   July – Aug 2019

Experience

Graduate Research Assistant, UNC-CH   Aug 2022 – Present
Advisor: Dr. Snigdha Chaturvedi

Research Scientist Summer Intern, IBM at The Thomas J. Watson Research Center,   May – Aug 2025
Yorktown Heights, NY
Supervisor: Dr. Radu Florian; Mentors: Parul Awasthy, Aashka Trivedi

Undergraduate Computer Science Consultant, W&M   Aug 2020 – May 2022
Supervisor: Dr. Peter Kemper

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, CSCI 301 Software Development, W&M   May – June 2021
Supervisor: Dr. Peter Kemper

Publications

Conference papers

Classifying Unreliable Narrators with Large Language Models
Anneliese Brei, Katharine Henry, Abhisheik Sharma, Shashank Srivastava, Snigdha Chaturvedi
Proceedings of ACL 2025 (main, oral). [Paper][Poster][Slides][Code]

Returning to the Start: Generating Narratives with Related Endpoints
Anneliese Brei, Chao Zhao, Snigdha Chaturvedi
Proceedings of NAACL 2024 (main, poster). [Paper][Poster][Slides][Code]

Theses
Quantum Federated Learning: Training Hybrid Neural Networks Collaboratively
Advisor: Prof. Qun Li
Undergraduate Honors Thesis, William & Mary, May 2022 [Paper][Site][Video]

Books
Available as paperbacks on Amazon and *Barnes & Noble Online Bookstore*:
- *The von Neumann Boutique*, Prototype Educational Novel, Kindle Direct Publishing, 2020.
- *The Song of Paquita*, YA Novel, Kindle Direct Publishing, 2017.
- *Clocks Out of Time*, YA Novel, CreateSpace, 2015.
- *She Watches*, YA Novel, CreateSpace, 2014.

Creative Fiction/Nonfiction & Essays
- *Wake Up Call*, Non-fiction Winner 2021, $2500 prize, Newton-Blanchard [announcement]
- *The Memory*, Long Story Short Award Fall 2020, Short Fiction, Short Édition [site]
- Essay Finalist, The Fountainhead Essay Contest 2018, $100 prize, The Ayn Rand Institute [announcement]

Honors

Fellowships
- **Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP),** National Science Foundation five-year fellowship awarded to graduate students, 2023-2027
- **Royster Society PhD Fellowship,** UNC-CH five-year fellowship awarded to one Computer Science student and only ten students across all doctoral programs in the 2022 cohort, 2022-2027
- **Departmental Honors with Honors Fellowship,** W&M undergraduate honorary designation with $4000 grant to conduct research, 2021-2022

Awards
- **HLF Young Researcher Attendee & Travel Grant**,11th Heidelberg Laureate Forum, among 200 attendees selected worldwide, 2024
- **Grace Hopper Conference Scholarship**, AnitaB.org, 2023
- **Computing Research Association (CRA-WP) Attendee & Travel Grant**, 2023
- **Stephen K. Park Undergraduate Scholarship Award**, W&M award of $1000 given to top graduating undergraduate computer science student, 2022
- **Dean's List**, all semesters at W&M, 2018-2022
- **Phi Beta Kappa Member**, W&M nomination and induction into Alpha Chapter of Virginia, 2021
- **Rocket Pitch Winner**, Alan B. Miller Entrepreneurship Center, best presentation at weekly Rocket Pitch Competition, awarded $100, selected for final round, 2021
- **James Monroe Scholarship**, W&M, Top academically distinguished undergraduates (5-7% sophomores). Awarded $3000 summer research grant, 2020-2022
- **Alpha Lambda Delta & Phi Eta Sigma**, W&M first-year honor societies, awarded to freshmen with 3.5 or greater GPA, 2019

Service

Workshop Organization
- Steering Committee, Global Royster Conference, UNC-CH, September 2025
- Workshop Organizer, The Seventh Workshop on Narrative Understanding, [Site] NAACL 2025
- Workshop Organizer, The Sixth Workshop on Narrative Understanding, [Site] EMNLP 2024
- Steering Committee, Global Royster Conference, King's College London, [Site] June 2024
- Steering Committee, Global Royster Conference, UNC-CH, [Site] May 2023
- Planning Board Member, W&M Cypher VII Hackathon, [Site] Mar 2022
- Planning Board Member, W&M Cypher VI Hackathon, [Site] Apr 2021

Reviewer
- The Seventh Workshop on Narrative Understanding, NAACL 2025
- The Sixth Workshop on Narrative Understanding, EMNLP 2024
- The Fifth Workshop on Narrative Understanding, ACL 2023

Invited Talks

- *How Does Narratology Influence Research in NLP?,* **Guest Lecturer** for ENGL 105: English Composition and Rhetoric, UNC-CH, Nov 2024
- *An Introduction to Research That Bridges NLP and Narratology,* **Guest Lecturer** for ROML 501 Introduction to Digital Humanities, UNC-CH, Oct 2024
- *Are LLMs Helpful Assistants for Understanding Narratives?,* **Working Group Talk** at Sociotechnical Consequences of AI: An Interdisciplinary Exploration of Ethical,Organizational, Social, and Computational Dimensions International Workshop, UNC-CH, Sep 2024
- *How Can a Researcher Use AI to Better Connect with a Community?,* [Site] **Workshop Talk** at Global Royster Conference, Kings College London, June 2024
- *Detecting the Unreliable Narrator & Other Work with Narratology and AI,* [Site] **Research Presentation** at Global Royster Conference, UNC-CH, June 2024
- *'Returning to the Start', Research as a UNC Graduate Student,* **Research Presentation** at UNC-CH Graduate School Advocacy and Development Board Planning Meeting, Apr 2024
- *Jaunting Through a Neural Network,* [Site] **SciArt Gallery Presentation** at W&M Student Showcase, Apr 2021
- *The von Neumann Boutique: A Published Novel That Introduces Computer Science & Ada Lovelace in a Smart Shop Framework,* [Site] **Research Presentation** at W&M Undergraduate Research Month, Apr 2021

Research Posters & Visual Abstracts
- *A Tale of a Story Generator: Incorporating Narratology into Natural Language Generation & Analysis*, **Visual Abstract** [Site], Global Royster, May 2023
- *Power & Justice in the Age of Transformers*, **Poster**, Global Royster, May 2023
- *Addressing Narrative Coherence*, **Poster,** CRA-WP 2023 Grad Cohort Workshop, Apr 2023
- *Quantum Federated Learning*: *Training Hybrid Neural Networks Collaboratively,* **Poster & Video Presentation**, [Site][Video], William & Mary Undergraduate Research Month, Apr 2022
- *The von Neumann Boutique: A Novel That Introduces Computer Science & Ada Lovelace in a Smart Shop Framework*, **Visual Abstract**, [Site], William & Mary Undergraduate Research Month, Apr 2021

Outreach
- *Computers and Writing with LLMs, NLP Research Demonstration*, Open House for Middle & High School Students & Families, Jan 2023

<u>Service</u>
- Graduate Student Experience, UNC-CH
     - Faculty Mentor Training Workshop Group, Aug 2024-Present
     - RA STEM Working Group, Jan 2024-May 2024
- NSF GRFP Peer Review (reviewing UNC-CH applicants' essays before their submission), 2023, 2024
- Phi Beta Kappa, Richmond Association (serving the Commonwealth of Virginia)
     - Vice President, Mar 2024-Present
- Computer Science Student Association, UNC-CH
     - Officer, Aug 2022-Present
- Agency 1693, W&M
     - Co-President, Chief Strategy Officer, Mar-Oct 2020
     - Director of On-Campus Accounts, May 2019-2020
     - Member, Sep 2018–May 2019

<u>University Memberships</u>
- UNC-CH Graduate Women in Computer Science Group, Aug 2022–Present
- W&M Association for Computing Machinery, Jan 2020–May 2022
- W&M Society of Women in Computing, Aug 2021–May 2022