

◆Late Summer Origami,◆ a collection of poems by Alfred University alumna, to be published
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Heather Yanda at one of her favorite work places: a booth at The Collegiate

ALFRED, NY Patience and persistence paid off for Heather Hallberg Yanda &91 BA, who is now a senior lecturer in English in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at Alfred University.

She has just received word that “Late Summer Origami,” a debut collection of her poetry, will be published this year by Ashland Poetry Press, located at Ashland University in Ohio.

“I have always been a writer, even when I was little,” Yanda said, “but I think the real spark came from my seventh grade English teacher, who made language come alive for me. I went to the same school for six years, and I shared my work with her the entire time.”

At Alfred University, first as a student and then as an instructor, Yanda&s commitment to writing grew. “When I came to Alfred, I took Ben Howard's Imaginative Writing class, and several of Susan Morehouse's fiction classes; they, along with my colleague Tim Cox really keep me going.

“I always sit at The Collegiate or outside the Terra Cotta to write, and as a local friend remarked, when I told her my good news (about the collection being published), “The whole town is in on this!& I love that. It is what makes this town and this school home to me.”

Poetry collections are chosen for publication through contests, and Yanda admits, “I have sent this book to contests for an embarrassingly long time, until a friend helped me re-order the poems. When I saw how someone else looked at my poems and how they came together, I was amazed at what came to be. That's when contest judges started to take an interest.

“This book represents a lot for me, but I have also promised myself it won't be my only one,” Yanda added. “My notebook has taught me a lot about the world and the people in it -- and my place with them.”