

Deborah Afolabi

Dr. Heidi Mau

DIG 325: Visual Design for the Web

9 November 2020

CMS Exploration: WordPress

<https://deborahafolabi.news.blog/>

For this CMS exploration, we took a look at WordPress. The platform is mainly a blogging software, but offers ecommerce, portfolio, and other essential features needed for businesses and other companies and organizations to thrive online. WordPress offers a free site domain to users for one year, with any plan they decide to use. If someone chose the main free option, they would only have their site for one year before it would be deleted, unless they bought another plan. This is what I did for the exploration. I started a WordPress blog site last year around this time as an honors module for my mass media writing class. I continued to use it for another class on convergent journalism, as well as a social media class. Since I'd been utilizing my site often and did not want to lose the work I'd put into it, I already knew I was going to purchase a personal plan of \$4 a month, billed annually at \$48.



Home

Who Is Deborah Afolabi?

Be yourself; Everyone else is already taken. — Oscar Wilde. My name is Deborah Afolabi, but everyone calls me Debbie. I am a Honors Student at Albright College, studying Communications with a track in Public Relations and Advertising. I love...

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December 4, 2019

Social Media Content Creation and Curation

[Customize](#)

Home Page

 Create your website at WordPress.com [Get started](#)

My name is Deborah Afolabi, but everyone calls me Debbie. I am a Honors Student at Albright College, studying Communications with a track in Public Relations and Advertising. I love anything and everything related to the arts, but especially literature.

When I was little, my older brothers used to tell me that I would be sent to a mental institute for always talking to myself. Terrified of that happening, I did what any six-year-old child would do: I went crying to my father. You see, I wasn't talking to myself; I was making up stories and saying them aloud. Thankfully, my father didn't send me to a mental institution. Instead, he took me to the public library, a trip which was soon followed by the gift of a journal. This was the beginning of my journey to becoming a writer.

I read, and still do read, a variety and exorbitant amount of books. This love of reading drove me to the journal my father gave me, which helped in controlling the influx of characters, plots, and ideas I was reading about in my novels. These ideas made the stories that I had been voicing aloud since I was little.

I had always been an English student, so the writing wasn't new to me. I just put down my own thoughts and ideas. It was when I saw them come to life on the page, just like in my novels, that I knew writing was something I wanted to do.

Thirteen years later, and I am making a career of something that started as a simple prank from my brothers. I still read and write creatively, but I hope to gain a broader understanding of and skills from all the forms of writing.

Writing was an outlet for the active imagination I've always had, and the only way for me to communicate with others. I want to be able to communicate with everyone, and show others that they can do the same.

See my [about](#) page for links to my portfolios and even more information on me!

[Writing for the Mass Media](#)

Blog Feed (includes images)

 Create your website at WordPress.com [Get started](#)



Photograph by Dr. John Pankratz

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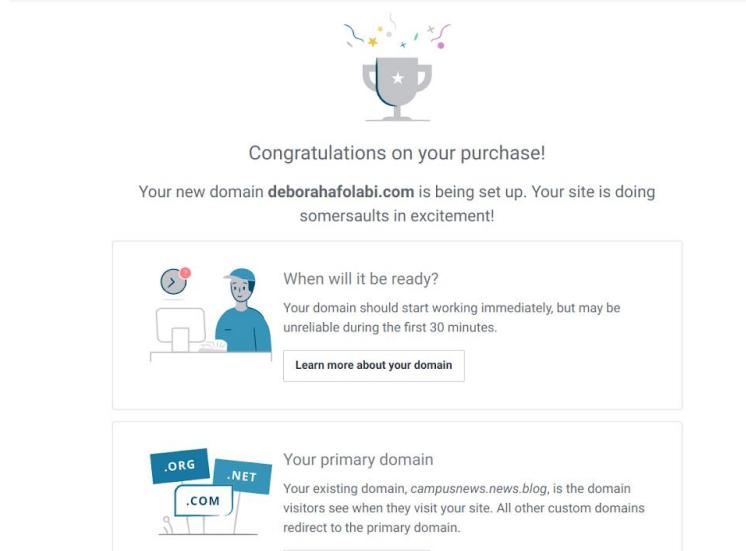
Check out my Instagram page as well as my portfolio site with my writing, graphic design and photography portfolios!



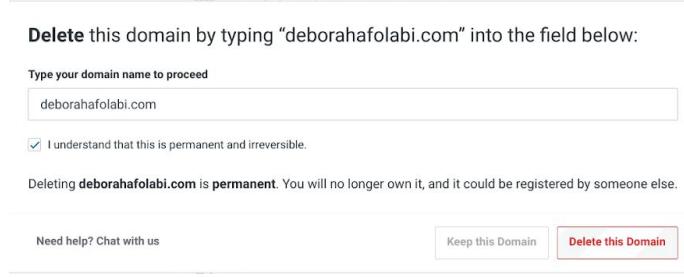
About Page

What my site looked like before I started the exploration.

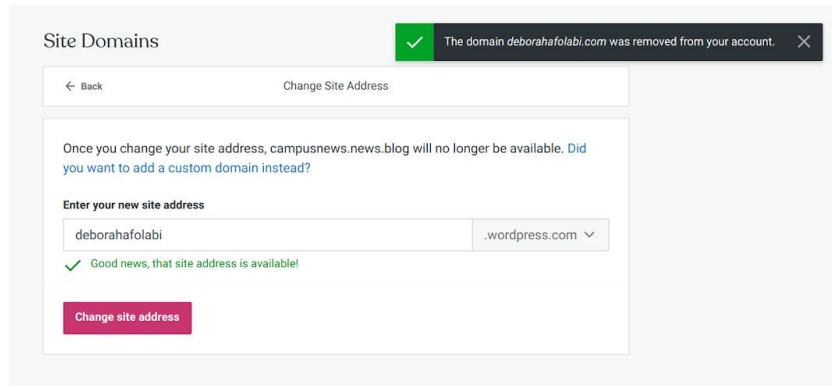
The first thing I did once I was upgraded was accidentally create a whole new domain. I'd actually just wanted to change the site address of my blog, a setting I came across once I realized I had not, in fact, changed the address of my site. I did delete the created domain, as it cost an extra \$18/year in addition to my WordPress plan after one year free, and I didn't really need it. One thing I did find that I did not like, was that I could not change the domain name of my site. It either had to be .wordpress or the domain of my original site: .news.blog. I opted for .news.blog, but I wish it could have been .com, which is what I had on the domain I accidentally created at the beginning.



Accidentally creating a new domain



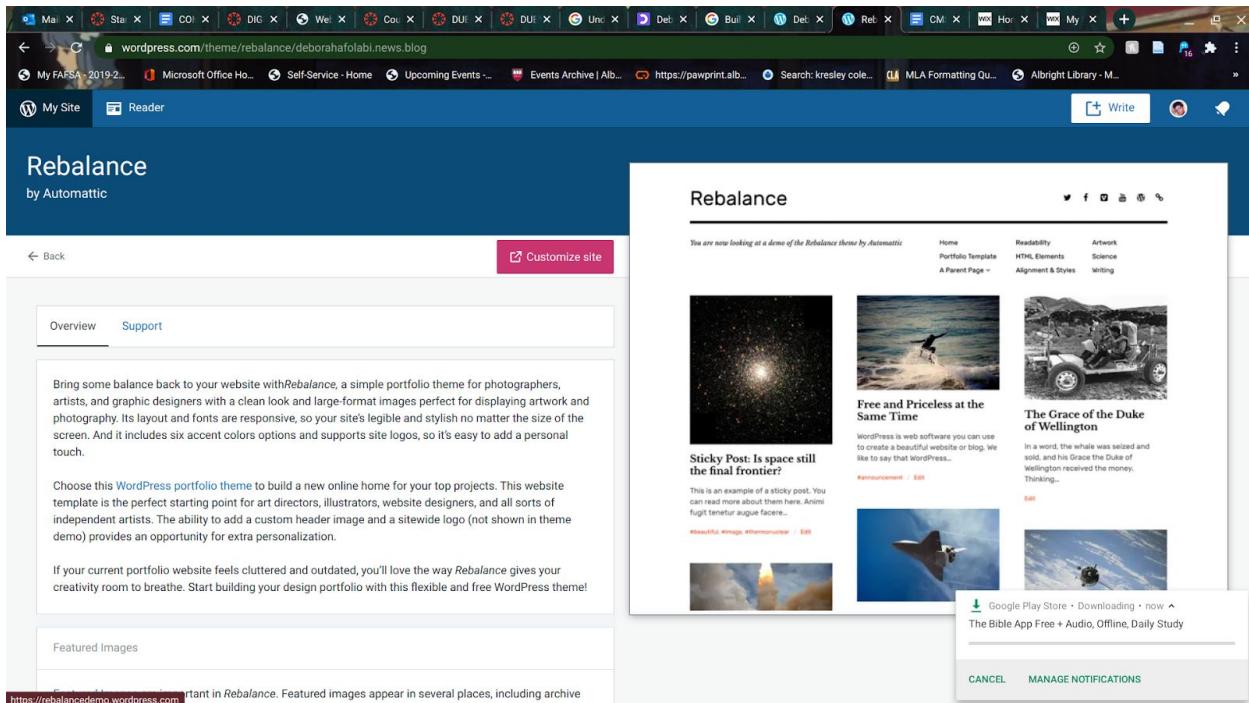
Deleting the domain



Changing my site address

Changing my site address from my original.

The next thing I did was a rebranding of my site. I selected a new theme template first: Rebalance. I selected this theme exactly for what it is known for: balance. I also really liked how it used a grid-like format for the blog feed. My original blog feed was an endless stream of the entire posts, instead of the main image, the title, and an excerpt. My original theme was Plane.

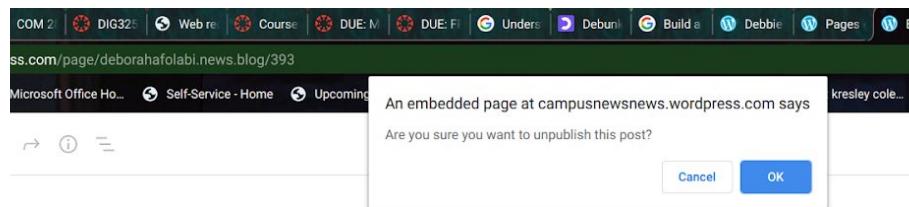
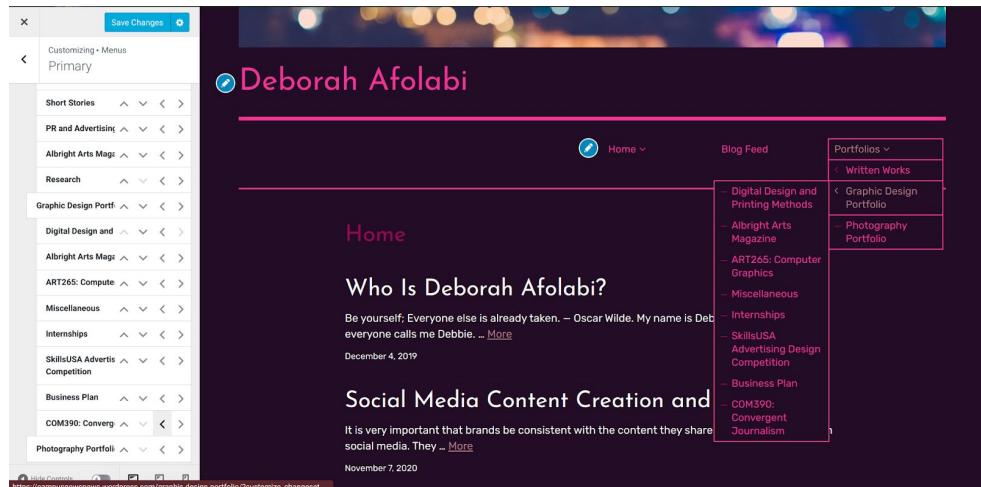


The theme template I selected.

The last thing that cinched the theme for me was the menu. I really liked how balanced it looked at the top of the screen, even though there were many pages. This menu led me to the Customizer in order to add more pages to my site, which I couldn't do before in the free version. I added a portfolios page to my site, in addition to my home, about, and blog feed page (which I still cannot edit, even with a plan). Something cool I found while editing my menu in the Customizer was that I can nest pages under other pages, creating dropdown menus. I nested my about page under home first. My WordPress exploration is supposed to be my writing portfolio, so I made pages for each category of works (as designated on my original portfolio) and nested them under a main "Written Works" page.

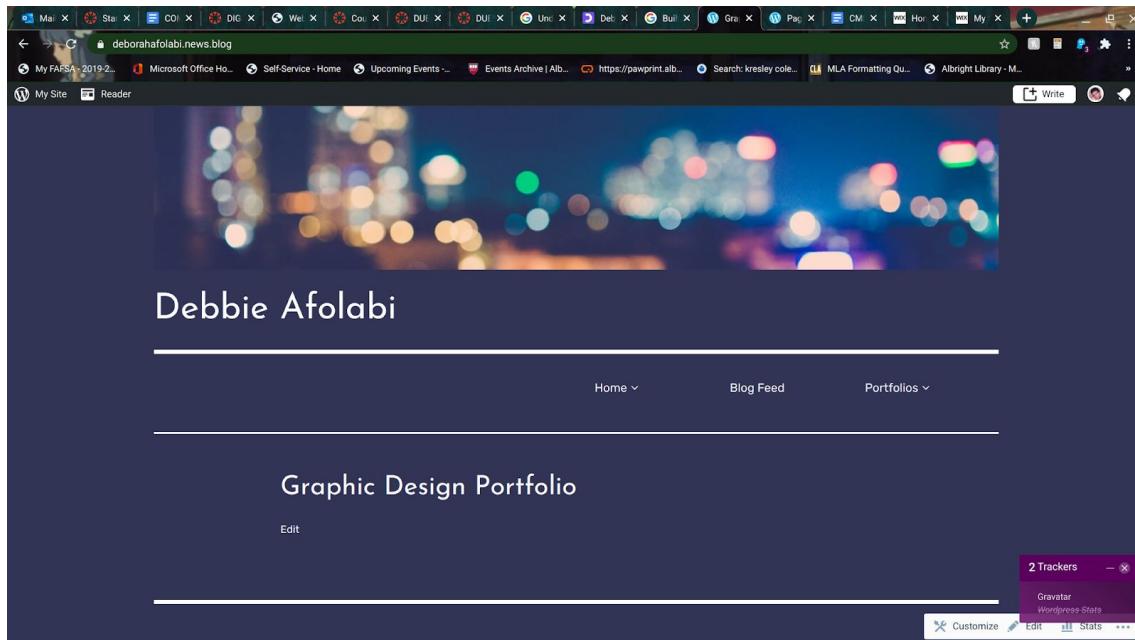
Adding more pages to my site, creating dropdown menus.

I do intend to use this site as my main portfolio site, so I did the same for my graphic design work, but intentionally left all those pages blank. Once you add a page, it automatically becomes live, so I went back through and unpublished all the pages associated with my graphic design portfolio by making them drafts. However, since the pages are still part of the menu, they all still show up and are clickable.



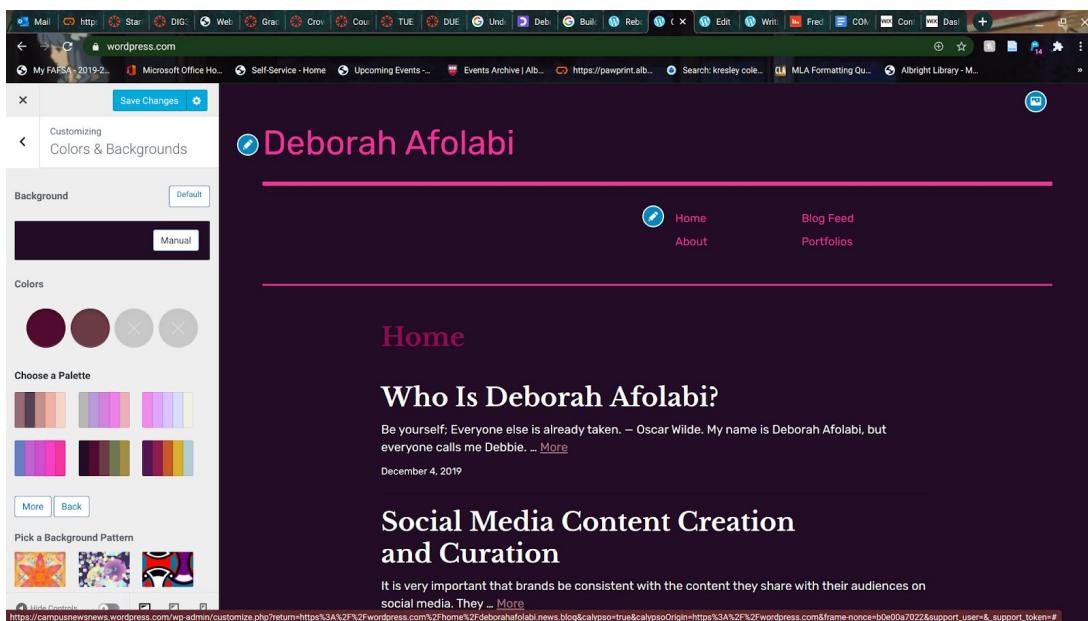
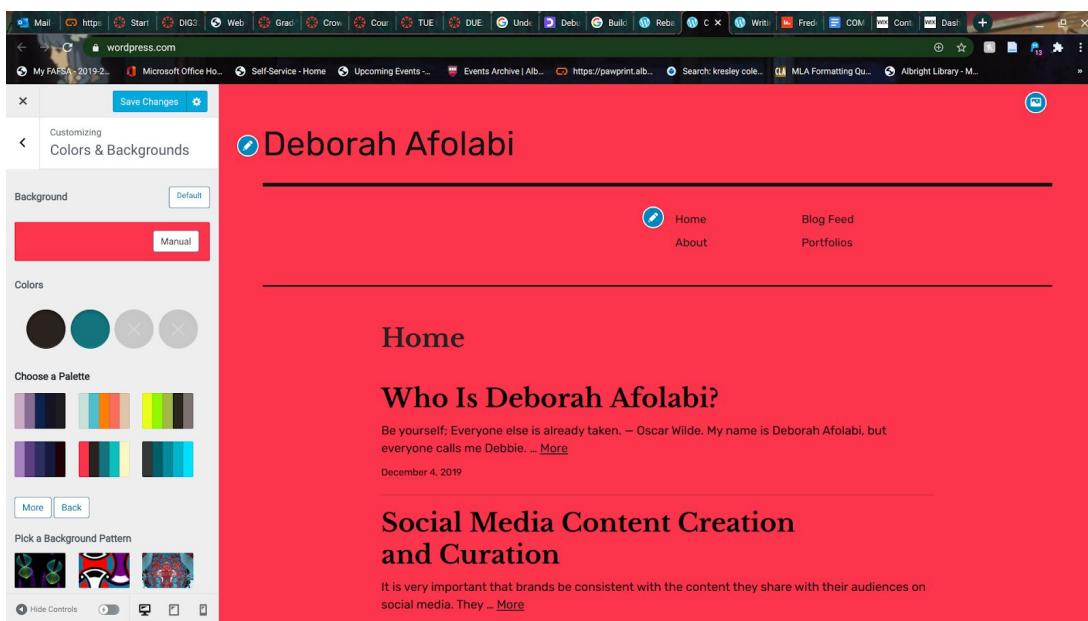
COM390: Convergent Journalism

Start writing or type / to choose a block



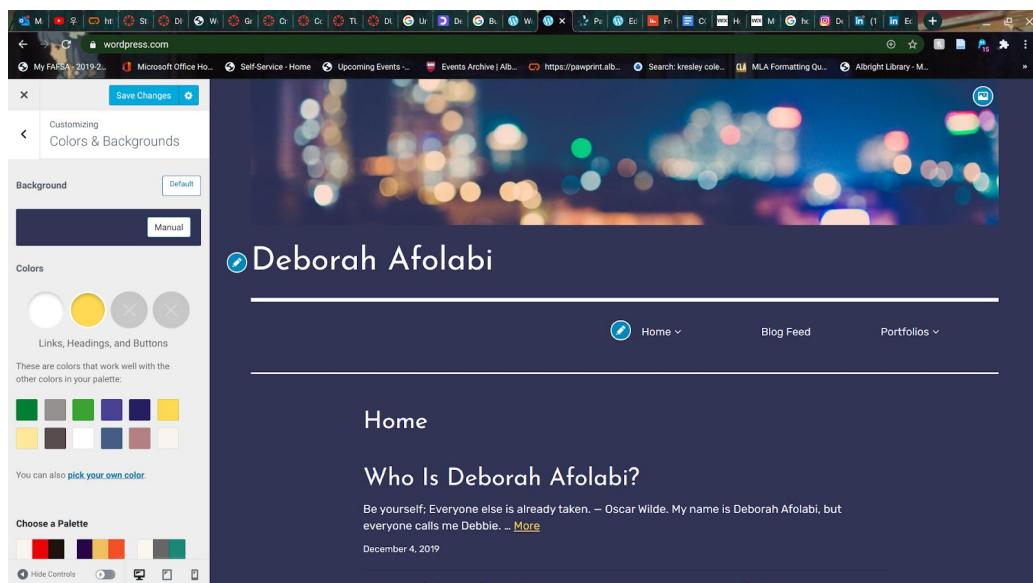
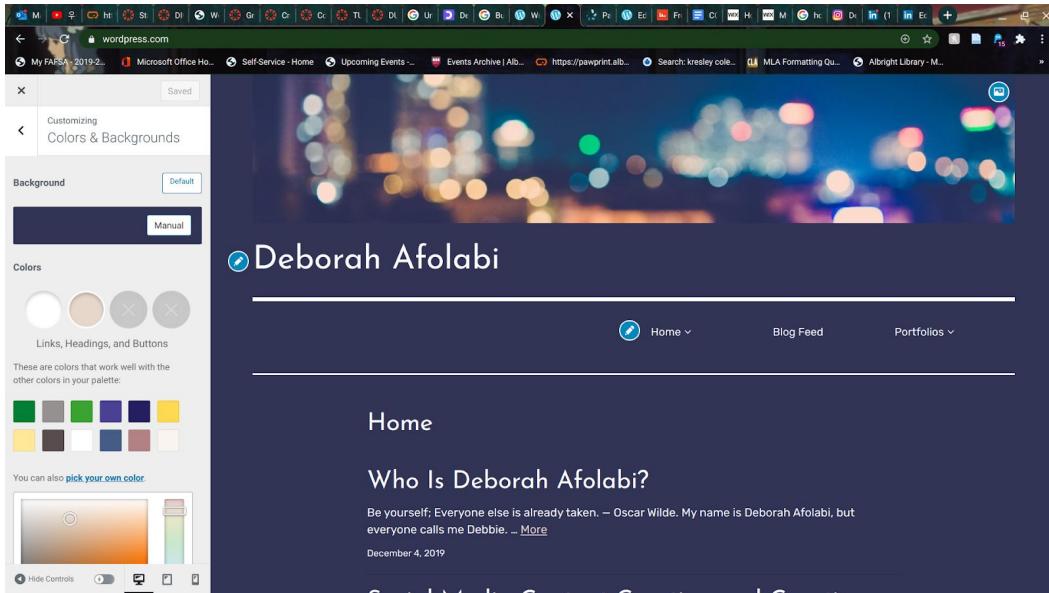
My graphic design portfolio dropdown menu and making the associated pages drafts in an attempt to make them unseeable. However, as shown by the last image, the pages are still visible.

I like both dark and bright colors so I wanted to utilize those themes as best as I could in my site. So the next thing I took a look at was the color theme. I played around with the background palettes several times in my process of making my site. The first time, I settled on a pink text and elements on a dark burgundy background. I thought it was alright, but realized soon enough (and during class) that it was not a good option. I found that I could change the color of the text on each individual page (white was the best choice), but ultimately the color palette itself was not ideal.



Playing around with the color theme. My original selected color scheme and its issues.

After several attempts to change other elements on the site due to color restrictions, I went back to the drawing board. This time I found that I could match the palette to the header image, which helped tie in my site beautifully. There was still an issue of text, but going through each page individually and changing the text to white (and the white background of editor mode no less) was not a good use of time. I found that in the Customizer, after you'd selected your palette, you could fix the entire site at once by clicking on the two color circles of the palette. The first circle controlled the color of the text, while the second one was for links, widgets, and other features.



Final selected color scheme, and editing the palette to change the entire site.

The last thing I worked on was the content of the site itself. My home and blog feed pages did not need any changes. On my about page, I changed the link of the Instagram icon from my personal account to my photography account which I started about a week ago. I also changed the paragraph about my portfolio site, leading visitors to the new portfolio pages of my site and my WIX photography portfolio site.

Photograph by Dr. John Pankratz

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[Deborah Afolabi – Resume](#)

Want to get to know me? Fill out the form below!

Name (required)

Email (required)

My new “About” page information.

One main issue I ran into was adding documents to the site. My original portfolio site allowed me to upload PDFs, taking thumbnail snapshots of the works as previews. I did not want my portfolio pages to look like how my blog feed used to, and I especially did not want to copy and paste multiple page documents into my site, and lose formatting of them. I spent a good while trying to figure out how to figure this out, even almost changing the layout of pages.

The screenshot shows the WordPress editor interface. The title 'You and Monsters Have Nightmares' is centered above the poem. The poem content is as follows:

Since you were young
You've always had the same nightmares.
With the same monsters and the same scenarios
The same doubts, same horrors
Same fears, same weaknesses

Until one night
You realized
That monsters have nightmares too
And it should be you
It is you

You are their monsters and their scenarios
Their doubts, horrors
Fears and weaknesses
And now,
You enjoy the night.

On the right side, there is a sidebar with 'Page' and 'Block' tabs, and a 'Typography' section with settings for font size, line height, and color.

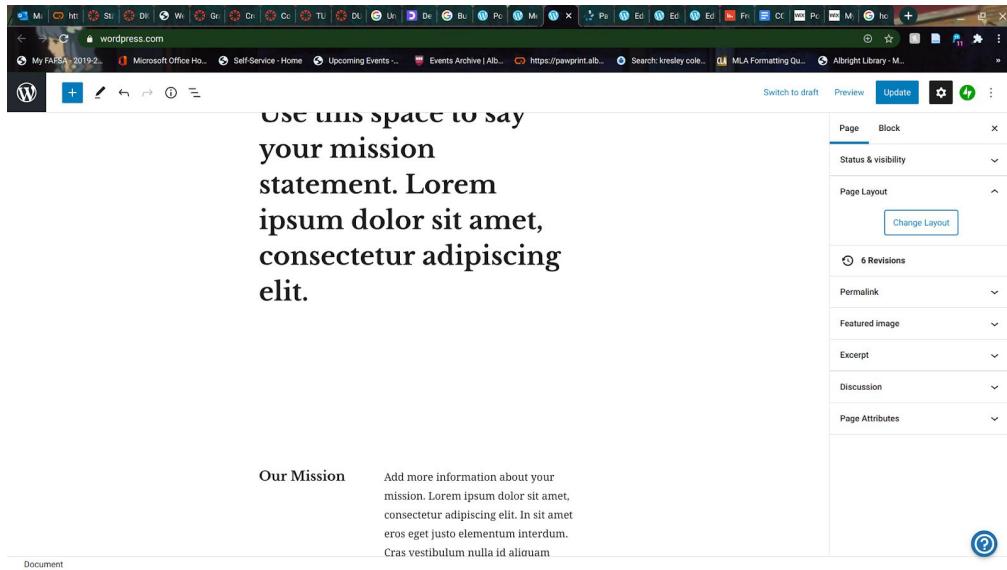
Overwrite Page Content?

Changing the page's layout will remove any customizations or edits you have already made.

[Cancel](#)

[Change Layout](#)

The screenshot shows a page with a sidebar on the left containing 'Blog Pages' and a main content area on the right. The main content area has a title 'About' and a placeholder text: 'Use this space to say your mission statement. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.' A 'Use About layout' button is visible at the top right of the content area.



Playing with page layouts to try and figure out how my written works should look.

Eventually, I did find that I could add documents to my media library, thanks to Google and WordPress blog. I can add documents to my media library and there is a file block in which you add files that can be downloaded by visitors. Although I only put a few of my works on the site and not all, there will be more so I think the download list method was the best. The colors of the links match the color scheme and I was able to hide the actual “download” button, which I did not like. It did not match the color scheme of my site and I could not edit it to match either, but I could hide it which was perfect. In addition, I also made all the links open on a new page, as that is something I think would benefit visitors so they don’t have to go back to where they were after opening the file. I also added my resume as a file to my about page.

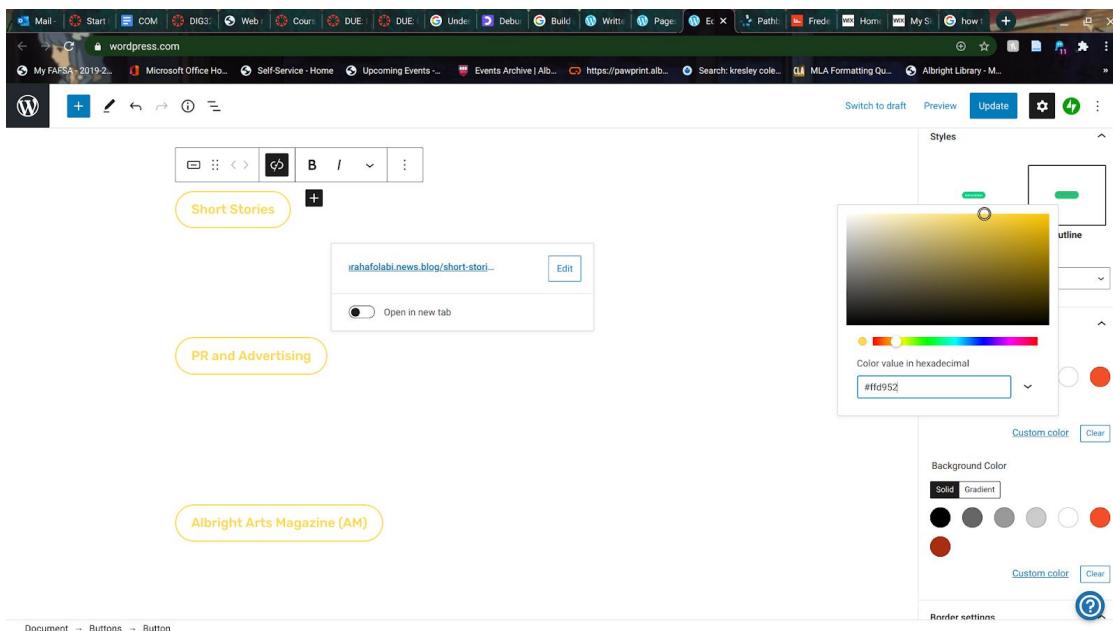
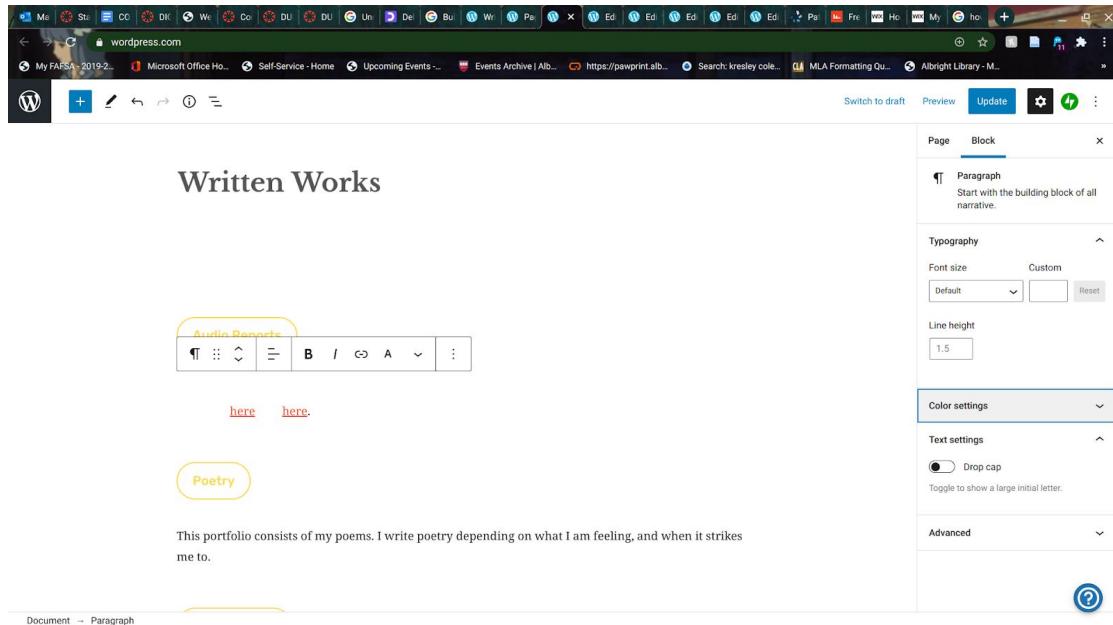
The screenshot shows the WordPress editor interface. A 'File' block is selected, which is a 'Text link settings' block. The 'Link to' dropdown is set to 'Media file'. The 'Text' field contains the text 'AM Fall 2019 Articles'. To the right of the text is a 'Download' button. Below this, there are three more download buttons: 'AM Spring 2019 Main Magazine Articles', 'AM Spring 2019 Tradesize Senior Feature', and 'AM Fall 2018 First Year Feature'. Each of these also has a 'Download' button to its right. The right sidebar of the editor shows settings for 'Page', 'Block', 'Text link settings', 'Download button settings', and 'Advanced'.

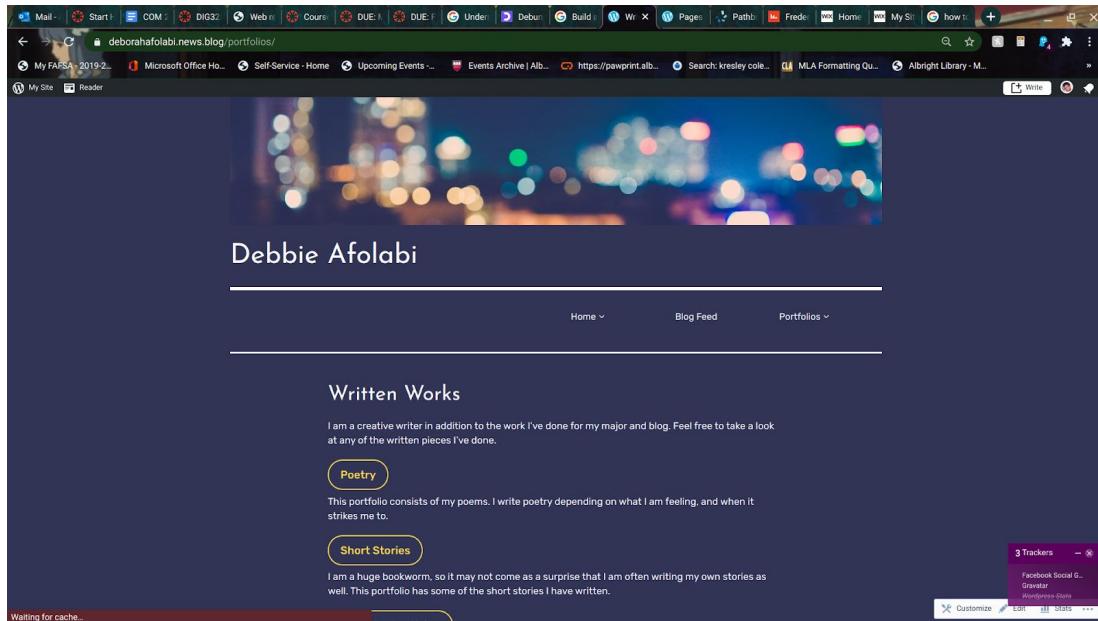
The screenshot shows the WordPress media library. The 'Documents' tab is selected. The interface includes a search bar, a file upload button, and a progress bar indicating '6.2% of 6 GB used'. Below the tabs, there is a 'Add new' button. The main area displays a grid of document thumbnails, each with a PDF icon and a file name. The documents listed are: 'am-fall-2019-articles', 'am-spring-2019-main', 'Violence in Hip Hop', 'The Girl With the Purple', 'Summer Internship', 'No One To Trust', 'Magazine2019', 'Gillette and Positive', 'Gilded Halls, Jilted Do', 'Empowerment and Re', 'Dwane Holloman', and 'Café Sweet Street Str'. At the bottom right of the library are 'Cancel' and 'Insert' buttons.

Adding documents to my site.

In addition, I made my “Written Works” page a landing page for all the category pages of my writing portfolio. It was here that I discovered buttons. I added buttons for each of my portfolio categories, and made the link for each button its respective page on my site. Under each button, I added a little blurb about what the portfolio category featured, as well as an overall

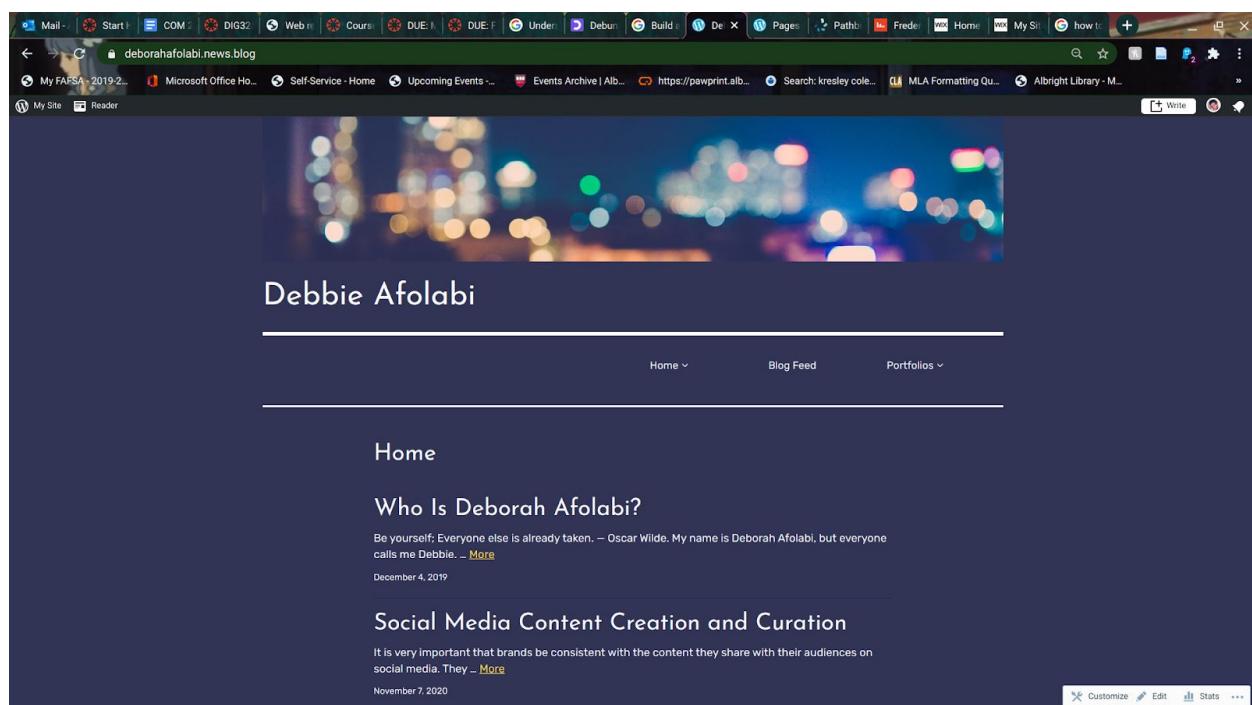
blurb for the entire portfolio at the top. In addition, I went back to the Customizer so I could find the exact code for the link colors as the buttons do not automatically follow the color scheme. But at least I could edit them; I made the outlines so the color wasn't too much on the site, and made the color the same yellow as all the links on the site.

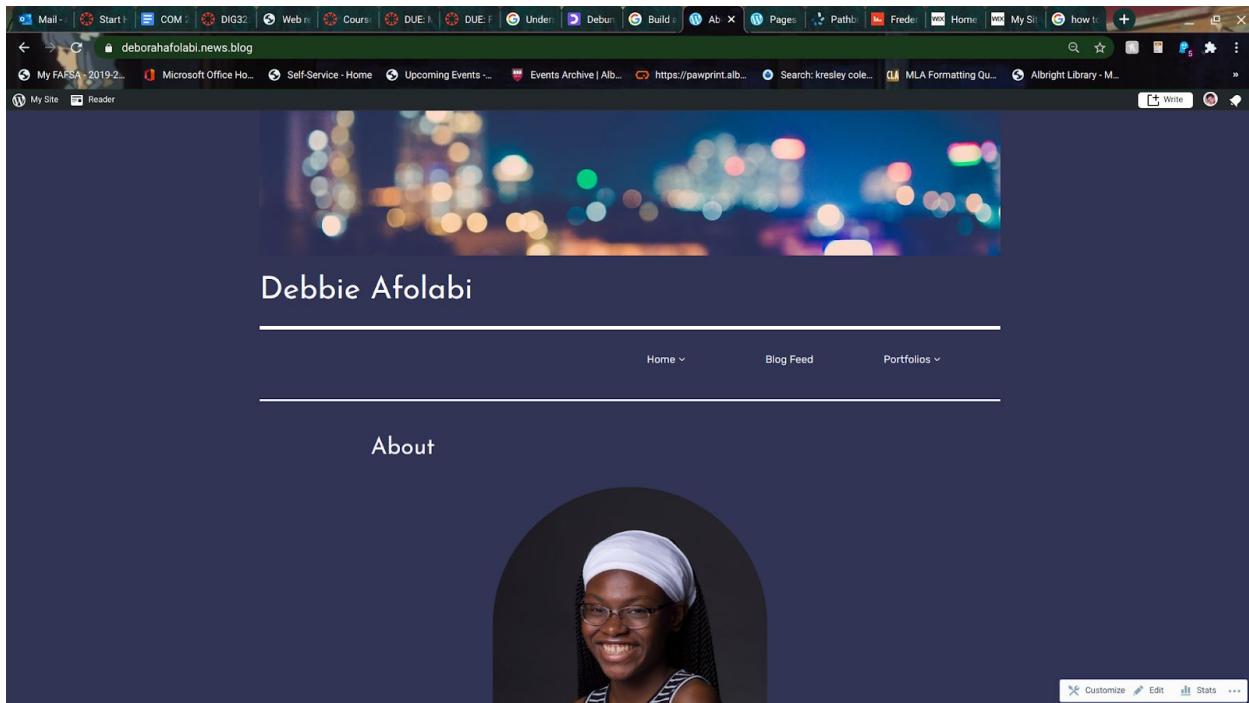




My Written Works page with the edited buttons, as well as how I made them that way.

Overall, working with WordPress is really a love-hate relationship. To me it is more suited as a blog than anything else, but there are workarounds. Once you know how to do something, it becomes a better experience, and this goes for both the free version and paid plans.





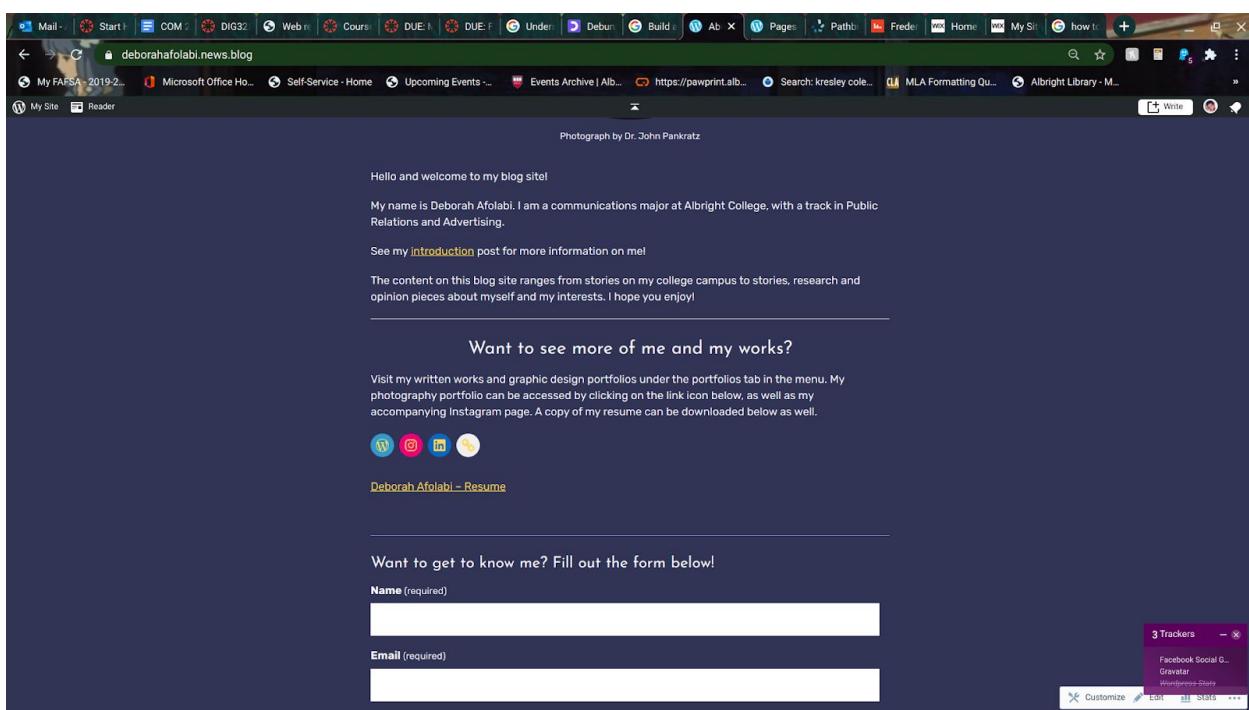
Debbie Afolabi

Home ▾ Blog Feed Portfolios ▾

About



Customize Edit Stats



Photograph by Dr. John Pankratz

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[WordPress](#) [Instagram](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Email](#)

[Deborah Afolabi - Resume](#)

Want to get to know me? Fill out the form below!

Name (required)

Email (required)

3 Trackers

Facebook Social G... Gravatar [View more](#)

Customize Edit All Stats

debolahafolabi.news.blog

Debbie Afolabi

Home ▾ Blog Feed Portfolios ▾



Social Media Content Creation and Curation

It is very important that brands be consistent with the content they share with their audiences on social media. They...

[Edit](#)

Who Is Deborah Afolabi?

Be yourself: Everyone else is already taken. – Oscar Wilde. My name is Deborah Afolabi, but everyone calls me Debbie...

[Edit](#)



Social Media Writing Styles and Platforms to go with Them

There are many different types of writing styles for social media. Writing on social media can be professional, snarky and...



2 Trackers

Gravatar WordPress Stats

Customize

debolahafolabi.news.blog/portfolios/

Debbie Afolabi

Home ▾ Blog Feed Portfolios ▾



Written Works

I am a creative writer in addition to the work I've done for my major and blog. Feel free to take a look at any of the written pieces I've done.

Poetry

This portfolio consists of my poems. I write poetry depending on what I am feeling, and when it strikes me to.

Short Stories

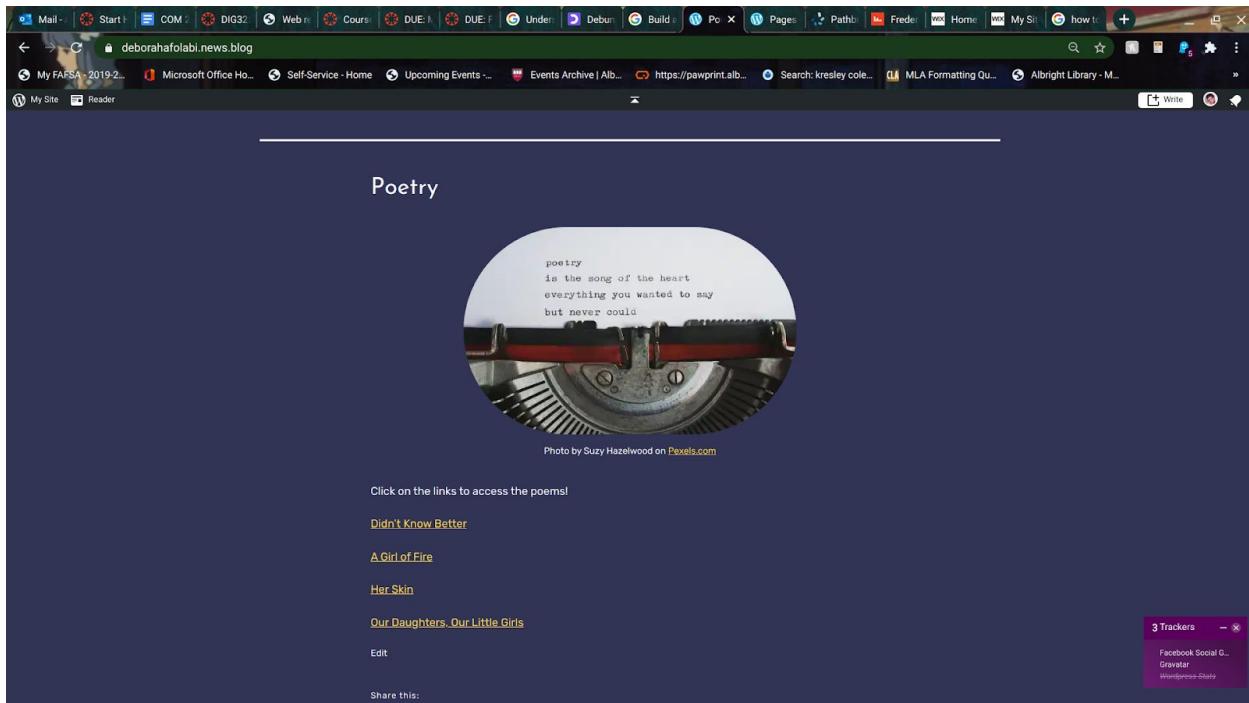
I am a huge bookworm, so it may not come as a surprise that I am often writing my own stories as well. This portfolio has some of the short stories I have written.

Waiting for cache...

3 Trackers

Facebook Social G... Gravatar WordPress Stats

Customize Edit All Stats



The screenshot shows a web browser window with a dark blue header bar containing various tabs and icons. The main content area has a dark blue background. At the top, the word "Poetry" is centered in a white, sans-serif font. Below it is a circular image of a vintage typewriter. Inside the circle, a poem is displayed in a small, white, serif font:

```
poetry
is the song of the heart
everything you wanted to say
but never could
```

Below the image, the text "Photo by Suzy Hazelwood on [Pexels.com](#)" is visible. Underneath the image, there is a line of text that reads "Click on the links to access the poems!" followed by five underlined poem titles: "Didn't Know Better", "A Girl of Fire", "Her Skin", "Our Daughters, Our Little Girls", and "Edit". At the bottom of the page, there is a "Share this:" button and a small sidebar on the right with the text "3 Trackers" and a list of tracking services: "Facebook Social G...", "Gravstar", and "Wordpress-Stats".

The final pages of my site.