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IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Summer graduation applications are due June 8, 2012**
- **Spring Final Exams end May 4**
- **Summer A & C starts on May 14**
- **Summer B starts June 25**

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2
RACHEL CULBERSON

SARAH WRAY

APRIL EDITION
STACIE MOSER

MESSAGE FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE DIRECTOR DR. MARTY GOULD

The English Honors Program provides a carefully selected group of students with opportunities for advanced scholarship within the major. Honors students enjoy close contact with faculty mentors as they pursue sophisticated independent projects in Literary Study or Creative Writing. Small seminars offer Honors students an intellectually stimulating environment in which to learn and exchange ideas with fellow students who share similar aims and abilities. For students who possess strong individual initiative and a record of academic achievement, the English Honors Program provides an array of opportunities to develop their critical abilities and to refine their writing skills.

Beginning this fall, the English Honors Program will look a little different. While the goals of the program remain the same, a new set of requirements will go into effect, with fresh options to allow Honors students more flexibility in tailoring the program around their individual academic interests. Students admitted to the Honors Program this May will complete English Honors under the new set of requirements. Students who are already in the Program must satisfy the requirements that were in place when they were admitted.

The English Honors Program consists of nine (9) hours of advanced work in English. ALL students in the program MUST complete one English Honors seminar (ENG 4935 or ENG 4936). One seminar will be offered each semester. This fall's seminar, taught by Professor Mooney, will focus on twentieth-century literature. In the spring, Professor Hawkins will teach a seminar on Postcolonial literature. Both seminars will emphasize class discussion and offer smaller class sizes to facilitate student-teacher interaction.

Following the seminar, students are free to choose from among several options to fulfill the remaining six (6) hours of English Honors: a second Honors seminar, an independent study, or a three-hour Honors thesis. The most advanced students in the Program may also (with special permission) have the opportunity to enroll in a graduate-level course. Of the nine hours required for English Honors, six may be counted towards the BA degree in English.

As you can see, the biggest change to the English Honors Program is that the thesis is now an optional exercise. Students who would like to complete a major project may do so in the form of a thesis, but students who wish to undertake further study within the structure of an advanced-level course may forego the thesis in favor of additional coursework. Students in Creative Writing are particularly encouraged to complete a thesis, and they may find the independent study a useful preface for this longer project. Most Literary Studies majors, particularly those interested in graduate school, will find it useful to complete two seminars, rounding out the program with one of the other options. All students are advised to design programs of study under the direction of the Undergraduate Director and the faculty in their areas of study.

Applications for English Honors are due by 5:00 pm, 9 May. The application requires signatures from two professors within the English Department. Letters of recommendation are not necessary: applicants need only supply the two signatures that indicate the instructors' confirmation of the student's suitability for English Honors. For students in the Creative Writing program, *at least one* of the two required recommendations should come from a member of the Creative Writing faculty. In all cases, it is a generally good idea to ask for the signatures of the professors with whom you have studied in an advanced course within the major (and who can speak to your potential for Honors-level work). The personal statement, too, is important, as it offers you an opportunity to note your particular qualifications and goals as well as your interest in the English Honors Program.

Students who have completed at least 80 hours of coursework with a GPA above 3.3 are eligible to apply for English Honors. Those students with GPAs above 3.5 and who are prepared to commit themselves to a more rigorous course of study are particularly encouraged to apply. Questions about the Program can be directed to the Undergraduate Director (and Director of English Honors), Dr. Marty Gould (mgould@usf.edu).

STACIE'S CAREER CORNER

Worried about life after graduation? Overwhelmed by the job search? USF's Career Services has made looking for your potential career easy with four simple phases. Below are some tips taken from the Career Services Webpage:

Phase 1: Job Search preparation

- Step 1- Identify a specific career objective.
- Step 2- Write an effective resume.
- Step 3- Prepare an elevator speech (brief self-introduction).
- Step 4- Research preferred employers.
- Step- Plan strategies for making contact with preferred employers.
- Step 6-Practice interview and telephone skills.

Phase 2: Contacting employers and requesting interviews

- Step 7- Contact employers and request interviews.

Phase 3: Interviewing

Phase 4: Evaluating and deciding on an offer of employment.

- Step 8- Accept or decline an offer.

Undergraduate Achievements and Awards

Sara Walters has been accepted to three different MFA programs throughout the United States for Creative Writing, and she is currently deciding which one to pursue.

Delaney Rose had the opportunity to present a conference paper at the Associated Writing Professionals conference in Chicago!

As an Editorial Intern at SRQ Magazine student **Megan Fishco** is an active writer for the online publication. She has been published in the April issue and will also be in upcoming issues.

Alexandra Velasco is the author of the poem "Allurement" published in Sawpalm.

Syed Jamal's tech writing internship turned into a job opportunity.

Destiny Campbell-Bermudez and five other undergrad students were selected at the 6x6 Reading Series for the month of February. It was part of USF's Blank Pages Creative Writing Symposium. "I Didn't Want to Pick Him Up" was the poem she read at Felicitous Tea Lounge.

The Undergraduate Publication: Thread

Thread Literary Inquiry will host its Launch party for the release of this year's free student journal on Thursday, April 19th in MSC 2708. The time is still tentative but is expected to be after 6:30 p.m. To find out more, please visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/threadUSF

The published authors of this year's 6th edition journal:

Robert Annis
Thu Can
John Caudill
Vicki Entreken
Mark Farag
Victor Florence
Scott Griffin
Andrew Hemmert
Breanna Henry
Connor Holmes
Jarred Metts
Amanda Moinaro
Ariel Nagy
Neil Pepi
Jason Saffels
Paul Vinhage
Sara Walters

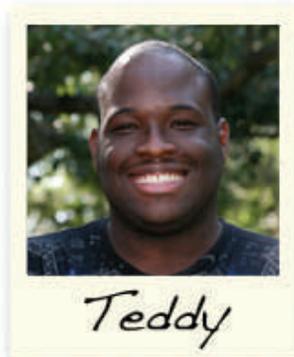
The editing staff:

Sasha Deter
Jessica Edmondson
Kyle Ligman
Francesca Martin
Kevin Potter



The Launch party will have free journals, quirky buttons, Chipotle burritos, and Kaleisia tea in celebration of this year's published authors.

Interning: The Washington Center Experience



This past fall semester one of our Technical Writing students seized a wonderful opportunity to work and learn with his internship through the Washington Center in Washington, D.C. The Washington Center is a non-profit organization that works with colleges and universities around the world to assist and lead students to professional internships.

Student Teddy Grant traveled to D.C. for a full semester working in the area of Media News and Communication. He worked with a non-profit organization called Leadership Africa USA that provides leadership training skills to African youth. While working in this capacity, Teddy was able to utilize several of the technical writing skills he had developed in his classes here at USF. Teddy's main focus was research: proposals, memos, etc; however, he also had the opportunity to work planning an event at the U.S. Capitol and was even able to attend events that were important in the African Diplomatic community. He states, **"I was able to attend events that were attended by African Ambassadors, heads of think tanks, and non-profit organizations; and all were interested in the development of Africa as a whole."** Teddy's experience gave him hands-on training and has also provided him with insight for his future plans as well as cultural experience.

When speaking of his internship, Teddy says, **"My favorite part of the internship was that I was able to meet people from all over the world. There is a lot of culture in D.C., and I had access to so many new things around me."** The experience also gave Teddy a better understanding that he wants to pursue journalism as a career and has also increased his interest in politics.

His advice to other students pursuing a professional internship is to research the organization to make sure that it is the right fit for you. For Teddy, **"You have to be really interested in the type of field that you're pursuing."** Also, it is important to use the opportunity to network; making professional connections is greatly encouraged by the Washington Center. In fact, Teddy is currently contacting people he met in Washington to help find jobs and opportunities now.

By Rachel Culberson, Intern

Professional Development

Starting in the Fall 2012 semester, the English Department will offer workshops on professional development, networking, and resume building. Please keep checking the departmental listservs for updates, and bookmark these great sites on your home computer: [Write Jobs](#), [News Jobs](#), [Media Bistro](#), [Journalism Now](#), [Book Jobs](#), [Transitions Abroad](#), [Writer's Digest](#).

English Students Working In The Community

Late last year, Mrs. Betty Shifflet called Sarah Wray because she needed help. For many years, Mrs. Shifflet has been the sole caretaker of her grandson who was left with severe brain damage after a childhood accident. She has chronicled her story in a recent book, but she wanted to transform and expand the book into an online blog and social networking site. However, with the current economy, Mrs. Shifflet has had to put more of her time in taking care of her grandson which left little time for writing and blogging. Mrs. Shifflet didn't know where to turn, but she had heard about the talented English students at USF. "Within half an hour of posting the call for volunteers on our listservs, I had more than 20 replies from our students. They were able to apply skills they learned in their English classes to help someone in the Tampa Bay community," Sarah said.

The students who were chosen to work with Mrs. Shifflet assisted her in starting a blog, a Facebook page, and tie up loose ends on her website, all for her book. Much of the work was conducted via email and technology, and there is still a lot that she would like to accomplish. Any student who would like to gain experience working with a published author to maintain social networking based on a publication can contact Sarah Wray at swray@usf.edu.

"They were able to apply skills they learned in their English classes to help someone in the Tampa Bay community."

By Rachel Culberson, Intern

Get Involved

Sigma Tau Delta is accepting applications for membership! We are an International English Honor Society. Our goal is to promote interest in literature and the English language as well as to foster literacy in our community. The society aims to confer distinction upon its members for their academic excellence and achievement; we hope to provide our members with ample scholarship opportunities and volunteer involvement. Currently, the USF Tampa chapter of Sigma Tau Delta is involved in a Book Drive in cooperation with the Better World Books Foundation, and we are always on the lookout for new ways to be involved with the promotion of

literacy both on campus and abroad. Only Junior and Senior level students are allowed application to the society; requirements include a 3.0 GPA in English courses (as well as the completion of two additional English courses beyond the basic freshman course requirements) and a one-time payment of dues. Applications can be found at the English Department desk and should be submitted to Dr. Gould. Contact President Jerred Metts at jmetts@mail.usf.edu with any questions.

Writers' Workshop is a creative writing workshop club for USF undergraduate students to strengthen fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, playwriting and/or screenwriting skills through friendly weekly meetings. Ideal members are English majors and mature creative writers who are able to handle and give friendly criticism. New people are always welcome. This semester meetings are held on Fridays at 4:00 pm in various MSC rooms. Send questions or confirm interest to Shane Hall at shanel@mail.usf.edu.

Professional/Technical Communication

Internship Update

Michael L. Shuman, Ph.D.
Program Coordinator

Now in its second year of development, The Professional/Technical Internship Program continues to develop new ways of providing students with practical experience in the modern workplace. Our goal is to allow students to take their classroom knowledge into an office setting and learn how to become an effective employee. Interns also give our department valuable input, allowing administrators to design an academic program that fits the employment needs of the Tampa Bay business community.

Concentrating in Professional Writing, Rhetoric, and Technology allows students majoring in English to enjoy their involvement with literature and creative writing while at the same time developing skills important for finding a well-paying job and a rewarding career. The internship is a relatively-new requirement for this concentration. But the internship opportunity is available to any student studying for a degree in English, so an academic background in professional and technical writing is not necessarily required.

Students during the fall and spring semesters are expected to devote 10-12 hours per week working in their internship sponsors' offices, with summer interns spending about 13-16 hours in-office during the shorter term. Internship sponsors generally are assigned based upon the student's academic background and career interest.

So far 33 students have held internships in the program, with another 12 in line for internships this coming summer. The program offers opportunities in non-profit service organizations, software developers, law offices, advertising agencies, Web development companies, broadcast and print media outlets, and personnel management companies. This summer we are expanding our sponsor base by adding local libraries, a video game developer, and additional non-profit organizations

The success of any program is measured by its results, and so far previous interns have been hired as full- or part-time employees by their internship sponsors. Others have gone on to remarkable careers with technology-based companies in the Tampa Bay area, including one student now documenting training systems for a government contractor.

"The new requirement for the completion of an internship will benefit every student who graduates from the program," says Zoe Stilling, an intern during the spring 2011 semester. "The objective of being a student is to become as well educated and prepared as we need to be to get our optimal careers in place; because of this experience I feel one step closer to my future."

Semester Reminders

Make sure you visit an advisor every semester!

Come in for a graduation check the semester before you plan to graduate.

Make sure your FKL Math and FKL Quantitative Reasoning courses meet your Gordon Rule Math requirements.

Visit the Career Center for help on your resume and job search.

During registration, if you are 10 minutes late to an appointment, you will be marked a no-show. Throughout other times in the semester, you will be marked a no-show after 15 minutes.

The Library Tutoring Center has FREE tutoring for many Subjects including math and science. Also, tutoring for the GRE, LSATS, and numerous other test is available.

High achieving English majors should consider joining the prestigious English Honors Program which will prepare you for graduate study. Contact your advisor or speak with Dr. Marty Gould if you have any questions.

Advisors are meeting with students all throughout the Summer.

Contributions for future Editions:

If you would like to contribute anything to our next Newsletter edition, please email Sarah at swray@mail.usf.edu.

Good luck on your finals!