

# The English Undergraduate Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1, NOVEMBER EDITION Sarah Wray

Editor

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## MESSAGE FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE DIRECTOR DR. MARTY GOULD

Thanksgiving is upon us, with final exam week close on its heels. But even as the current semester is winding down, it's time to register for next semester's courses. With papers to write and exams to study for, it's hard to think about beginning a whole new set of courses in just a few weeks' time. On top of all this those of you who are seniors are thinking about your post-graduation plans, whether jobs, grad school, or other adventures. The close of 2011 may be near, but that end only signals a whole new set of beginnings. However the semester ends, there are plenty of fresh starts just around the corner.

The most important thing to plan for is the end of the semester, and that means buckling down and doing the hard work it takes to do as well as you can in each of your courses. It's been a long semester, and you may be tired, but the toughest part of the semester still lies ahead. Take some time now to plan out how you are going to complete the reading and writing assignments for each of your classes. Schedule in plenty of time to study and to sleep. Don't forget to make allowance for unforeseen problems (illness, computer crashes, life events).

As you look ahead further to the next semester, plan your courses intelligently. Think about the courses that most interest you, the courses that will most challenge you, and the courses that will contribute the most to your long-term personal and career plans. Strike a balance between courses with heavier and lighter workloads. Take a chance on a course that will present you with something new or that may require you to work outside your own comfort zone. Select courses that build on your existing strengths but that will also help you develop new skills sets. Take courses in areas you like, but try some courses in areas you don't yet know. Education is, after all, a journey of discovery. You only go to college once, so make the most of the opportunity.

Finally, if you think that graduate or professional school may be in your more distant future, you'll want to start talking to your advisors and professors. They can help you to decide if graduate school is the right choice for you. They can also help you identify the programs that are best suited to your interests and long-term plans. They can help you revise and improve your application materials. And they can supply the letters of recommendation you will need to apply for exciting programs of study. But they can only do these things if you ask for their help. Graduate and law school admissions are highly competitive, and your professors and advisors can work with you to improve your chances of success.

## Important Dates

**Thanksgiving, Nov.  
24 & 25**

**Last Day of Classes,  
Dec. 2**

**Final Exams, Dec. 3-8**

**First Day of Spring  
Semester, Jan. 9**

## UNDERGRADUATE ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

*Thunderclap Magazine* is publishing “My Feelings Are Nothing Simon & Garfunkel Can’t Fix,” a poem by **Kristin Kimble**, in their October edition.

**Syed Jamal** just started interning at Strategic Marketing, an advertising company, as a Content Writer.

**Thu Can** won a prestigious study abroad scholarship through the Genshaft/Greenbaum Passport Scholars Fund. She spent her summer in Costa Rica learning Spanish.

**Samiat Salami** is interning at a jewelry magazine in London England. The internship was set up by the Washington Center.

**Rochelle Germond** has been busy getting her poem, “A Failing Heart,” published in the *Battered Suitcase’s* Autumn edition. Also, she has been interning at *SRQ Magazine* as a writer and researcher.

USF Health Information Systems has just hired **Alissa Jones** as a Content Writer.

## THE UNDERGRADUATE PUBLICATION: THREAD

Revise—a word both feared and respected by writers. Revision represents a change for the better, but it’s also an acceptance that the first try isn’t good enough.

When *thread* launched in 2007, it was an experimental, online-only venture into USF’s creative population. This edition of *thread* is the sixth draft of a quaint literary journal that will only get better as time passes.

As an undergraduate literary journal that allows students in any major at USF to submit, *thread* accepts submissions in literary criticism (max 15 pages), fiction (max 15 pages), creative non-fiction (max 15 pages), poetry (max 5 pages each,



4 poems total), and screenplay writing (15 pages or 1 Act). While we place no thematic restrictions on submissions, the pieces in our journal engage in a contemporary conversation; literature is not created in a vacuum. Authors destabilize social institutions such as gender and religion to capture a year fraught with economic, political, and existential uncertainty. Published works juxtapose confident contemporary iconography with focused personal insecurities.

Last year’s Volume 5 marked several changes from the previous editions. Most notably, Volume 5 submission cycle garnered us the most entries we’ve ever seen at *thread*, causing us to increase our page count and print run. We hope this year will be as successful as last with encouraging talented writers to submit their works. Those who would like to submit to *thread*, please submit to the website: [thread.submishmash.com/submit](http://thread.submishmash.com/submit)

**Open submissions start October 13<sup>th</sup> and close December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Announcements of published pieces will be in mid March.**

### Internship

#### Opportunities for all English Students

For students interested in the pre-law track or in politics, we highly recommend you consider pursuing the LIP/TIP internship programs:

<http://www.cas.usf.edu/internships/about/>

For general internships, check out::

[internships.com](http://internships.com)

This site contains numerous opportunities in and around the Tampa Bay Area.

The Washington Center is the largest, independent non-profit academic internship program in the country:

<http://www.twc.edu/>

**Please see the English Undergraduate advisors for more information.**

Remember, Technical Communication and New Media majors have to complete a required internship:

<http://mshuman.com/internships/>



A very common question we hear is, "Can students majoring in English eventually become physicians, nurses, pharmacists, biomedical researchers, or dentists?" To their surprise, the answer is "YES."



Just because a particular student chooses to major in a humanities related field, this does not preclude him or her from fulfilling a childhood dream of becoming a medical doctor or some other medical professional. In fact, many professional health programs appreciate students who come from unique backgrounds such as English.

Prior to becoming an advisor here in the Dept of English, I worked as the advising and recruitment coordinator for the USF Health College of Medicine. I played a big part in evaluating medical school applicants and assisting the office with filling the class with a diverse body of students. In terms of diversity, we typically think of race or ethnicity, but we were encouraged to

take this a step further and consider all aspects of diversity such as college major, unique coursework, extracurricular activities, etc. A major initiative was to move beyond the typical science based applicant and broaden the scope of majors that typically filled the class.



From my experience, some of the most successful candidates majored in the humanities and indeed brought a sense of uniqueness to the medical school class. I remember two students in particular during my first application cycle, and both majored in English. In addition to completing the basic science pre-requisites, the students took creative writing courses, literature courses, and even courses in editing. I remember these two students impressing the admissions committee and discussing their English projects that they were currently completing prior to graduation. After their departure, I recall an upper level administrator praising their interview and commenting that the students will bring the following aspects of diversity into the medical school class:



- Superb writing ability which is critical for physicians.
- Evaluative and synthesizing skills
- More breadth in terms of academics – not solely focusing on the sciences
- An overall appreciation for all aspects of academia



So there you have it! Students who major in English definitely bring uniqueness to the table and can pursue education in the health professions. If you are interested in such careers and learning how a degree in English can get you to a graduate or professional school in the health professions, please make an appointment to see Aaron Petuch via the e-scheduler link below:



<http://usfweb3.usf.edu/appointments/StudentSignon.asp>



## GET INVOLVED

***Sigma Tau Delta*** is 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, and 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 the one-time payment of dues. Students who are interested in joining but are not of Junior or Senior standing may still become involved with the Organization activities as unofficial members until they are eligible to apply. It is recommended that any student interested in joining *Sigma Tau Delta* contact either our Faculty Advisor Dr. Marty Gould or Organization President Jerred Metts via email. Or, keep an eye out for recruitment flyers around campus!

**Writers' Workshop** is a focused and professional student organization made to strengthen your fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, playwriting and/or screenwriting through friendly workshops once a week. Ideal members are English majors and mature creative writers able to handle and give friendly criticism. New people are always welcome. If you're a writer seeking improvement and success, stop by and see what we're about. This semester meetings are held Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in various MSC rooms. Send questions or confirm interest to Shane Hall at [shane1@mail.usf.edu](mailto:shane1@mail.usf.edu).

**The Student Society for Technical Communication** serves to provide students with networking and job opportunities. We will hold information sessions at our meetings, including presentations on media creation or other forms of technical communication. The SSTC is an excellent organization to be a part of for personal and professional development. Attendance at the regional meetings improves networking skills and alerts students to job opportunities. Students can request membership via the "Student Life" tab in BlackBoard or contact Laura Owczarek, President, at [ismurr@mail.usf.edu](mailto:ismurr@mail.usf.edu).

Help the **English Undergraduate Newsletter** come up with a new name and logo! Email Sarah at [swray@usf.edu](mailto:swray@usf.edu) your suggestions.

## SEMESTER REMINDERS

All students should meet with an advisor every semester for an appointment. Emailing your advisor a quick question does not count as an appointment.

The **Career Center** is here to help you with your job search. They are an important and underused campus resource.

**First Year Students** will have an AA hold on their account that will prevent registration. Please see Sarah or Aaron to remove your hold in the Fall AND Spring semesters.

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

**Seniors** graduating in the Spring 2012 semester need to meet with Sarah or Aaron at the end of Fall (late November or early December) for a graduation check! Don't wait!

Be aware of the new **withdrawal policy**, which limits the number of withdrawals you are allowed to make. Please see the Registrar's website or talk to your advisor if you have any more questions.

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.

### Contributions for Future Editions:

If you would like to contribute anything to our next edition, please email Sarah at [swray@usf.edu](mailto:swray@usf.edu).

# Good luck on your Finals!