



English Undergraduate Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

November 21, 2012

Inside this issue:

Research Opportunities	2
Undergrad Research	2
Internship Abroad	2
Student Profile	3
Thread	3
Feminist Magazine	3
Contributions	4

Important Dates

Fall classes end Dec. 7.
Fall final exams begin Dec. 8.
Fall final exams end Dec. 14.
Fall grades visible on Oasis Dec. 21.
USF closed from Dec. 24-Jan. 1.
Spring semester starts Jan. 7.

A Message from Dr. Marty Gould, the Undergraduate Director

This fall I have been fortunate to spend much of the semester abroad, doing research in the UK. At the moment I am writing to you from the reading room of the British Library, in central London, where I'm doing research for a new scholarly book project. Sitting here in the contemplative quiet of a room filled with two hundred academics busily delving into various corners of Britain's textual treasures, it occurs to me that "research" would be a good topic for this month's column. After all, research is what scholars do. It's what separates the serious students from the rank and file. Research is also part of our university's profile. Were you aware that USF is a Research I university? That means we define ourselves by our focus on research and our research output.

There are many opportunities for you to engage in research at the undergraduate level, and many reasons to make research a regular—even central—component of your studies. Research begins with asking the right sorts of questions, questions whose answers aren't immediately

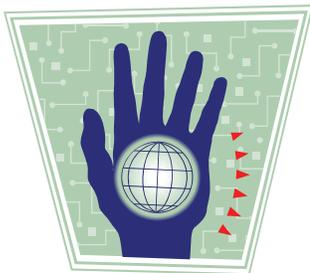
apparent. Those are the sorts of questions with real significance, because finding answers takes hard work and creative intelligence. Research can help you figure out the right sorts of questions to ask, how to frame those questions in the most productive and appropriate ways, and how to answer those questions with confidence, accuracy, and authority. And of course if you're thinking about graduate school, you should probably start developing the work habits of a scholar.

Although it may sound like a chore, research has its pleasures and rewards. Research can provide you with deeper and fresher understandings of the texts you're reading for your classes. Research can help you understand—in complex and sophisticated ways—the essential issues of textual production, circulation, and reception: the interplay of history, culture, authorship, and readership. It can help you understand how a text fits within its cultural context or how it exhibits or challenges the conventions of its genre. Whether you are reading a text or writing a text or writ-

ing about a text, you will want to understand how texts, images, and language work to make meaning on multiple levels, and research can do this for you.

As you do your research, you'll find that new questions will emerge, and you'll discover new ways to approach the material you're studying. You'll gain expertise in an area, becoming a more informed reader and a better writer. Scholarly articles usually take the form of arguments, and so they offer excellent models for your own papers: pay attention to the sorts of arguments scholars make, the evidence they cite, the way they deploy their support and organize their argument. You can use their arguments in support of your own, follow up on the questions they raise, or engage with their arguments by offering challenges and counterexamples. You can think of scholarship as a conversation: pay attention to what other people have said, and then contribute your own voice to the conversation.

To get started with re-



Consider registering for **ENL 3017** Studies in Nineteenth Century British Literature: "Reading Culture" to engage in an authentic research experience.

"The project focuses on digitizing the works of 19th century playwright, Dion Boucicault."



A Message from the Undergraduate Director, Continued

search, you can talk to your professors about the resources they recommend. The MLA Bibliography is a great database for literary studies, while the EBSCO databases might be better choices for those in technical writing. Our library subscribes to lots of interesting and useful databases, and since your tuition dollars help pay for them, why not explore all these great resources that are available to you as a student? Just follow the "databases" link from the library homepage. While

targeted searches can take you directly to what you're looking for, sometimes a more leisurely browse can turn up things you didn't even imagine existed. And if you're really interested in learning how to do research, use our new Undergraduate Course Bulletin to identify research-oriented courses.

Within the English Honors program, students are trained to incorporate research in their writing, and most students in the Honors program go on to write

an original research-based thesis project. The USF Undergraduate Research Forum is a great opportunity to showcase your research to the university community. Members of Sigma Tau Delta can present their work at undergraduate conferences and within the organization's undergraduate journal. Closer to home, *Thread* offers an opportunity to share your research findings.

See you in the library!

Undergraduate Research Project

Vicki Entreken is participating on a project, led by Matthew Knight, in the Special Collections Department of the USF Library.

The project focuses on digitizing the works of 19th century playwright, Dion Boucicault. In his time, Boucicault was a playwright and actor that started his career in

London and later brought his plays to several stages in America. His work includes farces, comedies of manners, and dramas. Boucicault was best known for his fight to win copyright protection for plays in 1856.

Many of his works in the USF Collection exist only in the form of

scripts handwritten by Boucicault with a quill pen; ink blots and all.

By digitizing his plays, it allows not only the ability for scholars to study his work, but it also gives today's dramatists the ability to put them back on stage as well.

An Overseas Internship by Alexandra Velasco

Studying abroad with CAPA and The Washington Center was one of the best decisions I've made during my college career. It gave me a chance to work, study and live in London, a city I've been dreaming about since, well to be quite honest, since I watched a Harry Potter

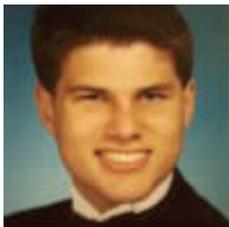
film for the first time when I was 10.

One of my friends summed it up perfectly to me one day early into my journey, saying, "I have known you for a long time, and I'm so happy you are doing what you've always talked and dreamed

about."

If I've learned anything, it's that dreams really can come true once you decide to work for it, or else all you will do is wake up and exist rather than live.

Brett Crabtree, Class of 2012



Thanks to the education I received at the University of South Florida Tampa campus, I have enjoyed much success in my professional life.

Before I graduated in August 2012, I was able to find gainful part-time

employment with Nielsen, which has recently agreed to form a research alliance with our campus. I also worked as an IT support member for a small company on a three month contract.

As an undergraduate, I strove not just to exemplify and use the business and technology skills I learned in the class room, but to learn more advanced skills in

the MIS Boot Camp series such as SharePoint. The time spent in clubs such as Createch also gave me the opportunity to network with professionals and fellow students in different majors. I will be filling the role of full-time Technical Writer at a pharmaceutical company on November 26th, and I look forward to continue helping research, develop, and provide communications for the business world.

Thread

Thread: Literary Inquiry, USF's only undergraduate literary journal has started off to an amazing year.

With the help of our supporters, the Mojo's fundraising event in late September brought in over two hundred dollars! We hosted our third annual Reading is Sexy show-

case on October 11th and it also drew a large crowd. Readers from previous editions of thread shared their work and encouraged the audience to submit.

We are now accepting submissions for volume seven of thread through December 7th. Submissions and details can be

found at the [website](#).

Also, for updates on events and submissions become a member of thread on Blackboard.

Any questions, email Kevin Potter at kevinpotter@mail.usf.edu. Happy reading!

A Feminist Student Magazine by Kelley Johnson

In January of 2012, I founded *The Beaver*, USF's first Feminist Student Magazine.

Over the summer we were interviewed by *The Oracle* about our very first and very pink [issue](#).

We've printed our second issue to be continuously distributed throughout the Fall semester, and are always taking submissions/publishing for the website at www.thebeaverzine.com

We're just starting to

pick up, so it's a great time for submissions! All pieces/articles can be sent to thebeaverzine@yahoo.com.



Opportunities

[The Washington Center](#)

[The Legislative Internship Program \(LIP\)](#)

[The Tallahassee Internship Program \(TIP\)](#)

[Gubernatorial Fellows Program](#)

[Peace Corps](#)

[Fulbright Award](#)

[The Career Center](#)

Graduate School

A degree in English will prepare students for many types of graduate programs.

Recent graduates have entered Master's programs in English, Publishing, Political Science, Education, Mass Communications, Linguistics, Library and Information Science, History, Speech Pathology, Communication, and others.

For example, **Eva Armes**, a current student in English Literary Studies, has been accepted into the prestigious Westminster Theological Seminary for a Master's in Divinity Counseling. After she graduates with this degree, her goal is to open a non-profit Counseling Center to help people who cannot afford regular counseling.

If you are interested in graduate school, please meet with an advisor to discuss your interests and strengths.

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Contributions

If you would like to contribute to the *English Undergraduate Newsletter*, please contact Sarah Wray at swray@usf.edu.
