Dear Professionals in Progress,

It is a great pleasure to write this greeting to you all. Congratulations on the progress you have made toward a BA degree with a minor or an MA degree in English. By this point in your college career, you probably have realized how passionate you are about your major in English or Spanish and your minor in English, Spanish, Philosophy, Religious Studies, or Asian Studies. You also know a foreign language – Spanish, French, or Chinese. Your talent, determination, and ability are officially on your academic record. This newsletter celebrates your splendid achievements.

You may also want to know about career opportunities our department provides. An undergraduate in English may serve as a paid tutor in the Writing Center and/or a paid TA for an eligible professor to help manage his/her lower-division courses. A graduate student in English, besides tutoring and/or being a TA, can acquire required credentials to serve as a paid instructor of lower-division courses. These opportunities develop mentee-mentor relationships between you and your professors for research, publication, conference presentations, career development, and more. Additionally, the department offers a three-week summer program at the National University of Costa Rica. If you wish to immerse yourself in a Spanish-speaking culture, no matter what major you are pursuing, you can participate and earn 6 credit hours. If you are interested, please feel free to talk to me or any other professors to find out more.

By now you know how wonderful and caring your professors are. Indeed, you and the professors are the pride of the Department of Literature and Languages. It is gratifying to see brilliant students and dedicated teacher-scholar-mentor professors work together. Thank you for your contributions and for being part of our academic community.
A Noiseless Patient Spider

A NOISELESS, patient spider,
I mark'd, where, on a little promontory, it stood, isolated;
Mark'd how, to explore the vacant, vast surrounding,
It launch'd forth filament, filament, filament, out of itself;
Ever unreeling them—ever tirelessly speeding them.

And you, O my Soul, where you stand,
Surrounded, surrounded, in measureless oceans of space,
Ceaselessly musing, venturing, throwing,—seeking the spheres, to connect them;
Till the bridge you will need, be form'd—till the ductile anchor hold;
Till the gossamer thread you fling, catch somewhere, O my Soul.

Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

Why I am an English Major

Heather Schmig Watkins
2015 BA Graduate

I am not an English major because I like to read (though this is true) or because I possess no technical skills and thus must resign myself to teach 15 year olds about identifying main ideas. That attitude does not make good teachers or particularly satisfied people.

I am an English major because I recognize the importance of the written word. I recognize the societal and cultural importance of understanding and applying that which has been written before me to my modern world and I recognize the importance of contributing my words for the generations to come. I recognize the importance of understanding American identity and how it came to be what it is today. This is not nothing or “fluff” but rather is the core of societal existence. We must understand who we are and how we came to be before we can attempt to change or impact people. We have to know how to talk to people, how to write to people, how to analyze what they say and what we say. Human beings have an intrinsic need to understand their world, make their own conclusions, and share their findings. I have learned this as an English major. I have discovered the conviction and confidence to continually mold myself with new ideas and an ability to express myself as an intelligent, productive member of society. The world needs English majors not just to teach grammar, but to teach new generations to think with analytical conviction and to express worthwhile ideas.

Sigma Tau Delta (English Honor Society)

Susan Newcomb Mowrer, Chapter President

Last semester, Sigma Tau Delta welcomed fifteen new members, and we are on track to double that number with the 2015-2016 academic year. We sponsored a workshop on Professional Editing with the help of Dr. Mark Sidey and Stephanie Lisszlik, Fountainhead Press intern. This type of workshop is invaluable for writers, those who wish to edit, and for those in any other professional field that will be responsible for reporting. We are looking forward to holding the second half of this workshop later this year.

Are you interested in joining the Honor Society? Members receive a monthly newsletter from the national office with articles geared to our needs and interests. They are eligible for scholarships valued up to $5,000 and prestigious internships. You may submit your writing to the national newsletter, the Sigma Tau Delta blog, Wordy, and to the two national publications for creative and critical writing. Sigma Tau Delta also sponsors a national convention—a great place to network connections. Also, members are entitled to wear Sigma Tau Delta honor cords at graduation. For eligibility requirements, membership benefits, and publication opportunities, consult the website of the international office: http://www.english.org.
Costa Rica: ¡Pura Vida!
Dr. Greg Utley

This past July 11th marked the third annual Department of Literature and Languages travel/study trip to Costa Rica. At 5:30 a.m. on a radiant Saturday morning, nine students and I left Tyler Pounds Field on a three-week adventure that included Spanish language and Spanish American Cultural studies at the National University of Costa Rica, stays with host families, and weekend trips to the Poás National Volcano Park, the La Paz Zoological and Rainforest Park, and the beach at Manuel Antonio National Park (one of the most beautiful national parks in the world according to Forbes). We also ventured into the capital city of San José.

Language and cultural immersion can be challenging, but any such issues were quickly dispatched with many students forming close bonds with their mamás ticas (house mothers), and swiftly learning the "ins and outs" of Heredia, our host city, including navigating the bus and taxi systems and figuring out how to get to and around the campus and downtown area. And new foods were tried such as gallo pinto, the national dish of Costa Rica, which consists of eggs, rice, and beans served for breakfast.

Daniela, our esteemed Spanish instructor, not only guided the students through the intricacies of Spanish grammar, but also enlightened them on colloquial expressions such as ¡Pura vida! (fine, great, among other meanings) and ¡Que chiva! (cool) and many aspects of daily life. Certainly everyone’s language skills increased significantly and a global vision was cultivated, a central goal of all immersion programs. While in the end the students were ready to see their families again and return to their normal routines, Costa Rica has captured some part of all of us, bidding us to return.

Planning for the fourth annual travel/study trip to Costa Rica is under way, tentatively scheduled for 9-30 July 2016. Do not miss out on a unique experience open to all, and certainly of fundamental importance for all Spanish majors and minors. Significant scholarships are usually available through the Office of International Programs on a competitive basis with smaller awards at the departmental level. For more information, please contact Dr. Gregory Utley at gutley@uttler.edu, or stop by BUS 246.
True Bohemians of the Intellectual Plane

Kate Keenan

2013 MA Graduate

Graduate school. From afar, it seemed so refined, lofty and ideal. Its connotation floated into my dreams, a promise to occupy my time productively and a confirmation that my inner genius would find magnitude and utopian space, resulting in both monetary gain and cranial satisfaction.

I'm not saying that assumption was wrong.

Still, I am saying this: In graduate school, you will learn how to push your mind to the limit, your body following hesitantly behind with the help of coffee-like accumulations, sugar-infused B-vitamin cocktails, and determination. As you chat with your fellow grad students, they will all cackle maniacally, speaking at the same time, over each other, but still hearing, still following the unearthly logic of a kindred mind. You will become an insane community of people. You will look into each other’s eyes, and past the messy hair and post-pubescent acne, straight into the kind-of-crazy that it takes to become a Master at something.

I am going to demand my fellow humans call me by my earned name, Master Kate Keenan, after graduation. I will also accept Scholar Kate or Jedi Keenan, whichever is preferable.

What will shock you more about graduate school is that almost all of us have full-time careers and children. That alone is challenging.

Another thing that will shock you is that, despite the fact that we are all pretentious (and rightfully so) scholars of our own academic domains, commanders of our homes, and professionals in our day jobs, we act like middle-school hooligans in almost any social situation, crazed with exhaustion and over-stimulation, ideas plaguing us to riot. We respect those that take on this mien, but we wonder if it is veneer. We picture those of our colleagues who are always so perfectly behaved, articulating every answer as if they’d already written a dissertation on the topic, as the type that wear smoking jackets and take long walks in the park feeding pigeons, gathering their thoughts to create their next obscure masterpiece that we all understand but are too busy to read. Yet, we appreciate each other even more for these idiosyncrasies.

Moreover, what you may also be surprised to know is that we are all fearful. We are scared of the end of graduate school, this great addiction and prison ball chained to our hearts and minds for two belabored years. We are afraid of what comes after. We are afraid if it was worth it.

Nevertheless, I can tell you sincerely, it was. Even if we don’t get fancy jobs, even if our degrees mean nothing to the “real” world, even if we are labeled as sophisticated sibys of ancient hieroglyphic studies…. Now we know what we are. We are Strength and Society and Thought and Knowledge and Critique and Rhetoric and the loveliest shade of Passion. We are the True Bohemians of the Intellectual Plane.

Why I Was an English Major

Megan Riaz

2009 BA Graduate & 2011 MA Graduate

I love literature and writing; however, my career path has been one that I never expected. I have worked at Brookshire’s at the corporate office in Tyler for five years, and my English degrees continue to help me excel and distinguish myself among my peers.

There is often a stereotype that English majors do not “make money” or go into business. I disagree. The ability to write and articulate your thoughts is a highly recognized skill in the corporate world. Being able to write (even a well-constructed email) is a HUGE asset! I am confident in my abilities to communicate effectively both within and outside of my organization. Another skill is being able to analyze problems and work hard. I remember staying up all night long working on papers and not being able to quit until the work was done. I remember trying so hard to find a new and creative way to analyze a story or poem. Analyzing, solving problems, working hard, writing well…. these are all ways to distinguish yourself in business (and life!). What do successful business women and men do? They must communicate well, work hard, solve problems and think outside the box….. just like an English major.

For those who may wonder what I really “do,” I manage our employee health and wellness programs as well as the FRESH 15k. I absolutely LOVE my job. One day I plan to get back into the academic arena but right now I am so busy at work I can hardly stand it.

I would love to encourage current English majors to realize the skills they are learning and to not become discouraged. They are learning things that will benefit them forever, regardless of how crazy their career path may be. Hang in there!
How did an English Major Help Me Succeed in Law School?
Jack Adams
2010 BA Graduate

Under the tutelage of professors like Dr. Strong and Dr. Tabri, English and History respectively, I gained an appreciation for something that my twenty-seven years prior to college never gave me – a true breadth and depth of knowledge of where we came from, at least in a linguistic and literary sense.

I constantly met other professors within my department that consistently (and, ever increasingly) pushed me to explore my own interpretations further than I ever had before. From the first semester, I met mentors like Dr. Beebe and Dr. Tilghman. Nothing ever seemed good enough for either of them; they pushed me daily to improve my analytical and writing skills.

Between learning the mechanics of Modern Grammar from the eccentric Dr. Adams or learning language and history from the Medievalists, I discovered a sense of worth, a passion, and a strength that even a decade of operational Military Intelligence experience had not provided me.

I left for law school, and I was prepared. From day one, in those first semester Research, Writing, and Analysis courses I was sharper, more concise, and more tacitly proficient in the use of the English language than my fellows. Having stood before an audience before, whether in Dr. Streufert’s Classics course or my Theatre courses, I could step before my peers with confidence. Training in critical analysis, in multiple forms and types of literature, gave me an edge in evaluating the meanings that people had intended in their drafting of contracts, forms, etc. And, my knowledge of literature as a whole gave me the ability to see the meaning of Supreme Court decisions others lost: for example, Justice Scalia’s comparison to situations using Lilliputians, or his quoting Shakespeare to help define the U.S. Constitution’s 6th Amendment confrontation clause.

I guess what I am really trying to get to here is this: a degree in English gave me a variety of knowledge that I had never encountered before, and would not likely have encountered as fully otherwise. And, today, more than ever, I am thankful for it.

Why I Was an English Graduate Student
Tina Bausinger
2011 BA Graduate & 2013 MA Graduate

Since attending UT Tyler, I’ve published in newspapers, magazines, short story anthologies, and produced a blog and a novel. I’ve published poetry and won writing awards. I’ve spoken at conferences and presented papers. This would not have happened if I had not been an English major, but most of it would not have happened at all without UT Tyler’s English program.

After earning my B.A. in English, I realized I wanted to go a bit further with my education. I knew I had received top-notch instruction at UT Tyler, and I couldn’t see any reason to look elsewhere for a Master’s program. I can honestly say that pursuing my Master’s degree in English at UT Tyler was one of the best decisions I ever made. Here’s five reasons why.

1. Superior Instructors: UT Tyler’s Department of Literature & Languages employs some of the very best professors in the state, if not the nation. They have the knowledge base and teaching experience to teach at any of the Ivy League institutions, but yet they choose Tyler, Texas as their home. Here’s the thing: they are approachable and love talking and helping students. It’s their passion.
2. Scholarships: Lots of scholarship money is available for serious students who make the grades. When I attended, I received money nearly every semester. A great deal of it was from the department.
3. Friendships: I have friends from my undergraduate years that I still talk to regularly, but my friends from the Master’s program? They are more like sisters. We are very close, and I think that part of that bonding comes from high-stakes essays and late-night study sessions. There’s a part of the psyche that never forgets your Grad School Sistas.
4. Opportunities: Having an MA in English opens up so many doors. People need good writers, and Ph.D. programs and corporate employers require good researchers. Everyone who finished Bibliography and Research Methods is prepared for upper-level research in any field.
5. Personal Development: The literature and rhetoric classes I took at UT Tyler have changed my life as a scholar and a person. It’s difficult to name the classes that made the most impact, because I learned so much from every single one of them. They helped me become the thinker, writer, and person I am today.

Internships
Students from the Department of Literature and Languages make outstanding interns! If your company or institution is interested in an intern with strong analytical, writing, and presentation skills, consider an ENGL/SPAN major. In addition to listing your internship with UTT’s Career Services, please email the internship listing directly to the department. Here are two recent internships awarded to our majors:

Sarah Draper (BA in English expected 2016)
Communications and Marketing
Community Involvement Intern for Donations
Manager, Brookshire Grocery Company (Fall 2015)

Kelsey Wells (BA in English expected 2016)
Marketing Intern for FRESH 15k Race, Brookshire Grocery Company (Fall 2015)
Alumni Updates:

Our department graduates are listed by the date of their first degree at the University of Texas at Tyler. Alumni interested in serving as mentors to current students are noted with an asterisk (*).

1995 Jeanne R. Standley (formerly Pyle) (MA in English); MS Information Science from UNT (1985); Executive Director of Robert R. Munzt Library at UTT (2000-Present); Member, TexShare Advisory Board for the Texas State Library and Archives Commission; Chair, East Texas Book Fest (2016)
1999 Vandy Dubre* (BA in English); MLS – Master of Library Science from TWU (2003); Art, Literature, & Music Librarian at UTT (2003-Present)
2005 Jonathan Clark* (BA in English); Baylor Law School (2009); Consultant (Self-Employed)
Samuel Jackson (BA in English); MA in Education Leadership (UNT Denton, expected 2015); High School Teacher of ELA / ESL and Pre-AP English II; Bilingual / ELL Facilitator for Grand Prairie ISD
Amanda Klinger (BA in English); MA in English from University of Oklahoma (2008); Ph. D. in English from University of Oklahoma (2015); Lecturing Professor at University of Oklahoma
Lee Ratcliff (BA in Spanish); Eastman Chemical Company, including one year in Mexico; ESL Instructor with East Texas Literacy Council
2006 Michael Bryant (BA in English); SEM (Search Engine Marketing) Strategist at A/Muse Digital, Hearst Corporation
Christy Rowley Kessler* (BA in English); Financial Aid Counselor; Advancement Development Funds Office at University of Washington
2007 Jesse Dobson* (BA in English); MA in English from UTT (2010); Public School Teacher; Full-Time Instructor in English at UTT (2012-Present)
2009 Angela Gamwell (BA in English); Southern University College of Pharmacy (Doctorate of Pharmacy, 2015); Post-Grad Pharmacy Residency at Baylor All Saints Medical Center (2015-2016)
Kerry Palmquist* (BA in English); MA in Education from Lama University; 8th grade Reading Teacher (2009); District Teacher of the Year at Jacksonville ISD (2013); Instructional Strategist (2013); District Coordinator of Student Intervention Services for Tyler ISD (2014-Present)
Megan Riaz* (BA in English); MA in English from UTT (2011); FRESH 15k Race Manager; Health & Wellness Coordinator, Brookshire Grocery Company
2010 Jack L. Adams* (BA in English); Michigan State University College of Law (2012); Washtenaw County Public Defender Professional Achievement Award (2011); UTT Lecturer for Ethics and Law in Literature (2014 to present)
Jenny Brunswick Gibbs (BA in English); 9th Grade English Teacher for Cumberland Academy
Sara Steinbrueck (MA in English); Consultant for UTT Graduate School
2011 Tina Bausinger* (BA in English); MA in English from UTT (2013); Full-time English Instructor at TJC (2014 to Present); PH. D. Candidate in Educational Leadership (2015 to Present)
Derek Frazier (MA in English); Interpretation Manager at the Tyler Museum of Art

2012 Chastadée Chain (BA in English); MA in English from UTT (2014); Adjunct at TJC; Instructor and Mentor Teacher at Trinity Charter School
Erica Chase* (BA in English); English Language Teacher in Japan (2012-2014); Laboratory Supervisor for the UTT College of Pharmacy (2015-Present)
Andrew S. Latham (MA in English); Instructor of English at Tarrant County College
2013 Kayla C. Cobble (BA in English); Insurance Specialist for a nonprofit, Central City Concern
Joshua Grijalva* (BA in English); State Farms Claims Adjuster
Kate Keenan* (BA in English); Public School Teacher; Instructor of English at Kilgore College; Educational Diagnostician Certification Program Candidate at SFA (Expected 2015)
Raven Johnston* (BA in English); Intern with Dzane Books; TOEFL Grader; Project Gutenberg Proofreader; Freelance Editor for Japanese literature in translation
Stephanie Laszik* (BA in English); MA in English from UTT (2015); Intern with Fountainhead Press; Southwestern Region Student Representative for Sigma Tau Delta; Instructor of English at UTT and Kilgore College
Rebekah Proffer* (English minor); English I & II Teacher
2014 Lori Cook (BA in English); MA candidate in English at UTT; TA for Creative Writing at UTT (2015-Present)
Natalia Menkina Snider* (MA in English); Instructor of English at UTT
2015 Heather Schmig Watkins* (BA in English); Document Production Editor at Honeywell Inc.
Aleya Wheeler (BA in English); Access Associate & Coordinator of Adult Programs and Newsletter, Tyler Public Library (2015-Present)

CALL FOR UPDATES: Please send your professional updates for the SP16 newsletter from October 1st-February 28th. Request an update form from the faculty editor (abebe@uttyler.edu) or just email the basics: name, type and dates of all degrees – from UTT and other institutions, current job title, former jobs you would like to list, awards, and publications.

CALL FOR COLUMNS: Each issue will feature columns from our current and former students. If you are interested in writing a column for the SP16 newsletter, please contact the faculty editor, Dr. Ann Beebe.

Are you an English major and tired of your lovelife being demolished by plebeian grammar?
Travel Study Trip to Italy
Dr. Paul Streufert

This past summer I had the good fortune to accompany UT Tyler’s GATE students on a travel study to Italy. GATE, which stands for Global Awareness Through Education, provides our students with a chance to experience other cultures and develop intercultural competence. Each summer, the GATE sophomores travel to another country to take core classes in an international setting. While in Italy, I taught ENGL 2362, the early world literature survey, and we read and discussed Roman and Italian texts like Ovid’s Metamorphoses, Dante’s Inferno, and Boccaccio’s Decameron. For each of these texts we went on field trips to help us better understand each writer’s historical context.

We gained a greater understanding of Dante’s Divine Comedy by visiting his thirteenth-century familial home, the Casa di Dante. The museum helped explain the complex political system of the poet’s time, as two parties, the Guelphs and the Ghibellines, struggled for power. The day we visited, the Dante House had a special exhibition of one of Dante’s death masks, and staring into the mask’s eyes was an unexpected thrill. Working on ancient authors rarely gives me the opportunity to feel immediately connected with the subjects of my teaching and research, but this visit and the artifacts we saw provided a tangible and unique experience for all of us that day.

For our field trip, we visited the Basilica of Santa Maria Novella, several blocks from our apartments. The main characters of Boccaccio’s Decameron, a massive tome of Italian folktales from the fourteenth century set during the bubonic plague outbreak of 1348, meet in this church, and from there they escape the plague-infested city to a rural villa where they pass the time telling each other stories. While walking in the steps of these characters, I was reminded of the value of storytelling and the great fortune we have in spending our time dissecting and contemplating this form of human communication. Boccaccio himself might as well have been speaking to literature majors when he wrote, “You must read, you must persevere, you must sit up nights, you must inquire, and exert the utmost power of your mind” in his Genealogia deorum gentilium.

[We are always looking for students to join the GATE Program. Please email me at pstreufert@uttyler.edu for more information.]
From the Graduate Director
Dr. Karen Sloan

UT Tyler's English Graduate Program is rapidly expanding, boasting a three-fold enrollment increase in just four years. Students may concentrate their studies in several areas, including rhetoric, writing, and literature. One of the most exciting developments in the last four years is our fully online option for students who for various reasons cannot attend classes on campus. Flexible course delivery options and a carefully structured class-rotation plan allow students to complete their degree through a combination of face-to-face and online courses, or through a 100% online program. Those interested in study abroad opportunities can join Dr. Gregory Utley each summer in Costa Rica and earn up to six graduate credits.

Our graduate program boasts students from around the globe with varied life experiences and academic competencies, all of which enhance the learning environment of our MA degree. Courses are taught by our award-winning faculty dedicated to excellence in teaching and research. Information on faculty specializations and accomplishments is available on the UT Tyler website.

If you're interested in learning more about the MA, please contact the graduate advisor, Dr. Karen Sloan, at ksloan@uttyler.edu, or visit the Department of Literature and Languages home page at http://www.uttyler.edu/litlang.

Applying is easy! Use the Apply for Graduate School option on the Graduate School website located at http://www.uttyler.edu/graduate. Application deadlines for the English MA program are:
* Fall semester:
  o Priority Deadline May 1
  o Final Deadline July 1
* Spring semester:
  o Priority Deadline September 1
  o Final Deadline November 1

A note to MA graduates receiving this newsletter: we would love a note from you telling us where you are and how you may be utilizing your graduate degree from UT Tyler. We know the central role students play in the success of our program and take this chance to thank those who have contributed to the excellent reputation of the English MA.

The Philosophical Journey
Dr. Gregory L. Book

What is truth? Do I have free will? Will I survive the death of my body? These are some of the most difficult questions of human existence and ones that I stumbled across early in my life as a Psychology major at California State University, Sacramento. At the time, my area of interest was neuroscience, and my school projects included dissecting animal brains and studying neurochemistry. While I found this work stimulating, I soon started asking questions about the nature of the self and the existence of the soul. Was I supposed to believe that I was simply a clump of grey matter and that all the experiences I was having in life, such as being in love, could be entirely explained in terms of chemical reactions in my brain? I found this discomforting, and my questions were just getting deeper and deeper until my psychology advisor kindly suggested that some of my questions were better suited for the philosophy classroom. So, I took my first philosophy class, and I was hooked. I declared a minor in philosophy and went on to complete my Ph.D. in the subject in 2012.

Philosophy did not answer all my questions; in fact, many philosophers will tell you that the field is not about answering questions at all but about learning how to ask the questions and reflecting on different possible answers. I did find answers in philosophy, but most of all I found the space to explore my questions more deeply and the skills to think more critically about what I believed. The courses that made the biggest impact on my life were the following: Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy of Mind, and Ethics.

If these topics sound appealing to you or if you have asked similar questions, you may be on a philosophical journey too. Consider enrolling in a philosophy course this spring, declaring a minor in Philosophy, or dropping by the Philosophy Corner (BUS 245 – my office). I look forward to meeting you!
Faculty Updates

These faculty updates were written by Cassi Coffey (CC), Nick Cornett (NC), Robert King (RK), and Susan Newcomb Mower (SNM)

Dr. Hui Wu is a Professor of English, teaching primarily in the graduate program and serves as the Department Chair. Before coming to UT Tyler, Dr. Wu served as the Founding Executive Director of the ACU Confucius Institute at the University of Central Arkansas. She is a prolific writer with work appearing in such publications as College English, College Composition and Communication, Rhetoric Review, and Rhetoric Society Quarterly. Last year, in partnership with Professor Emily Standridge, she published Reading and Writing About the Disciplines, A Rhetorical Approach. Currently, Dr. Wu is working on her fourth book to be published in the U.S., a translation of the first treatise of Guiguzi on Chinese rhetoric. When asked what one thing she'd like to communicate to students, she called out enthusiastically, “Come visit me!” - SNM

Dr. Ann Beebe has been with the University of Texas at Tyler since 2001. Her degrees are from the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, Washington State University, and the University of Kentucky. She is currently the Director of Undergraduate Studies in English. Her most recent publications are on the works of Phyllis Wheatley (“Phillis Wheatley’s ‘To the Rev. Dr. Thomas Amory’”), E. D. E. N. Southworth (“The sacred heart of the nation’: E. D. E. N. Southworth’s Civil War Washington”) and Lydia Sigourney (“Common Ground: The Figure of the Female Writer in Lydia Huntley Sigourney’s Lucy Howard’s Journal and E. D. E. N. Southworth’s The Bridal Eve”). Dr. Beebe gives two or three academic presentations a year, most recently at the national American Literature Association conferences in Washington, DC and Boston and the Annual Gathering of the Thoreau Society in Concord. Dr. Beebe loves teaching early American and Transatlantic literature courses and encouraging her students to become independent scholars. - CC

Dr. Greg Bock is the newest addition to the Department in 2015. His official title is Senior Lecturer for Philosophy and Religion, and this semester he will be teaching Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Logic, and Ancient Philosophy. His principal research revolves around the discussion of ethics and religion, cultures and ethics, and ethics in medical clinics when medical needs are in conflict with religious practices. Some of Dr. Bock’s publications include: “Medically Valid Religious Beliefs,” and “I Know You Know I’m Not Telling the Truth,” to his latest articles, “Eudite Virtues and the Pursuit of Knowledge” and “That’s a Crazy Fallacy.” In addition to writing, Dr. Bock loves to write and lecture. His doors are always open to any student interested in a discussion of philosophy, religion, and ethics and he encourages students to drop by. - SNM

Jesse Dobson is a full-time instructor in the Department of Literature and Languages. Mr. Dobson organized a roundtable last summer with Whitehouse High School’s English teachers to discuss the transition from high school to college. Mr. Dobson is dedicated to quality instruction in composition classes to give students the skills they need to stay competitive in the job market. – RK

Dr. John Harris is a Visiting Lecturer in English and is currently teaching courses in classical language skills and composition. He received his bachelor's, masters and Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin with a focus in Classics and Comparative Literature. He has since published several books including Footprints in the Snow of the Moon and Key to a Cold City: How the Generation of Black Ballplayers after Jackie Robinson Was Restrained in the Big Leagues. His most recent publication is an eBook titled, Hitting Secrets from Baseball's Graveyard: A Diehard Student of History Reconstructs Batsmanship of the Late Dead Ball Era. Along with his clear interest in baseball, Dr. Harris also has a fascination of languages. Dr. Harris speaks a multitude of languages and is currently studying the translation of literature in various classic novels. - CC

Dr. Stephanie Odom, a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, came to UT Tyler in Fall 2013. Currently she is teaching English 3308, Textual Analysis and English 1302, English Composition. She is working on a paper regarding teaching online courses and how to create a real social presence online. She addresses the difficulty in creating real relationships in the online setting. How do students learn to see each other as more than text responses on a page? How can instructors position themselves to be seen as both a source of information and open to student approach rather than just a combination of IT tech and gatekeeper? Her main interest, however, is his students and how to help them become better writers. – SNM

Dr. Catherine Ross started teaching at UT Tyler in 1998, as soon as she received her Ph.D. in English from UT Austin. She is currently teaching Victorian Literature and Literature and Science. Dr. Ross is writing a book on how the Romans were educated and has given several talks on chapters of her book at the North Atlantic Society for the Study of Romanticism over the past couple years. She is giving three conference presentations this academic year: “one at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century studies (a roundtable on how we define "Romanticism") and two at the Lilly Conference on College Education about pedagogy, based upon my work with the UT System Academy of Distinguished Teachers." Dr. Ross wants students to know she is “passionate about students getting a good foundation in their core classes” and is pushing forward a study of how well students who took their core classes in high school (dual credit classes) do as they progress through college as opposed to students who complete their core classes at a four-year college. - NC

Dr. Mark Sidey obtained his Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition from Purdue University. He teaches courses in composition as well as scientific and technical writing. Dr. Sidey is currently studying motivation in first year writing courses along with a colleague from Northwestern University in Qatar. They are searching for ways to encourage civic engagement among students. This act entails participating in democratic processes as well as problem-solving in society. According to Dr. Sidey, students may not be inclined to develop these behaviors as strongly as has been the case historically since many parents are not as active in the democratic process in modern times. Dr. Sidey will be attending the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) in Houston this upcoming April. - NC
Dr. Karen Sloan is preparing to retire at the end of this academic year. She has been a valued member of the department since 1999, and has served as the Graduate Director for the last five years. – CC

Dr. Emily Standridge is entering her fifth year as a faculty member of the University of Texas at Tyler. Her official job titles include Assistant Professor of English and Writing Center Director. Her recent works include: Reading and Writing about the Disciplines which she co-authored with Dr. Hui Wu last year and “Synthesizing the Writing Center and Writing Program through Conversations about Assignment Design,” a presentation she gave at the Conference on College Composition and Communication last April. Dr. Standridge is currently preparing for the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing where she will be giving a presentation titled, “Flow Theory and the Writing Center.” Her biggest joy in working with students and their various writing topics is being able to learn something new every day. – CC

Dr. Paul Streufert serves as the Executive Director of the Office of Special Academic Programs at UT Tyler. He completed his Ph.D. in comparative literature at Purdue University. Before moving into his current position, Dr. Streufert developed the Latin program for UT Tyler and also taught ancient literature in translation. In 2009, he became head of the Honors Program. His current publication, “Here There Be Monsters (and Heroes): Homer’s Odyssey and the Graphic Novel,” considers the new forms in which the classics are being considered. It appears in the anthology, Drawn from the Classics: Essays on Graphic Adaptations of Literary Works. Currently, Dr. Streufert is working on a consideration of how Greek tragedy is being portrayed in modern theatre, looking especially to how these productions convey spectral images within the production. – SNM

Dr. David Strong has been at UT Tyler for fifteen years. However, he claims it only feels as though a single year has passed due to the “overwhelming happiness” he feels every day in being here. He stated that Indiana University—where he received his Ph.D. in British Literature—is essentially the greatest place on Earth. Dr. Strong teaches courses in Medieval and Renaissance British Literature and actively studies “the role of allegory in Medieval poetry and how it comments upon the political issues of the period.” He has attended the Sixteenth Century Society & Conference in New Orleans. Above all, Dr. Strong wants students to know that “life is full of joy and happiness and the key to that happiness is through poetry.” – NC

Dr. Carolyn Tilghman teaches survey of British literature, the English novel, and literary theory. She earned her B.A. in Natural Science and her M.A. in English from the University of Wyoming. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame. She recently presented a paper at the 22nd Annual 18th- and 19th-Century British Women Writers Conference, Binghamton University titled “Mary Kingsley: Class, Gender, and the Politics of New Imperialism,” which discusses travel writing, the New Imperialism, and identity formation. Dr. Tilghman is currently working on an article titled “Anticipating Modernism: The Modern World, The Yellow Book, and the New Woman Writer” and a book project on the use of literature as a means of political insurgence. – RK

Dr. Greg Uley graduated from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque with a Ph.D. in Spanish-American literature. His focus is Columbian literature, which he has continued to study in his nineteen years at UT Tyler. Currently he is exploring the idealization of love in Gabriel Garcia Marquez’s novel Chronicle of a Death Foretold. Along with teaching Spanish culture, literature, and grammar, he has also started a Study Abroad program. In this program students travel to Costa Rica for three weeks, study at a university, and immerse themselves in the culture. It comes at a cost of around $3,000 — though there are scholarships available to help students offset the cost. – NC

Dr. Chantel Zuazu is an Associate Professor of Spanish in the Department of Literature and Languages. Dr. Zuazu recently presented research on the painter Angel Ganivet at a conference in Cincinnati on Women of Finland. Also, Dr. Zuazu visited Santiago de Chile to present at a conference on novels of travel as genre during the XIXth century in Spain. The paper was titled “The Different Types of Travel Books Written in Spain during the Nineteenth Century and The Travel Novel as a Subgenre.” – RK
Achievements (Current & Former Department of Literature & Languages Students):
Our current and former students have many accomplishments. Check them out!

Publications:
Tina Bausinger

War Eagle Women, (novel) published through Soul Mate Publishing in New York 2013

*Cold Coffee and Speed Limits: Encouragement for Mamas* (Available on Kindle September 2015)

Jonathan Clark

Typhanie Hill (BA in English expected 2016)

Amanda Klinger

Stephanie Laszik


Sue Newcomb Mower (BA in English expected 2016)
“Burying Fletcher” *Review Americana* 10.1 (Spring 2015)

“Burying Marie” *Review Americana* 10.3 (Winter 2015)

Seth Wilson (Current MA in English candidate)

Blogs:
Tina Bausinger
“Encouragement for Mamas of Teens” http://tinabausinger.com

Erica Chase
“A Pit Stop Over the Pacific” https://apitstopoverthepacific.wordpress.com/

Kayla C. Cobble
“Chase the Whale: A Voyage to Discover the Elusive Elements that Make for Enduring Literature” https://chasethewhale.wordpress.com

Jesse Dobson
“Strangelight Writing” https://strangelightwriting.weebly.com/jesse-dobson.html

Rebekah Proffer
“I’m Only Becky on the Weekends” http://rjproffer.com/

Joshua Smith (Current MA in English graduate)
“White Tower Musings” https://jsjammersmith.wordpress.com/

Seth Wilson and Joshua Smith
Graduate Student Bloggers for NASSR (North American Society for the Study of Romanticism)
http://www.nassrgrads.com/

Aleya Wheeler

Media Publication:
Abigail Thrift (BA in English expected 2017)
“People of UT Tyler” on Facebook and Instagram https://www.facebook.com/peopleofuttyler

![Image of book with text: BAD Spelling makes me [sic].]