

## English Majors in the Age of Technology

*Madelyn Watts | 2021 Graduate*

When you tell people that you're an English major, they usually assume that all you do is read books, overanalyze them, and write stuffy, five-paragraph essays about them.

It is true that a lot of us became English majors because of our love of literature, and we're certainly no strangers to essay-writing. However, there are more tools at an English major's disposal that can be applied to the real world. I myself was not aware of all the ways I could apply my skills as an English major until I began working on my minor, Language and Technology (Writing with Technology).

The Language and Technology minor program allowed me to take skills that I had already acquired via traditional English courses and learn how to apply them in new ways that would one day be useful for my career. Skills such as literary analysis, essay writing, and editing could be translated into new skills such as podcasting, data analysis, and more professional writing styles. I was able to gain an important understanding of how the humanities are so closely connected to today's rapid development of technology. This knowledge helped me to start my career and is still helping me now.

During the summer of 2021, I had the privilege of interning at Mouser Electronics. If you had told me during my freshman year that I, an English major, could be useful at an electronics distribution company, I probably would not have believed you. During my internship, however, I learned that English majors are very much needed everywhere. Due to the rise in technology, most people assume that degrees in computer science, engineering, or related fields are the most useful, and that the Humanities are becoming obsolete.

While these technical degrees are certainly more needed than ever, the Humanities are far from being obsolete. Communication is a vital part of any company, even STEM-centered ones. As it happens, communication is something that English majors are trained to be experts in.

After my internship, I was offered a full-time position with Mouser Electronics as Global Customer Experience Process Analyst. The Language and Technology program helped me to this point by teaching me how to utilize my English major skills in new ways, as well as broadening my mindset of what an English major can do.



# Helping Students See Words They Cannot See

Chris Williams | 2020 Graduate

**M**y name is Chris Williams and I work at the Baptist Student Ministry at Trinity Valley Community College in Athens, Texas, and I am thankful to have graduated from UT Tyler with an English degree.



How do I use my English degree today? I currently work as a Christian missionary to college students. Each week I get to consider how to communicate the message of the bible to students in a way that those students can consider the meaning of its words and ponder them in their hearts. While I was in college, I took different types of world literature and poetry where I had to analyze and explain texts in such a way that I extracted their meaning for my audience neatly and understandably. Those classes still aid me today because I weekly get to explain the meaning of God's inerrant words from the bible, considering what the author of each biblical text was communicating in the context in which it was written. My hope is to communicate the bible's message to my students in a way that lets it penetrate both mind and heart, enabling them to see and grasp the nourishment that has been provided for them.

I have also encountered one unexpected way to use my English degree: teaching English to non-native English-speaking international students. Learning how to pronounce words in English can be difficult for non-native speakers because they do not know which parts of a word to emphasize and not to emphasize. In Dr. Beebe's poetry class, I learned how to talk about stress that is placed on different words in poetry, notating on paper the spoken emphasis that we place on different syllables in poetry. Knowing how to talk about how English words are pronounced has helped me to teach some of our international students how to place emphasis on the appropriate parts of words. I can carefully think about where native speakers would naturally place emphasis on their words in English and communicate that to non-native speakers in a way that is understandable for them. Unlocking natural English pronunciation for non-native speakers has been an unseen benefit of getting my English degree.

# Coaching as an English Major

Chloe Dix | Current ENGL Major



**T**eaching gymnastics, like to all teaching, requires effective communication skills. In my experience coaching preschool gymnastics, the children thrive on the way you interact and speak to them rather than the gymnastics skills you will teach them. I am not minimizing the importance of the skills and their execution for their physical wellbeing and safety, of course, but their time in my classes are most influential for their long-term mental and physical development.

My communication skills, critical thinking, and time management skills have increased during my time as an English major and have all carried over into my coaching. Developing the children's physical strength and ability to behave in a class setting requires my analysis and management of how they have developed thus far. I have had to break up the work of my English assignments over different amounts of time, and that process prepared me for the days, months, or even years of aiding a child's healthy physical and mental development. Analyzing the effects of reactions and misunderstandings have aided in my ability to make a difference in the children's lives.

The past few years of coaching have collided with the COVID-19 pandemic, and most of the children I have been working with have spent limited time in school. This made it more difficult to keep their attention, but I was not discouraged. Being an English major has taught me to think critically and realize that the answer to an issue, or a prompt, is not always clear right away; it takes patience. Patience is an important aspect of coaching which I have become more accustomed to during my time as an English major. Ideas for my class work do not always come instantly, and children's attention to what I may be saying, does not always come instantly. Staying calm and analyzing their emotions, as well as mine, helps me build meaningful connections with them. In doing so I acquire a greater understanding of how to reach them and maximize their experience at gymnastics class.

My ability to apply critical thinking and patience to coaching is important for the kids' mental and physical development. I am grateful for the positive impact that being an English major has had on my coaching and how I carry myself as a person and a leader.

## Table of Contents

Madelyn Watts	1
Chris Williams, Chloe Dix	2
Aleya Stone, DeMario Miller	3
Alyssa Harris, Kate Keenan	4
Marissa Glosecki & Chelsy Edwards, Bryson Schubert	5
Rebecca Johnston, Hannah Wilson	6
Erin Melyssa Reaume, Kim O'Daniel	7
Katelynn Wynn McGuire, Savannah Sanders	8
Faculty Publications	9-12

# Building on a Foundation

Aleya Stone | 2015 Graduate

There are so many reasons I love my English degree, but I think it serves best as a foundation for whatever life throws at you. Life seems to keep throwing me into more technical and business areas, but I'm more than capable of handling it and even enjoy the work a lot.

In late 2020, I moved from Texas to Washington state, leaving behind my job as a librarian. My mother-in-law asked me a while back to help her with her marketing and website work for Cross Stone Law. Since I was jobless, I decided to take that chance and do some remote work to help her bankruptcy law firm in Longview. At first, I was only working on social media posts, but then I was tasked with redoing the law firm's website and managing the Google Ads campaign.

The entire website project took about five months. I sought out a designer for a new logo, researched and found a new theme for the website, and then implemented everything. I also heavily edited the content for grammatical errors, organization, readability, and SEO. I even dipped into custom CSS and HTML code on the new version of the website. You can check out the website here: <https://crossstone.com>

When I started work on the ads, I went through the free certification process on Google and was surprised to find how perfect the task was for me. I found Google Ads editing and creation to be the perfect mix between my English degree and my experience as a librarian. It challenged me to write compelling content that was also keyword optimized and searchable. This was more of an ongoing challenge than the website; I still get to work on crafting the perfect set of ads.



When I graduated in 2015 with my English degree, I had no idea that I would end up in libraries and then later as a web content producer for a law firm. I've used communication skills, editing, languages, research, and so much more to help improve a small business. I am confident that I can tackle anything that I set my mind to, thanks to the foundational skills I have from my degree. The best part about a good foundation is what you can build on it. And I'm building something great.

# Designed for Success

DeMario Miller | 2011 Graduate

Growing up, I was proudly known as the sibling with the neatest, cleanest bedroom. Whether it was the "left-handed-people-are-creative" phenomenon or my eye for detail, I appreciated the process of not only tidying a room but piecing together the parts to form a unified, cozy space. This knack for design has neither left my side nor my eye. From such passion, DeMario's Designs emerged.

I am the sole owner-operator of DeMario's Designs, a company that offers interior designing and consulting services. I recently took a leap of faith to start a business when I considered that I can earn an income doing something I truly enjoyed. In addition, I realized that several people I knew wanted to spruce up their homes but had no clue where to begin. Family members would ask me to visit and evaluate a color scheme, wall art selection, or arrangement in their living room or bedroom. These experiences confirmed just what I needed to do: activate the business. Now, I can assist clients and give their homes a facelift they will treasure.

Though the passion for interior design has always been there, the desire to make it a career has not. That decision came only recently. Education is another passion of mine. Shortly after entering college, I changed my degree to teach high school English. As an English major, I developed and sharpened countless skills: analysis, critical thinking, advanced vocabulary, writing, research, effective communication, and revising and editing. Such tools are vital for success in any occupation. These tools have provided me with the confidence to start my profession and create action plans to sustain it.

English majors are the perfect business candidates. Having dedicated countless hours to writing for clarity, English scholars specialize in clearly communicating ideas, such as job proposals.

This skill provides us credibility, which appeals to consumers. English students also possess rhetorical tools to effectively advertise products to the desired audience. Successful marketing is the product of such skills. Finally, revising and editing is an English major's wheelhouse. With these talents, we can refine ads, clarify product descriptions, and ultimately facilitate a professional business.

English majors hold a plethora of skills that elevate their lives and improve any environment. These skills make us naturals in any profession. We are designed that way—designed for success!



# Not Your Average English Major

Alyssa Harris | 2008 English BA | 2010 MBA

The world of academia often looks down upon English majors. The parents of high school students fear that their child will decide to major in a liberal arts degree with no “real world” application. As an undecided student going into my junior year of college, I also wondered whether an English degree would benefit me in future career endeavors. Thankfully, my doubts were put to rest as I have not been limited at all by my undergraduate major. In fact, I find that I often use the skills obtained as an English major in the professional workspace, as well as my personal life.

As a shy student, I regretfully did not contribute much to the conversations in my college classes. I often felt intimidated by the students who were seemingly much smarter than myself with much deeper intellect and understanding. I would advise current students to make the most of your time while in class. Do not allow yourself to miss out on the full benefit of diving into conversation with your peers. Your unique experiences can prompt the understanding of others, just as you can learn by listening to those who have different backgrounds. The unique benefit of English courses is the freedom of conversation. Literature is so powerful as it can be interpreted in different ways, while also having concrete historical applications.

After I completed my undergraduate degree in English, I took the obvious (not) route of pursuing a master’s degree in business administration. I felt that surely an MBA would make my English degree more marketable, and all professional doors would be opened. I would not say that the expected results of my decision came to fruition, but I am pleased with the career opportunities I have been given. Who would think that a former English major would make it in the finance industry?



Well, I did. I may not be the highest-ranking executive, but I am proud to have had success in banking and financial investments. English literature may not be the obvious choice for a career-driven individual, but it is a fantastic choice for the person who wants to understand humanity more and appreciate the language we use daily.

# Pioneers of Artistic Space

Kate Keenan | 2013 MA Graduate

Over the summer, I moved to Terlingua, Texas, a tiny tourist town between Big Bend State and National Parks. There is no housing here, so my six-person family now lives in two campers on a large Airbnb property we run as a side hustle and for access to a communal area we share with other long-term tenants. Bohemian, right? This is the first time I’ve moved away from the Tyler, Texas area. To me, it’s an adventure worth having and affords me a lot of time to write when I feel like it.

Everyone here has a talent for art of some kind, whether that is music, painting, textiles, or, in my case, writing. Though there are small, privately owned art galleries geared towards tourists here, there was no panoptic place to showcase the broad works of local artists. So, true to my style of just doing stuff to see what happens, I started a literary journal. The magazine’s mission is to support the artistic community of local artists and those inspired by our region.

Suddenly, a mere idea has radically morphed into a wildly popular online and print publication, *Big Bend Literary Magazine*. Hundreds of artists have submitted their work for publication. Many of these artists did not realize the quality of their work until we contacted them for curated features or asked them to submit something. I’m proud to offer this venue to my community, especially to those who otherwise may have merely shared their work on social media rather than considering themselves the genuine artists they are.

My English degree has bolstered not only the legitimacy of this venture, but also prepared me for the long hours of close, analytical reading required to choose between submissions. I also know how to format and edit to create a whole piece. Moreover, I am able to recognize the similarities between works to make a cohesive, quality magazine. Many times, when I am working diligently hours into the night, I recall grad school, the stamina and inspiration needed to write intelligently on deadline.

I think many people become English majors because doing so offers limitless challenges, new frontiers to discover, a world of ideas and art existing beyond tangible existence. My adventure into Big Bend has made me a pioneer of that world and an inadvertent leader of a caravan of others behind me. Here we go, boldly, to places not yet made.



# Interview with Harriet Seitler

Marissa Glosecki & Chelsy Edwards | Current ENGL Majors

Being a college student is difficult. We must decide what we are going to do for the rest of our lives at a young age and be happy with our decision. For those of us that have chosen the literary path, it is not unusual to second guess your decision. A lot of people do not know what career prospects are out there for English majors, but Marissa Glosecki and Chelsy Edwards, fellow English students, interviewed former English major Harriet Seitler with the intent to get advice and a new perspective of what could happen post-graduation for us literature lovers.

Harriet Seitler is well-known in the marketing field for working with Oprah. She is currently the Chief Brand Officer at Course Hero. But her degree has nothing to do with marketing. She graduated NYU as an English and Film major. During her time in university, she took a job at the *New York Times* running papers between offices. After she graduated, she began working at an advertising agency by recommendation from her brother-in-law, and her career grew from there.

“You have to open the door,” is what Ms. Seitler said, and this has stuck with us since the interview. Everyone has dreams—sometimes ones that they are a bit scared to pursue—but Ms. Seitler advised us to take the jump. She also told us that we need to find ourselves saying, “If you know who you are and you know what you want, that’s probably the most valuable thing you can spend your energy on.” Ms. Seitler explained that she wishes she had trusted herself and her skills more as a young adult. She felt that if she had had more confidence, she wouldn’t have been afraid to ask for help.

Getting help is both a give and a take according to Ms. Seitler. You might be helping someone out by letting them help you. She said, “Conversations help with finding new paths.” Don’t be afraid to reach out to someone for help in your career, you never know what opportunity will arise when you do. You cannot be happy with a job that you do not enjoy, so to my fellow English majors: take Ms. Seitler’s advice! Follow your heart, don’t be scared, and open the door!



# They Told Me to Read Jane Austen, and I Did

Bryson Schubert | 2022 Graduate

The stigma around majoring in English in college is so prominent that John Mulaney has a five-minute bit about it in his stand-up comedy routine. Most people assume that when you major in English, you can be a poor English teacher or a failed novelist, and those are the only two options. John Mulaney’s joke about his major has flawed logic because he, an English major, told it on stage in front of thousands of laughing fans at the Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

Do you see my point? John Mulaney certainly didn’t memorize all the lines of *Persuasion* or all the themes of Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, but he learned the most employable skill in the entire world: communication. As an English major myself, I can personally attest to the notion that being an English major is the best possible path if your desire is to learn to communicate with others and spend your life telling stories, in whatever capacity, scale, or medium those stories exist within.

As I write this column, I cannot show you the fruits of my labor, but if you, dear reader, are sitting back in your chair, scrolling down this article on your phone and thinking, “Huh, this guy sounds like he knows what he’s talking about. He is making some valid points,” then I won. Those are the fruits. Majoring in English taught me how to communicate with other human beings, typically using the keyboard on my computer and the international language of “12-point font, Times New Roman, double-spaced.” For your information, I do not plan on being an English teacher or a novelist. My ambition is to be a screenwriter and achieve the ultimate goal of holding a tiny golden man as I give a sixty-second speech to famous people in black-and-white fancy clothes. The English department at UT Tyler has equipped me to do just that. Every single class has contributed something to my kitbag of abilities, be it technical or creative, that makes me more employable and more skilled.



Filmmaking isn’t usually the profession in mind when people go into the English major, but it was the best academic decision I have ever made. As I step out in the professional world, I can see the areas in which studying English has pushed me above and beyond the standard expectations of a working professional.

# To Write or not to Write

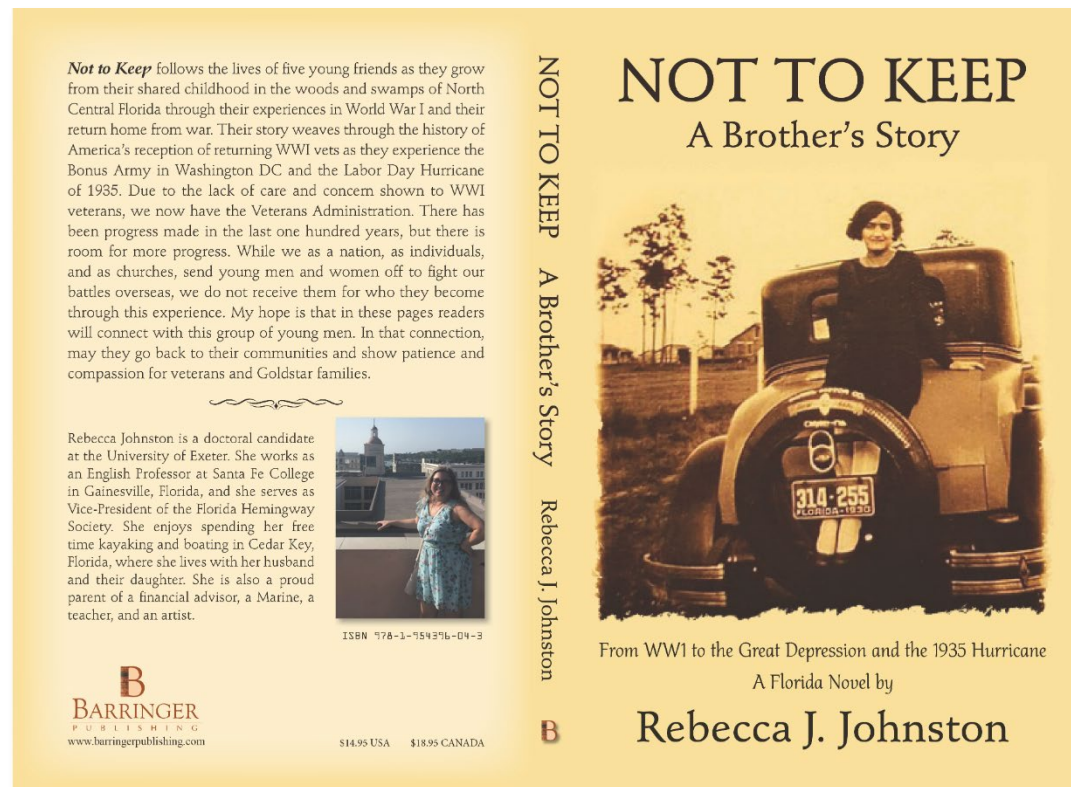
Rebecca Johnston | 2017 MA Graduate

The process of writing is something we all love, and yet it is so difficult to get started. Moreover, how does one find the time to complete our writing projects? Two things helped me finish my novel, *Not to Keep, A Brother's Story*. First, there was a pandemic. The world shut down, and we had just moved to a new town, so I had little to do but sit on my balcony and watch the empty streets. The second factor was something I had heard attributed to Hemingway: We should write because we love writing and because we have a story to tell. Don't write to make money or to get famous. Write the story you love and write it for yourself. With my new work-from-home time, I did just that, and while it was not always easy, it was fun.



Once the book was done, I stuck with my belief that it didn't matter if anyone else wanted to read it. I was happy. I decided to submit it to four or five mostly smaller publishers, and when they rejected me, as I was sure they would, I would self-publish enough copies for my husband and children and move on to the next story. To my surprise, one of the publishers accepted my book. Between the typing and grammar errors I had made, and the pull to keep my book to myself, I managed to stretch the editing process to nearly a year. But now it is officially out in the world. My imaginary friends are out there waiting for the world to pass judgement. My advice to all writers is just write. Accept that you are a writer and go for it. Tell the story only you can tell and don't worry if others will like it. The world will be better for your story, and so will you.

*Not to Keep* is available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble and through the following website: [rebeccajohnston.com](http://rebeccajohnston.com)



# Skills to Pay the Bills

Hannah Wilson | 2020 Graduate

When I graduated in December of 2020, I faced the chilling abyss that was the job market during a global pandemic. I had just completed my shiny, new Bachelor's degree and built my resume, so I was ready to take over the world.

As I sent out resumes and cover letters, desperately hoping for someone to reach back, I decided to use my extra free time to further my education and marketable skills. I began to research online certificate programs and decided to dive in headfirst.

My search began with looking for certificates that interested me and either utilized or complemented skills I had already obtained: critical reading, effective writing, analytical thinking, etc. I then focused on finding programs that were offered through accredited institutions and taught by people who worked in the field I was interested in studying. Finally, I looked for courses that would be offered online and had flexible schedules. Fortunately, most of the courses I found were self-paced.

I started my journey with a grant writing certificate through Sam Houston State University. My teacher had been working as a grant writer for several years, and she was able to share valuable tips and experiences with her students. Before long, I had completed three of these certificates, and I was able to add this knowledge to my resume. This push to continue my education led to my desire to learn a new language. After that, I started tackling the impossible-looking stack of books I had been neglecting to read since I started university.

I had graduated, but I was still learning.

The skills I was learning not only helped me to use my valuable time between jobs wisely, but they also helped me to build up a professional resume that aided in making an impression on future employers.



Becoming a lifelong learner gives you marketable skills and helps to demonstrate your desire to learn, it shows motivation, and it signals to your future employers that you are someone who has a growth mindset.

So do not underestimate the power of certificates and lifelong learning as it may just land you your next job or a promotion. If you're lucky, you may even discover a new career path you never considered exploring.

# Possessed by Salem

Erin Melyssa Reaume | Current ENGL MA student

I had studied the history of Salem, Massachusetts most of my life, but never thought I would go there. I didn't want to support the city's dark tourism. While Salem Village had, after all, changed its name to Danvers to separate itself from its historical horrors, Salem Town conjured a booming tourism industry from the mass witch hysteria which led to the deaths of 25 people and two dogs.

However, Salem was tempting. I have Massachusetts lineage dating back to the *Mayflower*, and many of my ancestors first settled in Salem. My eighth great-grandmother Mary Sibley helped accused witches Tituba and John Indian make a "witch's cake" when the hysteria first began. I was also drawn to Salem by Mary E. Wilkins Freeman's weird fiction. Freeman was largely inspired by Salem, and one of her ancestors was condemned in the witch trials. The thought of visiting Massachusetts and roaming through the historical sites that were so relevant to my studies finally possessed me.

While Salem screamed witchcraft and tourism, Danvers was quiet, even silent. It did not welcome tourists and did not celebrate a history of condemning "witches" to death. Therein were scattered houses, overgrown farms, and worn-down churches. There were very few signs to commemorate historical events. Still, I saw the home of Edward and Sarah Bishop—two accused "witches" that managed to escape jail and flee to safety in New York. I saw the site of the church where Ann Putnam, Jr., the most vocal of all the witch accusers, recanted and apologized publicly. I saw the land where once stood Ingersoll's Ordinary, a tavern where many accused "witches" were interrogated. I glimpsed Rebecca Nurse's homestead from a distance. I walked by the Proctor Farm, where condemned "witches" John and Elizabeth Proctor once resided, where Mary E. Wilkins Freeman set "The Little Maid at the Door."

I wandered through the ruins of Reverend Samuel Parris's parsonage. Condemned witch-ringleader George Burroughs once resided there, too. This was the site where the hysteria began when Reverend Parris's daughter and niece began having fits which were attributed to witchcraft. Many accusers told tales of secret midnight "witch meetings" in Parris's pastures

where so many once esteemed villagers allegedly took demonic communion. These accounts were so vivid and nightmarish that I could imagine them, even though I know it was all fabrication. This was one of the few Danvers sites to have any sign at all, and no one was there except for my family, some chipmunks, and a few chickens that had strayed away from an adjacent farm. The property glowed with sunlight and seemed peaceful, despite its sinister past.

While I will return to Massachusetts one day, I don't know that I will return to Salem. While I did not appreciate its tourism even as I participated in it, I am grateful to have for a moment stepped into its history.



# Connecting Literature and Law

Kim O'Daniel | 2018 Graduate

I have been a certified paralegal for 8 years, all of them at the same firm. After I started working at the law firm, I wanted to pursue an English Degree. Professionally, however, I didn't know if it would benefit me. Now having obtained my English degree from UT Tyler, I can confidently say that it is the perfect complement to my legal career.

The most valuable skills I have as a paralegal are my critical thinking skills. There is a full-day test section on logic and reasoning to get your paralegal certification; it's that valuable. My English degree helps me read critically through hundreds of pages of facts and detail (and sometimes nonsense), to decipher what is relevant to an issue and what is a distraction. English majors have been trained to read and understand some of the most difficult passages ever written (I mean Chaucer? Come on!). These seeds bear their fruit when doing legal research and trying to decode a law or rule of practice, or complex legislation, so that you can know where to begin researching. I will use the research skills I attained while pursuing my English degree throughout my career.

The writing and proof-reading skills I have learned make me invaluable to my attorney. Legal writing is lean, and an English degree teaches you how to write with clarity and precision. You may have only 10 pages to say what it has taken three years to develop in the case. Often, I take the first stab at the motion. When what I have written makes it in the final draft, that is my English degree paying dividends.

I proofread every motion the attorney has me file in a case. He trusts my ability to catch punctuation, spelling, and grammar mistakes, and help him make his point in fewer words. Because of my studies, I feel confident in suggesting these changes/corrections. English majors are effective verbal communicators. We have learned to listen critically and are sensitive to our audience's reaction.



Through our exploration of diverse literary traditions, we can understand and empathize with other cultures. This empathy serves you well in the legal profession, and your clients trust and appreciate you.

If you want any career in the legal field, whether paralegal or attorney, an English degree is the perfect place to begin or end.

# My English Degree is My Superpower

*Katelynn Wynn McGuire | 2012 Graduate*

If I've said it once, I've said it one thousand times: an English degree is marketable.

Shortly after graduating from UT Tyler, I learned just how much prospective employers across myriad industries seek and appreciate the skills of an English major. I was astounded to not only land positions in complex industries like business valuation and international trade law, but also shocked to have been successful in them.

Shocked by success? Why?

I'd relegated industries that were "too numerical" or "too structured" to be ripe for a STEM major's picking, but I quickly learned that comprehension, analysis, and redistribution of complex information in easily digestible format are the same across the board, even in industries grounded in numbers (the bane of every English major's existence). The truth I learned at that time is that an English major can earn a place in almost any industry and succeed; however, times and priorities can change, and 2020 was proof of that.

The year 2020 shed light on new truths and unmasked criteria for what we deem important, and that's the time I began to see my English degree for what it truly is: my superpower. Like nearly every superhero origin story, my power emerged in a dark and scary time. The career I'd built and loved in legal marketing was at risk, as the world began to pause, erasing need for client communications, newsletters, and all client events for which I was charged with coordinating. Not to harp on how well-versed English majors are in foreshadowing, but I saw the writing on the wall. It was time to pivot, and my English degree gave me the ability and confidence to make necessary change.

Before that looming layoff greeted me via Zoom Meeting in November 2020, I began to build freelance copywriting experience that alleviated a portion of those pandemic-induced online shopping spree bills and subsequently allowed me to keep my cool (not my strong suit) when the inevitable happened and my legal firm position was eliminated.

As a jobless homeowner with bills to pay and mouths to feed in a time when hiring freezes were standard, I should've been terrified; however, I wasn't, and that's due to my BA in English and the skills learned while pursuing my degree.

I was confident about finding a job in the midst of a pandemic and steadfast in not returning to the hustle and bustle of downtown high rises and lengthy, traffic-laden commutes. I wanted to grow my copywriting career from the comfort and safety of my own home, and that's exactly what I did. That freelance book of business grew into a Lead Copywriter position for a digital marketing firm (By Aries), and my English degree enables me to confidently connect with c-level executives at professional service firms, analyze the various aspects of their niche services, and market those services in tailored campaigns, social content, blogs, newsletters, and client communications. I'm not an attorney at the biggest law firm in the world, an IRS debt relief specialist, a manufacturer of pathogen reduction technology for medical facilities, a structural engineer specializing in collapse investigation, or a Rabbi who hosts lectures on Jewish ethics. I am, however, an English major with the skills and abilities to masquerade as these incredibly brilliant clients in the copywriting services I provide for them.

Anything you can do, my English degree can do, too.



# Jumping Out and Back into Higher Education

*Savannah Sanders | 2017 Graduate*

English has always come easy to me, but I wasn't sure what to do with it. My original minor was Secondary Education, but I knew after two semesters that High School teaching was not the path for me. I had worked as a student assistant at UT Tyler's Library for 2 years and am glad I did because this experience helped me to realize that I wanted to work with college students.

While working in the Library at UT Tyler, I would see students in their most stressed days, especially during midterms and finals. Seeing students in distress helped me to realize that I had a desire to help them, even as a stressed-out student myself. I was also working at Tyler ISD at the time as an AVID Coach, and I realized that I had enjoyed working with college students much more than high school students. I had many talks with my professors and library co-workers and received encouragement to pursue my career goals.

After graduating from UT Tyler, I searched for Higher Education jobs in the East Texas area, and eventually got hired at Tyler Junior College as an Academic Advisor in January 2018. I knew that Higher Education was where I needed to be, so I pursued a master's degree in Higher Education (with a Graduate Certification in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), graduating in Summer 2020. After working with the Advising Department for 3 ½ years and becoming a Senior Academic Advisor, I switched to the Registrar's Office, where I currently work today. I am gaining scribing and programming experience with my new position, which I've never considered before, but have thoroughly enjoyed so far. Since my graduate program allowed me to have 18 hours of English, I also teach English Composition I online, and I have enjoyed being an Adjunct English Professor, too!

My encouragement to current/future English majors is to go for those internships or work study positions, as they can help you realize that one career path may be better for you than what you had originally thought. I also encourage students to keep searching for that dream job; it took me around 7 months to fully get hired at TJC, so I had to work here-and-there jobs in the meantime and the payoff has been so worth it.





# Department of Literature & Languages

## Recent Faculty Publications

### **Chair: Dr. Hui Wu**

Wu, Hui & Tarez Graban. Eds. *Global Rhetorical Traditions*. Forthcoming, May 2022, Parlor Press.

Wu, Hui & Emily Standridge. "Renewing Feminist Perspectives on Women WPAs' Service and Leadership." In *Women's Way of Making*. Ed. Shelly Rose. Utah University Press, 2021. 203-220.

"From Oratory to Writing: An Overview of Chinese Classical Rhetoric (500 BCE-220 CE)" in [Routledge Handbook of Comparative World Rhetorics](#). Edited by Keith Lloyd. New York: Routledge, 2020, 89-95.

"Reinventing Yin-Yang to Teach Rhetoric to Women." In *Re-Inventing Rhetoric Scholarship*. Edited by Roxanne Montfort and David Tell. Parlor Press, 2020. 186-194.

Editor's introduction to special issue, "The Old, the New, and the Renewed in Comparative Studies of Chinese Rhetoric." 15.1 (2019): 1-2.

"Yin-Yang as the Fundamental Philosophy of Chinese Rhetoric." *China Media Research*, 14.4 (2018): 46-55.

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### **Dr. Ann Beebe**

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Review of *The Boatman: Henry David Thoreau's River Years* (Robert M. Thorson) *Nineteenth-Century Prose* 46.1, Spring 2019. 224-227.

# Department of Literature & Languages

## Recent Faculty Publications

“My flower garden has taught me that lesson’: Gardens in E.D.E.N. Southworth’s Novels” *Enchanted, Stereotyped, Civilized: Garden Narratives in Literature, Art, and Film* Ed. Feryal Cubukcu and Sabine Planka. Wurzburg, Germany: Konigshausen & Neumann, 2018. 229-245.

“The Elegances of the Breakfast-Table’: The Encoded Space of the Breakfast-Room in Nineteenth-Century American Novels” *The Routledge Companion to Literature and Food* Ed. Lorna Piatti-Farnell and Donna Brien. New York: Routledge, 2018. 319-328.

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“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*.” *Lydia Sigourney: Critical Essays and Cultural Views* Ed. Elizabeth Petrino and Mary Louise Kete. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2018. 143-160.

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### **Dr. Greg Bock**

*Righteous Indignation: Christian Philosophical and Theological Perspectives on Anger* co-edited with Court D. Lewis (Fortress Press, 2021)

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“The Trouble with Inferring Divine Punishment: A Response to James S. Spiegel” *Journal of Biblical and Theological Studies*, 6:1 (2021): 135-141

“Guns and Peace Building,” *Syndicate* (2020)

“The End of Religious Exemptions from Immunization Requirements?” *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 46 (2020): 114-117

“Anger in an Ethics of Love,” in *Righteous Indignation*, edited by Gregory L. Bock and Court D. Lewis (Fortress Press, 2021): 157-167.

“Understanding Joseph Butler’s Sermons on Resentment and Forgiveness,” in *The Ethics of Anger*, edited by Court D. Lewis and Gregory L. Bock (New York: Lexington Press, 2020): 103-114.

“Avoiding the Dark Side: Anger in Popular Culture” (with Court D. Lewis), in *The Ethics of Anger*, edited by Court D. Lewis and Gregory L. Bock (New York: Lexington Press, 2020): 251-264.

“Falling off the Edge of the Earth” (with Court D. Lewis), in *Conspiracy Theories and Philosophy*, edited by Richard Greene (Open Court, 2020): 59-70.

“‘Black Museum’ and Righting Wrongs: Should We Seek Revenge?” (with Jeffrey L. Bock and Kora Smith), in *Black Mirror and Philosophy*, edited by David Johnson (Wiley Blackwell, 2020): 187-195

# Department of Literature & Languages

## Recent Faculty Publications

### **Dr. Matt Deaton**

*Ethics in a Nutshell: The Philosopher's Approach to Morality in 100 Pages*  
(2017) <https://www.amazon.com/dp/0989254240>

*Year of the Fighter: Lessons from my Midlife Crisis Adventure*  
(2018) <https://www.amazon.com/dp/0989254259>

*The Best Public Speaking Book* 2nd Edition  
(2019) <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1951677005>

*Abortion Ethics in a Nutshell: A Pro-Both Tour of the Moral Arguments*  
(2021) <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1951677064>

*Ethics Bowl to the Rescue! An Anti-Debate Army's Quest to Save Democracy*, Forthcoming  
2022

### **Dr. Anett Jessop**

“Untranslatable’ women: Laura Riding’s classical modernist fiction,” in *The Classics in Modernist Translation*, eds. Miranda Hickman and Lynn Kozak (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2019): 131-141; n. 228-230.

“Modernist Revisionist Mythmaking: Laura Riding’s Lilithian Poetics,” in *Women Poets and Myth in the 20th and 21st Centuries: On Sappho's Website*, eds. Esther Sanchez-Pardo and Renée M. Silverman (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2018): 3-16.

“The Classical Past and ‘the history of ourselves’: Laura Riding’s Trojan Woman,” in *Brill’s Companion to Classical Receptions: International Modernism and the Avant-Garde*, eds. Adam J. Goldwyn and James Nikopoulos (Brill, 2017): 182-198.

“Geopoetics and Historical Modernism: Gertrude Stein, Laura Riding and Robert Graves in Mallorca, 1912–1936,” in *Mediterranean Modernism: Intercultural Exchange and Aesthetic Development, 1880-1945*, eds. Adam J. Goldwyn and Renée M. Silverman (Palgrave-MacMillan, 2016): 123-148. \*\*Awarded the South Atlantic Modern Languages Association Book Award, 2017.

### **Dr. Matthew Kelly**

“Ethos and Dwelling in the University: Using Online Writing Projects to Help Students Navigate Institutional Spaces and Classroom Experiences.” Co-authored with Tara Proper. *Composition Forum* 47 (2021).

“Writing for Players: Using Video Game Documentation to Explore the Role of Audience Agency in Technical Writing.” *Prompt: A Journal of Academic Writing Assignments* 5.2 (2021): 100-110. DOI: 10.31719/pjaw.v5i2.60

“This Isn’t Supposed to Be Fun: Using Game-Based Writing Projects as a Form of Pragmatic Ethical Inquiry in the Composition Classroom.” In *The Ethics of Playing, Researching, and Teaching Games in the Writing Classroom*. Eds. Richard Colby, Matthew S. S. Johnson, and Rebekah Shultz Colby. Palgrave, 2021. 143-157.

“Designing Game-Based Writing Projects to Foster Critical Ethical Reasoning in the English Classroom: A Case Study Using Plague Inc: Evolved.” *Simulation and Gaming* 52.2 (2021): 153-168. DOI: 10.1177/1046878120953592

# Department of Literature & Languages

## Recent Faculty Publications

### **Dr. Pierre-Luc Paquet**

P-L. Paquet & N. Woll (2021). Debunking student teachers' beliefs regarding the target-language-only rule. In J. Pinto & N. Alexandre (Eds.), *Multilingualism and third language acquisition: Learning and teaching trends* (pp. 95-116). Berlin: Language Science Press.

N. Woll & P-L. Paquet (2021). Developing Crosslinguistic awareness through Plurilingual consciousness- raising tasks. *Language Teaching Research*, 1-21.

P-L. Paquet (2019). Probing the evidence: Can we bridge the theory-practice gap in language research? Book Review. *Emerging Trends in Education*, 2(3), 76-79.

P-L. Paquet & E. E. García Ponce (2019). Effects of using translanguageing strategies during pre-task planning on EFL learners' complexity, accuracy and fluency: Implications for narrative tasks. In *Proceedings of the 51<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the British Association of Applied Linguistics*, 91-95.

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### **Dr. Tara Propper**

"Ethos and Dwelling in the University: Using Online Writing Projects to Help Students Navigate Institutional Spaces and Classroom Experiences." Co-authored with Matthew Kelly. *Composition Forum*, vol. 47, Fall 2021.

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"The Pedagogy and Politics of Racial Passing: Examining Media Literacy in Turn-of-the-Century Activist Periodicals". *Dialogue: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Popular Culture and Pedagogy*, vol. 4, no. 1, 2017.

### **Dr. Catherine Ross**

"A copious and splendid command of language and an ear tuned to the 'noiseless music of the spheres.': Elite Education in the Romantic Period and Its Modern Uses in Teaching and Scholarship" *Romantic Circles* (website), vol. 1, June 2021, <https://romantic-circles.org/pedagogies/commons/teachtheromantic>

### **Dr. Greg Utley**

"[Love and Transgression in Gabriel García Márquez's Crónica de una muerte anunciada](#)" *Hispanic Journal*, Vol. 37, No. 2 (Fall 2016), pp. 143-154

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