Most of us become English majors because we love language. Whether it is a love of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric that led them to major in English, many students draw a blank when faced with the overwhelming question, “What do you want to do after graduation?”

This is not, of course, entirely a bad thing. The fact that we study literature for often what amounts to nothing but our own betterment demonstrates our level of passion for our field of study, and it is safe to say that many young authors will continue to write regardless of whether or not the products of their creativity sell. However, as English major Roberto Molar has found, there is something tremendously rewarding about using his English degree to improve communication in the field of science. (Read more on Page 2)
Last spring, Roberto Molar was in the same boat as the rest of us English majors—filled with uncertainty about what he wanted to do after graduation in December. However, when he applied for a technical writing position from the Texas Sea Grant College Program (advertised through the English Dept.’s Weekly Announcement emails), he discovered an entirely new way to use his English major. According to its website, Sea Grant was created “to improve the understanding, wise use and stewardship of Texas coastal and marine resources,” and “develops and supports research, education and outreach programs and partnerships.” The focus on science meant that Roberto would gain experience with technical writing.

During his time with Sea Grant, Roberto learned that he liked writing about science—that writing abstracts for scientific articles beyond the scope of his education, while difficult, was fascinating work. His other internships with Maroon Weekly and The Association of Former Students have contributed to his experience with feature writing, and after pursuing his MS in the Scientific and Technology Journalism Program, Roberto hopes to use his background in science writing and editing to work for a magazine like National Geographic.

Because of this summer with Sea Grant, Roberto has a new perspective on how he can use his English major. Liberal Arts students are highly intelligent, but he thinks it is important for them to learn ambition—to get the education they love, but to think outside the box when deciding what to do with it. While that may not mean scientific writing for some English majors, there is a high demand for skilled writers who can bridge the gap between scientists and the large, diverse audience that seeks to understand their academic jargon. It is this gap Roberto hopes to close as he joins other technical writers in working toward a better way of communicating science.

Roberto is a non-native English speaker from Linares, Mexico (and more recently, Edinburg, TX). He currently works at The Association of Former Students and will graduate in December 2013.
A Note from Leia Johnson (pictured above)

My name is Leia Johnson, and I’m a junior English major, Fightin’ Texas Aggie class of 2015. A-A-A-Whoop! This semester, I have had the opportunity to intern at Cushing Memorial Library under the direction of Dr. Larry Mitchell on a research project.

A little background: between 1745 and about 1880, a memoir was published about a man named Bampfylde-Moore Carew, who ran away from school to become a beggar. Good life choice. Anyway, at the end of the novel, there is a “Dictionary of the Cant Language”—basically a glossary. Both the text of the memoir and the words in the glossary (not only the entries, but also the spelling and definitions of the words themselves) have changed drastically over time.

My project has been to document the changes and see how the editions evolved in the different printings. In so doing, I have created a comparative database of all the gloss entries and researched origins of the words, as well as read three different versions of the memoir. As (un) exciting as that sounds, it’s actually really cool! I get to handle 200-year-old-books on a regular basis. For a major English nerd, that’s pretty exciting.

Cushing has been a great place to do an internship. The people I work with are incredibly knowledgeable, but always take time to answer any questions I may have or to point me in the right direction. I have access to (what I think is) some of the most interesting material on campus—c’mon guys, we have Tolkien and books older than the United States of America—and I get to use it for my research! I definitely know a lot more about Bampfylde-Moore Carew, the printing process, and how editions (especially of dictionaries) change over time. It’s been an amazing experience!

The Word on Katie Blanschet

Katie Blanschet is a junior English major from Boerne, Texas. Working at Cushing both as an intern and a student worker has reinforced what she already knew about herself—like a typical English major, she loves books. Working with Processing Archivist Jeremy Brent, Katie has spent time filing and researching the collections of science fiction authors Michael Moorcock and Avram Davidson.

An avid reader like most English majors, Katie’s favorite author is C.S. Lewis. And, also like most English majors, she has already begun assembling her own library of favorite books. Recently, she noticed her inner-archivist revealing itself when she stumbled upon a 1st edition of the Last Battle (one of Lewis’s the Chronicles of Narnia) at a used book store.

The largest contribution of her internship has been the way that learning about the inner workings of a library has cemented Katie’s desire to become a librarian. After graduation, she plans to pursue a Master of Library Science at the University of Sheffield in the UK.

She encourages “anyone who even remotely likes books” to apply for this internship. Working in a library was second nature for this English major, and has proved time and time again to be just as enjoyable for others.
How well do you know your New English Faculty?

Last edition we introduced you to a few of our new English faculty members. Now it’s time to meet the rest of them! Whether you’ve had their class this semester or plan on taking them in the spring, this is your chance to get to know them better.

Began Teaching Fall 2012

Dr. Kristina Gutierrez

Originally from Topeka, Kansas, Dr. Kristina Gutierrez received her B.A. and M.A. at TAMU Corpus Christie, and her Ph.D. at UT San Antonio. She taught at each of those campuses, as well as at Northwest Vista College, where she also worked as a writing center consultant for three years. Her interests in English range from multimodal rhetoric to situated literacy, and she has taught multiple literature courses, both at A&M in past semesters and at other universities. She finds visual rhetoric and Chicano literature fascinating, as well as technical writing and layout design.

Some of Dr. Gutierrez’s favorite books include *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* by Philip K. Dick and *Wicked* by Gregory Maguire (she also loves the musical). In her free time, she enjoys traveling and spending time with friends and family.

Currently teaching:
- ENGL 104: Composition & Rhetoric

Began Teaching Fall 2013

Dr. Amanda Thibodeau

One of this year’s new lecturers has come all the way from the East Coast to teach English at Texas A&M. Dr. Amanda Thibodeau, originally from central Maine, received her B.A. at Wheaton College in Boston, her M.A. at the University of New Hampshire, and her Ph.D. at the University of Miami.

Dr. Thibodeau’s interests in English cover a wide range of topics. Primarily, she is interested in Contemporary American literature, as well as feminist science fiction (by authors such as Ursula LeGuin, Octavia Butler, and Margaret Atwood). Her favorite authors include Margaret Atwood, Toni Morrison, and Jhumpa Lahiri.

Currently teaching:
- ENGL 104: Composition & Rhetoric
- ENGL 222: World Literature
If you are a student in Dr. Rich Cooper’s ENGL 104 class, you already know about the mushrooms. Dr. Cooper settled on the topic of mycology (the study of mushrooms) for his Freshman English course because of his interest in the far reaching prospects of mycology and his desire to make his 104 course something unique. He completed his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. at LSU, and has taught at Tulane University, Baton Rouge Community College, and LSU. Dr. Cooper is interested in Sci-fi and Fantasy literature, especially from a Transnational perspective.

Some of Dr. Cooper’s hobbies are reading (he especially enjoys Malcolm X’s autobiography and books by Samuel Delany), writing, cooking Cajun food, hiking and camping, and traveling. Here’s an interesting fact you may not have known—Dr. Cooper is the son of a commercial fisherman and a first generation college student, originally from Hahnville, Louisiana (outside of New Orleans).

Currently teaching:
- ENGL 104: Composition & Rhetoric

EVENTS IN THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Hope you didn’t miss out on one of our exciting events, such as...
- Undergraduate Office Open House
- Tolkien Meets Arthur
- Halloween Ballads
- Meet and Greet with Author Ron Hansen
- Internships Event with Dr. Elizabeth Tebeaux
The Inkling Society

Adapted from an article by Angela Driver, ’13

Who are we?
The Inkling Society, formerly the English Language and Literature Society, is an English organization native to Texas A&M. The members of The Inkling Society meet every Wednesday and alternate discussing personal creative writing pieces and the selected book of the semester. Although the group is primarily English majors, there are also students from departments across the University. The group typically picks one or two books per semester to read and discuss. Their Fall 2013 selection was *Good Omens*, by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman. In past semesters, members have read *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky, *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy, and *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie.

What do we do?
On alternate weeks, members can submit personal writing for the group to workshop. The pieces members submit are typically a short story or an excerpt from a longer work. Members also spend time participating in a creative writing workshop, which consists of inventive writing prompts to encourage creativity and move past writers block.

What does the name mean?
The group’s new identity, The Inkling Society, is derived from “The Inklings,” an informal writing group that met in Oxford from the 1930s to the 1940s. Some of the group’s more noteworthy members included C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. The original Inklings met at a pub; however, you can find the Texas A&M Inkling Society in MSC 2501 at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays.

How do I sign up?
The Inkling Society takes a relaxed and welcoming approach to the study of English. They are looking for new members to join them on their literary and composition adventure. Visit their Facebook page (see right) if you are interested in learning more.

http://www.thealmightyguru.com/Reviews/GoodOmens/

**Inkling Society Meetings**

When: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Where: MSC 2501

What: Workshops, peer review, and book discussion

https://www.facebook.com/groups/InklingSocietyTAMU/
Erin Williams

A Communications Internship Experience

When senior English major Erin Williams graduates in December 2013, she will have a lot to offer potential employers. She currently works in Communications at the Center for New Ventures and Entrepreneurship (CNVE) at Texas A&M. She also spent this last summer interning with BP in US Communications, which has given her a better understanding of the workings of communications teams in large corporations.

Where She Found the Position:
Erin found the position at HireAggies.com, the Career Center website. Other places you can find out about job opportunities include the English Department's Weekly Announcement emails, JobsforAggies.tamu.edu, and Campus Career Fairs.

What She Did:
Erin spent 12 weeks interning with a BP headquarters location near Houston, working with multiple communications teams within BP's US Communications. She learned a great deal about strategy and social media, and also designed a presentation and documents for employee town halls. Erin was also given the opportunity to travel with the team to Washington D.C.

Favorite Thing:
The amount of creative space and autonomy Erin was given resulted in her working harder and better at whatever project she was given. As George Patton once said, "Don't tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and let them surprise you with their results."

How She Stood Out As a Candidate:
A carefully written cover letter helped her get noticed by recruiters. In other words, going above and beyond the requests of the hiring company will get you far. Strive to be as professional as possible and you will stand out from the other applicants.

Fun Fact:
One post on Twitter can take up to 2 weeks to plan. It was Erin's job to find and compile content for several of these posts, and for one of these, Erin interviewed and took photos of members of BP's team of meteorologists. (Did you know BP had a team of meteorologists? Didn't think so.)

It's never too early to start thinking about plans for next summer. Watch your Weekly Announcement emails and check HireAggies.com to stay informed about possible internship opportunities.
These are a few of our **FAVORITE THINGS:**

**HOLIDAY MOVIES**

For each edition of *The English Aggie*, we will feature a section of "favorites." Students will have the opportunity to respond with their “favorites” on the Texas A&M English Undergraduate Facebook Page.

◊ “My favorite Christmas movies are *The Santa Clause* and the classic Rudolph movies.”
  —Elizabeth Anderson

◊ “*It’s a Wonderful Life.*”—Phillip Garner

◊ “It’s not Christmas for me unless I watch *It’s a Wonderful Life.* (Bonus points if there’s hot cocoa or cider involved!)”
  —Alyssa Spoonts

◊ “*White Christmas.*” —Charli Marx Hicks

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**Dates to Remember**

- **December 3**—Last day of classes!
- **December 11**—English Research Essay Contest submission deadline for graduating seniors
- **December 13**—English Research Essay Contest submission deadline for continuing students
- **December 13-14**—Commencement and Commissioning of Graduating Seniors
- **January 13**—First day of spring semester classes
- **February 1**—Scholarship applications due
- **February 5, 2014**—Rhetoric & Discourse Studies Essay Contest submission deadline

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

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| Texas A&M University  
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College Station, TX  
77843  
(979)- 845-8357 | Monday– Friday  
8 a.m.— 12 p.m.  
1 p.m.— 5 p.m. |

Email: Undergrad-office@tamuenglish.org

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**Stay Connected**

- **Twitter:** @THEENGLISHAGGIE
- **Facebook:** Texas A&M English Undergraduates

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