



THE ENGLISH AGGIE

September 2014

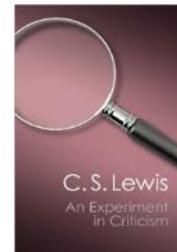
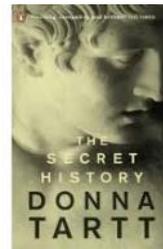
www.english.tamu.edu

Texas A&M University– The Department of English Undergraduate Studies

“Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow”

- Anthony J. D’Angelo

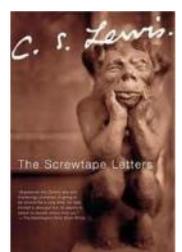
**STUDY ABROAD NOW AT
TAMU-QATAR (pg.7)**



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Frequently Asked Questions

School is back in session and from everyone in the English Undergraduate Office we would like to welcome new and returning students. It is a busy time of year for everyone on campus and it is our goal to ease the transition back into the semester. Here are some questions asked by students around this time of year and answers from members of our staff.

How often should I see an advisor?

At least once per semester (preferably by mid-to-late October to discuss Spring classes), but you're welcome to come see them as often as you would like. If you have questions now, there's no need to wait until it's time to talk about registration for next semester

Does my KINE 198 have to be taken for a letter grade?

No. In the older catalogs (for students who began their programs before fall 2014), Liberal Arts majors are required to take KINE 199 on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. Each student can choose the grade mode for KINE 198, but you have to make a selection in Howdy by the Q-drop deadline. After that, you cannot change your grade mode.

What should I do if I find myself facing a problem and I'm not sure how to handle it?

There are *so many resources available on campus to help students address a wide range of issues*, but sometimes it can be difficult to know where to go. If you're not sure where to start, come talk to one of your advisors. Chances are, we've helped a student involved in a similar situation and can point you in the right direction.

Do I have to make an appointment?

No! We do take walk-ins, but sometimes you run the risk of coming when we are in a meeting or of having to wait in line to see an advisor (especially during the busiest advising times like preregistration). If you would prefer to make an appointment to ensure you will be able to see an advisor at a specific time you can do so at:

<http://www.genbook.com/bookings/slot/reservation/30100998>



Above: Welcome some new students to the TAMU English Department, Class of 2018

When should I talk to an advisor about adding a minor/internship/study abroad experience?

As soon as you know you would like to pursue one of these options, **you should come talk to an advisor so you can start thinking about how best to fit it into your degree plan.**

INTERNSHIP AT DISNEY WORLD

Katie Hudson spent most of her summer in Florida as a part of a unique internship sponsored by Disney. Her experience helped her gain understanding in the importance of her skill as an English major.

For all **undergraduate English majors** at Texas A&M, internships can be very important to future careers in their desired field. While classroom lectures and writing assignments are essential to a student's success in college, it is equally necessary to gain real world experience. Katie Hudson, a member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of 2017, realized this her freshman year when she learned about the Disney College Program. She heard about this intern opportunity before from an ad on the internet when she was only 15 years old, but never seriously considered it until she went to Disney World after her senior year of high school and met a Texas A&M student participating in the internship. When she arrived in College Station for her freshman year she saw the same Texas A&M student sitting at a booth for the internship. She talked with him and other students who had been a part of the internship and was hooked on going.

Below: The nametag worn by Katie as part of her uniform while working in



Above: A photo of Katie with Mickey Mouse at one of the parks.

The internship **offers a variety of experiences each member can take part in.** Students can work on the Jungle Cruise in Magic Kingdom, in resorts around the area, or even in Downtown Disney. Katie worked mainly at a quick-service restaurant in Magic Kingdom bringing food to guests, filling drinks, and greeting people. The unique part of this internship is the fact that work is only half of what you get out of the program. Participants are offered classes such as engineering or show production and seminars where you network with Disney leaders. Katie admitted, however, that one of the best parts of the internship is that they got into the parks for free.

Katie is an English major with a focus in Creative Writing. She found her skill to be very helpful in handling everything from homesickness to rude guests she interacted with. While others kept blogs of their experiences, she was working on a manuscript for a book about her internship that is to be published in 2015 by Theme Park Press. She strongly encourages other English majors to *be a part of as many internships and experiential activities while still in undergraduate classes.* She even said that it wasn't until doing the Disney internship that she discovered what she wanted to do with her major exactly."

Welcome Our Newest Faculty Members

The newest members of our staff come from all around the country. They have taken the time to share a little about themselves and what they are looking forward to in the TAMU and English Department communities.



DR. JASON HARRIS

*B.A. in Literature at the University of California at Santa Barbara
M.A. & Ph.D. in English Literature at University of Washington, Seattle
MFA in Fiction at Bowling Green State University*

From Bowling Green, Ohio to Seattle, Washington, Dr. Harris has studied in many parts of the country. Beginning his undergraduate studies at the University of California, he received a

B.A. in Literature through the College of Creative Studies in 1995. In 1997 and 2001 he obtained his M.A. and Ph.D. in English Literature at the University of Washington. Before moving to Bryan, he received his MFA in Fiction from Bowling Green University. Harris focused his undergraduate studies on critical analysis of a range of English and World literature and his graduate level studies on Nineteenth-Century British Literature, folklore, and theories. He even published a book of literary criticism and a range of articles dealing with those issues.

Dr. Harris, while receiving degrees in Literature, shares a love for creative writing as well. Though he does not have **absolute** favorites, he enjoys J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, Edgar Allen Poe's poem "Alone," and narrative mediums such as *Sandman* and *Uncle Scrooge*. He is looking forward to experiencing the interesting perspectives that his students will offer in discussions and in their papers. Even through his many years of education and experience with other universities and cultures, he says he is always surprised by new insights. Along with meeting new students, he is also looking forward to meeting more of the Texas A&M faculty.

Photo provided by Dr. Harris. For more insight on Dr. Harris, visit his blog at www.jasonmarcharris.com

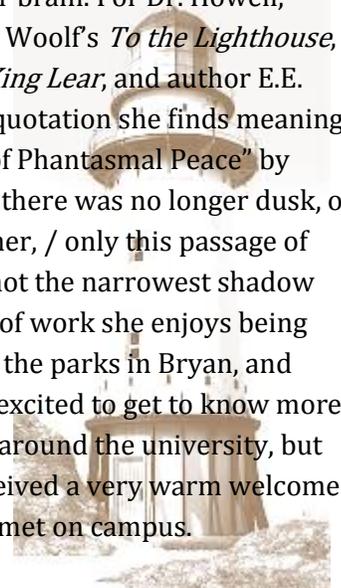
DR. JESSICA HOWELL

*B.A. in Intensive Literature at the University of California in Santa Cruz
M.A. & Ph.D. at the University of California in Davis
Post Doctorate at Kings College in London, England*



For the last four years, Dr. Howell has been studying overseas at Kings College in London, England. Before deciding to go to England, she received her B.A. in Intensive Literature which requires proficiency in a second language and her M.A. in English Literature. The Ph.D. she collected at the University of California focused on Victorian Travel Literature and Medicine. She found it very fascinating to study why people of that time period thought they got ill while visiting abroad. Currently focusing on diseases such as Malaria, Dr. Howell is a fine example of the **diverse opportunities available to English majors**. Despite her focus on literature throughout her years of education, she holds onto a love for creative writing, especially poetry.

English majors find it difficult to choose a favorite book or piece of literature due to an evolved appreciation for the matter, but they tend to have a couple that stick to the inside of their brain. For Dr. Howell, those pieces are Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*, William Shakespeare's *King Lear*, and author E.E. Cummings' poetry. One quotation she finds meaningful is from "The Season of Phantasmal Peace" by Derek Walcott: "...until / there was no longer dusk, or season, decline, or weather, / only this passage of phantasmal light / that not the narrowest shadow dared to sever." Outside of work she enjoys being with her family, going to the parks in Bryan, and horseback riding. She is excited to get to know more students and colleagues around the university, but says she has already received a very warm welcome from the people she has met on campus.



A Message from the Director of Undergraduate Studies

WELCOME BACK to Aggie English Majors, Minors, and all of you once and future English students, from the Texas A&M English Undergraduate Program office. You may be hearing a lot about how it's a mistake to be an English major in this day and age, and I am happy to report that it is all nonsense. The skills and wisdom of English students are needed more today than ever before. We in the English Undergraduate Studies office are focused on making this *a great year for English at Texas A&M*. We hope you will come in to meet us at our Open House later this month, and join us for special events, large and small, and student special interest groups throughout the year. You will find our office a place for individual advice, troubleshooting, and consultation for students and instructors as well as former students and Aggie families.



Written By:
Dr. Jenny Wollock
Professor and Director of
Undergraduate Studies
Department of English

What have *you* MISSED?

Last year English Department students produced one play and co-wrote another ("The Play of the Weather" and "Telling Aggieland" projects.) This summer they conducted research projects in the Cushing library and at the Glasscock Institute for the Humanities, as well as in London, explored publishing, business, and the non-profit sector as interns, and partnered with Hispanic Studies on the Bridge of Words initiative to **bring together English majors** interested in English as a Second Language and Hispanic Studies graduate students. This fall we are excited to introduce the new *Burton scholarships* for junior and senior majors, and to begin offering English 303 as the new gateway to our major. We are reworking the Professional Writing Certificate as a credential for English majors interested in multimedia writing and publishing careers. (Look for more details on these developments in upcoming issues of the Aggie and announcements from the UGO.) I am also happy to introduce Frank Miller, our new communications intern. Please join him on Facebook and Twitter as well as in the English Aggies. I look forward to talking with you soon.

Novelist Visits Campus

On Wednesday, October 8th, Texas native and novelist Rene Steinke will be visiting Texas A&M campus to read from her most recent book, FRIENDSWOOD. Follow the Undergraduates Facebook and Twitter for more details on this event.

PLANS *for* the Future

In my second year as Undergraduate Studies Director it will be my pleasure to work with you. *In spite of all the rash words in the mass media, English remains the mother ship*: the foundation of interpersonal communication here on campus across many disciplines and increasingly throughout the world. Your reading, writing, and thinking skills prepare you for rewarding work in many different fields: Among former TAMU English majors can be found a whole galaxy of successful authors, editors, song and script-writers, teachers, technical and scientific writers, lawyers, doctors, executives and entrepreneurs, as well as politicians and administrators. **English studies can also enhance your life: new research is confirming that reading imaginative literature builds social intelligence and the ability to relate to others.**

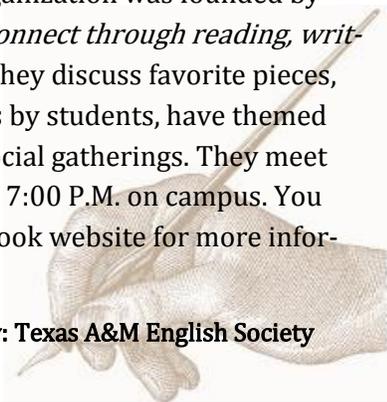
Get Connected On Campus

THE INKLING SOCIETY:

Texas A&M ENGLISH SOCIETY

This student run organization was founded by those who wish to *connect through reading, writing, and literature*. They discuss favorite pieces, critique other pieces by students, have themed parties, and other social gatherings. They meet every Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. on campus. You can visit their Facebook website for more information:

FB: The Inkling Society: Texas A&M English Society



POETRY CLUB OF TEXAS A&M



The goal of this organization is to bring together fellow lovers of poetry for intellectual discussions on their favorite pieces. The *members of this club believe poetry to be a medium which brings people together* and allows an escape from everyday life. They meet for an hour a week and are always looking for new members. For more information visit their Facebook page:

FB: The Poetry Club of Texas A&M

ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY:

SIGMA TAU DELTA



This international English honor society is open to English majors who maintain a 3.0 overall GPA and a 3.0 Major GPA. All applicants to Sigma Tau Delta are required to have completed three semesters at Texas A&M and have taken two college-literature courses during that time. If accepted into the society, *members are eligible to wear honor cords during their graduation ceremony*.

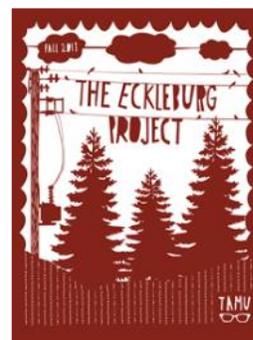
For more information Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society, visit:

<http://bit.ly/1i31XWG>

THE ECKLEBURG PROJECT

The Eckleburg Project is the official undergraduate literary magazine of Texas A&M University. In their magazine, they feature poetry, prose, and art submitted by undergraduates at A&M. According to their Facebook page, *"The mission of The Eckleburg Project is to provide a medium for the creative writers and artists of Texas A&M University to express themselves."*

If you're interested in applying to join the editorial board or submitting your own creative work to The Eckleburg Project, visit their website (www.theeckleburgproject.com).



A Semester Abroad

Departmental financial support is now available to students interested in the program!

Texas A&M students tell of their experiences during the Spring semester abroad in Doha, Qatar.



Above: Group of students participating in the semester at Texas A&M University- Qatar

Michelle Lawrence

Electrical Engineering Major, Class of 2016

Michelle Lawrence heard about the opportunity to study abroad when she visited the her senior year of high school. Wanting a full “immersion” experience, she chose to go overseas for an entire semester. She found her favorite part of the trip to be all the people she met from various parts of the world because of the life lessons many of them had to offer. The semester abroad has helped her at job fairs and possible employers have been thrilled to see the program on her resumé. Her experience has helped her mature and see the world for a more global and universal place as before. **She learned that there is always a way to connect to people, you just have to be willing to look for it, and be willing to respect what you discover.**

Mina Zirlott

Chemical Engineering Major, Class of 2015, Minors in Chemistry and Art History

For engineering majors, it is difficult to find a study abroad program that lines up with their schedule but Mina Zirlott discovered that TAMUQ allowed her to fulfill one of the goals she set for herself. Along with 16 Aggies from different disciplines of engineering, she became a “local” in a foreign country. **Her favorite part of the trip was the camaraderie between the students because they came to rely on one another and watch out for each other.** This experience changed her view of the Middle East and gave her a larger understanding about the area. She believes that it was important to her future careers because in this day in age of global international economy, it is important to be accepting and to be adaptable to different environments.



Above: Texas A&M student participates in riding a camel in Qatar, one of the many fun activities students could take part in while overseas.

These are a few of our **FAVORITE THINGS:**
Summer Reads

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 and Twitter Page.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ “The Screwtape Letters” by C.S. Lewis— Rachelle Cates ◇ “Like Water for Chocolate” by Laura Esquivel — Adelia Humme ◇ “Becoming Madame Mao” by Anchee Min — Danielle Dyke ◇ “The Secret History” by Donna Tartt —Bevin Oliver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ “A Hundred Summers” by Beatriz Williams— Alyssa Spoons ◇ “The Storyteller” by Jodi Picoult—Nicole Piper ◇ “The Eyre Affair” by Jasper Fforde—Lee Sulli- van ◇ “An Experiment in Criticism” by C.S. Lewis— Randy McDonald
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OPEN HOUSE
For the English Undergraduate Offices!

LOCATION:
LAAH 352

DATE:
September
30th

TIME:
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

The TAMU English Undergraduate Office welcomes all English majors to stop by and meet professors, advisors, our director, and other students. Refreshments will be provided by the department for this event.

THIS PUBLICATION BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

OUR LOCATION	HOURS OF OPERATION
Texas A&M University LAAH 352 College Station, TX 77843 (979)- 845-8357	Monday- Friday 8 a.m.— 12 p.m. 1 p.m.— 5 p.m.

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