



THE ENGLISH AGGIE

January/February 2016

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



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*“And now we welcome the new year.
Full of things that have never been.”*

-Rainer Maria Rilke



Words for the New Year

“It's only the beginning now
 ...a pathway yet unknown
 At times the sound of other steps
 ...sometimes we walk alone

The best beginnings of our lives
 May sometimes end in sorrow
 But even on our darkest days
 The sun will shine tomorrow.

So we must do our very best
 Whatever life may bring
 And look beyond the winter chill
 To smell the breath of spring.

Into each life will always come
 A time to start anew
 A new beginning for each heart
 As fresh as morning dew.

Although the cares of life are great
 And hands are bowed so low
 The storms of life will leave behind
 The wonder of a rainbow.

The years will never take away
 Our chance to start anew
 It's only the beginning now
 So dreams can still come true.”

-Gertrude B. McClain, “New
 Beginnings”

*“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language,
 And next year’s words await another voice -
 To make an end is to make a new beginning.”*

-T.S. Eliot, from *Four Quartets*

What can be said in New Year rhymes,
 That’s not been said a thousand times?

The new years come, the old years go,
 We know we dream, we dream we know.

We rise up laughing with the light,
 We lie down weeping with the night.

We hug the world until it stings,
 We curse it then and sigh for wings.

We live, we love, we woo, we wed,
 We wreath our brides, we sheet our dead.

We laugh, we weep, we hope, we fear,
 And that’s the burden of the year.

-Ella Wheeler Wilcox, “The Year”

*“There are far better things ahead than any
 we leave behind.”*

-C.S. Lewis



Announcements

Alternative Shakespeares Film Series

Congratulations to these UPREP students!

Joannah Crosby
 Laura Gould
 Isabella Agostino
 Mykayla Madson
 Clayton Hensley
 Madeline Lowry
 Ashley Fisher
 Hunter Corb
 Victor Cruz

Come see the traveling exhibition: *First Folio!* *The Book That Gave*

Us Shakespeare

J. Wayne Stark Galleries,
 Memorial Student Center
 March 8– April 3, 2016

Visit lonestarfolio.tamu.edu

Tues., Feb 2 - *Hamlet* (1921)



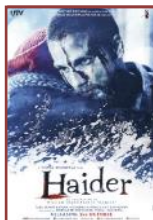
Rudder Tower 601

Thurs., Mar 3 - *Korol Lir* (1971)



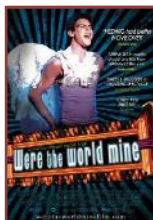
MSC 2406

Mon., Mar 21 - *Haider* (2014)



MSC 2400

Wed., Apr 20 - *Were the World Mine* (2008)



MSC 2300D

Wed., Feb 17 - *Throne of Blood* (1957)

Rudder Tower 601



Wed., Mar 9 - *Shakespeare Behind Bars* (2005)

MSC 2400



Thurs., Apr 7 - *O* (2001)

Rudder Tower 601



Tues., May 3 - *Chimes at Midnight* (1966)

MSC 2400



Every film begins at 6:30 pm. For more information about this series, visit lonestarfolio.tamu.edu/performances/.



From an Anonymous Poet

The Night

Even with crime
With prostitution
With death
And with corruption

We must remember
That there is
A good side
Of the night.

The stars in the sky,
Our sister the Moon,
The lights around our homes,
And those of our dorms

All of them shine
A beauty unmatched,
Brighter than
The finest diamond.

It is traditional that
We must sleep
When the sky
Is dark.

Yet, we may still
Appreciate
What the night
Has to offer.

The night is the time
When fireworks pop
And the stadiums
Become shining stars.

The night is one time
When magic can happen
For the positive half
Of our lives

It is also a time
When a man and woman
Find each other as
A united match

Though the negative
Aspects of the night
Are true, they
Are not the absolute truth.

The beauty of the night
Is out there; it is
Right in front of you.

The Shyness

Why are you so shy?
She asks.

I just don't know,
He replies.

He lost his family,
His friends,

Everyone
He knew.

Now alone,
With many strangers,

Yet with one girl
In love with him.

Perhaps he'll never understand
Why she is close to him every
day.

Perhaps she'll help him do just
that....



Taylor Nutt '17 Poetry



Limbo

Although science condemns our atoms
Damned to never
Touch,
I felt your palm pressing against my
Thigh forsaking a
Mark,
Searing my flesh with a sigil of
A place stuck between -
Forever
And
Never

Id

Memory and Desire, stirring,
He sealed his tarnished eyes, and
dived into deep reverie for
in the vast holds of his cosmic self –
He saw her
Staring back at him,
And they were one.

Cessation

My room is a decayed room.
Creaking floorboards,
Cracking my feet on worn bones of the past.
A mocking bed,
Marking the basin where dishes consume.
The hampering door...us --
Hanging our clothes on old Sundays passed:

This is how the world ends.

My room is a decayed room.
Scents hang from where I found your perfume;
Clothes create depths, scattered to entomb
The one frame turned down...

This is how the world ends.

My room is no longer my own,
But a ghost,
An echo,
Of you.

Not with a bang but a whimper.



English Aggie Updates

Since graduation, I have been working at the Texas A&M Foundation as a marketing specialist. I manage the Foundation's website, social media platforms, brochures and assist with digital advertising projects. I did not plan to stay in the BCS area after graduation, but the position was too good to pass up! There are more and more job opportunities for recent grads in town as the community continues to grow and it's a familiar community for grads to kick-start their careers and really make the most of the Aggie Network.

Even though I work in marketing, I use my English degree every day, whether that's editing articles or drafting creative posts for Facebook. In such a digitally-focused world, it's becoming more of an asset to be able to write well and communicate effectively and professionally, which the English department at Texas A&M definitely prepared me to do.

-Molly Brockenbush, Class of '15



Almost four months exactly after getting my English Language and Literature degree I came to the Republic of Georgia (right between Russia and Turkey), as nothing else but an English Education Volunteer with the Peace Corps. Every day I use my degree to help make a small difference in the lives of the Georgians who live in my gorgeous village in the mountains along the Black Sea. Though I've only been in this amazing and undiscovered country for a short time, I have witnessed the deep desire of people from all ages (little children to the working mom to the elderly) to learn the language that I love and majored in at A&M. I am co-teaching English lessons in the village

school, spending hours tutoring, conducting two large English clubs, and heading an adult English class. I'm also helping organize the National English Spelling Competition as a regional assistant. My English degree opened the doors to this incredible opportunity, and it's making "the toughest job you'll ever love" a little less tough with every challenge that comes my way.

-Grace Kelly, Class of '14



Interviewing a YouTuber

SARAH ALARCON, CLASS OF '13

Tell us a little bit about your YouTube channel.

[Shut Up and POETRY](#) is a slam poetry YouTube channel hosted by two slam poets in Austin, Texas. Andre Bradford (AKA SC Says) and I host a show every week. We share poets' work and then talk about it after, and we invite people to join our conversation about the topic or poem. We accept submissions from anyone who sends us videos of their work. We typically feature Austin artists, but we have received submissions from around the country, and a few from outside the US!



How, when, and why did you begin your YouTube channel?

Shut Up and Poetry was Andre's idea. He had the idea to host a YouTube channel that adds an interactive element (us) to sharing spoken word poetry recordings. We were both interested in spoken word, but had never performed in Austin when we met in 2014. We love spoken word because it is a unique and concise art form which lends itself to current events and issues, as well as raw personal experiences. Through shared experiences and vulnerability, we bond and form positive relationships in our community. Our mission is to share love, healing, peace, magic, stories, and truth into the world through slam poetry.

How have your videos evolved over time?

When we first started the channel, we had this idea of what hosts should sound like, and we had more of a "reporting" style. Now, we have figured out our style, and we shoot our episodes by having a conversation about the work, and sharing that with viewers. Our videos have become more concise, and our fan base has grown since we first started. We recently started collaborating with APS, so now we have access to higher quality videos than the ones we take on our phones!

What is your favorite part about making these YouTube videos?

It is so much FUN. Andre is one of my best friends, and we have had a blast getting together every week, and passionately sharing our art form with the world. We also get to meet a lot of incredible poets, and having the YouTube channel has been a great excuse to talk to the "Big Dogs" in the poetry world. It's an honor to introduce this art form to people.



These are a few of our **FAVORITE THINGS:**
Songs

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.

<p>“Amen” by Anthony Hamilton</p>   <p>“Light Goes Out” by Ages and Ages</p> <p>“Goodbye” by Who is Fancy</p> 	<p>“Am I Wrong” by Nico & Vinz</p>   <p>“Amnesia” by Josh Abbott</p> <p>“Unbreakable Smile” by Tori Kelly</p> 
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Stay Informed

Wishing you had more opportunities to use those excellent essays, creative fiction, and poetry that are languishing on your hard-drive or in the back of your mind? Like “Texas A&M English Undergraduates” on Facebook or follow @TheEnglishAggie on Twitter to stay informed about contests, magazines, and journals to which you can submit your work.

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