



THE ENGLISH AGGIE

November 2015

www.english.tamu.edu

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



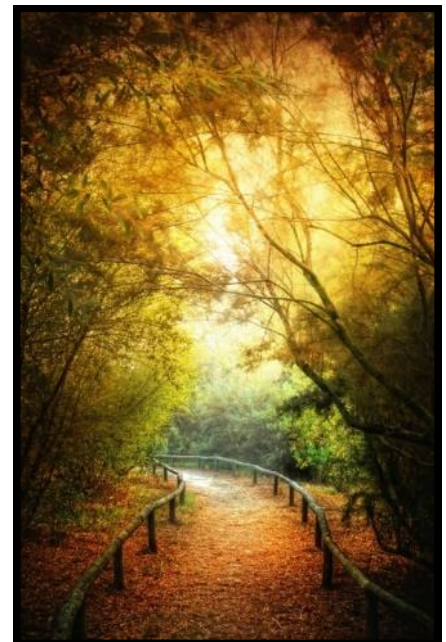
*“I am grateful for what I am and have.
My thanksgiving is perpetual.”*

-Henry David Thoreau

Inside the Issue:

- ⇒ Former Student Profiles (pgs. 2-3)
- ⇒ Radio Show (pg. 4)
- ⇒ Announcements (pg. 5)
- ⇒ Scholarships (pg. 5)
- ⇒ Spring 2016 Courses Descriptions (pgs. 6-7)

*Picture Source: Inspired Magazine, “20+ Amazing Nature
Photography That Will ‘Wow’ You”*



What They're Up To...

UPDATES FROM ENGLISH AGGIE GRADS

I graduated a few months ago and immediately began working at Texas A&M in the LAUNCH department. My official title is "Program Coordinator - National Fellowships and University Scholars," but my duties include honors degree plan advising, promoting opportunities to apply for nationally competitive scholarships, guiding students through the application processes, and helping students revise and edit their application essays. The main scholarships I work with are the Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell, Fulbright, Goldwater, Churchill, and the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program.

Additionally, I run the University Scholars program, a personal and professional development program that selects 10-12 high-achieving freshmen each year. I teach about 30 Scholars (sophomores through seniors) in weekly seminar courses and oversee their roles as ambassadors for the LAUNCH department. In the spring, I will facilitate the application, interview, and selection processes for new Scholars.

-Adelia Humme, Class of '15



Photo credit: Annabelle Aymond '14



I graduated with an English degree from Texas A&M in May 2014. Starting that September, I became a copy editor/page designer for the local Bryan-College Station newspaper, the Eagle. It's been a really great experience and I have learned a lot about desktop publishing, editing, design, and meeting strict deadlines. I have been here over a year now and currently design everything from the front page to special sections within the newspaper. Since the printing industry is in decline, we focus a lot of our energy on web content; I have learned a great deal about how to put content on the web in a way that will reach as many people as possible. Overall, it's been a great experience, and I am very thankful that I was able to find a job after graduation so quickly.

-Taylor Phillips-Rodriguez, Class of '14



Currently, I am the manager of communications at USA Hockey—a role I have held since December of 2014. I oversee all media interactions between our players and staff with the media. I take on all media responsibilities (press releases, media advisories, game notes, line charts, etc.), while also being involved in all content strategies (social media, video, features, etc.). Before joining USA Hockey, I was an editor with the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency's TrueSport movement. Prior to that, I served as the media services manager for USA Team Handball where I was the primary media contact for the organization's residency program and national teams, and also with Hill+Knowlton Strategies as an analyst in the global chairman's office in Austin, Texas.



Photo credit: Bill Wippert— USA Hockey staff headshot

I also completed two post-graduate internships. The first one was with U.S. Paralympics and the United States Olympic Committee where I contributed to communication efforts during the London 2012 Paralympic Games. Aside from highlights including working during the Paralympic Games, a story I wrote was the cover story of the 2013 spring issue of *Veteran Affairs Adaptive Sports Magazine*. The second internship was with Hill+Knowlton Strategies and the non-profit I Live Here, I Give Here, where I oversaw the social and digital media content strategies for their inaugural Amplify Austin event. My strategy and execution resulted in me being invited to speak to a class at the University of Texas at Austin, where I believe the students really enjoyed listening from an Ag.

-Jon Gomez, Class of '12



After graduating from the rhetoric track at Texas A&M, I moved to Spain to teach English. I worked at an EOI as a language and culture assistant, teaching adults. I spent ten months on the Southern coast of Spain, traveling during breaks and blogging about my time abroad at *The Accidental Adventurer*. I returned from Spain in June 2014 and bounced around a bit as I figured out my next move. I meandered my way out to the west coast, spent six months in San Francisco as a nanny, trying to adapt to life as a Giants fan, and then got lost in the Pacific Northwest for a while before visiting all the states in the Western contiguous US on my way back to Texas. Once in Texas, I began my job hunt in the Dallas area, working as a nanny, and fulfilling my lifelong dream of making minimum wage in a bookstore.

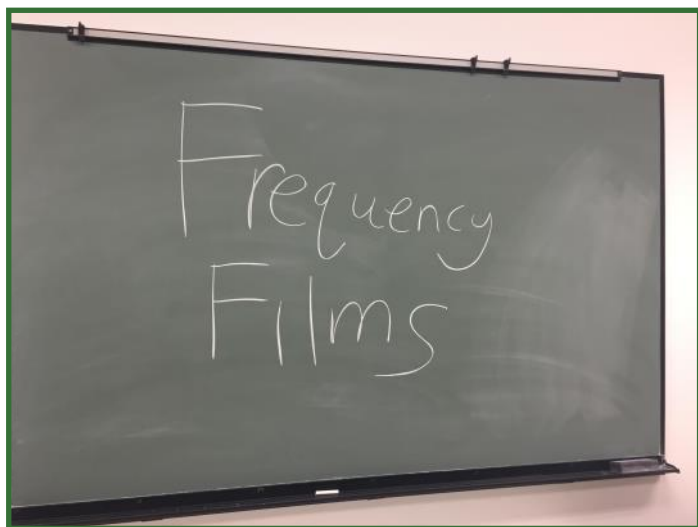
Eventually, it was time to move on and I landed up at my current position—as a communications assistant for the Recording Industry Association of America in Washington DC. The RIAA is a trade organization that represents the recording industry in areas like public policy, anti-piracy, and, in my department, the Gold & Platinum program. In addition to administrative tasks and basic upkeep of our social media accounts, I work closely with the Gold & Platinum program, processing requests for certifications, planning events for special plaque presentations, and handling basic inquiries about our program. I've been in DC for nearly five months now and have already built a great network of friends—largely due to Texas A&M connections.

-Madelyne Adams, Class of '13



What We're Up To...

-CREATING A RADIO SHOW-



Cast and Crew Include:

Mason Hill '19 (Jesse/*Director*)

Dillon Rouse '16 (*Writer*)

Peter Salamat '15 (Joe)

Ryder Robinson '16 (Cameron)

Josh Howells '18 (Brandon)

Samantha Heldman '19 (Sylvia)

Liz Nelson '17 (Danielle)

Samya Irfan '19 (Maria)

Freshman English major Mason Hill has started his college career in quite a fascinating way. "Born out of [a] childhood dream to create a kind of fusion between the vivid imagination involved in novels and the honest delivery of lines by actors," Hill has created a radio program for KANM Student Radio. Titled *Frequency Films*, this program centers around the discussions that take place between an array of characters. Hill says, "I try not to limit the show to any genre, and as such the characters may be discussing anything at any given week." The radio program airs Sunday afternoons at 4 pm on [KANM Student Radio](#), but can also be accessed via the program's [YouTube channel](#).

"...I wanted to provide a voice for everyone who wanted to be heard, the silent composers finally to be provided a symphony that would enchant the box seats and standing areas with the melodious harmony of their undiscovered skill. -Mason Hill

To read the full story, including interviews with the entire *Frequency Films* cast and crew, visit The English Aggie blog at englishaggie.blogspot.com.



Announcements & Scholarships

English Department Scholarships Available

For a full description of English scholarships available, please visit:
english.tamu.edu/undergraduate/scholarships-awards-contests.

University Scholarship Application Now Open

This single application is used to award many scholarships across the university and is now open for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Applications due February 1, 2016 at
sfaid.tamu.edu/uwideapp.

Spring 2016 UPREP Opportunities

The English Department is offering seven (7) Undergraduate Professional and Research Experience Program (UPREP) projects for spring 2016. UPREPs are for ENGL majors only.

Students selected will do the following:

1. receive \$750,
2. serve as a research or project assistant for a faculty member for up to 100 hours,
3. submit an evaluative report of his/her experience at the end of the term, or develop an ENGL 485 in conjunction with the project.

Please complete the [application](#) online (type your information and responses on the on-line form). Print and sign the application, then either scan and attach the completed application to an email to t021325w@tamu.edu or bring the **printed** application to 352 LAAH. Students may apply to more than one position by completing an application for each one.

The application deadline is 5:00pm, November 24, 2015 .



Spring 2016 Course Descriptions

FILM 299 "History of Film" (Dr. Morey): This course surveys 100+ years of international film history in its chronological and geographical diversity, emphasizing the formal and institutional properties of film as medium, social document, entertainment industry, and technical and economic practices.

ENGL 304 "Race, Print, Culture, and Digital Humanities" (Dr. Ives): This course is focused on three primary areas of scholarly inquiry -- critical race studies, print culture studies, and digital humanities. Students will be directly involved in working on a new digital project, Digital Black Bibliography (DiBB), which is being developed here at Texas A&M, and can expect to participate in traditional class discussion and lab days that bridge the theoretical aspects of the course with methodological and applied components.

ENGL 345 "Writer's Studies: Prose" (Dr. White): Students will study the elements of fiction, focusing on ways in which writers apply traditional and experimental techniques. Topics include the evolution of an individual work through revision, the connection between biography and artistic production, and the study of writers' theories of the art of fiction. Writers discussed will include Jennifer Egan (*A Visit from the Goon Squad*), Megan Abbot (*Dare Me*), and F. Scott Fitzgerald (*The Great Gatsby*). Prerequisites: ENGL 235; junior or senior classification.

ENGL 359 "Forms of Creative Writing" (Prof. Ellis): Screenwriting is an intensive writing workshop intended to build a foundation in narrative screenwriting. The course teaches students to produce screenplays by developing character, story, and structure. Students develop systematic work habits in order to produce the expected outcome, a draft of a feature length screenplay.

ENGL 390 "Representations of Masculinity in Four Major Victorian Long Poems" (Dr. Machann): We will study representations of masculinity—the trait of behaving in ways thought to be typical of or appropriate for males—in four important long poems: Alfred Tennyson's *Idylls of the King* (1842-91), Elizabeth Barrett Browning's *Aurora Leigh* (1857), Arthur Hugh Clough's *Amours de Voyage* (1858), and Robert Browning's *The Ring and the Book* (1868-69). The topic of masculinity is central to our understanding of Victorian literature: its major themes, its idealism and social criticism, its perplexities and uncertainties.

ENGL 392 "Literature, Religion, Culture: C.S. Lewis" (Dr. Boenig): In the 1930s the Oxford literary historian and critic C. S. Lewis began a remarkable career as a self-appointed apologist for the Christian faith. This course will explore his major works and their subsequent appropriation by popular religious culture during the fifty years since his death.

ENGL 394 "Victorian Detective Novel and the Advent of Modernity" (Dr. Vasilakis): The class explores the evolution of the Victorian detective and crime story, as well as our fascination with crime. Through our reading of specific stories written by Wilkie Collins, Andrew Forrester, Charles Felix, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and others, we will examine the representation of the detective as an iconic figure within a specific political and social context, and our attraction for individuals who function outside the parameters of the law.



ENGL 396 "Childhood in American Literature from the Colonial Period to the Late Nineteenth Century" (Dr. Hodgson): This course will explore American literature and culture from the colonial period through the nineteenth century with a focus on representations of childhood, literature for children, and literature written by children.

ENGL 415 "Virginia Woolf" (Dr. Ross): As a stylistic innovator and cultural critic, Virginia Woolf is a central figure of modern British literature. This course will survey not only the novels that cemented her reputation, but also her influential short stories and nonfiction. You will be asked to cultivate and justify your own interpretive framework for analyzing Woolf in a way that accounts for the strengths and limits of biographical criticism, cultural studies, and formalist analysis.

ENGL 481 "Lucretius and Epicureanism" (Prof. Hannah): This senior seminar will focus on the development of a seminal philosophical school of thought that finds its culmination in a single work, *On the Nature of Things*, which profoundly impacts the modern world. The class is divided into three general areas: the discovery of the manuscript in 1417, the work itself, and the reaction to it across time.

ENGL 481 "Jekyll and Hyde: Literature and Film" (Dr. Hoagwood): In this seminar, we will study the novel *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson, four film adaptations of that work, and resources in the cultural context and interpretation of the works. Research and writing will include other literary works, background materials, and scholarly sources. The course includes study of multimedia issues and re-mediation.

ENGL 481 "Nineteenth-Century Travel and the Body" (Dr. Howell): This course will examine nineteenth-century depictions of travel's effects on the body. It also analyzes nineteenth-century worries regarding traveling bodies that cross national and cultural borders. Our reading includes invalid diaries, nonfictional travel memoirs, short and long fiction, with a focus on works set in colonial Africa, India and the Caribbean.

ENGL 481 "Transnational Representations of Risk" (Dr. Johansen): As the recent outbreak of the Ebola virus, the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis and climate change make clear, contemporary life is characterized by risks of all sorts. Moreover, as these situations also illustrate, the effects of these risks are neither universal nor equivalent: risks are more manageable for some people than others—something that is shaped by how we represent these risks and the subjects of it. This senior seminar will examine depictions of global danger and safety in transnational literary and visual texts and consider how these texts represent the contemporary world.

ENGL 481 "Hollywood in the 1930s" (Dr. Morey): The 1930s were an extraordinarily productive time for Hollywood, marked by great generic diversity and a willingness to engage with contemporary political and economic concerns. This course will investigate the economic, technical, and social underpinnings of this moment by examining a wide variety of types of filmmaking (musicals, horror films, crime pictures, "fallen woman" films, etc.). We will also glance at filmmaking outside the mainstream and the cross-fertilization between film and radio.

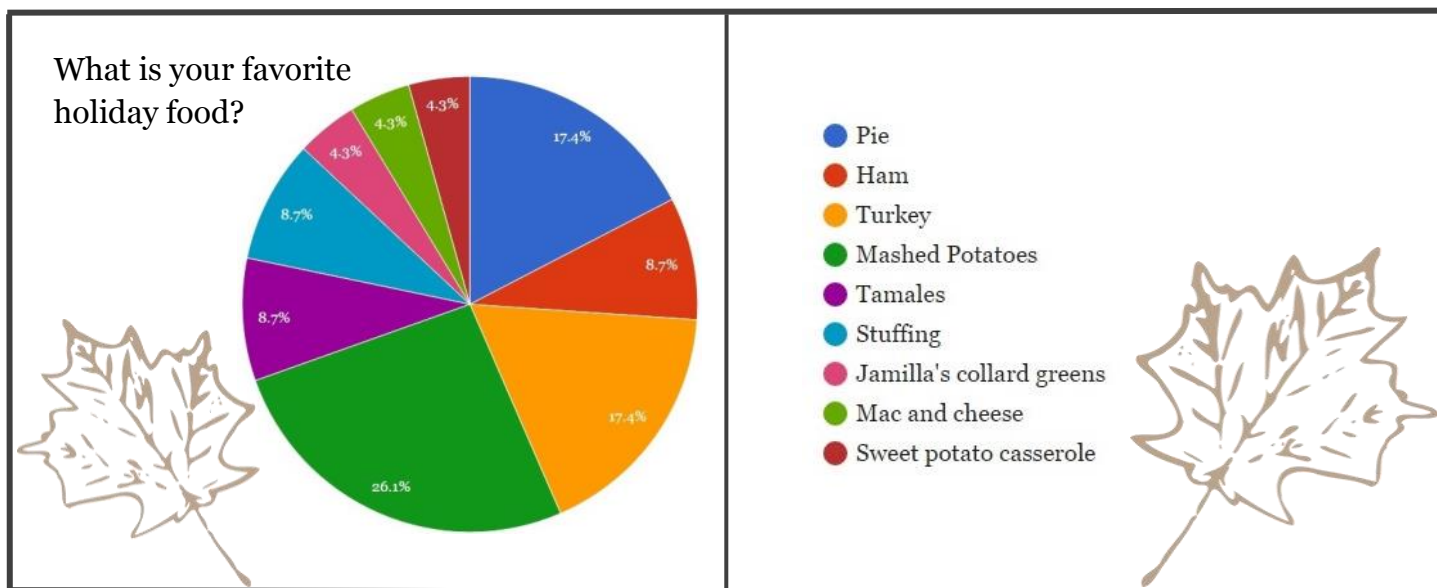
CLAS 410 "Reception and the Classical Tradition" (Dr. Kallendorf): This course will explore the theoretical, historical, and aesthetic processes by which later cultures have been shaped in response to ancient Greece and Rome. In parallel with the readings, each student will work on a research project of his or her interest, either following one work of ancient literature into later periods or analyzing how a modern work has absorbed and transformed material from the classics. *This course can be substituted for ENGL 481.*

For more information concerning courses offered next semester, please visit english.tamu.edu/spring-2016.



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

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.



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.

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.

Email: Undergrad-office@tamuenglish.org

Stay Connected

-  Twitter: @TheEnglishAggie
-  Facebook: Texas A&M English Undergraduates

Editor: Laura Matas '16