

The English Aggie

The newsletter for Texas A&M's English Undergrads.



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Photo by Reveille's Twitter account

October Happenings

On and off campus, College Station is bubbling with events this time of year. Kick off the fall season with festive outings and helpful workshops!

10.1-31

Aggie Habitat Pumpkin Patch // October 1- 31

Enjoy the fall festivities with Aggie Habitat for Humanity's Pumpkin Patch! All of your proceeds will be directly used to build a habitat home here in Bryan/College Station. Located at Covenant Presbyterian Church, the Patch is full of pumpkins big and small.

10.6

Texas A&M's 140th Birthday // October 6

A university-wide birthday celebration will take place at Academic Plaza from 10 am to 3 pm. Birthday cake will be served, as well as performances from student groups, tailgate games, and several giveaways.

10.18

Martha Wells' Science Fiction Lecture // October 18

Aggie and renowned author Martha Wells will present on Worldbuilding in Science Fiction and Fantasy. This is part of the Cushing Memorial Library and Archives' Halbert W. Hall Lecture Series. The event will be held in Rudder Tower, Room 601 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm.

10.20

Big LAAH Reading Series // October 20

Join us this fall for fiction and poetry presented by faculty, staff, and students. Jason Marc Harris and Michael Fuentez will be reading on the 20th, with another group to read in November. All sessions will be in LAAH 453 and will begin at 4:00 pm.

10.21

MSC Aggie Cinema - Suicide Squad // October 21

Halloween is right around the corner! Get into the spirit with MSC Aggie Cinema's screening of Suicide Squad. Admission is free, just bring your Student ID. Join them at Rudder Forum at 7 pm for a good time.

10.24

How To Prepare For A Successful Interview // October 24

Attend the Career Center's interview seminar and learn how to prepare for interviews and strategies for answering common interview and behavioral interview questions. This event is open to all majors and degree levels.

10.28

CONNECT: Your Link to Liberal Arts // October 28

Former students and donors return to campus every year for CONNECT, a weekend of events hosted by the College of Liberal Arts. Faculty members will present their research, discuss college initiatives, and students will have the opportunity to network. Register at tx.ag/CONNECT by October 12.



English Aggies in the Media

Meet Joebill Munoz, a current English Aggie! As an employee for 12th Man Productions, Joebill has great insight on what it's like to transition from English student to media employee.

What do you do for 12th Man Productions and what skills have you gained from the position?

At 12th Man Productions I serve as Associate Director for SEC Network Plus broadcasts, which airs on the WatchESPN app. What that actually means is I work in television sports broadcasting. At 12th Man Productions we broadcast live games that are not aired on a nationally televised station. This opportunity came about when Texas A&M joined the Southeastern Conference in 2012 and the SEC Network came along in the Fall of 2013. Thus, I was hired the Spring of my freshman year to assist in these broadcasts.

My role is to work with a Producer to edit pre-produced content then develop story-lines. During a game, I relay information between my Producer and replay operators. Additionally, I send our broadcast in and out of commercial break via an SEC Network representative in Charlotte.

Besides broadcasting, 12th Man Productions has given me experience in videography and video editing. I serve as one of four videographers for "The Pulse," an award winning television series covering the Texas A&M football team. My role is to film home football games and assist in the editing process. Additionally, this year I will be covering the Texas A&M men's basketball team.

Besides the technical side of the job, what I appreciate the most about 12th Man Productions is the

professional environment. Working alongside a full time staff of professionals to conduct a live television event is an experience that I wouldn't have gotten anywhere else on campus. I've learned that this has shaped me most as a person, employee, and student. I would not know how to conduct myself with professors and absorb their knowledge if not for my experience with 12th Man Productions.

Do you enjoy working in the media? Would you like to do it after college?

First, I love my job. During a broadcast I sit in front of a screen with six angles of a play, which means I truly have the best seat in the house. During a football game, I get to stand on the sidelines and listen to the pageantry of college sports. If the right opportunity presents itself after college then I will definitely consider it.

What advice would you give to a student who wants to work in the media?

Like any other profession, I advise students to work hard. You can only develop a work ethic through experience so my suggestion is to apply to a job. Second, I would suggest that you not force yourself to a certain field or profession. If the media is not for you

then that's okay. But you won't know if you like it until you try it. And if you don't like it then just quit. I had a mentor tell me that quitting is underrated. But don't quit on everything, just try something else out. I'd like to pass that along.

In what way has your English degree prepared you for your job with 12th Man Productions?

I think like with any job I've had, my liberal arts education enhances my critical thinking skills. Sometimes you are going to find yourself in pressure situations where you have to make quick decisions. My liberal

Sometimes you are going to find yourself in pressure situations where you have to make quick decisions. My liberal arts education has prepared me for those instances.

arts education has prepared me for those instances. Last spring, we were scheduled to air both basketball and softball broadcasts on the same weekend while two full-time staff employees were out of commission. My supervisor approached me to step into the role as Director, which is a role previously reserved for a full-time staff member. Later, I was told that I was recommended for that role because I demonstrated that I was able to handle high pressure situations.

Overcoming Writer's Block

At one point or another, English major or not, you have suffered from what they call “writer’s block.” A frustrating halt to the creative or academic process, even the pros struggle to fight it off. Here’s what we (and a few experts) have to say.

“The secret to getting ahead is getting started.”

Mark Twain

So, you’ve got a huge paper to write, but the words aren’t coming to you. The blank page in front of you is taunting and the deadline breathing down your neck isn’t helping either. What do you do? In the wise words of Mark Twain, don’t procrastinate. Really, take his advice! Procrastinating comes as second nature to most, and we understand that it’s tough, but leave your bad habits behind. Get it going early enough so that if writer’s block does visit you, it won’t make you miss a due date.



“If I waited till I felt like writing, I’d never write at all.”

Anne Tyler

Understandably, no one really enjoys sitting down and knocking out 10 pages of a research paper. Most of the time, you end up just waiting around until inspiration hits you. According to Tyler, waiting for the words to come to you isn’t a great idea. You need to go find them yourself. Tyler believes that the best cure for writer’s block is to simply write anyway. Fight through the blockage and put that pen to paper.



“Cure it this evening by stopping whatever you’re writing and doing something else.”

Ray Bradbury

The wonderful Ray Bradbury believes that taking a break is almost always a good idea for the struggling writer. Wait a second. We just told you to keep writing through it, and now we’re telling you to teak a break. Confused? Not every tactic works for everyone, so find what works best for you.



“What it boils down to is fear.”

Davis Land

Sometimes the hardest thing for a writer to do is begin. Davis Land, an employee at the University Writing Center, advises students not to fear the blank page. The Writing Center addresses writer’s block in their podcast, Write Right. Found on their Soundcloud, the podcast aids students with any issues they might find when writing. Davis explains that a lot of what causes writer’s block isn’t a lack of ideas. Rather, our own insecurities get in the way of our writing.



What can you do
with your

English Degree?

Photo by Texas A&M University

We sat down with current senior English Aggies to talk big-picture dreams and goals. From IT to editing, English Aggies are going places. Read on to see the many things you can become with the help of an English degree.

When I get my degree I hope to enter into a **technological field** working with programmers to make their websites and businesses more accessible. I'm already in contact with companies like **Google and Microsoft**, working on internships and building a resume - every technological field needs a good English major to help them see things in a new light! **Amanda Franks '17**

After graduating in December, I'm planning to enter into **A&M's TLAC Graduate Certification** Program in the Spring. Through this program, I will earn my teaching certification and a **Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction**. I hope to begin teaching high school English in the Fall of 2017. I'm excited to begin my career as an **English teacher!** **Taylor Dimmitt '17**

After I graduate I will be doing **Teach for America**; I will be teaching secondary math in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. After I am finished with my two-year commitment, I plan on pursuing a dual **Masters degree** in Social Work and Divinity from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. I hope to one day write novels and **Children's books** as well as open my own facility to aid underprivileged children in all the necessities of life.
Allison Thomas '17

When I graduate, I want to get started on my career in the publishing industry as a **copy-editor**, since I love to work with words. Ideally, I want a position that can combine both of my degrees (English and **Women's & Gender Studies**), so hopefully something along the lines of a publication with a feminist spin, like Bitch Media. **Alex Cowan '17**

After graduation, I plan to continue on to get an **M.A. in Creative Writing** followed by a **PhD in English Literature** with an emphasis in Creative Writing. For my PhD, I would love to study C.S. Lewis and incorporate medieval and fantasy literature into my writing. Between my to graduate degrees, I hope to **live abroad** for a few years to immerse myself in other cultures; Not only will this fulfill my life-long dream to live in Europe, but it will serve to strengthen my imagination and teach me new languages, settings, and cultures to pull from for novels and stories. **Bailey Woods '17**

Eventually, I would love to have a **novel published**, but since that is both boring and long-term, I intend to move to Austin and work in **editorial** at a (print!) **publishing house**, and then have swashbuckling adventures and start a revolution or two, even if I have to write them myself. Okay, truthfully, I am very boring and just want to do normal, unrealistic, stereotypically-English-major-ish things, with extra grit and glitter. **Burgundy Gardner '17**

Anything.



SIGMA TAU DELTA

INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY

Sigma Tau Delta is now accepting applications for the fall 2016 semester.

Applications can be found online (www.english.tamu.edu) or picked up in LAAH 352.

Deadline is October 31, 2016.



Do you create art, photography, prose, or poetry?

If so, submit your work to The Ebleburg Project, Texas A&M's official undergraduate literary magazine. Submissions will be open until November 11th, but be sure to submit early! The submission price will increase throughout the semester. Submission fees will be \$3 until October 19th, to be raised to \$5 until submissions close.

Thanks & Gig 'Em

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Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday

8 AM - 12 PM
1 PM - 5 PM

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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. Email your work to EnglishAggieStories@gmail.com and you could end up published in *The English Aggie*!