Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered weak and weary, Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore—While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping, As of some one gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door. "'Tis some visitor," I muttered, "tapping at my chamber door. Only this and nothing. Ah, distinctly I remember it was in bleak December; And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor. Eagerly I wished the morrow;—vainly I had sought to borrow From my books surcease of sorrow—sorrow for the lost Lenore—For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore—Nameless here for evermore. And the silken, sad, uncertain rustling of each purple curtain Thrilled me—filled me with fantastic terrors never felt before; So that now, to still the beating of my heart, I stood repeating "'Tis some visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door—Some late visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door. This it is—evermore.
It all started in 1984, with a mission to connect reading and writing enthusiasts through social activities. It emphasizes interaction between student members and the Administration and Faculty of the English Department as a way to allow a bond over their love for literature. Although the origins of how this club was founded have remained lost throughout the years, their core values have prevailed. From early on, their goal was intended to bring Aggies together and discuss literature and all parts of the written word. From undergoing some name changes like the English Language and Literature Society, to now officially being known as The Inkling Society. Every semester takes a focus on a single book, and the Society talks about the strengths and weaknesses of that given novel. “In alternate weeks, we focus on our members’ own works, providing support and feedback on the submitted works to help our members become better writers, as well as better critiquers and editors,” President of The Inkling Society, Kaylin Krienke said.

This semester’s choice of weapon? American Psycho by Bret Easton Ellis! The postmodern literature will be discussed and analyzed in-depth. The group will also take focus on developing and bettering their editing skills during their workshops, so that way they can continue to build a community for literature lovers and creative writing.

You can join the club with only a small fee of $30 for the year, which funds socials and t-shirts in the membership. The only requirements? a love for all sorts of literature, an open mind and open heart! “Our socials are a great way to take a break from the stress of schoolwork. We often watch movies, play games and eat. We are also involved in several community service projects over the course of the year, so those with giving hearts can come together and do good for the community,” Krienke added.

For more information on how to join email Kaylin Krienke at inkling.officers@gmail.com or find them on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/InklingSocietyTAMU/.

“...there is an idea of a Patrick Bateman, some kind of abstraction, but there is no real me, only an entity, something illusory, and though I can hide my cold gaze and you can shake my hand and feel flesh gripping yours and maybe you can even sense our lifestyles are probably comparable: I simply am not there.”

– Bret Easton Ellis, American Psycho
The night is dark. Not dark as in the absence of light, but a soothing dark, similar to the balancing act between sleep and actual rest. And your lungs rhythmically perform a ballad you are unaware of, and they sing to me a song I never thought anyone would care enough to compose for me. As I press my ear to your chest, the butterflies in my stomach, fluttering, dance and sing along to this song as if they’ve never heard music before. I hold this night, this moment deep in my heart, I burn it into the back of my eyes so I may choose to see it when the world is attempting to make me view the other kind of dark. There is a forest of knowledge, of wit and laughter and memories, some old some new, some yet to be made growing out of you and even though I thought falling in love was about finally being found, my deepest gratitude flourishes from being lost in these forested woods, as I grow right beside you.
The Aggie Creative Collective

By Ashley Salas
"If it’s worth doing, it’s worth doing well."
-The Aggie Creative Collective

When the outcome of a conversation turns big ideas into reality, creative minds fill the universe. The Aggie Creative Collective, partnered with the English Department, the University Writing Center, and LAUNCH, is a new summer program that links creative arts, undergraduate scholarly research, and performance. “Too often we make the mistake of assuming that our creative and scholarly talents don’t mix. ACC challenges that stereotype: it’s all about fusing creativity, performance, and critical thinking,” Dr. Ives, co-founder of ACC, said.

Undergraduate students are given the opportunity to work in-depth on a creative writing project (e.g., novel, creative non-fiction, short prose or poetry collection, screenplay, or staged play) for five weeks over the summer! Lead by our English professors Dr. White and Dr. Harris, participants will develop proposals for a creative undergraduate thesis suitable for submission to the Undergraduate Research Scholars Program and engage in scholarly creative research methodologies. In workshops and through individual conferences, they will strengthen creative skills and projects by learning about the structure of a creative thesis proposal, developing their creative writing, and bettering their performance skills. The Collective will culminate in a short performance of their creative works in progress.

A program like this has benefits for students who want to pursue a creative field, but it will also give them an edge in many other professions, and a $500 scholarship awarded to the participants that attend all of the sessions wouldn’t hurt either! “The students in this program get to work in a small group with outstanding faculty and visiting writers. Beyond that, students who complete the residency will grow as artists, and if they also complete a creative thesis, they will distinguish themselves as creative, flexible thinkers able to excel not only in communicating their ideas, but in creating innovative approaches to their chosen careers,” Dr. Ives added.

Applications are now open and can be found at: https://writingcenter.tamu.edu/Students/The-Aggie-Creative-Collective/Aggie-Creative-Collective-Application

*Applications close on February 14!*

For more information, or if you have any questions, email Dr. Ives at m-ives@tamu.edu

**Did You Know?**

Did you know that English is the 7th most popular major for physicians, and that humanities majors have the highest MCAT scores of all medical school applicants?
Going back home is always a struggle. I don’t think there is enough mental preparation for the usual questions everybody asks. Without giving me a minute to breathe, they start worrying about my future and what will become of me after college. “Oh, you want to be a teacher?” No, Jenine. For the millionth time, I don’t want to be a teacher. “Oh, you’re studying professional writing? Good luck with that.” Thanks, Margaret. With your quizzled face and tight smile, I have never felt so much support in my life.

What’s so bad about being an English major, anyway? English is such a fundamental aspect in this world and yet, it’s looked down upon. I apologize for not being a pre-med, business or engineering major. I apologize I prefer my happiness over money. But I’m an English major, please deal with my decision.

Majoring in English has educated both my mind and heart. As a cornerstone of the humanities, it has taught me to be human. My world consists of words and stories, not numbers. I believe storytelling is one of humanity’s more notable and noble traits. In them, there is a connection no other field could provide. Being an English major not only means creating a world of your own and publishing it for people to imagine it in real life, but it also means studying history, politics, logic, and culture from all around the world, through all different eras. It’s not just about writing essays and reading Jane Austen.

I don’t need to be an English teacher to prove my degree was worth the four years of university. I can apply my education in basically anything in the workforce. The solid foundation of critical thinking, clear writing, and oral communication can be an advantage to any career. Distinguishing “you’re” and “your” are key for marketing and advertising, analyzing texts as a reporter or as an editor for the government. Writing is a display of intelligence and I intend to use it. Take that, society! Or better yet, take that, Geraldine!
Share Your Story

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?

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

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