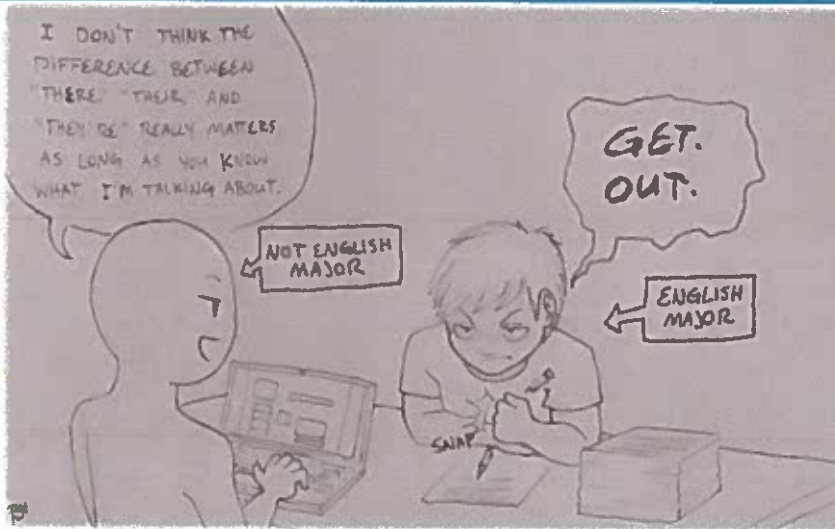


THE DUCTILE ANCHOR

Newsletter for the University of Texas at Tyler Department of Literature and Languages

ISSUE 2
SPRING 2016



Student artwork by Rachel Brumley

“A Noiseless Patient Spider” by Walt Whitman

“And you, O my Soul, where you stand,
Surrounded, surrounded, in
measureless oceans of space,
Ceaselessly musing, venturing,
throwing,—seeking the spheres, to
connect them;
Till the bridge you will need, be
form’d—till the ductile anchor
hold;
Till the gossamer thread you fling,
catch somewhere, O my Soul.”
(lines 6-10)

HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS By Josh Grijalva, 2013 BA in English

I'd never put much thought into my degree and how I would use it when I was a student. I just wanted to walk across that stage and hear my name being called out to the heavens. My closest family, friends, and significant other were all in attendance, except for the one that wasn't allowed to be there physically. And they said my name, if incorrectly. I did it. I was a university graduate.

I had always heard: “What are you going to do with your degree?” “Where are you going to teach?” Or my personal favorite, “Why did you waste your time?” Well, I found a job, and I am building a career. I work as a claims adjuster for State Farm. Not only that, I am one of the top performing associates in my section with certification in nine states.

How did being an English major lead me to success in this career? My degree

gave me more than the ability to deconstruct the meaning of Hemingway's “Hills Like White Elephants” through the application of Lacanian theory. It has given me more than the ability to scrutinize and debate the use of certain words through different literary movements. If you choose to be an English Scholar you'll develop comprehensive written and spoken communication skills, become adept at arguing a point, frame a narrative, and analyze various levels of meaning. But most importantly, you'll meet some of the brightest minds. The diversity of ideas and perspectives you will encounter in your department and your classes are some of the rarest in the academic realm. Other fields of study have a niche or certain personalities that are associated with those programs, but the English department is filled with some of the

most random individuals you will ever have the pleasure of meeting. You'll meet the crazy metal head that sits front row or the awesome pink haired lady over by the windows or the tatted up crazy Mexican (like me) while you learn about how bad ass Emerson was. (Seriously, read “The American Scholar.”)

The skills I learned as an English major allow me to speak with clients and explain how their policies apply to their situation. I am able to convey with confidence and empathy decisions based on the facts presented to me, using the policy as my literary theory. I never thought I'd be working in claims, but I am, and I have an English degree. I apply the skills I learned as an English major in every conversation, interaction, and presentation. If you want to succeed in the business world, become an English major!

EDITORS

Layout Editor: Alia Pappas

Graduate Editor: Lori Cook

Artists: Monica Hanes and Rachel Brumley

Faculty Editor: Dr. Ann Beebe



THE DOUBLE MAJOR AND WHY IT'S GOOD FOR YOU

By Dr. Martin Slann

Dean of the College of Arts and
Sciences

A carefully selected major and minor are critical to becoming and remaining a successful undergraduate. Both can be extremely helpful in securing a job and a career that you will be happy in and that will provide a good income. In brief, your undergraduate career can easily determine what you will be doing for the next four or five decades. But what if you want to really maximize your time here and put your studies to their best usage? Consider a double major. It's not difficult to double major. Simply take the minor and add a few more courses and you've got it. You need not spend more time or money since a double major is feasible in four years. Prospective employers will be impressed. Think about it and then talk to your faculty advisor.



HOW I USE MY ENGLISH DEGREE IN STEM

By Stephanie Fischer Daugherty

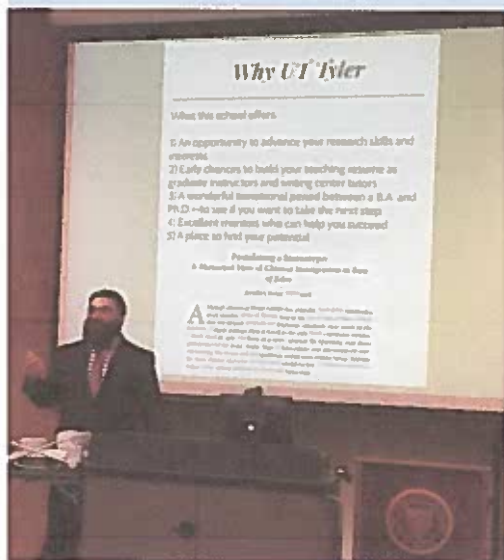
Lecturer in the Biology Department, UT Tyler
1995 BA in English, Sonoma State University (CA)

After earning both a BA in English Literature and a BA in Biology, I went on to earn my PhD in Biomedical Sciences at Mayo Graduate School. I have found that my experience and degree in English have been invaluable throughout my work as a scientist and as a teacher.

I remember college friends asking if it was difficult to study two such completely different disciplines. I would argue they are not all that different. To train to become a scholar in English is to learn the processes of analysis and synthesis until they become second nature. In the study of literature, students learn to analyze the material, identify patterns, and research additional sources to synthesize a hypothesis. Then the process of evaluating evidence begins,

in an effort to support or contradict the hypothesis.

These processes are not all that different in STEM fields. Scientists are also constantly analyzing new and old research, identifying patterns and the areas that need to be further explored. They must then synthesize that information to offer a hypothesis, and then carefully design experiments in order to provide data that will either support or contradict their hypothesis. They must endeavor to remain, as all scholars must, unbiased in their experimental design and data gathering; they must accept when a hypothesis is not supported as part of the process of successful science. Most importantly, scientists must communicate their work effectively to their colleagues and to the world at



Chase Sanchez (2009 BA in English; 2011 MA in English) is a current Ph. D candidate at TCU. He delivered a presentation on "Graduate School: Truths and Tropes" in February 2016 on the UT Tyler campus.

large through their writing and teaching. I have found that to be a scholar in English and to be a scholar in Science is to use the skills of analysis and synthesis constantly. Furthermore, I have used the writing and communication skills I honed during my undergraduate work on a daily basis as a teacher as I design my courses. I have written textbooks to better serve my students, and modeled these processes in my classrooms to help students learn to critically

evaluate and write about science. My degree in English is a fundamental part of what I do every day at UT Tyler to help my students excel in STEM fields.



Student artwork by Monica Hanes.

INTERNSHIPS FOR ENGLISH/SPANISH MAJORS

By Raven Johnston

2013 BA in English; MA in English expected 2016

Internships can be an immensely valuable part of the university experience. English and Spanish majors have a wide range of internships available to them—from the more obvious, like internships in publishing and teaching fields, to the less often considered, like writing standardized test questions.

Many book publishers are based in New York City, and several of the internships related to editing or publishing are found there. Unfortunately, most of those internships are unpaid—or, at most, pay minimum wage rates—and NYC is notoriously expensive. New Directions Publishing (ndbooks.com) has a rolling-acceptance internship in Manhattan. Though a secretarial position by any other name, the ability to interact personally (the office employs less than a dozen people) with one of the most innovative publishers of the twentieth century would be invaluable on the resume of someone aspiring towards the publishing field. One Story (onestory.com) is a publisher of contemporary short stories whose internship is open this summer in Brooklyn. Applications for Penguin Random House's summer internship programs are open till late April. There are also often openings with university presses, such as SUNY Press's internship program, in which interns learn about "the key procedures, policies, and operational systems associated with a select aspect of the publishing process." Many publishers in Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Dallas, Austin, and San Antonio will also have internship programs. The pay rate, weekly hours and length of publishing internships vary widely, and mostly depend on the size and nature

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

On the cover:

- "How to Succeed in Business"
- Artwork by Rachel Brumley
- Excerpt from "A Noiseless Patient Spider" by Walt Whitman
- List of this issue's editors and artists

"The Double Major and Why It's Good for You"

How to Use Your English Degree in STEM

English/Spanish major internship advice and experiences

New Sigma Tau Delta Members

Alumni Updates

Student and Alumni Achievements

Why We're English Majors

"English Majors Offer Advice to New Students"

Artwork by Monica Hanes and Rachel Brumley



of the publisher— independent and small presses’ internships tend to be unpaid but have fluid internship length and level of involvement, while the largest publishers often pay and have more traditional internship programs.

There are also internships in other fields for ENGL/SPAN majors, such as with standardized testing companies like Educational Testing Service (SAT, GRE, etc.), searchable at www.ets.org/careers/internships/. Of particular note is the English Language Learning Summer Institute internship, which is a versatile and large program in which interns help with the creation of ELL-based standardized tests (which involves “writing items that test knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, and reading comprehension” or even “developing scenarios and prompts that allow candidates to demonstrate their speaking or writing skills”).

English and Spanish majors would also be eligible for online internships. Dzanc Books’ (dzancbooks.org) online editing internship, or the editing intern opportunity for JStor Daily (daily.jstor.org) are just two opportunities. The latter asks for interns to “research stories, help post blog entries in WordPress, and collaborate on tweets related to key events in history”—of high interest to those with a penchant for blogging. I held an internship with Dzanc Books. For me, the experience included everything from reading and rating manuscript submissions to writing book blurbs and helping with the website.

There are a number of ways to find new internship opportunities in the English and Spanish fields—Bookjobs.org can be useful. The Association of American University Presses keeps a job board, which includes internships and is frequently updated (<http://www.aaupnet.org/resources/jobs-list>). Even if an internship isn’t explicitly advertised, you can ask a company about future opportunities—or even offer to pioneer an internship program.

And lastly, UT Tyler’s Career Services (<https://www.uttyler.edu/careerservices/patriotjobs.php>) has listings for many local and regional positions, such as internships for the University Academy After School Program, where “[i]nterns will be responsible for helping SC create interesting classes for students who attend program.” Take advantage of this wonderful service office on our campus! They are eager to help our students land quality internships that offer job training and networks for future careers.



SIGMA TAU DELTA

INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY

**UT Tyler’s Sigma Tau
Delta English Honor
Society welcomed 21 new
members in 2015:**

Ronald Benjamin
Beach (Graduate)
Alex Brooks
Laci Campbell
Jessica L. Cobb
Katie Davidson
Claire Kruse (Graduate)
Sarah LaPrade
Riley Lauderdale
Lena Liedtke
Reba Mayo
Alia Pappas
Elizabeth Parrish (Graduate)
Rachel Parsons
Heather Schmig
Tammie Unger
Amy Nicole Van Deventer
Jason Walker (Graduate)
Alelya Wheeler
Mary E. Williams
Preslea Wilson
Seth Wilson (Graduate)

**Congratulations to our
new members!**

“THE IMPACT OF AN INTERNSHIP: WHY ENGLISH MAJORS AND MINORS SHOULD THINK OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM” BY SARAH DRAPER AND KELSEY WELLS

Sarah Draper

**Community Involvement Intern,
Brookshire Grocery Company
Senior, Graduating May 2016
Double Major- English and Mass
Communications:**

In August 2015, I began my internship at Brookshire Grocery Company and

was offered the opportunity to extend for the spring semester. During my time with BGC, I have acquired amazing experience that I can take with me for the rest of my career. This internship has taught me so much about working in the corporate world. I have loved putting the skills from both of my

majors to work in this atmosphere. BGC is my second internship; I held an internship with BSCENE Magazine in 2013. One thing I have learned is that internships are important because they let you learn in the field. They let you take your classroom knowledge to work and help you decide if what you have

ALUMNI UPDATES FOR SPRING 2016

Our department graduates are listed by the date of their first degree at the University of Texas at Tyler.

- 2007 Alice Crocker** (BA in English); M. Ed. from Lamar University (2010); 12th Grade English Teacher at Kilgore HS
- 2008 Jamie Bitzenhofer** (BA in English and POLS); MA in Interdisciplinary Research from the University of Bologna, Campus di Forli (2014); Yachiyo Board of Education Assistant Language Teacher (Japan); Contingent Faculty in Political Science at UT Tyler and TJC
- 2009 Judy Carpenter** (BA in English); M. Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction (2013); M. Ed. in Educational Administration (2015); Certified Principal (2016); Teacher, Academic Coordinator, Instructional Coach, TISD Instructional Specialist
- James Chase Sanchez** (BA in English); MA in English from UT Tyler (2011); Ph. D. Candidate in Rhetoric & Composition at TCU; Graduate Instructor at TCU; Graduate Student of the Year (2015, TCU)
- Jarrett Smith** (BA in English); English 3

Teacher, Lead Technology Trailblazer, & Head Tennis Coach at Brook High School (Houston)

- 2010 Shannon Rajoelina** (BA in English); Director of Education and Student Services at technical college in Ft. Worth; Speaker at 2015 Blackbaud Conference for Nonprofits; Senior Educational Consultant at a software solutions company
- Michelle Sullivan** (BA in English); MA in English from UT Tyler (2012); Humanities Instructor, Christian Heritage School of Longview (2015-Present); Adjunct Instructor, Kilgore College (2013-2015)
- 2011 Arielle Arrington Cushing** (BA in English); MA in Library & Information Science from Simmons College (Boston, 2015); Technical Librarian at Sandia National Laboratories
- Derek Frazier** (MA in English); Interpretation Manager, Education Department Manager, & Occasional Curator, Tyler Museum of Art. [Check out the *Chihuly: Works from Texas Collections* from February 7 – May 15, 2016.]
- Kari Cheatham**

McSweeney (BA in English); MA in English from UT Tyler (2013); Property Accountant at NW Property

- Management
- Kristie Rehders** (BA in English); Asset Manager for Atlas Residential Management (Dallas); Licensed Property Manager & Realtor
- 2012 Andrew S. Latham** (MA in English); Ph. D. Candidate at UT Arlington; Founding Faculty member of TCC Connect Campus (2015)
- Amanda Weaver** (BA in English); current student SMU Dedman School of Law with a specialty in corporate & commercial law; Law Clerk at The Pennington Firm
- 2013 Tina Bausinger** (BA in English); MA in English from UT Tyler (2013); Current Ed.D. Candidate in Higher Education Leadership at Texas A&M Commerce
- Kate Keenan** (MA in English); Texas Educational Diagnostician Certification (2015)
- Melissa Smith** (BA in English); current MA in English candidate at SNHU; ATM Support Analyst at Southside Bank; Fraud Analyst at Southside Bank
- 2014 Lena Lee** (BA in English); Truckload Logistics

UPDATES, CONTINUED

Broker for Fusion Logistics
Leigh Ann Olejnik (MA in English); Full-Time English Instructor at Tyler Junior College

2015 **Ben Beach** (MA in English); Middle School World Cultures Teacher in Leander ISD (Austin)
Katherine Lane (BA in English); English Teacher at Terrell High School; 7-12 ELAR Certification

Alelya Wheeler (BA in English); current student TWU Master of Library Science Program; Acquisitions Library Assistant at Tyler Public Library (2015-Present)

CALL FOR UPDATES: Please send your professional updates for the F16 newsletter from April 1st. September 30th. Request an update form from the faculty editor (abeebe@uttyler.edu) or just email the basics: name, type and dates of all degrees – from UTT and other institutions, current job title, former jobs you would like to list, awards, and publications.

CALL FOR COLUMNS: Each issue will feature columns from our current and former students. If you are interested in writing a column for the F16 newsletter, please contact the faculty editor, Dr. Ann Beebe.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF CURRENT AND FORMER DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE AND LANGUAGES STUDENTS

Our current and former students have many accomplishments. Check them out!

Publications:

Derek Frazier (MA in English)

“Vapor Rising”. *Bewildering Stories*. 459: Fall 2011. Online.

“Hallsville”. *Writing Raw*. Fall 2011. Online

“Sherman Alexie Won’t Let Me Be Indian”. *C4: The Chamber Four Lit Mag*. 3: Fall

2012.

“Nacogdoches”. *Weird Tales*. Publication Pending.

Susan Newcomb Mowrer (BA in English, 2016)

“How Hiram Really Died and What Came After.” *War, Literature and the Arts* (Fall 2016)

James Chase Sanchez (BA in English, 2009; MA in English, 2011)

Sanchez, James Chase. “Postulating a Stereotype: A Rhetorical View of Chinese

Immigration in *East of Eden*.” *Steinbeck Review* 9.2 (2012): 39-52. Print.

Sanchez, James Chase. “Rev. of *The Ghostly and the Ghosted in Literature and Film*:

Spectral Identities.” *Journal of Popular Culture* 47.3 (2014).

Sanchez, James Chase, and Kristen Moore. “Reappropriating Public Memory: Racism, Resistance and Erasure of the *Confederate Defenders of Charleston Monument*.” *Present Tense* 5.2 (2015). Web.

Jesse Stout (BA in English, 2015)

“‘Swinging sound of cymbals’: Symphonic Form in ‘A Winter Walk’” *The Thoreau Society Bulletin* Winter 2016

Blogs:

James Chase Sanchez (BA in English, 2009; MA in English, 2011) – “James Chase Sanchez: Cultural Rhetorician”

<http://www.jameschasesanchez.wordpress.com>

Conference Presentations:

ACHIEVEMENTS, CONTINUED

Several of our MA candidates have been accepted to professional academic conferences. Most recently, the English graduate program sent five current graduate students to the American Literature Association's 2016 Symposium. Here are their presentation titles.

Lori L. Cook, "Psychological Borderlands of *Beloved* and *Mama Day*."

Carol M. DeGrasse, "Broadening the Boundaries: A Historical Analysis of Frontier

Women in 19th-Century Literature"

Rebecca Johnston, "Emerson and Douglass: Leaving the Homeland."

Ashlie M. Kontos, "Modern American Lostness, or How to Be and Not Be Alone."

Melanie Whiting, "A Voice for America: Hawthorne and American Romanticism"



American Literature Association Symposium (February 2016): Ashlie Kontos, Melanie Whiting, Rebecca Johnston, Carol DeGrasse, Lori Cook.

Tina Bausinger (BA in English, 2011; MA in English, 2013); Special Guest Speaker at the Stanley Hotel Horror Writers' Conference (2015)

and help you decide if what you have chosen to study is something you really want to pursue further or perhaps introduce you to something new that you love. That is what happened with my current internship. It has introduced me to the world of donations and the importance of a company giving back to the community. I am glad that I have been a part of that process.

Internships can change the course of your life plan. They can create wonderful working relationships and opportunities that might not have come your way without them. I would encourage every English major and minor to consider an internship. Gain experience in a working environment before you graduate.

Kelsey Wells

FRESH 15 Marketing Intern, Brookshire Grocery Company Senior, Graduating May 2016 Social Science Major, English Studies Minor:

The seven months I have spent as the FRESH 15 marketing intern have been the highlight of my college career.

What I've learned after two college internships is that as an intern, you will never be bored. In a given day, I do everything from writing articles for the FRESH 15 race handbook to snapping pictures for Instagram to networking with local businesses. I have made connections both within and outside of Brookshire's that will long outlast my internship, including with my supervisor, UT Tyler English graduate Megan Riaz. The best part is that what I do every day *matters*, to my company and to myself. Many college students

"Internships," *Continued from page 4*

have the misconception that being an intern means fetching coffee all day, and if that's what you limit yourself to maybe it will be. But if you are willing to stretch your comfort zone by working diligently and taking the initiative to suggest your own ideas, an internship can be the gateway into not just a job but a lasting career. Before interning at BGC, I had no clarity on what I wanted to do when I graduate. Now I recognize that I have a passion for marketing and public relations and plan to pursue a graduate degree in this area. Whether you're a freshman or senior, I encourage all my fellow English majors or minors to pursue a college internship. You may discover a passion you've never realized before.

GUEST COLUMN: “WHY I WAS AN ENGLISH MAJOR”

By Sara Holland Newhouse

2000 BA in English, Trinity University
Associate VP for admissions & financial planning,
Birmingham-Southern College

I have a confession to make. I'm a weed. Like many of my peers, I spent about 5 minutes of my undergraduate career as a “pre-med.” When I realized that this path would not ultimately be fulfilling, I spent a lot of time pondering what my next steps should be. Should I major in business because that's what a lot of my friends were doing? Did I have the heart for teaching? I liked talking to people – what about communication? In the end, my love of reading, literature, and the written word led me to declare my major as English, and I never looked back.

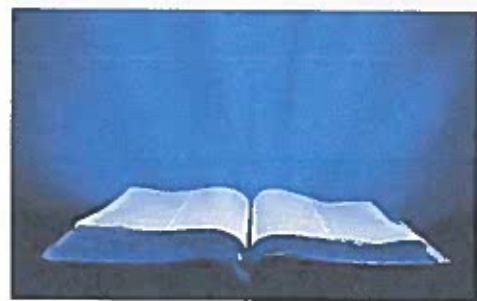
Since graduating, I've been thankful for my strong background in English more times than I can count. My career has taken me into the worlds of advertising, data analytics, consulting, and higher education administration, and in each arena, the skills of interpretation as well as the ability to clearly communicate have proven invaluable.

Studying English will prepare you to make quick and accurate interpretations all the while looking for a broader context. You will read between the lines to get to the heart of a situation, article, or set of data points to allow you to cultivate crucial instinctual reactions and rational decision-making skills.

Living in the world of literature and expressed thought and being required to articulate criticism and opinion, you will be able to plainly, openly, and unmistakably communicate with not only your peers but your superiors. You will breakdown complex ideas and make them approachable. By reading and dissecting copious numbers of books and research articles, your mind will open to endless possibilities, sparking the creativity and flexibility to think critically and outside of the proverbial box.

Despite popular stereotypes towards an English degree, deciding to major in English is deciding to cultivate the skills and abilities that will enable you to do absolutely anything. I certainly didn't realize this when I chose English many moons ago, but this fact has been reinforced again and again throughout my career.

AND, if you're a bookworm like me, you'll get to read a lot of really great stuff along the way.



WHY I AM AN ENGLISH MAJOR

By Lena Liedtke

*BA in English, expected May
2016*

I am an English major because I love words. I love the idea of taking raw materials (words, punctuation, structure, grammar, meaning) and crafting them to communicate a specific message. On the receiving end, I get a thrill from receiving data (reading), sorting through it (highlighting, underlining, dog-eared pages), and analyzing the data for trends, drawing meaning from the text. There is something amazing about the fact that someone, somewhere can write their ideas or story down on paper, and that message can be dispersed over time and physical space, planting seeds and bursting bubbles in countless minds.

ENGLISH MAJORS OFFER ADVICE TO NEW STUDENTS

Compiled by Lori Cook

2014 Ba in English; MA in English expected 2016

Choosing a major or minor requires serious contemplation. It is often helpful to seek advice from others who have real life experience in a field prior to making that decision. When asked what advice they would give students who were considering a major or minor in English, current UT Tyler English majors had the following advice:

- “Enjoy all of the services provided by the department and any groups on campus. Join Sigma Tau Delta!!”
- “Don’t procrastinate on essays, especially once you start taking more than one English class in a semester.”
- “Be prepared to read . . . and be prepared to write. I laugh now that we can knock out five pages in our sleep because WE ARE ENGLISH MAJORS.”
- “Ask for help.”
- “Get a [faculty] advisor.”
- “I would advise them to balance their literature classes. Taking multiple classes in one semester can be overwhelming.”
- “Be ready to work hard. You cannot just drift in this major. You have to really apply yourself.”
- “I would tell them to utilize the Writing Center as much as possible because they are very knowledgeable and helpful.”
- “I would encourage students to put the effort into finding out who they are taking before they enroll . . . and spend time with them [professors] during their office hours to determine the best way to succeed in their courses. I have never had a professor who wasn’t willing to meet [me] halfway and give me good advice when I told them what my concerns were.”
- “Get your ‘think outside the box’ caps on and enjoy the ride.”

While the majority of students remarked on preparing for the rigors of English courses, others emphasized connecting with faculty members since they advocate for your success. The skills gained in an English degree can be utilized in all areas of academia, law, and business making it an extremely valuable investment. As one student wisely advises, “Don’t be afraid to have this major.”



Student artwork by:
Left- Monica Hanes
Right- Rachel Brumley



WHY I WAS AN ENGLISH MAJOR

Jamie Bitzenhofer

2008 BA in English and Political Science



Student artwork by:
Top- Rachel Brumley
Bottom- Monica Hanes

When I was working on my BA at UT Tyler, I wrestled with the big question many students face, “What do you want to do with your life?” My answer was along the lines of “Everything.” I ended up studying both English and political science with enough coursework to major in either. This meant an incredibly broad-based understanding of the humanities and how they can contribute to the soft sciences.

A pattern that I began to see throughout my academic training was that both disciplines could develop similar ideas in different ways. As such, a background in both provided me with a larger contextual frame and more attuned critical thinking skills than I would have had if I only pursued one field. Indeed, I could tailor my writing skills to either discipline; interpret the meanings of either a Supreme Court decision or a Shakespearean sonnet; and, communicate more effectively in my classes. In short, English helped me to improve my thinking and communication skills in ways that directly benefitted

other aspects of my academic life.

This skillset became critical when I began an interdisciplinary M.A. in Eastern European studies at a European university. When my program required us to read Fichte and Herder, I could parse out how their conceptions of language and poetry played into the development of the nation-state system. When I took a class that focused on Stalin-era musicals, I could use my understanding of narrative and symbolism to make an argument for how *The Bright Path* (1940) recast the Cinderella story to build a common identity among Soviet citizens. These are two examples, but the fact is that I used the skills my English major gave me from the first day of my M.A. to my thesis defense.

I am old enough to know I cannot go on to learn or do absolutely “everything,” but the beauty of a background in English is that it gives you a window on so many different aspects of life and the world. For that, an English degree is invaluable.