

THE INKWELL QUARTERLY

Career Choices for an English Major

by Emily Banks



Poster by W.W. Norton & Co.
Image taken from <https://twitter.com/NortonCriticals/status/1191433768357285891>

When I chose to be an English major, the most frequent question I was asked was “what are you going to do with an English degree?” I had chosen English for multiple reasons, the first reason being, I was good at it. In high school, I had excelled in my English classes, so it seemed best. I also planned to go to law school at the time when I chose my major. Most people assume that a goal to go to law school is tied together with an undergraduate degree in political science. This is not true. I conducted research and found that one can practically major in anything in the humanities or science fields as

preparation for law school, so why English? English helps build the foundations for almost all communication and critical thinking skills. Think about it. In a typical English class, you learn, of course, how to form basic sentences and how to verbally communicate. You also dive into literature and uncover, through various close reading techniques and different lenses, the meaning and complications this text has to offer society today as well as society when it was published. You analyze authorial intent by way of deconstructing sentences in the text. Details can even be as minute as a punctuation choice. For example, why an author chooses to insert dashes into her text becomes important in uncovering the message of the text. These skills speak for themselves when considering why English seemed an appropriate major in preparation for law school. My goal, however, in this article is to argue that a degree in English actually has a lot to offer when looking into employment opportunities. The skills that one learns in English are of value when considering almost any field. First, having a degree in English is beneficial for a student interested in graduate school. I am arguing this

from my own experience. I recently made a career shift from an interest in law school to an interest in teaching grades K-4. Having taken no education classes, I thought I would be looking at a major change and basically adding another 4 years of school. I contacted local schools with a graduate program in obtaining a teaching certificate as well as a MAT degree, and because I majored in English, I can apply for the program and graduate in two years. This will of course differ for every program, but the point is having an English degree has given me an advantage even in my late career change.

Aside from graduate school, having a bachelor's degree in English is beneficial for most employment opportunities. An English

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Sophomore Spotlights

by Erica Bicchetti



Image courtesy of Nicole McNelis.

Nicole McNelis

Q: What is your major/minor and area of concentration?

A: English major, Secondary Education minor.

Q: Where are you from?

A: Forty-Fort, PA.

Q: Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

A: Teaching!

Q: What has been your favorite English class thus far?

A: Eng 201 – challenging but rewarding!

Q: If you could be any fictional

character, who would you be?

A: Chris Traeger from *Parks and Recreation*.

Briauna Robinson

Q: What is your major/minor and area of concentration?

A: I double major in English and Secondary Education.

Q: Where are you from?

A: I am pretty local to campus. I'm from Exeter, PA.

Q: Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

A: Hopefully teaching in my own classroom by then! I hope to have an upper high school classroom.

Q: What has been your favorite English class thus far?

A: I think my favorite English class so far has been ENG120 from my second semester here. I had it with Dr. Hamill and I really enjoyed the environment of the classroom. I learned a lot of works that I did not know about, leading in me having a better appreciation, and understanding, for poetry than before.

Q: If you could be any fictional character, who would you be?

A: Leona from *League of Legends*.

Thomas Papas

Q: What is your major/minor and area of concentration?

A: English and Secondary Education.

Q: Where are you from?

A: East Hampton, NY.

Q: Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

A: Hopefully teaching, and engaged.

Q: What has been your favorite English class thus far?

A: Mythology (took this at community college, actually considered a philosophy class but it was structured very much like an English class.)

Q: If you could be any fictional character, who would you be?

A: Zoro Roronoa from *One Piece*.

Inkwell Quarterly's Staff

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Thomas A. Hamill

Editor-in-Chief & Layout Editor: Erica Bicchetti

Guest Contributor: Grace Hamill

Staff Writers: Brian Vu, Veronica Romanelli, Isaiah McGahee, Rashonda Montgomery, Darren Martinez, Briauna Robinson, Emily Banks, Brittany Stanton, Savannah Pinnock, and Nicole McNelis

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Inkwell Quarterly Staff Question

Almost every semester, the *Inkwell Quarterly* likes to ask a staff question. Typically, we choose one that is English related or holiday related. As you can see, for this issue we have decided to mix the two. Notice that many Inkwell members had the same response or similar, and (fun fact) they did not get to see each other's answer's in advance. While reading some of our staff members answers, try to think of your own! We know. It is a tough question to answer.

The *Inkwell Quarterly* staff question is as follows:

What is your favorite Christmas story (could be a novel, play, children's book, short story, or poem), and why?

Darren Martinez - "I don't really consume Christmas literature, the only thing I can really stomach every year is National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. It's a very "dad" movie and maybe I'm turning into one early. It's stupid, low brow humor and it correlates exactly with how I feel about the holidays."

Erica Bicchetti - "I would have to say that my favorite Christmas story is a classic: The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg. I remember reading it over and over again as a child (and not just during the holidays.)"

Dr. Hamill - "My favorite Christmas book is A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. I still remember

reading it for the first time for English class in middle school during the Christmas season. It heightened the Christmas spirit for me then, and it still does so (even more so) now. It's become a family tradition. Every year, my mom takes Grace (and will soon start taking June) to the annual Theatre Three production of A Christmas Carol near where I grew up on LI. And Grace and I read the book together each year (starting just after Thanksgiving). This year June has been listening in on occasion as part of the sessions. So it holds a special place for me and for all of the Hamills."

Brian Vu - "My favorite Christmas movie is the Polar Express because it's an awesome classic. Every time I watch it, I get the chills. I watched this movie since I was a kid and never got tired of it."

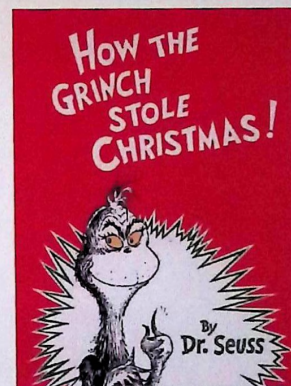
Nicole McNelis - "My favorite Christmas story is the children's book 'Twas the Night Before Christmas because my grandfather used to read it to my cousins and me on Christmas Eve so I just have really great, warm memories associated with it."

Savannah Pinnock - "My favorite Christmas story is The Polar Express. I love it because it captures the aesthetics of the holiday season as well as a child's anticipation for the wonder of the holidays. However, it is marginally followed by How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

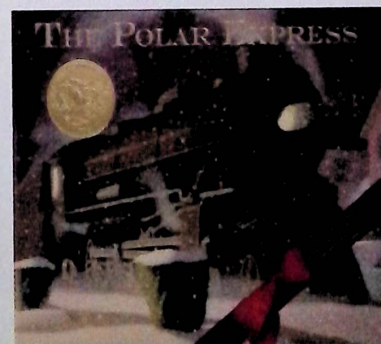
Brittany Stanton - "My favorite Christmas Story is The Polar Ex-

press by Chris Van Allsburg. I love this story because it shows a child's wonder and awe of the holiday season. I love to watch the movie and read the book it is such a classic tale of the holiday spirit."

Emily Banks - "My favorite book is How the Grinch Stole Christmas because it was one of the first Christmas stories I can remember reading on my own as a child, and I'm a huge Dr. Seuss fan. I think his creativity is brilliant."



How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss. A favorite of member Emily Banks.



The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg, a favorite of members Erica, Savannah, and Brittany.

Career Choices for an English Major

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degree opens doorways for the typical careers in writing, editing and publishing. Also, according to an article titled "Best Jobs for English Degree Majors" on thebalancecareers.com, having a degree in English also opens doorways for careers such as "social media manager, public relations specialist, lawyer, grant writer, librarian, human resource specialist, and teacher of English as a second language" (thebalancecareers.com). Essentially, being an English major has potential to open doorways for any jobs involving proficient communication skills, whether written or verbal, as well as any jobs that are detail oriented and require critical thinking. If you are considering majoring in English or minoring, but you are unsure of what the degree has to offer, I urge you to go on any job listing website and read the responsibilities or job description. Most of them will express the need to be able to communicate comfortably and proficiently. I work in retail and I cannot tell you how many times my knowledge obtained from English classes has helped me to either sound more educated to a raging customer or simply get my message across clearly and effectively to whomever I am addressing.

Brief Thoughts on *Nine* and Writer's Block

by Rashonda Montgomery

I thoroughly enjoyed Wilkes University's production of the musical *Nine*. The musical had the much needed comedic relief to help soften the blow of the more serious topics at hand like Guido's awful sad childhood experience with older women, and his current depression and suicidal thoughts stemming from his feelings of inadequacy. All of the actors and actresses did an amazing job playing their roles. The tiniest actor of them all, the little boy who played as nine-year-old Guido, stole my heart. I think the play presented a struggle that most people have come across at one point or another - the inability to create. For writers, like myself, this is called writer's block, and it is awful. I could not imagine suffering from writer's block so severe that my entire career begins to plummet.



Image courtesy of Professor Joseph Dawson, Wilkes University Theatre Department.

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An English Major's Fall Semester Wrap-Up

by Briana Robinson

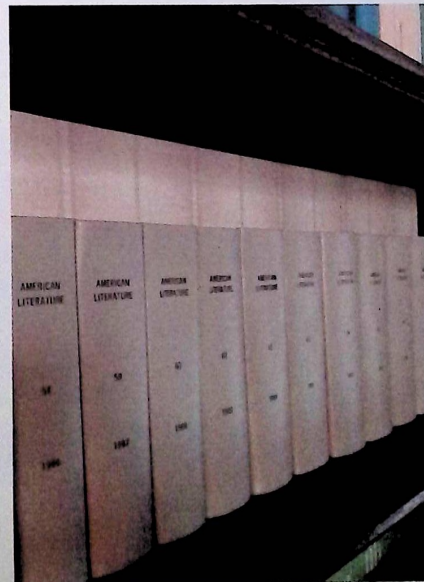
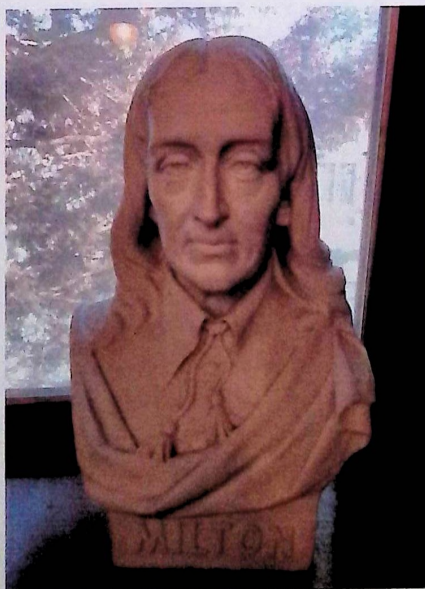
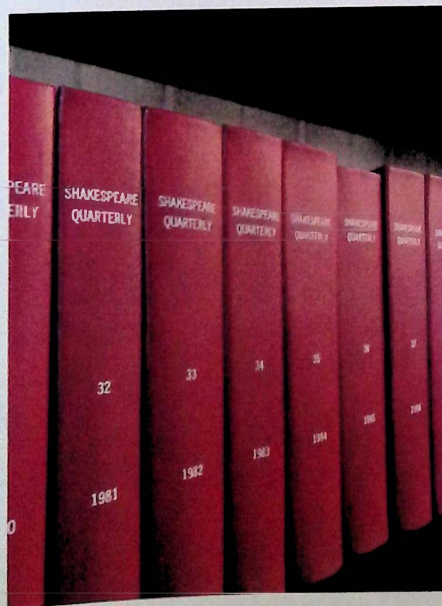
I grasp longingly for the warm embrace of the winter break: the euphoric feeling of being without worry of what school work needs to be done, while sipping hot chocolate. The joyful laughter of family filling my ears and the blissful silence of being off campus all at once overwhelms me, reminding me that it is more so just the comfort of home that I await and ache for. My head is pounding from the stress this semester has offered me. Everything is coming to an end rather quickly; due dates are haunting me, papers need to be written, and studying for finals is something I do not want to even think about.

I laugh in the faces of the other majors who think majoring in English is easy. There is a stigma that majoring in English is the smoother route through college. Though I do not think being another major is any easier, I would love to see them write a 8-10 page

research paper using a literary theory to shape the perspective on a work of literature. That sentence alone is intimidating to read and take in. The stress of having three papers due close to each other in three different classes is something that one cannot prepare for, unless they have requested those prompts and assignment papers early, which is rare to happen.

At the end of the semester as an English major, there is no denying that there was an expansion of appreciation for those "great works," even maybe a gained newfound love for poetry, or a discovery of a new writing style. However, there is nothing compared to the feeling of elation when that last final paper is sent in, so one can be sent on their way to that sublime idea of "break." Does the concept not sound sweet just thinking about it? A break. A long awaited break that was certainly earned after all

the Chauceran analysis, the Shakespearean digging, and the Miltonic reading about lost paradise. Through which ever writer or work that was explored, the experience and expansion of knowledge is what makes all the stress worth it in the end. I bring with me the pride of knowing I expanded my writing abilities and discovered timely writers I had no idea existed, like Edmund Spenser who wrote *The Faerie Queene*. Though it was difficult to push through a course like English 201, one that challenged my ability to write through a new lense, I take with me all the new literary theories that will help me along the way of my English Major track. The new perspectives taught to me allows my mind to be more open to the different meanings of a work of literature, making the world of writing even more expansive than I have ever known or thought it to be.



Images of the Halls of Kirby courtesy of Thomas A. Hamill.

Chaucer Allegations Follow-Up

by Veronica Romanelli

As we continue to read Chaucer in ENG 397, I realize more and more just how prevalent some of the issues presented in his works are still in the 21st century. The Wife of Bath's Tale is one that got me thinking more about the allegations Chaucer has faced. In this tale, a maiden is raped by a knight, and he is given the opportunity to keep his life if he can find out what it is that women desire most. In the end, he does find the answer, and he gets to keep his life. When it is decided that the knight will live, it is evident that the maiden will not receive any form of justice. When I considered the fact that the knight did not have to face any charges, it made me think about the reasons the charges against Chaucer may have been dropped. Of course it is possible that the charges were dropped because Chaucer really was innocent, but it could have also been because he was a successful man and was given the benefit of the doubt, or the benefit of influential connections and significant

financial resources.

The hypothetical scenarios I was conjuring in my mind about how the charges against Chaucer ended up getting dropped got me thinking of the very real reasons people drop rape charges, or are hesitant to come out with them at all. Today, stories frequently come out about rapists who do not receive severe punishments for what they have done. One case I thought of was the case in which a Stanford student raped a woman behind a dumpster and was defended as an excellent swimmer, a guy who made a mistake, and a kid with a bright future. He was originally only sentenced to six months behind bars but ended up in jail for half of that time. Stories like these are a big part of why people never share their stories or press charges in the first place. As if living as a sexual assault survivor is not a harsh enough reality, these victims then have to watch their rapists face little to no consequences for their actions.

Although they are sometimes unsettling, I do believe it is still important to read Chaucer's works. At the very least, Chaucer's works encourage his readers to think about problems that occurred in his works, during his lifetime, and still today. Because of their relevance today, Chaucer's works may also inspire conversation around issues that still occur today. Chaucer's readers can begin to look at 14th century problems and apply them to 21st century life, helping them to work towards a solution, or break harmful patterns.

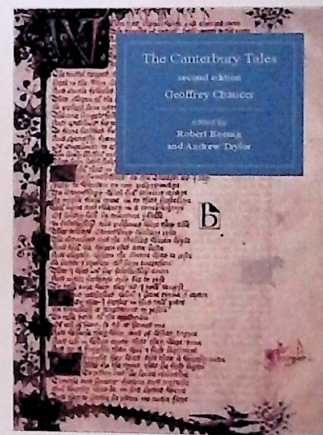


Image of *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer edited by Boenig and Taylor.

Nine Review

by Erica Bicchetti

The Wilkes University Theatre Department showcased the musical production *Nine* over the weekend. Going into it, I had zero expectations because I had never heard of this musical before, and I thought I was just going for an extra credit opportunity rather than for my own enjoyment. I can definitely say now that I was surprised.

Nine is a musical production about an Italian film director, Guido Contini who battles his own personal and professional struggles. He is currently working on his ninth film (hence the name) and cannot seem to write the script. Guido Contini is also in a love triangle, or moreso a love square if that's a thing; between his wife,

mistress, and confidant. While watching the musical, one of the first things I caught on to was the imperfect relationship between Guido and his wife. When I got there (a few minutes late) his wife was on stage singing, I believe, or just speaking to Guido hinting to him that she knew about the other women in his life. Reporters kept

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interviewing Guido which definitely made his wife suspicious. As an audience member, I kept saying in my head "just dump him." I couldn't help feel this way because it was clear Guido is not a perfect man; he is definitely fighting his own personal battles throughout this production. The wife immediately struck me as more puristic. I could tell by the way she dressed compared to the other women. She was more modest and dressed business casual with hardly any skin showing. The other women wore more inappropriate clothes that were revealing. It added to the fact that I felt bad for his wife because she was sort of seen as innocent in my opinion.

In the production, Guido struggled to find a story for his film. I'm honestly not sure if this was because he was facing other personal struggles in his life OR if those personal struggles led to his inability to come up with a story. I enjoyed the part of the production when the cast is on set trying to sample different ideas for Guido's film. He is rushed to come up with something, of course, because there is a deadline and he has an audience to live up to. But, Guido doesn't like any ideas that are run by him. On top of all of this, his wife comes on set one day while he is filming to announce that she is done, handing Guido the divorce papers. Even further, his mistress and confidant also express that they are done and have moved on from Guido's life. While watching the production, it became clear that

Guido truly only loved Luisa; but because he messed around with other women and didn't take their marriage as serious as he should have, she left. Luisa gave Guido plenty of chances to change, and stayed with him even knowing of his "secret life." I think the moral of this is that Guido needed to grow up. The production's staging of Guido as a young boy made the production much more successful and impactful on the audience. Clearly, Guido has made mistakes as a young boy which affected him as an adult. Having his mom visit him at different moments during the production shows how Guido should have listened to her throughout his childhood because "she knows best." I believe Guido had a successful career despite the struggles he faced making his ninth film, but it was obvious there were more important parts of his life that did not end successfully. Perhaps he spent too much of his focus on making films and giving his attention to the wrong people.

Overall, I enjoyed going to see *Nine* at the Dart Center. Wilkes University Theatre Department put on a great show, and it made me want to see more of their productions. Though, I felt a little offended at times being half Italian myself, I was able to laugh and realize that this was set in an older time period. It was actually quite interesting to learn about the way others viewed Italians, Germans, and French individuals. Bravo to the Wilkes Theatre Department.



All images courtesy of Professor Joseph Dawson, Wilkes University Theatre Department.



Fight Night: *Smash Bros.* at Wilkes

by Darren Martinez

On any given day, you can likely find a group of students on Wilkes campus playing *Super Smash Bros. Ultimate*. While being friendly to casuals and newcomers, oftentimes these students are playing with a competitively legal ruleset. This ruleset bans items and most stages, breaking Smash down to its core. Competitive play is simple at first glance but grows increasingly complex as you learn the game. As Smash grows in popularity on campus, so too does the competitive scene.

Smash is one of Nintendo's core franchises. It is one of the biggest crossovers of video game IPs and is part party game, part fighting game. Its unique status makes it debatable if it belongs in the fighting game community, but most seasoned players on campus would agree that it is a fighting game. The turnout for the official Games and Media Club tourney, Smashgivings, was 28 players, with a few others who came simply to watch. Roughly 50 people showed interest and signed up for a non-binding pre-registration.

Having been a routine participant in tournaments as a student, I see new faces at every event. The skill levels range from intermediate to skilled, playtime ranging from a few matches to hundreds of hours spanning multiple iterations in the franchise. Some players are literate in Smash and watch streams of top players, but lack playing partners and setups. Leaders in the community like Games and Media Club president Sean Schmoyer

advocate for a gaming space that promotes both friendlies and practice for dedicated players. I sat down with Sean to get some opinions on the current state of Smash Bros. on Wilkes campus. In regards to a gaming lounge, Sean replied that "a designated gaming space on campus would do wonders. The campus only has a couple of spaces for people to openly play Smash." While there are a few TVs around,



Image from <https://www.ign.com/games/super-smash-bros-ultimate>

"other than that you need to reserve rooms ahead of time for larger spaces. A designated gaming space lets people know they can go to that spot and find people interested in playing *Smash Bros.* whenever." We both agree a gaming lounge goes beyond just Smash, as well. Having the space to make friends with similar interests is always a benefit to dedicated locations.

Being club president lands the role of Tourney Organizer

in Sean's hands. Despite being a competitor and friend to most of the players, Sean works to create an official atmosphere for the way the tournament is run. The key is that he is "looking to get players to come back and play again." Some necessities to that are "providing setups yourself so matches are moving at a consistent pace, providing a prize incentive, and clean and memorable advertisement." He also noticed the importance of location and the observation of rules and bracket creation. While it is a video game, competitors strive to respect the game's integrity. Having the TO respect the game encourages the players and staff to as well.

Sean's training partners are myself and freshman Jack Wasko. Both of us are close friends of Sean, and Jack and I placed 2nd and 1st respectively in Smashgivings. I asked Sean what it was like to have his friends and training partners as rivals. "Playing against my friends can be difficult. You want to do well but you hate to see them have a bad day. In the end, you are all aiming to get better, and seeing a friend or yourself win or make it far in a tournament brings you closer together in the end," he remarked. I share a similar sentiment; especially as Smash practice is far different than traditional sports. Your only opportunity to prove yourself is with something on the line, and with sparse tournaments you must have good showings to create an identity.

On a final note, I asked Sean about the future of Smash at

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Fight Night: *Smash Bros.* at Wilkes

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Wilkes. "Northeast PA has plenty of great players and to see fellow classmates play against those top players is the best. If Wilkes becomes a place where gaming is an open and promoted activity, you'll see happier people and a livelier campus. That goes for any game, not just *Smash Bros.*" When considering how our nearby neighbor King's College endeavors to support esports and other schools promote and stream competitive video gaming, perhaps Wilkes will take steps in that direction.

I see a future where Wilkes

has its own weekly or biweekly tournament, encouraging both student and local talent to compete. With official support, tournaments can more easily organize prize pools and events and foster a greater relationship with the community. If the scene grows large enough, therein lies a possibility to stream matches or organize crew battles against other schools in the area. The University of Oklahoma is frequently featured on the YouTube channel Dragon Smash, a channel dedicated to compiling clips of interesting or skillful *Smash* play.

Videos of even obscure subjects like hype plays from low tier characters score 200,000+ views. The future of esports is growing, regardless of if Wilkes chooses to hop onto that train.



Image from <https://www.theguardian.com/games/2018/dec/12/super-smash-bros-ultimate-review-nintendo-switch>

Misconceptions of Education Majors

by Brittany Stanton

Being and Education Major is Easy

This is a big pet peeve for Education majors: when people say that our major is an easy one. Our major has a lot of work attached to it. We have to make lesson plans and unit plans that are very detailed to make sure we outline everything we are doing for the day or week. When coming up with lesson plans we have to plan out everything our students are going to do that day. During the major itself, we have to meet the limits set by the department which include getting 2.5 in all our education classes in order to move on to the next semester's courses. And it's not easy getting inducted into the Education department. To begin with, education

majors need to have a 3.0 GPA, they need to pass the Praxis Test of Basic Skills, and they need to complete six English and math credits to be able to be inducted into the Education program. They also need to keep that GPA to stay in the program.

Teachers Don't Love What They Do

Some would say that teachers don't love what they do because they have had a teacher in the past who seemed like they didn't want to be there or didn't have the best attitude in the classroom. This isn't really always the case, however, as most teachers love what they do and wouldn't choose another career. Most teachers love mak-

ing an impact on their student's lives and wouldn't change that for anything in the world. Even when the kids drive us crazy we still love them and what we do. It brings great joy to us when we get through to a student who may have been struggling; that's why we love what we do. Teachers love being able to reach their students and teach their content in a fun and interesting way.

We Do it for the Summers Off

Having the summers off is a nice perk of being a teacher but that is not the main reason why we teach. Even in the summer we revise our lesson plans and develop new plans and curricula. We also have to go back and set up or

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How to Effectively Prepare for the Spring Semester

by Savannah Pinnock

At this point during your collegiate experience you've either just survived your first, your third, fifth, or maybe even seventh semester. What this means is that you've circumnavigated the pitfalls of the Fall semester and you're halfway done with the academic school year. Please take this moment to give yourself a pat on the back, as surviving a semester and being successful is commendable and indicates that you're on the right track academically. However, having a successful Fall semester is only half the battle. If you're like many college students, myself included, you desire to have a successful academic year as a whole. With this in mind, after surviving the Fall semester, how does one prepare for the Spring semester?

If you're a freshman, this question may be an unsaid and/or unarticulated concern of yours. If you're a well-seasoned student at Wilkes University, the Spring semester may always be a peculiar or even daunting specimen due to its unknown nature. Regardless of your academic year, you may wonder, what will my professor be like? Is the course well-known to be insanely difficult? Am I still wait-listed, and what should I do if I am? All of these questions and more may consume even the strongest of students when closely pondered.

In order to alleviate these anxieties and concerns, you should prepare, prepare, prepare! Preparation is something that is widely held as a means of reducing unease

or uncertainty. And one of these preparations may come in the form of simply purchasing your textbooks early. It is quite easy to procrastinate or wait until the last minute to purchase your textbooks. However, doing so can be a bit disadvantageous for you. For example, if you wait until the last minute, your textbook could be sold out at your favorite online bookseller or at the bookstore. And even worse, you may be forced to buy the textbook or rent or buy the online version. To avoid having to start the semester without having your textbooks in hand and putting yourself at a disadvantage, aim to purchase your textbooks at least two weeks before the semester.

Also, if you happen to be a student of the humanities or you're taking a reading intensive course like many of us are in the English department, start reading your textbooks early. One of the best things you can do is to familiarize yourself with the material beforehand. During the semester, you may have a small part time job or extracurricular commitments that may require some of your time. As a consequence of this, having a grasp of a novel's content will allow the semester to be smoother and it'll allow you to be more successful on midterms and finals to come. This comes as a result of you having prior knowledge of the text and it would not be your first time working through the material. This tip will prove to be advantageous to you throughout your academic

career.

Alongside these steps don't be afraid to ask upperclassmen or those who have taken the course before for their perspective on a professor and/or course. And while this may be helpful, please take it with a grain of salt. Always know that one's experience is shaped by a series of factors and that a professor's primary goal is to teach you and give you the tools you need to be successful. In other words, if a professor seems strict to a friend of yours, it doesn't mean they'll appear strict to you. And always allow your professors to demonstrate their character: they always have your best interest in mind.

And on the topic of professors, in the case of being wait-listed, please feel free to email your professor about three weeks prior to the start of the semester to inquire on your waitlisted status. However, please keep in mind that the professor is human and may be enjoying the Winter Break as well. So if they don't respond during that three week period, try to attend the class on the first day of classes and inquire on your status after class. If the professor has room and wants to add you, they may decide to add you. Professors are amazing at accommodating students but in the case that they can't add you, please be sure to add another class within the first week to fulfill any necessary requirements you may have; it is imperative that you do. Also, about one to two weeks prior to the Spring semester, please be

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Misconceptions of Education Majors

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classrooms before the school year starts anew. And part of the summer is used to make copies for the first weeks of school to be prepared for that first day when the students come back. Though having the summer off is nice, some teachers use it to further their education or to get certified to teach another subject. Some of the summer might be used to go to seminars to see how we can improve our teaching strategies and our classrooms. Hav-

ing the summer is great, but it isn't just used as a vacation.

Teachers Don't Make an Impact on Their Students

Some would say that teachers don't make an impact on their students but most would insist that is not the case at all. When we teach our students we try to make an impact on them to make a difference and to help them in their

educational journey. Most teachers would say that they had a teacher in their past who influenced them to become a teacher because of the impact they had. For me personally, I hope to make a big impact on my students and to be able to help them on their educational journey. I hope to influence them in the best possible way in their education.

How to Effectively Prepare for the Spring Semester

sure to set an alarm for when you would want to wake up during the semester. That way your sleep cycle is in harmony with the one you will need to adopt in the next few weeks. And be sure to buy new supplies and items that will allow you to feel enthusiastic about studying. If you are one who holds to the "if it's not broken, don't fix it" notion, it may be detrimental to your academic success. So if your binders are a bit worn and your pens have all but disappeared, please feel free to restock in terms of your school supplies. Just because it's the Spring semester and subsequently not the "back to school" season doesn't mean this isn't worth doing.

It also goes without saying to stay organized and always have an agenda. An agenda is almost a requirement if you want to stay organized and they're at our local

bookstore, Walmart, and at almost any general retailer. Along with staying organized, please be sure to invest in a desk calendar and other organizational tools so you always have little reminders of to dos in the semester. And last but not least, be sure to rest during your Winter break and your breaks in general. They will revitalize you as well as allow you to perform well academically. They will also give you the energy you need to get through the remainder of your semester.

With the previously aforementioned tips in mind, you can rest assured that you'll be well-prepared for the semester to come. Taking these small steps will allow you to be ready for all of your courses and it'll relieve any anxieties you may have at the moment. And also, have a little faith and believe in yourself. You're going to

be successful this semester but you have to know and believe that for yourself; that belief will take you a long way. So please be sure to follow these tips to effectively prepare for the Spring semester, and good luck! You'll do great!

Looking for another way to prepare for success this Spring Semester?

Join the staff of *Inwell Quarterly*, and contribute to an important Departmental and University Institution—all while building your academic and professional portfolio! For more information about becoming involved in *Inwell*, contact Dr. Hamill, IQ Faculty Advisor, at thomas.hamill@wilkes.edu

Christmas Destinations Around NEPA

by Nicole McNelis

It's the most wonderful time of the year! And I often find myself looking for places to go to get myself in the Christmas spirit. Lucky for me, there are so many places nearby to help with that. Here are some of the best places within two hours to go for all your Christmas needs:

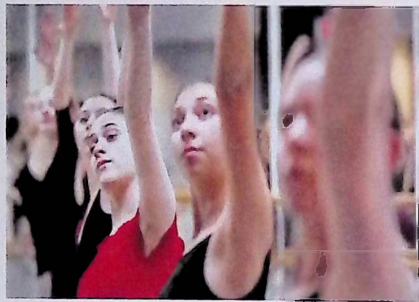


Image taken from <https://www.timesleader.com/features/765668/degan-ballet-center-presents-the-nutcracker>

1. Degnan Ballet Center 2019 Nutcracker- If you enjoy Tchaikovsky as much as I do, you'll love this rendition of his wonderfully-scored Christmas ballet, The Nutcracker. The best part about it? It is being performed right on Wilkes' campus at the Dart Center on the main stage. Shows run December 13 and 14 at 7:30pm as well as December 15 at 2pm. Tickets \$15 for children, students and seniors and \$22 for adults. It will be worth every penny!



12 Image taken from <https://www.discovernepa.com/calendar/pnc-holiday-pops-performances-2/>

2. NEPA Philharmonic's PNC Holiday Pops Concert- Another way to get your classical music fix of the season is through NEPA's own Philharmonic! Their Holiday Pops concert will be held on December 7 at 7pm at the F.M. Kirby Center, just a few blocks from Wilkes! Tickets at \$16 for students-- a tremendous price to see wonderful music!

3. Reading of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol- The Wyoming Valley Art League and Sunday at the Circle will be presenting their 5th annual reading of Charles Dickens' classic Christmas tale, A Christmas Carol. Free and open to the public, this is an awesome opportunity for English majors to witness this live rendition of holiday literature just a few blocks away from Wilkes at the Wyoming Valley Art League.

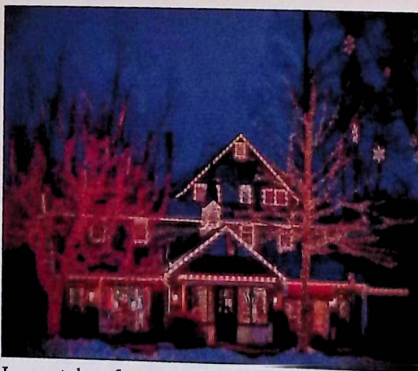


Image taken from Peddler's Village Facebook Page.

4. Peddler's Village- A personal favorite of mine, Peddler's Village is a little conglomerate of shops and restaurants decked out in Christ-

mas lights around the Holiday season. Located in New Hope, PA, about two hours south of Wilkes' campus, Peddler's Village is the perfect place to see some amazing light displays as well as shop for loved ones. What's better than killing two birds with one stone?



Image taken from <https://uncoveringpa.com/hersheypark-christmas-candylane>

5. Hersheypark- Starting November 15, Hersheypark begins their annual Christmas Candylane which includes lights and visits from Santa and his reindeer! On top of all of that, they keep a few rides and coasters open for their guests to ride and enjoy. Located in Hershey, PA, about two hours away, Hersheypark is the perfect place to bring children and families for a fun-filled Christmas-spirit day.

6. Koziar's Christmas Village- Located a few miles east of Hershey, Koziar's Christmas Village is a popular light display focused only on lights. Guests can walk around and enjoy hot chocolate, take pictures with Santa, and simply enjoy the views around them. Koziar's Christmas Village is an afford-

Story Continued on page 13

Christmas Destinations Around NEPA

continuation of page 12

able place to visit with family and friends-- but be sure to bundle up!

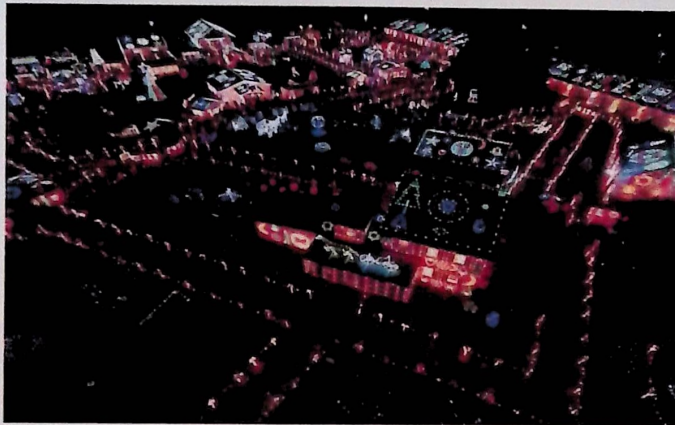


Image taken from https://lanasteronline.com/news/local/with-million-lights-koziaar-s-christmas-village-in-berks-county/article_e038f4d8-bcbf-11e6-a351-6f15c80046ba.html

7. The Miracle on South 13th Street- A lesser known light display, the Miracle on South 13th Street is located in the heart of South Philadelphia. It is simply just a row of apartment buildings that go all out when it comes to Christmas lights. This light display is also completely free, making it a fun and cheap way to see some lights!



Image taken from <https://uncoveringpa.com/miracle-on-south-13th-street>

8. New York City- Obviously, I saved the best for last-- the Big Apple. New York has so many places to see around Christmas time, including the window displays around Sax 5th Avenue, Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center (and ice skating!!), and the Radio City Rockettes Holiday Spectacular! NYC becomes an epicenter for Christmas visitor, and rightfully so! Although it could be pricey, it is worth it to see what New York has to offer around the holiday's.



Image of the 2019 Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree Lighting.

All of these places are a great way to get in the Holiday spirit with friends, family, or that special someone. Hopefully you can make it to some of these places and events this season!

Limitless Review

by Brian Vu



Image taken from <https://medium.com/@Awad23/limitless-a-formula-breaking-show-under-nzt-85b8806fb8aa>

Limitless is a show on Netflix that I just finished watching about a few weeks ago. The show engulfed me in mind-blowing investigations and awesome humor. The show is based on the movie *Limitless* that came out in 2011 starring Bradley Cooper. I actually enjoyed the show more than the movie. I really liked the comedy and also related to the main character a lot. His personality is extremely similar to mine, which made me love the show. The main character, Brian Finch, reaches a very low point in his life but then stumbles upon a drug called NZT-48 that unlocks the full potential of the human brain and gives him enhanced mental faculties. There is only one season, but each episode is about an hour, so the season is pretty long. Brian Finch is taken in by a senator who is actually played by Bradley Cooper, who gives him immunity to the side effects of NZT. He is then taken under the wing of an FBI agent, Rebecca Harris. His whole life turns around and a lot of crazy events happen, forcing him to get to the bottom of

cases for the FBI. In return, he is given a home and NZT. He is the FBI's special weapon to crack cases. He's basically a genius on NZT and considered a hero.

What I really enjoyed about this show is that the main character is very quirky, weird, and wins everyone over with his charisma and humor, which are chemically enhanced after he takes his first pill of NZT. The deal that he has with the FBI is that he is given one pill of NZT every day before he starts his job and it lasts 12 hours. The reason why they chose him is that he is mysteriously "immune" to the drug. NZT is illegal because its side effects are extremely dangerous and will kill users if used only a couple of times. There are funny moments in the show and there are also serious moments. I experienced various emotions while watching this show, and it was a wild roller coaster. The show has so much more compared to the movie. I would personally give this show a 4.4 out of 5.

I see myself in the character of Brian Finch, which is a big reason why I enjoyed the show so much. Being so similar to the main character, I felt myself jump into the character's mind a lot as I watched the season. The show put me in a very productive mode as well, and I had a different perspective or approach to situations in my life, such as school and life. The mind of Brian Finch is fascinating, and he made the most mind-blowing connections that solved cases and was accepted by everyone. The

FBI recognized him as a genius investigator. As you follow his thought process, you make the connections yourself and it stirs up excitement. Many times have I just stared at the TV screen in awe as things played out either the way I thought it would or in surprisingly unexpected ways, and my roommate can attest to that.

Limitless is an extraordinary show. If you're looking for a crime and investigation TV show to watch or just a new and entertaining show, I say give *Limitless* a shot. It's no ordinary *Criminal Minds* or *Law and Order*. If you've seen the movie and have doubts, I'd say give it a shot anyway. You won't be disappointed.



Image taken from <https://www.denofgeek.com/uk/tv/limitless/40989/cbs-cancels-limitless-tv-show>

The Inkwell Quarterly Holiday Word Search

by Grace Hamill

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| STOCKING | GIFTS | SEVEN | MIDNIGHT |

Chaucer Students Present at Conference

On Saturday, 07 December, ENG397 students Brianna Schunk, Isaiah McGahee, and Veronica Romanelli each presented their original research papers at the 14th Annual Conference in Medieval and Early Modern Studies at Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA. Over 70 students from 31 colleges and university's throughout the country presented their research at the conference, and the days proceedings also included a plenary lecture by Dr. Elly Truitt (Associate Professor of History at Bryn Mawr College) titled "Demons and Divination: Artificial Intelligence before AI."

Brianna Schunk presented

her paper, "The Face of Fame: How Hundreds of Eyes and Ears Empower in *House of Fame*," as part of a panel focused on "Outstanding and Deviant Women." Isaiah McGahee presented his paper, "The Sublime Specter of das Ding: The Impossibility of Language in Chaucer's *Book of the Duchess*," as part of a panel devoted to "Modern Theorists; Medieval Texts and Contexts." And Veronica Romanelli presented her paper, "The Problematic Idea of Goodness in *The Legend of Good Women*," as part of a panel examining "Chaucer and Social Conventions." Congratulations, Brianna, Isaiah, and Veronica!



Veronica, Isaiah, and Brianna at the Moravian Conference. Image courtesy of Thomas A. Hamill.

MANUSCRIPT UPDATE

After an active fall schedule of events, capped by an exam-week screening of the classic film *Die Hard*, the staff the *Manuscript* is looking forward to Winter Break. Keep an eye out for a full slate of *Manuscript* activities this coming Spring--and consider getting involved yourself!

Questions regarding *Manuscript* can be sent to the Executive Editor, Brianna Schunk, at: brianna.schunk@wilkes.edu

Writing Center

The Writing Center, located in the Alden Learning Commons, is open and offering support to student writers across the Wilkes curriculum.

Our Fall 2019 schedule is:

Monday: 9:00 am-6:00 pm

Tuesday: 9:00 am-2:00 pm; 3:00pm-6:00pm

Wednesday: 10:00 am-1:00 pm; 2:00pm-6:00pm

Thursday: 9:00 am-6:00pm

Friday: 9:00 am-12:00 pm; 2:00pm-6:00pm

The Online Writing Center is available at: <http://wilkes.edu/pages766.asp>

For more information, contact:

Dr. Chad Stanley

email: chad.stanley@wilkes.edu

Spring 2020 Upper-Level Class Listings

Course Number/Name	Days/Time	Instructor	Room
ENG 202: Technical Writing	M 9:00-9:50	Dr. Lobb	KIRBY 103
ENG 203: Creative Writing/WGS	MWF 11:00-11:50	Dr. Kovacs	KIRBY 108
ENG 234: Survey of English Lit. II/WGS/Honors	TR 2:30-3:45	Dr. Davis	KIRBY 108
ENG 281: American Lit. I/WGS	MWF 10:00-10:50	Dr. Kelly	KIRBY 108
ENG 324: History of the English Language/DH	TR 9:30-10:45	Dr. Hamill	KIRBY 108
ENG 351: Studies in Postmodernism	TR 1:00-2:15	Dr. Kuhar	KIRBY 103
ENG 365: Studies in British Drama	MW 1:00-2:15	Dr. Stanley	KIRBY 103
ENG 392: Senior Projects	TBA TBA	TBA	TBA
ENG 397: S: American Romanticism	MWF 12:00-12:50	Dr. Anthony	KIRBY 108
ENG 497: S: American Romanticism	MWF 12:00-12:50	Dr. Anthony	KIRBY 108