



The English Aggie

New faculty introductions | An interview with Dr. Sidney I. Dobrin | Student poetry

New Faculty² Q&A

Landon Sadler



Please introduce yourself to the English students and faculty.

Hi! My name is Landon Sadler (he/any pronouns), and I graduated with a PhD from our English Department in December 2022. I've taught English classes to Aggies since 2017, and I've had a blast. I'm APT faculty (academic professional track), which means my core responsibility is teaching. I'm teaching four classes this semester, which is exciting.

What is your area of focus within English?

Broadly speaking, I specialize in 20th - and 21st - century American literature, but my focus is LGBTQ literature, and within that, I look at film and television. I often utilize queer of color critique and feminist ethics of care in my writing and pedagogy.

In which course outside of your own would you like to enroll and why?

I'd love to take Daniel Humphrey's LGBTQ Cinemas! The subject matter is down my alley, and I took two of Dan's classes in grad school, and they were awesome. I'd also take any class taught by Vanita Reddy because she's phenomenal and was my dissertation chair. I've never learned more from anyone else, and if I took Vanita's LGBTQ Literatures as an undergrad, it would have been the highlight of my experience. (I did my undergrad at University of Nebraska-Lincoln.)

What are you most looking forward to this semester?

I'm looking forward to fun discussions with my students. I have two small in-person classes, so we'll have time to discuss in large and small groups. Part of why I love teaching is that it sometimes feels like an awesome book club: inspiring, illuminating, and entertaining. Sometimes, students say the weirdest things, and that can be hilarious, but it can also shift how I think about a text or concept. I love learning from them.

What is the biggest piece of advice that you have for students?

My biggest advice isn't particular to English: it's to take care of themselves. Please, get enough sleep, drink water, and eat balanced meals! (Bonus points if the meal is vegan.) I can be teaching at my A game from an amazing syllabus, but that hardly matters if the student isn't doing well physically and/or mentally. Health comes first, so students, please reach out if you're struggling! There are many resources on campus from Disability Services to CAPS to 12th Can to the Pride Resource Center. I suffered in silence for too long as an undergrad, and I don't want any student to repeat my mistake.

Curry Kennedy



Please introduce yourself to the English students and faculty.

Hello! My name is Curry Kennedy, professor of English, father of two, husband of one, raised in Texas. I am an aspiring renaissance fool. I love live drama. I cannot clap and sing at the same time. My favorite music is funk.

What is your area of focus within English?

I study rhetoric, and within that I specialize in religious rhetoric, and within that I specialize in the early modern period. But generally, I like to consider myself a "free range" rhetorician.

In which course outside of your own would you like to enroll and why?

You're crazy if you think I can choose only one. I would start by taking either American Renaissance or Modern Rhetorical Theory. I'd take AR because I like the way they talked in the 1800s, especially in America. I'd take MRT because I need to learn more about how modern developments like capitalism and colonialism are rhetorical game changers.

What are you most looking forward to this semester?

Besides staring out the window of my office on the 5th floor of LAAH, I look forward to getting to know the people in the English program, from the freshman student to the veteran professor. I believe people make a place.

What is the biggest piece of advice that you have for students?

Plutarch: "Right listening is the beginning of right living."

Welcome

Christopher Scott Wyatt



Please introduce yourself to the English students and faculty.

I'm Christopher Scott Wyatt. Most friends and family call me Scott.

What is your area of focus within English?

My research specialties are the rhetoric of economics and the semiotics of digital typography. As a playwright, I focus on outsiders and their efforts to maintain authenticity. That sounds serious, but I write satire and comedy. If you want to persuade people, make them laugh at the absurdity around us.

In which course outside of your own would you like to enroll and why?

ENGL 361 Young Adult Literature. My middle school daughter and I often read the same title and discuss it before she goes to bed. Much of the YA literature features more complex stories and better characterizations than the series fiction I consume in my free time.

What are you most looking forward to this semester?

Learning from my students what it means to be an Aggie. A&M is the largest, most tradition-bound university I've experienced, and as an outsider, I don't understand it well.

What is the biggest piece of advice that you have for students?

Build a network of friends and mentors. Friends and mentors from your university years will remain supportive throughout your life.

Stephanie Batterson



Please introduce yourself to the English students and faculty.

Howdy! I'm Dr. Stephanie Batterson and am so excited to be joining the English faculty here at Texas A&M. I'm coming from the University of Iowa, where I received my Ph.D. in English in 2018. At Iowa, I taught courses in American literature, creative writing, rhetoric, and business communication.

What is your area of focus within English?

It's 19th and 20th century American literature, food studies, realism, immigration studies, and writing in the disciplines.

In which course outside of your own would you like to enroll and why?

If I had the time, I'd take so many courses. Food anthropology. Gender/sexuality studies. Ethnic studies. Performance studies. Psychology. I love to learn new things!

What are you most looking forward to this semester?

I'm most looking forward to getting to know my students this semester. My first week of classes has been a delight so far and the students here seem wonderful!

What is the biggest piece of advice that you have for students?

My biggest piece of advice is this: Stay curious. You will always succeed if you continue to want to learn. Doesn't matter what it is. For example, talking about how your favorite reality tv show perpetuates or subverts gender norms is an excellent use of your time. Reading the local news is also an excellent use of your time. Let's disrupt the hierarchy around what type of knowledge is valuable. It's the act of learning that shapes us!

**“AI is not going to take your job.
People who know how to use AI are
going to take your job.”**

*An interview with Adobe Digital Thought
Leader, Dr. Sidney I. Dobrin*

The University of Florida’s Dr. Sidney I. Dobrin recently visited Texas A&M University, where he spoke on GenTech’s future in relation to higher education programs. “I’ve been working with emerging technologies pretty much my whole career,” says Dobrin, who initially became interested in artificial intelligence when he was in high school. He studies digital and environmental humanities, specifically focusing on the relationship between AI and writing, ocean conservation, and environmental conservation.

*“It’s not that people lost their jobs, it’s
(that) they had to adjust their jobs toward a
more productive, more beneficial approach to
automotive making.”*

“AI is becoming very prominent in a lot of different industries,” which is concerning to some. However, Dobrin emphasizes that “AI is not going to take your job. People who know how to use AI are going to take your job.” He continued, stating that “we had this same argument in the 1970s ... about whether robotics were going to take over the automotive industry.” However, “what happened is the robotic intervention ... created a new kind of human machine collaboration, which made more efficient the companies, which made more efficient the production of automobiles. ... It’s not that people lost their jobs, it’s (that) they had to adjust their jobs toward a more productive, more beneficial approach to automotive making.”

*“Last month, they fired twelve writers and
hired one person who knows prompt
engineering well enough to write stories via
AI very quickly.”*

In today’s job market, we can see similar trends, which revolve around the importance of efficiency. Dobrin reports that “[he has] a friend who works in a big PR agency. ... Last month, they fired twelve writers and hired one person who knows prompt engineering well enough to write stories via AI very quickly.” This example is one of many that stress the importance of students growing their knowledge of these emerging technologies. Dobrin suggests that “as [students] start to consider what area [they] want to work in,” they should begin studying “how AI is already being integrated into those areas.”



*“[No student] is using [AI] the way the
faculty thinks [they are].”*

Because obtaining knowledge surrounding artificial intelligence is essential, higher education programs are beginning to alter their curricula. “We’re seeing a lot of curricula being developed based on how industry is adapting AI.” However, some faculty are hesitant to integrate AI into classrooms, as they are unsure of how it will affect the students’ education. Dobrin states that “[no student] is using [AI] the way the faculty thinks [they are] in terms of, ‘write an essay about Moby-Dick.’ Instead, they’re using it for idea generation, for getting feedback on what they’ve written, (and) for taking smaller segments and having things fine tuned. ... The fact of the matter is (that) ChatGPT is such a basic output, and most of us don’t know (enough about) prompt writing to where it would be able to provide enough details in the prompt to get an output that’s going to serve [our] purpose.” Dobrin adds that “[he thinks] faculty - those who are designing the curricula - need to start integrating assignments, (and) recreating assignments, that teach students how to use AI ... (in terms of), ‘here’s what I want you to do with GenAI in the assignment to get to this point.’”

*“We’ve created this kind of weird user
rhetoric, ‘users are losers.’”*

“When [he does] student workshops, [Dobrin] always [finds] it interesting when [he says], ‘okay, how many of you have used ChatGPT?’ ... [The students] all look around to see who’s going to be the first person to fess up about it. ... We’ve created this kind of weird user rhetoric, ‘users are losers.’ ... We need to be upfront and transparent. ‘Yeah, I’m a user, and here’s what I’m doing, and here’s what I’m accomplishing with this.’”

According to Dobrin, this transparency, along with documentation, is crucial. “Be upfront with how you’re using [AI], and document how you’re using it - and that’s for students and faculty both.”

“Align”

I let my mind wander
And it always finds your soul
It's like my mind knows it's missing something
Something to make it whole

I look at the stars
And compare them to your eyes
When did I begin to long for you
Even in the skies?

I see the sunrise
And your face comes into view
How come I can't let you go?
You're stuck on me like glue

I go to sleep at night
And only you come to mind
I guess even my brain knows
That our souls are aligned

“Chosen”

What if lovers are not meant to be
It's not something that is predestined
You are not connected to one singular person

What if it's just...
Two lost souls that crave love
That find comfort in the other
I think I find that possibly much more beautiful
Because although they might not have been written in the stars

They didn't do it out of instinct
They chose each other,
They chose to love
They chose to stay

-i want someone to choose me as well

GORDONE WRITING COMPETITION



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
English

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT :

March 8th, 2024 @ 11:59 pm

Winners will receive a \$500 prize and a chance to share their work at a public reading.

Honorable mentions will also be invited to share their work at the public reading.

Winners determined by a panel of Creative Writing Faculty

Only currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate Texas A&M students are eligible



Scan to learn more!

GENRES:

UNDERGRADUATES-

POETRY, FICTION, AND CREATIVE NONFICTION

GRADUATE-

POETRY AND NARRATIVE

(BOTH CREATIVE FICTION AND NONFICTION)

BOTH-

SCRIPTS (STAGE PLAYS, FILM, AUDIO)





Science Fiction and Fantasy Creative Writing Contest

Open to all enrolled Texas A&M undergraduate students.

Submit any form of speculative fiction (i.e. science fiction, magical realism, afrofuturism, etc.)

Winners will have the chance to win cash prizes and perform their pieces at a public reading!

Submit up to 3000 words by February 9th, 2024.

Submission link:

<https://shorturl.at/iqJN4>



Submission QR Code

PRESENTED AND FUNDED BY



AND



LIBRARIES
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Share

Your

Story



Follow us on social media to stay updated on campus events, competitions, and more!

-  @Texas A&M English Department
-  @theenglishaggie
-  @TheEnglishAggie
-  englishaggie.blogspot.com

This publication is brought to you by:
Texas A&M Department of English



Share your work with englishaggiestories@gmail.com
for a chance to be published in The English Aggie!

Editor: Sydney Heller '24