

Name	Email	Major	UG Grad Year	Grad work	Location	Bio
<b>Corporate Finance, Learning &amp; Development, Product Development</b>						
Steve Crane	stevenwcrane@gmail.com	English	2003	English from DePaul		Mr. Crane spent two years teaching high school English and now works in corporate finance. He has never taken any accounting or finance classes but has instead relied on the broad value of a liberal arts education to learn things on the job. He received his degree in English from UIUC in 2003 and completed an MA in English from DePaul University in 2009.

*Scott Farley	scott_farley@comcast.net	English	1992	MBA	Greater Chicago Area	<p>Scott Farley is currently the Director of Learning &amp; Development (L&amp;D) for Joy Global, a manufacturing corporation that supplies heavy equipment to the mining industry. In this role, Scott is responsible for employee training, including course design and development, course logistics, and facilitation. Additionally, Scott is focused on driving talent development through succession planning, programs for "high-potentials," and strategic workforce planning. Scott graduated with honors from UIUC in 1992, with a B.A. in English. After graduating, he took a temporary call center job with Motorola Inc. that turned into a fourteen-year stint with the telecommunications giant. Mid-way through that time, while working as a project manager on a major system implementation, Scott was asked to deliver training for sales and customer service personnel. From that point, he took a new career direction, focusing on training and employee development. While at Motorola, Scott completed an MBA at Lake Forest Graduate School of Management. Knowledge gained through that program was essential when working with business partners to understand how best to impact their business goals and results. After his time at Motorola, Scott jumped from the telecommunications industry to the financial services industry, managing training for call center operations and for the IT services function at HSBC. Four years later, Scott took on the challenge of moving into the mining sector, this time focused on employee development at Joy Global. For those considering a career in Learning &amp; Development, Scott recommends the following: Think of the work you do in study of English literature as analytical problem-solving. You're learning critical thinking skills and how to sift through and synthesize large amounts of information. These are essential skills in most business roles. Let the writing skills that you've developed differentiate you. The sad fact is that many people entering the job market aren't prepared to present themselves professionally in writing. An English degree gives you an advantage in that department, and people take notice of that. Gain some exposure to basic business principles. Whether through courses or an internship, start building an understanding of what's needed to run a successful business. The value of L&amp;D is measured in terms of how people development can drive business results.</p>
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Matt Garrison	mg@r2.me	Rhetoric	1998		Greater Chicago Area	<p>Matt is the Founder and Managing Principal of R2 Companies, a fully integrated private equity real estate investment firm based in Chicago, IL. R2 currently owns over 1.5 million square feet of creative loft office space in Chicago &amp; The Midwest. R2 is in the process of redeveloping and repositioning the Goose Island neighborhood in Chicago, with 3 proposed office projects totaling over 700,000 square feet and public infrastructure improvements including pedestrian &amp; bike bridges. Matt began his career in real estate as a broker, and was ranked the #1 Coldwell Banker agent worldwide in 2006, selling 761 properties in a year. Matt is a co-founder and former CEO of energy.me, a technology based electricity supplier nationally that financially supplies nearly 3% off all electricity in the State of IL. In 2014, Matt was named to Crain's Chicago Business "40 under 40" list. Matt lives in the Chicago area with his wife Lisa and two young daughters, Riley &amp; Reese, the inspiration for the name R2. Matt graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1998 with a BA in English Rhetoric.</p>
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*Gretta Hermes	gretta.herme s@gmail.co m	English and Creative Writing	2009	English from DePaul	Greater Chicago Area	Gretta Hermes graduated in 2009 with degrees in English and Creative Writing. After graduation, she started working at an early-stage education technology start-up, ThinkCERCA, as the lead content editor, creating leveled lessons, managing freelance writers, assisting in the development of a new platform, and negotiating content licensing. Gretta now works as an Account Executive at Narrative Science, an AI company that has a platform, Quill, which can analyze data from disparate sources and generate perfectly written narratives for the intended audience in seconds. She is responsible for supporting global adoption through current partnerships and emerging channels. Previously at Narrative Science she worked on the deployment team configuring Quill and the pre-sales team building proof of concepts for prospective clients. While at the University of Illinois, she held roles in a variety of extracurriculars and jobs, her favorites being her work on the first online version of Ninth Letter and doing special projects for the Center for Children's Books.
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Jinna Kim	jinna.kim@b ankofameric a.com	English	2003	MBA	Charlotte, NC	Mrs. Kim earned her degree in English in 2003, graduating magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. While at UIUC she played in the symphony orchestra and volunteered through the Krannert Center Student Association. In 2011 she completed her MBA at the University of Virginia and joined Bank of America's Leadership Development Program. Prior to business school, Mrs. Kim managed the fundraising research department at The Museum of Modern Art in Manhattan and received scholarships from the Association of Professional Researchers for Advancement and Korea Society. She is now a VP in Enterprise Payments at Bank of America consumer headquarters, and continues to pay-it-forward by mentoring and volunteering.
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Susan Nelson	susanenelso n@hotmail.c om	English	1997		Greater San Diego Area	Ms. Nelson, who earned her degree in English at UIUC in 1997, is a Customer Enablement Manager for the West Region for Campus Management, a software company that powers solutions for the higher education space. She provides leadership to higher education institutions, mentoring, coaching, and driving team collaboration to empower student success. Since 2000, Susan has worked to support global sales by communicating market needs to inform solution development and planning. In addition, Susan manages and mentors new team members and primes talent for growth aligned with company strategy and market needs. Prior to joining Campus Management, Susan worked as Senior Engineer for Salesforce, Team Lead of Solutions Consulting for Hobsons, Director of Academic Programs at Pearson and Senior Student Consultant at SunGard Higher Education (now Ellucian). These roles developed her depth of experience in management, organizational change, and global sales support as well as in driving relevant solutions to serve the education market. Prior to her work as a consultant, Susan worked for a decade within higher education enrollment management and student affairs in Missouri (KCOM), Maryland (Johns Hopkins University), and Colorado (University of Denver). I have been promoted to Sr. Manager, Customer Engagement and oversee all of our customer advocacy and satisfaction efforts for the western half of the United States. I live in San Diego currently.
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Olivia O'Sullivan	olivia@accel eprise.vc	English and Creative Writing	Greater New York City Area	<p>Olivia O'Sullivan graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with degrees in English &amp; Creative Writing. While at the University of Illinois she was an intern for the College of Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences, an editor for Ninth Letter literary journal, worked in the Technology Services Department and was the Vice President of Member Education for her sorority, Kappa Delta. After graduation, Olivia started her career in advertising as a Strategist. She worked for agencies, in Chicago, like Havas and We Are Unlimited across iconic American brands like McDonald's, American Spirits, Craftsman and more. In 2017, Olivia moved to NYC to work for Dow Jones, where she led business strategy across Financial Services and Enterprise Tech clients. After a year she was promoted, and transitioned to manage product and innovation strategy across the business. Olivia now works in venture capital as an Investment Associate &amp; Head of Corporate Engagement at Acceleprise. Acceleprise is a B2B, SaaS accelerator focused on go-to-market, sales and fundraising with offices in SF, NYC and Toronto. In her current role, she is responsible for supporting investment decisions, running the accelerator program in NYC and all corporate partnerships and engagement (from building the pipeline and client prospecting to sales and execution).</p>
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Leatrice Potter	m	leatricepotte r@gmail.co	English, Biology	2014	MBA	<p>I am currently the Sales and Marketing Manager for Agrible, a growing tech startup affiliated with the University of Illinois Research Park. Prior to starting work with Agrible, I had a short stint as a claims adjuster for The Hartford Insurance in Aurora, IL. I graduated from the University of Illinois in 2014 with a B.A. in English and a minor in Integrative Biology. I will begin the full time MBA program at Illinois for fall of 2016. When switching from a pre-med concentration over in the School of Integrative Biology to English, I wasn't quite sure what I wanted do with my degree, but I knew I enjoyed reading and writing. I also knew I didn't want to teach, which seemed to throw everyone off balance, and many worried loudly over how I would ever pay my bills as a barista. This incredulousness is what has driven my non-traditional career choices, and I love proving that an English degree from Illinois prepares students to communicate effectively, think critically, and be creative and persistent in all endeavors. I would love to talk more with any student considering alternative career paths after English.</p>
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Joe Pulka			Philosophy, English	2013	Greater Chicago Area	<p>I'm currently a Solution Architect in the North America CRM practice at Appirio, a Wipro Company. In this role, I focus on scoping and estimating Salesforce CRM consulting engagements for a variety of Fortune 1000 companies. This typically involves both 'bottom-up' and 'top-down' estimations, wherein we understand the development capacity required for a solution and match that against project team resources and capacity. I got my start with Salesforce during my first job, which was as an Associate at Business Talent Group. Business Talent Group provides independent professionals – consultants and executives with a practical mix of top-tier consulting firm backgrounds (ex McKinsey, Bain and BCG) and F500 operating experience – for project-based consulting engagements. During my time at BTG, I worked in a front line sales role and became an expert in our Salesforce CRM, completing my process improvement projects with our CTO. I left BTG, gained a Salesforce Administrator certification and became a Solution Architect at Appirio. I've since gained four additional Salesforce certifications, including Sales Cloud, Service Cloud, Community Cloud, and Platform App Builder. I work from home in West Town, Chicago IL and am a proud Illini alum.</p>
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Joyce Reitman	onloft.com	joyce@moti	English	1974	MBA	Greater San Francisco Area	<p>Joyce is the CEO of Motionloft, an emerging leader in the localized data analytics industry serving the real estate industry, global brands, and smart city initiatives. Joyce is passionate about real-world applications of IoT as an extension of her career working in technology. Before Motionloft, Joyce founded five companies spanning software, hardware, and manufacturing. She was a commercialization expert for over 20 companies awarded NSF SBIR grants. Joyce has been the CEO and CFO across a spectrum of industries working in startups and Fortune 100 companies. Her specialty is cutting through the noise to get things done with innovation.</p>
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Tim is the CEO of Matchstar Venture Search and has been a board member and company advisor since 2006. He has a long history in the venture capital and private equity community and has been involved in the development of several early stage technology companies. Tim, along with an award winning Google software developer, founded Priceprotectr.com in 2007. Price Protectr was named by Entrepreneur Magazine/Media as one of the “100 Brilliant Companies of 2011” and acquired in shortly thereafter by a private equity back company. Previously, Tim was the Western SVP/GM for Merrill Corporation, a billion dollar privately held technology company. His responsibilities included overseeing all business operations, strategic initiatives, and sales development in the areas of M&A due diligence, electronic content distribution, and document life-cycle management. Tim and his team worked primarily with private equity and venture capital firms, investment banks, and attorneys in the securities, corporate finance, and restructuring areas. Prior to joining Merrill, Tim was a VP, Sales for Bowne Financial, where he led and grew the company’s most profitable business region. Additionally, he had been the GM of a manufacturing and product licensing company, where he doubled revenues and added 2,000 new client accounts in less than two years. Early in his career, Tim held a variety of business development positions with RR Donnelley in their international, telecom, and information services business units, where he personally generated over over \$700 million in new revenues (in today’s equivalent dollars). Tim is the former Chairman of the San Francisco Business Forum (a leading Bay Area service provider networking organization) and a former member/sponsor of the Life Science Angels. He graduated from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana with a double major in English and match and has an MBA from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University. Tim is a hard core full contact fighting fan and participant, enjoys traveling, personal training, and Christian outreach. He currently lives in the city of San Francisco with his wife and four children. Tim says, “Entrepreneurship is a huge opportunity – not just for engineering students – but any kid with the drive, ambition, and the creative spirit to build something significant. Here’s a fun video from about 7 years ago. I found Google’s no. 1 engineer (had just won the coveted President’s Award at Google for all his work on gmail apps), and we started a company on the side together. This video was part of a 4-segment highlight show (Tesla was also featured next to us) that ran directly after “60 Minutes” across 20 million cable subscribers: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cbi\\_Rm5SRE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cbi_Rm5SRE). You don’t have to be a top engineer or 4.0 business student to do some exciting things in the business world. A creative mind is the MOST valuable thing a student can possess, and that’s something you often see with English majors.”

	tim@matchs				Greater San
Tim Tonella	tar.com	English, Math	1986	MBA	Francisco Area

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## COMMUNICATIONS

### Business and Technical Writing, Content Strategy, Editing, Publishing

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	sbrittin2@g	English,			
*Sarah Brittin	mail.com	Professional Writing	2002		Glenview, IL

Ms. Brittin is currently an Editorial Manager at Pearson, Inc. in Glenview, IL. Since 2003, she has worked in various editing positions, from Proofreader to Lead Editor, at a wide range of companies in northern Illinois. Ms. Brittin graduated in 2002 with a double major in English and Professional Writing. In the semester before and immediately following graduation, she interned at a small, independent publishing house in the Chicago suburbs. It was during her first internship that she realized her love for the publishing world and her role as editor.

Evan	evanbutterfi				
Butterfield	eld@gmail.c	English	1981	English, JD	Las Vegas

Mr. Butterfield has a B.A. (1981) and an M.A. (1983) in English, both from UIUC, and a J.D. (1991) from DePaul University. He first worked as a Legal Editor for Lawyers Cooperative Publishing, then as a Writer, a Director of Electronic Education, Director of Distance Learning, and finally Publisher and Vice-President of Kaplan Professional Publishing Co. He is currently Director of Products and Services for IEEE Computer Society, responsible for the overall operation of the international nonprofit engineering association's products and services, including conferences, magazines, academic journals, book publishing, new media, and educational publishing and programs.

Dana (Byerwalter) Nield	DanaKByerwalter@gmail.com	English and Creative Writing	2013		Greater Chicago Area	Dana Nield (nee Byerwalter) graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2013 with degrees in Creative Writing and English and a minor in business. Since then she has been working at Prime Publishing LLC, a women's lifestyle publisher in cooking, crafting, and DIY content located in Northbrook, IL. Her primary focus is search engine optimization (SEO), or ensuring the pages on Prime's websites are found by Google. She also does email marketing and manages the training program. While at U of I, she interned at Common Ground Publishing for one semester, and she was involved with FOCUS (the Fellowship of Catholic University Students). She is a 2020 graduate of the MFA of the Americas, a low-residency master's program in creative writing, and she is working on a novel.
Michael Chan	chan.michael.08@gmail.com	English	2014		Greater Chicago Area	Michael Y. Chan ('14), a University of Illinois alumnus, earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a minor in Architectural Studies. Shortly after receiving his degree, he accepted a position at Hudson Legal Group P.C., where he served as a Legal Writer for 6 months and was then promoted to Senior Editor & Team Leader; he served in this role for an additional year before leaving the firm to explore other opportunities. Michael is currently employed as a Conflicts Analyst at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, an international law firm.
Chelsea Coatney	ca.coatney@gmail.com	English	2013		Washington, DC	I am currently a Senior Digital Strategist at Veracity Media, a social-impact digital strategy firm specializing in political campaigns and non-profit advocacy. I joined the firm during the historic 2018 midterm election cycle, helping to flip multiple toss-up congressional districts from red to blue, elect an unprecedented number of women to the U.S. House, and raise millions of dollars in online grassroots donations. I also work with non-profits, political action committees, and other national, state, and local organizations to engage their supporters and grow their online fundraising base.
Carol Costello	carol@carolcostello.net	English	2013	English		Before joining Veracity, I was the Digital Director for Generation Progress, the Millennial engagement arm of the Center for American Progress, where I implemented digital programs to engage, activate, and inform America's largest, most progressive, and most diverse generation. As part of the Generation Progress communications team, I helped launch the It's On Us campaign in partnership with the Obama White House and managed its digital strategy as the campaign grew to have a presence on over 500 college campuses nationwide.
*Breanne Ertmer	ertmer@illinois.edu	English	2003	English	Austin, TX	
Cecily Garber	cecilygarber@gmail.com			English, PHD	Washington, DC	I graduated from UIUC with a Ph.D. in English in 2014. Since then, I have been working in communications in the DC area. I am now director of communications for an education association, where I edit the association magazine and oversee an e-newsletter, microsite and other publications, such as white papers and books. Previously an American Council of Learned Societies Public Fellow at a higher education association, I worked on a public information campaign to promote liberal arts education through digital media, media relations and a national symposium. While at UIUC I worked for LAS producing alumni audio stories (among many other jobs) and enjoy amateur audio and video editing.
Heather Gernenz	gernenz2@illinois.edu	English and Creative Writing	2015		Champaign/Urbana Area	Heather Gernenz is the publicity manager at the University of Illinois Press. She earned her BA in English and Creative Writing in 2015 at UIUC. After working at the University of Illinois Press as a student worker in the marketing department, in addition to working as a bookseller at Barnes and Noble, Heather began working as an academic hourly for Collection Management Services at the University of Illinois Library. She then began working at the University of Illinois Press again as an extra-help publicity associate and was hired full time as the publicity manager a few months later. As publicity manager, Heather manages the publicity efforts for press books including creating and sending press releases, review copies, and advance galleys, and setting up interviews with print and electronic media. She also sets up book signings and other author events and manages the social media accounts for the press. She would be happy to talk to students about the different career options available in publishing.

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*Courey Gruszauskas	courey@gmail.com	2006 LIS	Greater Chicago Area	Courey is content strategist and UX designer, which are fancy ways of saying that she helps people make decisions, accomplish tasks, and live better lives through information. Both her BA in creative writing and MS in LIS have helped her throughout her career, from building the editorial voice of former start-up darling Groupon to creating software users love at Morningstar, Inc. She loves card sorting, the neurosis of copy editing, and a really good lipstick.
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Scott Henry	scott.henry@asminternational.org	English	Novelty, OH	As Senior Content Engineer at ASM International, a not-for-profit engineering professional society located east of Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Henry leads the development and implementation of content models, metadata specifications, data schema, taxonomies, and other content management elements needed to support robust content acquisitions and delivery systems and superior user experiences for online information resources related to metallurgy and materials engineering. The position bridges the gap between content editorial work and information technology. Mr. Henry collaborates with senior staff, partners, vendors, and volunteers to specify, develop, and implement content acquisitions, conversion, tagging, management, and delivery systems and projects as needed to support and expand the quality, relevance, and market leadership of ASM's content products. Prior to his role as Senior Content Engineer, Mr. Henry directed the publication of books, journals, magazines, and online databases. He has experience in a wide range of editorial and business management processes, including product conceptualization, author recruitment, editing, product packaging, and online interface design, budgeting, marketing, business development, and staff management. He has an M.A. in English from UIUC, 1989.
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Mary Keutelian	marykeutelian@gmail.com	Rhetoric	2011 MPS	Greater Chicago Area	After graduating in 2011 with a dual degree in Rhetoric and English, I went on to hold a few jobs before finding my niche. Post-graduation, I've worked data entry and retail. I somehow even found myself as a bank teller for nearly a year and a half, handling money and numbers at a high volume. It was while I was working at the bank that I was able to get an editorial assistant internship at the Daily Herald newspaper, which gave me the practical experience and groundwork to expand my future job search. When my internship ended, I was able to find more part-time, contracted work as a content administrator for the Home Appliances business unit at Sears Holding Corporation. My manager, who was also a UIUC alumna, added writing and editing tasks to my administrative duties, for which I couldn't be more grateful. Working two jobs six days a week was no walk in the park, but making those connections, leaving an impression and working hard paid off. When my contract was ending, my manager at Sears referred me to another manager looking for a copywriter. I was able to quit my job at the bank and work at Sears full time. Within two years, I went from copywriter to editor to senior editor. Besides writing and editing, I performed content management, web design and production management tasks as well. I became a jack of all trades, making myself a more valuable member of our small but growing team. In 2013, shortly after I started working at Sears full time, I decided to go back to school. I recently completed my Master of Professional Studies in Publishing from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C., earning my degree completely online. The program is divided into two cohorts--online and on-campus--but we interacted with each other as one cohort. Currently, I work at the American Society of Anesthesiologists in Schaumburg, IL, as a copyeditor, where I was tasked to create and enforce a style guide. I review all communications, from emails to society members to committee reports and everything in between, for branding consistency (and proofreading, of course). To top it all off, the fall of 2011, a few UIUC alumni launched an online literary magazine Niche, which recently released its fifth volume. We were all passionate about writing and publishing, and therefore we created our own opportunity. Every volume we release we learn something new about the online publishing process, starting from nothing and building our audience. Find your passion, build connections and make your own path to find your dream job.
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Dan Klen	dklen7@gmail.com	Rhetoric, English	2012	Champaign/Urban Area	Dan Klen earned his BA in English and Rhetoric in 2012. After graduation, he worked as an assistant scientific editor at the Illinois State Geological Survey, where he edited technical reports, journal articles, and proposals. In 2017, he joined the American Oil Chemists' Society as a communication specialist. His work at AOCS includes writing content (for web and print) related to membership, meetings, and technical products; coordinating trade agreements with media and allied organizations; and managing an online community. In addition, his work has appeared in Newfound, The Monarch Review, and The Cossack Review.
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Melissa Kuhl	msteine3@illinois.edu	Rhetoric, English	2011	Champaign/Urban Area	As a student, my career path looked different than it does today. I intended to go into editing but instead ended up falling in love with the world of communications through a student internship. As a senior, I worked with the marketing group at the University of Illinois Press and quickly discovered how much I could utilize my English and Rhetoric double major as a communicator, from using my writing skills to compose copy to applying critical thinking to problems to create solutions. I was hooked, and I decided I wanted to make communications my career. Shortly after graduating in 2011, I accepted a marketing position at a sports publishing company. I worked there for a number of years marketing books about personal fitness and coaching to the general public and working with professors to adopt textbooks in their classrooms. After four years, I decided to shift my focus to non-profit work and turned my attention to the University of Illinois. I worked for University of Illinois Extension from 2015-2019, serving as Publicity and Promotions Specialist for the unit covering Champaign County. My English and rhetoric background served as a core component of my time with Extension, as my skillset shifted from simply selling products to being a storyteller who utilized my skills to demonstrate the value of our unit. In 2019, I started working as a Digital Media Specialist for the College of LAS. In addition to loving being back in my home unit, I greatly enjoy the work I get to do and truly feel like I am making a difference. A key component of my position is recruiting students to our humanities departments, and I am thrilled that I get to share with new students the joy I felt as a student at Illinois.
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<p>*Jasmine Lee</p>	<p>Lee.JJasmine @gmail.com</p>	<p>English, Classics</p>	<p>2013</p>	<p>Greater Chicago Area</p>	<p>I graduated from U of I in December 2013 with an English degree, with a minor in Classical Civilizations. During my undergrad years, I was part of the English Student Leadership Council board, wrote for the Food &amp; Drink section for Buzz Magazine (RIP), helped coordinate a bunch of the English major barcrawls, and spent a whole lot of time at Murphy's. Between 2013 and 2016, I freelanced for a handful of entertainment websites as well as Audrey Magazine, a quarterly magazine aimed at the Asian-American female demographic. I also worked at the front desk at my hometown YMCA as well as editing every piece of content that came out of the YMCA and coordinating events. The websites I wrote for were: ScreenPrism, Pure Fandom, and MuggleNet. I had a lot of super cool opportunities with those websites - I got to go to Sundance, a few Wizard World Comic Cons, MISTI-Con, and San Diego Comic Con, which were all unbelievably amazing. I still contribute to Pure Fandom, which helps me remain in the entertainment world as well as allows me the chance to build up my portfolio there. However, I'm the type of person who does a lot better with structure and regimen, so 2016 was the year of frantic job searching for me. That's when I happily stumbled across a job posting for Research Specialist at G2 Crowd. G2 is a software review company based in Chicago; the tech software equivalent of Yelp and Glassdoor. Those research papers I had to churn out as an undergrad seriously prepped me for this job. I've been at G2 for just over a three years now, am now a Senior Research Analyst here, and love every single stressed-out minute of it. I currently specialize in the health care, real estate, agriculture, and construction industries. The best part of my job is that the majority of the research team graduated with English or Journalism degrees, so I get to work with fellow weirdos and enthusiasts every day. I'd like to think my path to my current job is a bit unorthodox? I definitely would not have expected to end up in the tech industry, but this industry is pretty spectacular, I've quickly discovered. For anyone interested in chatting about the tech industry, freelancing, feminism, women in the workforce, anything related to the analysis (or pure enjoyment) of movies and TV, or Harry Potter and other geeky stuff, I'm your girl.</p>
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<p>Dana Modrowski</p>	<p>danamodro wski@gmail. com</p>	<p>English and Creative Writing</p>	<p>2014</p>	<p>Grand Rapids, MI</p>	<p>I work as a content writer at a digital marketing agency in Grand Rapids, MI. I write blog posts and website content for a variety of local businesses after our company creates their website. Before this, I worked as an editor first at an academic publishing company and then a company in the digital publishing space. My advice to undergrads would be to make the most of the experience you already have. Even a job you've held that doesn't seem at all related to the field you want to work in probably taught you important general skills, like leadership or organization, that you can showcase to your advantage on a resume in order to get the job you want. Also, never underestimate the value of an internship. If you give it your all, even if the company you intern for does not hire you, you'll have gained connections that would likely have no problem providing you a favorable reference for a future job.</p>
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Katherine O'Brien	kmayobrien @comcast.net	Rhetoric, English	1987	Greater Chicago Area
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I graduated cum laude in 1987 with a double major--English and Rhetoric. I always wanted to be a writer but I had no idea how this might translate into a career. I had student loans to pay. I got a job working in a bookstore in a mall. While still working at the bookstore, I took some extension classes via the University of Chicago's publishing program. I learned how to mark up copy and the basics of University of Chicago style. (Most magazines and newspapers use the AP Stylebook; the U of C manual is generally used for book and technical publishing.) I endured many painful interviews before finally landing a job at a small publisher of trade magazines in Libertyville, IL. I did not know much and the company did pay me much--it was a fair deal. I gained invaluable experience in all facets of publishing: sales, art, circulation and of course editorial. Prior to working for a business-to-business or trade magazine I had no idea such publications existed. My company produced several magazines for engineers who designed and produced electronic circuit boards. Writing about solder paste was boring, but I enjoyed the challenge of tackling an unfamiliar field. I went on to work as an editor for an employee benefits consulting firm. I wrote newsletters for a team of actuaries and lawyers--a very corporate job for which I was ill suited. From there I joined American Printer, a trade magazine for commercial printers. I started as an associate editor and eventually became the editor-in-chief. I was with American Printer for about 15 years. It was a wonderful experience on many levels--great people, interesting industry and many travel opportunities. In 2009, I was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. I joined the board of the Metastatic Breast Cancer Network ([www.mbcn.org](http://www.mbcn.org)) and enjoy putting my communication skills to use for a great organization. I am learning a lot about non-profits, too. In recent years, the publishing world has greatly contracted. But there is still a great need for good communicators who are willing to embrace specific industrial or professional segments. In my own job, we transitioned from being editors to content producers. My advice is to gain as much practical writing experience as possible--volunteer to produce a nonprofit's blog, website or newsletter. Expand your social media skills--can you help a local business establish its online presence? Most small non-profits can use grant writing help. Even if you don't want to be a graphic designer, knowing the basics is helpful when you are writing copy for a web page or a brochure. If you have the opportunity to attend a trade show, take it. It will expose you to new possibilities. As Strunk & White advised: Omit needless words! When I graduated, print was king. In 2016, job seekers must be multimedia mavens. Remember, if I can do it, you can do it!

Julia Pollack	julia.anna.pollack@gmail.com	English	2009 LIS	Champaign/Ur bana Area
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Julia Pollack currently works the Carl R. Woese Institute For Genomic Biology IGB as the Creative Program Manager. In this position, she creates and curates the Art of Science initiative. She has a Masters degree in Library and Information Science from University of Illinois Champaign Urbana, and a Masters degree in Digital Humanities from the City University of New York's Graduate Center. She has previously worked as a Librarian for Bronx Community College in New York, and a User Experience designer for Pixo in Urbana. She has shown multimedia art pieces at local venues and presented works internationally at academic conferences. In her roles as an information scientist and a digital humanist, she is interested in how technology can facilitate new levels of engagement and access to information. As a UX Designer, she focused on the relationship between visual displays of information and user interaction. In all of her work, she seeks to visualize concepts of information transmission and knowledge production, with a specific focus on audience interaction.

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jschlaak@gm Rhetoric,  
Jaclyn Schlaak ail.com English 2001 Greater  
Chicago Area

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Jaclyn graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2001 with a double major in English and Rhetoric (creative writing), and a minor concentration in Advertising. Jaclyn is a testament to internships helping spark a fruitful career in health care publishing. During her college career, she served as a staff editor at the Illio yearbook and as a permissions intern for sports publisher Human Kinetics in Champaign. Over summer breaks, she held an internship as a writer and editor at a local newspaper close to her hometown, and later was an editorial intern at Joint Commission Resources (JCR), a health care publisher in Oak Brook, IL. Immediately after graduating, she went on to work at JCR as an editor, where she stayed for over 7 years, ultimately rising to executive editor during her tenure. Jaclyn wrote monthly periodicals for health care staff, as well as conceptualized and edited content for books, manuals, newsletters, and other products. She also recruited for and ran her department's summer internship program. In 2009, Jaclyn left JCR to work for StayWell in Evanston, IL as a senior editor. StayWell creates custom health care marketing solutions (in print and online) for health care companies all over the country. Jaclyn develops content and edits publications and online content for high-profile hospital and health plan clients. She was promoted to Editorial Services Manager in 2013, and is responsible for recruiting and managing their team of associate editors out of StayWell's headquarters in Yardley, PA. The Chicagoland area is ripe with editorial opportunities for those interested in health care publishing. Don't be afraid of health care-related writing/editing just because you didn't go to medical school. There are plenty of associations, from health care to dental and everything in between, as well as content marketing companies that are always looking for new talent. You can learn about the subjects as you go, and many jobs (like at StayWell) focus on copy for consumers, rather than technical content for health care staff. Jaclyn encourages students to go out and find internships and other ways to build their editorial experience before graduation—those who do so will have a leg up on their competition once they begin job-searching. For recruitment purposes, formal experience is a HUGE plus, even if it's just a short internship or a stint at a college newspaper/literary magazine. It's never too late! Anything you can put on your resume before you graduate will help, even if it's just editing the monthly newsletter for your favorite student organization on campus. It proves you have initiative and drive, and sets you apart from the rest. It's more important to have actual writing/editing experience outside of coursework than to list things like "social media" expertise. Anyone can learn how to use Instagram, but not everyone is meant to be an editor. And please have someone you trust review your resume and cover letter before submitting it anywhere. This is literally your only chance to make a good first impression; no one hiring for an editor or writer will give you a second glance if your documents contain errors.

MichaelCSlav  
Mike Slavin m Rhetoric 2010 Austin, TX

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I graduated from UIUC in 2010 with a B.A in Rhetoric, though I first enrolled in the Computer Engineering program in 2006. By my 5th semester in the College of Engineering, after having some internship experience in the software industry, I was not optimistic that it would result in a career I enjoyed. I transferred to LAS in 2008, and took courses in creative writing and literature. I had enough credits from my first years to complete a minor in Computer Science. Shortly after graduation I started my career as a technical writer with National Instruments in Austin, TX. I enjoy the constant exposure to new technology, and find immense satisfaction in helping users be successful. I love that I'm essentially paid to learn new things, and get to find thoughtful ways to share that information with readers. I've worked with a variety of hardware, software, and IT service companies, where I produce documentation, train other technical writers, and develop new tools and processes to deliver technical documentation.

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Melissa Smith	melissa.smit h1987@gma il.com	English, Journalism	2010	English	Greater Chicago Area	Melissa Smith is an Executive Communications Manager at Ulta Beauty, where she oversees corporate and executive communications, as well as the CEO social media strategy. Prior to internal communications, Melissa worked at DePaul University on their alumni publications. She graduated from the University of Illinois with degrees in English and News-Editorial Journalism and a minor in history in 2010. She received her master's degrees in English (2012) and Human-Computer Interaction (2018) from DePaul University.
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Steve Vandermyde	stevanvan73 @hotmail.co m	English	1984	MBA	Greater Chicago Area	After graduating in 1984 with a B.A. in English, Mr. Vandermyde spent five years as a U.S. Air Force Intelligence Officer where he prepared and delivered briefings and analyzed enemy actions. He then spent the next ten years as a Technical Writer in an insurance firm in their I.T. department and completed an M.B.A. during that time as well. For the next two years he was a Consultant for the pharmaceutical industry but was laid off. He then worked as a Technical Writer on contract for various software firms. Since 2005 he has been a Technical Writer for SXC, a healthcare software company where he writes specs and training materials, and delivers training.
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Kerstin Wolf	kerstinwolf.s ubmissions @gmail.com	English, Spanish	2017		Greater Chicago Area	Kerstin Wolf is currently a literary agent at D4EO Literary Agency where she represents a number of amazing authors. She graduated in 2017 with a degree in English and Spanish and will begin the process of getting a master's degree in library and information science at UIUC in 2020. She first began interning at literary agencies during her undergrad and became a literary agent a couple years after graduation. Two of Kerstin's favorite aspects of the job are helping get manuscripts she loves onto bookstore shelves and into the hands of readers and that the job has the potential to be completely remote and can be done anywhere with internet connection. For those considering going into publishing or becoming a literary agent, Kerstin is more than happy to give advice on getting into the profession or provide more information about what the job entails. (She is also always open to giving tea, book, or restaurant recommendations.) To contact her, please reach out at kerstinwolf.submissions@gmail.com.
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**EVENT PLANNING**

Jeff Brown	jeff@brownh otevents.co m	English	1991	Ed Lead	Greater Los Angeles Area	Mr. Brown has been in the event planning industry since 1991 and for the last 13 years in southern California. He owns a boutique event design and production company called BrownHot Events - specializing in events, marketing and lifestyle management.
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John Galante	jgalante@ae - ventures.co m	Sp Comm	1982		Boston	Mr. Galante is the president of AE Ventures. AE Ventures helps its customers grow through innovative events, media and marketing services that inform, entertain and inspire. Now in its seventh year of operation, AE Ventures' productions include the CE Pro and Commercial Integrator Summits, TechHome Builder and TechHome Builder LUX. AE also conducts cost-effective research and provides marketing services for technology companies. Prior to that, he led EHa Publishing's company-owned events business, including the Electronic House Expos and Worship Facilities Conference & Expo from 1999-2008. He has additional experience as a publisher, editor and business development leader. His UIUC degree is in Rhetoric and Speech Communication.
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*Laura Wilhelm-Barr	wilhelmb@ill inois.edu	English	1993	Rec, Sport, Tour	Champaign/Ur bana Area
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Laura Wilhelm-Barr earned a Bachelor of Arts Summa Cum Laude with High Distinction in English in 1993 and was a Bronze Tablet Scholar. After graduation she served as a managing editor of scholarly journals and meeting planner at Human Kinetics Publishing. She accepted a position as Assistant Director of Special Events with the Office of the Chancellor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1996 and continued in that role until 2000 when she began planning regional special events across the country for the University of Illinois Foundation to enhance fundraising efforts by the university. Laura earned a Master of Science in Recreation, Sport, and Tourism Management in 2007. She returned to the Chancellor's Office in 2013 and currently serves as Senior Director of Special Events, where she is responsible for creating and directing high-profile public events and ceremonies hosted by the Chancellor and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In this role, she coordinates logistical arrangements for the university-wide Commencement ceremony, New Student Convocation, campus groundbreakings and dedications, athletic premium seating and pregame functions, as well as advancement events across the country and internationally. She also serves as a protocol resource for the campus.

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## HEALTH CARE

### Medicine, Nursing, Medical Research, and Related Fields

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Sheila Parinas	parinas@illin ois.edu	English	2006	Nursing, PHD	Champaign/Ur bana Area
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How she got involved in healthcare: While obtaining her BA in English Literature at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, Sheila had several part-time jobs. One of them included working as a personal assistant (PA) to several students with disabilities. The meaningful relationships she built with her clients inspired her to begin nursing school prerequisite courses (anatomy, physiology, chemistry) before finishing her bachelor's degree in English. Sheila graduated from UIUC with a BA in English Literature in May 2006 with academic focuses in history and psychology. She graduated with her second bachelor's degree in nursing from Lakeview College of Nursing in 2008. Then, due to her interests intersecting technology with health care, she obtained her MS in Clinical Informatics and Patient-Centered Technologies from the University of Washington in Seattle in 2015. She is currently in the doctoral program of nursing practice at University of Illinois Chicago at the Urbana campus and studying to be an adult-gero acute care nurse practitioner. The skills she gained from her English degree have helped her through all of her degrees and speaking opportunities for the past decade. Sheila has been a full-time nurse since she graduated from nursing school. She has specialized in several health care environments including pediatric skilled care, adult acute care, geriatric care, and ambulatory acute care. Sheila also floated to different areas such as the inpatient psychiatric unit, emergency room, palliative care, primary care, and immunization & travel. These invaluable experiences working with patients and their families in all stages of life continue to add color and richness to the fabric binding her professional career. Sheila and a physician she met in grad school started a company and are currently conducting research for developing healthcare technologies. She is also a board member of Station Theatre in Urbana. As far as career advice: Networking will carry you far. Learn from, and respect your colleagues. To really understand your strengths and weaknesses, you have to step out of your comfort level. Continue to challenge yourself.

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Meghan Pillow	megpillow@ yahoo.com	Rhetoric, English	2004	Nursing	Greater Chicago Area	<p>Meghan Pillow graduated with her BA in English and Rhetoric in May 2004. After graduation, she started as an editorial coordinator for Joint Commission Resources in Oakbrook, Illinois, and was promoted to senior editor by 2006. Her favorite role at Joint Commission Resources was being the editor of the Perspectives on Patient Safety newsletter. Patient safety became such an interest to her that she decided to go back to school to become a nurse. In May of 2007, Meghan entered an accelerated bachelor's of science in nursing (BSN) program at Loyola University Chicago. She graduated with her BSN in June 2008 and became a critical care nurse at Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights, Illinois. However, Meghan never abandoned the skills she learned while obtaining a BA degree in English and Rhetoric because she remained a freelance writer for Joint Commission Resources and other health care publishers. She finds it much easier to write about health care and patient safety issues with 8 years of nursing experience. In 2014, Meghan went back to school to complete a master of science in nursing degree and will graduate at the end of December 2016. She also accomplished a major goal of writing a book about high reliability in health care organizations.</p>
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Vanessa Prokuski	v.prokuski@ gmail.com	English, Anthropology	2008	Medicial	Boston	<p>Dr. Prokuski is a proud 2008 graduate of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where she studied English and Anthropology and was active in the theatre and comedy scenes. Vanessa graduated from Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia in 2013 where she organized community health clinics, was Social Chair of her class, founded an art club, made med school rap videos that netted 350,000+ YouTube hits, and partook in many other medical and not-so-medical activities. Vanessa is thrilled to now be an orthopedic surgeon. She is passionate about medicine, travel, community outreach, and exploring the intersection of science and creativity.</p>
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Kimberly Whitlock	Kimberlybar del.whitlock @mckesson. com	English, Microbiology		Pharmacy	San Rafael, CA	<p>Dr. Whitlock has worked in the medical field, holding several types of positions since her undergraduate studies completion in 1995. She has expertise in oncology drug therapy selection, and has broad experience in the creation of clinical content for healthcare providers and patients. In her current position at McKesson Specialty Health, she uses her background in English to prepare analysis on drug therapy for her colleagues on the business side of healthcare, and is regularly involved in presentations to customers whether they be physicians, nurses, or colleagues within the pharmaceutical industry. She has a B.A. in English and Microbiology from UIUC and a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of California at San Francisco.</p>
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## HIGHER EDUCATION -- ADMINISTRATION AND ADVISING

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Karen Carney	carneykar@g mail.com	English		Champaign/Ur bana Area	<p>Dr. Carney is an Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at UIUC with responsibility for the college's humanities and interdisciplinary programs. Prior to joining LAS in 2006, she served as Associate Dean in the Graduate College, Associate Director of the Office of Continuing Education, and Assistant Provost. She holds a B.A. in English from John Carroll University and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in English from UIUC. Her area of specialty is 19th century British literature, with an emphasis on gender and literary publishing.</p>
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*Keena Griffin	kgriff14088 @gmail.com	English		Champaign/Ur bana Area	<p>Keena Griffin graduated from the University of Illinois in 2013 with a BA in English. He entered UIUC as a first-generation college student with the intent to become a lawyer, but quickly realized that law was not his passion. His experiences at Illinois helped him discover that his true passion was working with students to attend college and succeed there. After graduation, he joined the Illinois College Advising Corps and served as a College Access Advisor at Rich South and Rich East High Schools. He currently works in college admission, and credits his English degree with helping him find a path to help others achieve their goals.</p>
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marquishaye  
s.hayes@gm  
Marquis Hayes ail.com

English Greater  
Chicago Area

Marquis Hayes received a Bachelors' degree in English and departed UIUC with the graduating class of 2016. He began working for the Illinois Student Assistance Commission almost immediately after graduating and stayed with the organization for two years. He has assisted students of all ages with financial aid and broadening their futures. Currently, he aids students as a Financial Aid Advisor at the University of Chicago, and his long-term goal is to serve students as a Professor of English or African American Studies. In his spare time, he likes to read all types of books from mystery novels to Marvel comics.

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\*Kristine  
McCoskey mcoske1@il  
linois.edu Rhetoric 2011

After receiving her degree in Rhetoric in 2001, Ms. McCoskey accepted a management position with the Follett Higher Education Group at their store located in Champaign, IL. A few years later, she moved to the publishing world, accepting a position as a Higher Education Sales Manager for Human Kinetics Publishing, also in Champaign; in this position, she was responsible for a fourteen state territory that spanned from Louisiana to Washington state. This position also allowed her the opportunity to work with Acquisitions and Associate/Assistant Editors. Following her time at Human Kinetics, she decided to veer away from the work she'd done in higher education markets and venture into unknown territory: IT Recruiting. She served as a full-time Technical Recruiter for an international company that had its US headquarters in Chicago's Loop. In that role, she recruited contract and permanent staff for a range of IT positions . . . from Data Architects to Project Managers to Help Desk Specialists. Her clients included large national and international companies like AT&T, Yahoo, Bank of America, Visa, and a number of others. In 2009, she took a vow of poverty :) and decided to pursue a graduate degree in Higher Education in the U of I College of Education. She completed her master's degree in 2011 and was offered a position in LAS's New Student Advising office, where she interned during her graduate program. She is now an academic advisor in the Department of English.

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\*Anthony  
Pomonis apomonis@il  
linois.edu English 2002

Champaign/Ur  
bana Area

Tony Pomonis is the son of a Greek immigrant who came to the United States to study Aeronautical Engineering at the University of Illinois in 1960. He has always had a lifelong love for reading and writing. He did well in school, and attended the U of I because it was cheap (in-state tuition) and because his father was a master of reverse psychology. He took it personally when it was posited that he wasn't smart enough to get into the College of Business Administration. He transferred over to Liberal Arts & Sciences years later because he was miserable and wanted to prove that he could be successful following his own passion. He worked and saved as much money as he could, paying his own way through school thereafter. He graduated from the U of I with a degree in English in 2002. Rather than pursue a career in academia, he liquidated his life savings, partnered up with his best friend, and opened his own 24 hour diner in downtown Champaign. He modeled it after Edward Hopper's iconic painting, Nighthawks. In 2010 he opened another diner in Urbana, Illinois, and modeled it after Alfred Hitchcock's North by Northwest. In 2011 he opened a fourth store at Illinois State University, inspired by Quentin Tarantino's Pulp Fiction. At about that time, he chose to pour more of his energy into volunteer work. He began by joining the Regional Board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Champaign County and is currently the most senior member of that Board. He also steered the Diners towards more philanthropic works, and was responsible for a Summer Youth Employment Fundraiser that raised more than \$15,000 in just two years of its existence. In 2009 he married Christina Nichols, and 2 children later, realized that his life to work balance was extremely skewed in the wrong direction. He reached out to a mentor in Advancement at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in early 2015, wrote his very first cover letter and resume, and gained employment at a world-class institution. He functions at Illinois as a conduit between alumni and their Alma Mater, creating meaning along the way. He has used the critical thinking, writing, and reading skills that he learned as an LAS undergrad in every facet of his adult life. They are why he is professionally successful, and personally happy.

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Jane Price	jflanag8@ya hoo.com	English	Public Service	Greater Chicago Area	Ms. Price works at DePaul University in the Career Center as a career advisor for undergraduate finance and accounting students and alumni. In this role, she not only advises students and alumni on career preparedness and development, but also works closely with faculty in the Department of Finance and the School of Accountancy and MIS. Strong relationships and involvement with student organizations are another integral part of her role. She co-created and co-teaches a 2-credit career management class called "Career Management for Accountants" with an accounting faculty member. Ms. Price joined DePaul University after several years of experience in campus recruiting at professional services firms including Huron Consulting Group and Hewitt Associates. Prior experience also includes corporate recruiting and HR Generalist responsibilities at Canon Business Solutions. She is an active member of the Midwest Association of Colleges and Employers and currently serves as Vice-Chair for the Professional Exchange Committee. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is currently pursuing her MSc in Public Service Management at DePaul University.
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*Jamie Thomas-Ward	thomas99@i llinois.edu	English	JD	Champaign/Ur bana Area	Ms. Thomas-Ward is the Director of Pre-Law Services at UIUC and is an adjunct professor in the Department of Political Science. Prior to her current position, she worked as an attorney engaged in real estate, corporate, and municipal law. During law school she spent a year in the State's Attorney's office, and since 2010 she has taught the Public Defender Internship course. She earned a B.A. in English from UIUC in 1999, a J.D., magna cum laude, from Northern Illinois University, and an M.S. in Education from Illinois State University.
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## HIGHER EDUCATION -- FACULTY

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Jacqueline Acuff	jacqueline.ac uff@yahoo.c om	English	1966	MA	In 1966 I graduated from U of I with a Bachelor's in Teaching of English, minor in Rhetoric, and later earned my Master's at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi with Writing Emphasis. I have taught many years at many levels including junior high, high school, college, distance learning, and dual credit. Most recently I retired from Texas A&M University-Kingsville where I primarily taught Freshman Writing and Technical Writing. Faced with years of classrooms with new faces and diversity in all aspects, I could have used some mentoring! Here are some skills I felt important to teach students: Critical thinking skills, Evaluation/Argument – especially current event issues, Research skills, Analysis of visuals, Technical Writing (clear, concise, and accurate writing transfers to any major and any career). I developed a course in Technical Writing for Engineers and presented technical writing for professional development credit to an engineering firm. Awards: Randall Popken Memorial Rhetoric, Composition, Technical Writing Award; Teaching Excellence Award by TAMUK Center for Teaching Excellence; Quality Enhancement Program for Technical Writing. Publications: "Manipulation of Images: Implications for Teaching Critical Observation," Conference of College Teachers of English, Volume LXXI, 2006. "The Historical Scrapbook Project," Exercise Exchange, 1997.
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Julie Chamberlin	jkchamberlin 91@gmail.co m	English	2013	PhD	Rochester, NY	Julie is a 2013 graduate of the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in English with a minor in Spanish. As an undergraduate, she worked in the Writer's Workshop, was a TA for LAS 101, and participated in the Departmental Honors and James Scholar programs. In May 2019, she graduated with her PhD in English from Indiana University-Bloomington with a focus on medieval literature. Julie is now an adjunct professor at both Loyola University Chicago and Elmhurst College (soon to be Elmhurst University), where she teaches courses in writing and literature. Before becoming an English professor, Julie worked a variety of jobs in technical writing and copywriting and has taught professional writing at Indiana University. She is happy to discuss anything from graduate school to job applications with English majors!
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Caroline Cole	cmcole@berkeley.edu	English, PhD	Greater San Francisco Area	After graduating with her degree in English and Rhetoric from UIUC in 1987, Dr. Cole returned to get a master's in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) while teaching courses in Business and Technical Writing for the English Department. She found her niche there and completed a Ph.D. in Writing Studies through the newly formed Center for Writing Studies in 1997. She is a faculty member at the University of California at Berkeley, teaching expository and professional writing courses in the College Writing Program and the Walter A. Hass School of Business at Berkeley. In 2003 she founded Ethos Professional Communication, which provides communication consulting services to individuals and organizations throughout the Bay Area.		
Eileen Favorite	efavorite@bcglobal.net	English	1986	MFA, Writing	Greater Chicago Area	Ms. Favorite teaches English at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago where she received her M.F.A. in writing in 1999. Previously, she worked in publishing for five years for Academic Press and Harcourt children's books, and has published her first novel, The Heroines (Scribner, 2008). She received her degree in English at UIUC in 1986.
Mattea Garcia	matteagarcia@gmail.com	Creative Writing	2004	PhD, Comm	Orlando, FL	Dr. Garcia is currently an Assistant Professor of Communication at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL. She graduated from Illinois with three degrees: a Bachelor's in English/Creative Writing and a Master's and PhD in Communication. Prior to working at Rollins, she was an Assistant Professor and Director of the Basic Course at Indiana State University. Past work has also included consulting and editing. Her research focuses on professional identity and workplace bullying. She teaches courses in organizational communication, organizational health, and business communication. In her spare time, she remains a voracious reader.
Jean Jackson	JacksonJ@meredith.edu			PhD, English	Raleigh, NC	Dr. Jackson is a tenured professor at Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina and has served as Vice President of the college for the last seventeen years. Although she is an administrator, she continues to teach one class a year. She received both her M.A. and Ph.D. from UIUC.
Sarah L. Smith Larson	larsar@bellsouth.net			MA, English		Sara Larson earned her MA in English in 1958. She was awarded the Retiree of the Year Award from Georgia Perimeter College in 2014 and has been nominated for the 2014 Governor's Award for the Humanities for her service as Department Chair of Humanities for 10 years, launching the Freshman Writing Magazine The Polishing Cloth, the National Playwrights Videoconference series, connecting with 5 campuses with the likes of Edward Albee, Beth Henley, Marsha Norman, Horton Foote, John Patrick Shanley, David Lindsay-Abaire, Christopher Durang, and Alfred Uhry for 17 years even as a retiree, authoring Making Meaning, A Guide for Passing the Regents' Essay, receiving first place in Georgia for DAR essay on Women's Issues, and being honored with The Sarah Larson Lecture Series for the Humanities Grant from the Georgia Humanities Council Inc.
Joanne Marshall	jmars@iastate.edu	Rhetoric	2011	multiple degrees		After completing her Rhetoric degree at UIUC, Ms. Marshall attended the University of Chicago for a Master of Arts in Teaching English, and then taught high school English for three years. She returned to UIUC for an M.S. in Library and Information Science while teaching Rhetoric 105 for the English department, which she loved. She then went to Harvard University for a degree in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy, which led her to take a job at Loyola University in Chicago in teacher preparation. She is now at Iowa State University in principal preparation. She would be happy to talk with students interested in the K-12 to higher education route.



Carol Rippey Massat	carolmassat@gmail.com	Rhetoric	PhD, Social Work	Lagrange, IN	Carol Rippey Massat, Ph.D., ACSW graduated with a degree in Rhetoric from University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. She was one of the early winners of the Kerker Quinn Award for creative writing, and, as an undergraduate, was already successful in publishing her poetry. Dr. Rippey Massat went on to complete her Masters in Social Work. As a practicing social worker, she carried out clinical work and published children's fiction related to foster care. After ten years of professional practice, Dr. Rippey Massat returned to school to complete a Ph.D. in social work, also at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. She then went on to become a faculty member at the Jane Addams College of Social Work, University of Illinois at Chicago. While at Jane Addams, she was the PI on several federal research grants, published numerous scholarly articles, earned tenure, became editor of School Social Work Journal and edited a book on school social work. At UIC, Dr. Rippey Massat served as Presiding Officer of the UIC Senate and was a long time member of University Senates Conference. Currently, Dr. Rippey Massat is Professor and Director of the MSW program at Indiana University South Bend. Throughout her career, her background in writing and in literature have been tremendously helpful in assisting her to develop scholarly publications and to articulate and speak for vulnerable populations who lack voice in our society.	
Ted Steinberg	Theodore.Steinberg@fredonia.edu		PhD		Dr. Steinberg received his Ph.D. from UIUC in 1971 and has been a member of the English Department at the State University of New York at Fredonia since then. He is currently a Distinguished Teaching Professor focusing mostly on Medieval and Renaissance literatures. He loves advising students.	
Carol Wickersham	wickersh@beloit.edu	Philosophy, Religion, Studio Arts	1978	Mdiv	Beloit, WI	Since graduating, I have focused on faith-based social justice, community-organizing and education n grassroots, national and global settings. I am an ordained Presbyterian pastor and have served congregations in the Bay Area and Midwest. I have worked with communities on issues such as faith-labor coalitions, homelessness, refugee services, human rights and, currently, jail chaplaincy and criminal justice reform. More broadly, I was a Program Secretary at the World Council in Geneva for two years in the '90's and helped to found the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT). I have worked for the past 11 years as Instructor of Sociology and Director of Community-Based Learning at Beloit College. Assume the learning stance: everyone you meet is your teacher; everywhere you are is your classroom. What's the lesson for you? *Practice using texts (academic learning) to interrogate contexts (beyond the classroom learning) and vice versa. *When navigating your career, be aware of all the forms of compensation, not only money, but meaning, work-life balance, the ability to
Derek Van Ittersum	dvanitte@kent.edu			PhD, English		After graduating from Drake University with a BA in English, Dr. Van Ittersum started graduate school at the University of Illinois in the Fall of 2001. He graduated with a Ph.D. in English with a concentration in Writing Studies in 2008. Currently, he is an associate professor of English at Kent State University, where he teaches in the Literacy, Rhetoric, and Social Practice graduate program.
Rocco Versaci	RVersaci@palomar.edu	Rhetoric, English	1989	PhD, English	Great San Diego Area	Rocco Versaci graduated from the University of Illinois in 1989 with a double major in English and Rhetoric and a minor in comparative literature. He worked in the insurance industry for two years before heading to Indiana University, where he completed an M.A. and Ph.D. in English with a minor in film studies. He is currently an English professor at Palomar College, a community college in north San Diego County, where he has taught full-time since 1997. During that time, he has served as Department Chair, co-advisor to the college's literary magazine, and various positions of faculty leadership. He teaches all levels of composition (including one offered at a local prison), creative writing, and various literature courses (including one that focuses on comics and graphic novels). He is the author of two books: This Book Contains Graphic Language: Comics as Literature (Bloomsbury, 2007) and That Hidden Road: A Memoir (Apprentice House, 2016). For the last several years, he has been the co-adviser for Palomar's English Majors group, which has involved talking to students about the wide range of career options open to people majoring in the Humanities in general and English in particular.

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Amie Whittemore whittemore.  
 amie@gmail.com Rhetoric, English 2002 MFA Murfreesboro, TN

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Amie Whittemore graduated with a B.A. in English and Rhetoric (Creative Writing focus) from the University of Illinois in 2002 and went on to earn a Master of Arts in Teaching from Lewis and Clark and a Master of Fine Arts in Poetry from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. She's used her English degree throughout her career, which has included teaching high school and postsecondary English, coordinating the University of Wisconsin-Parkside's Academic Resource Center, and directing communications and marketing for the nonprofit Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville/Albemarle, among other roles. She currently teaches English composition and literature at Middle Tennessee State University and her first book of poems, *Glass Harvest*, is available from Autumn House Press. She would love to talk with you about maintaining an active creative practice after graduation, whether or not to pursue an MFA, general career advice for roles in and outside of education, and the books on your nightstand you can't wait to read.

Daniel Yezbick dyezbick@stlcc.edu English PhD, English St Louis, MO

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After receiving an Dual Honors B.A. in English and Film/Video Studies from the U of Michigan Ann Arbor, Dan earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in English from U of I between 1997 and 2004. As a graduate student he taught for the Program in Professional Writing, the Program for Film/Video Studies, Unit One, Continuing Education, and the English Department. He pioneered the first Illinois courses on American Radio Drama and the History of the Graphic Novel and was also fortunate to serve as the first graduate Assistant Director of the U of I Study Theater in England program. Always interested in two-year and online college instruction, he adjuncted for Parkland College, Henry Ford Community College, and American Public University/American Military University. From 2004 to 2007, he served as Professor of English and Humanities at Peninsula College, Port Townsend in Washington state where he introduced a number of innovative Honors seminars developed in conjunction with students themselves including the multimedia survey, Science Fiction Overdrive. While at Peninsula College, he also served as a juror and festival moderator for the Port Townsend Film Festival where he interviewed numerous filmmakers and media professionals. Currently, Dan is Associate Professor of English and Global Education Coordinator at Forest Park College in St Louis, MO where he teaches writing, literature, mass communications, and interdisciplinary studies courses. He also facilitates the annual International Education Festival and the Multicultural Arts Festivals and works on regional and statewide partnership development and fundraising in conjunction with Global/International Education. He has lectured and published on a wide variety of topics in the humanities including theater, film, photography, global education, and comic art. Recently, his work has appeared in *Icons of the American Comic- Book* (Greenwood 2013), *A Critical Survey of Graphic Novels: History, Theme, & Technique* (Salem 2012), and the forthcoming *Comics Through Time: A Historical Encyclopedia* (Greenwood 2014). He is currently at work on *Perfect Nonsense: the Chaotic Comics and Goofy Games of George L. Carson* for Fantagraphics Books and continues to write a yearly dramaturgical "column" for the Key City Players' festival, Shakespeare in Chetzemoka Park. Originally, from Detroit, MI, he now lives in South City St Louis with his wife, Rosalie, their two children and their very large dog.

Karolis Gintaras kgz3@columbia.edu English 1996 Greater Chicago Area

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Karolis Gintaras Zukauskas graduated with his BA in English and American Literature in 1996. After graduation, he worked as a Fulbright Teaching Assistant in Austria, and later attended Columbia University's Writing Program, where he earned his MFA in 2002. He's currently a member of the Communication Arts faculty at Morton College. He writes under the name Gint Aras. His essays, short stories and translations have appeared in numerous publications, from literary journals (*Quarterly West*, *Antique Children*, *Curbside Splendor*) to online magazines (*STIR* and *The Good Men Project*). He's the author of a cult novel, *Finding the Moon in Sugar* (2009), and his latest novel, *The Fugue*, is forthcoming from the Chicago Center for Literature and Photography, scheduled for launch in December of 2015.

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Randy Duax	randyduax@gmail.com	Pol Sci, Rhetoric	2003	MFA	Greater New York City Area	Mr. Duax has been working as a headhunter for the largest retained executive search firm in the world that specializes in media. He has a B.A. in Rhetoric and an M.A. in Creative Writing.
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Theodore (Theo) Long	theodorefwlong@gmail.com	English	2002		Champaign/Urbana Area	Theo graduated with a B.A. in English from UIUC in 2002. He currently works for the UIUC's Office of the Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement (OV CIA) as the Executive Director of Budget and Talent Management. As a member of the Senior Leadership Team for OV CIA, the primary function of the Executive Director of Budget and Talent Management is to provide strategic leadership for budget and financial oversight, as well as talent management, recruitment, and employee engagement programs for advancement staff on the Urbana campus. Theo has more than ten years of human resources experience and worked for FedEx Ground, Carle Clinic Association, and Carle Foundation Hospital before coming to the University of Illinois in 2014. He obtained his Professional in Human Resources (PHR) certification in 2009 and his Society for Human Resource Management Certified Professional (SHRM-CP) in 2015. Theo feels that the working in human resources or in advancement/fundraising would be excellent opportunities for English majors. He is more than willing to share his experiences with students who are interested in breaking into these areas.
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Kari Piwoni	kpiwoni@gmail.com	English	2003	LER	Greater Chicago Area	Kari Piwoni graduated with her BA in English in May 2007 and her Masters in Human Resources and Industrial Relations December 2008 from UIUC. She has worked across the US, living in Boston, MA, Tampa, FL, Tucson, AZ and Portland, OR. She currently resides in Aurora, IL. Kari loves working in HR because it combines creative problem solving, leadership, and employment law together. Currently, Kari manages the labor portion of the Corporate Social Responsibility Program at Qorvo, which is focused on ensuring humane and ethical work practices at her company and their supply chain. She also designed and manages the performance development process for the company. She would love to share her experience with anyone interested in HR as a possible career path. She is also happy to provide advice on preparing for an interview, negotiating a job offer, or resume review.
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## JOURNALISM

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Craig Barner	cbarner1@bcglobal.net	English	1987			Craig Barner graduated with B.A. in English literature from the U of I in 1987. His first professional writing experience came that summer as an intern with the Illinois Secretary of State. He wrote articles, ghost-wrote for the Secretary, and created a style manual. After the internship ended, Barner was accepted into the graduate program in English literature at Indiana University, where he earned an M.A. Barner has been a journalist for 24 years. He has written mostly for business-to-business publications, including those covering mergers and acquisitions, commercial construction and architecture, and dentistry. Barner has also published some pieces, either online or in print form, in high-profile publications, including the Chicago Sun-Times, Forbes, and the Financial Times. He has published more than 2,000 articles in his career. These include news stories, profiles, and trend pieces. Last year, Barner stepped away from journalism to write the first draft of a novel, which is expected to run around 80,000 words. Previously, he was a senior reporter in Chicago for Mergermarket, a London-based online news wire. Its readers include executives, investment bankers, and lawyers. Tip: Write for the Daily Illini or any other publication, whether online or in print, with a high-frequency publication schedule to get used to constant deadlines. Second tip: Immerse yourself in reading and writing when the university is not in session. Try to read 25 to 75 books a year and keep a journal.
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Bert Dalmer	smokedscrod@aol.com	English, Journalism	1994		Des Moines, IA	Bert Dalmer is an investigator for the Iowa Office of Ombudsman, a good-government office that resolves disputes and corrects abuses by local and state agencies. Prior to joining the Ombudsman in 2006, Dalmer worked for 12 years as a news reporter in Illinois and Iowa. Most recently, he was an investigative reporter for the Des Moines Register, where he wrote exposes on subjects such as questionable tax breaks, politically motivated grant programs, and officials' misuse of anti-terrorism money and statistics. Dalmer previously covered police, courts, and local government for the City News Bureau of Chicago and the Rockford (Ill.) Register Star. He started his journalism career as a sports columnist with the Daily Illini, where he also wrote a much-cited five-part series on the history and controversies surrounding Chief Illiniwek. Dalmer gives lectures and presentations to journalists and citizens, and he remains an active member of Investigative Reporters and Editors. He is a baseball junkie, a drummer, and a WWII buff. He earned bachelor's degrees in rhetoric and journalism from the University of Illinois in 1994.
Gloria Lloyd	glorialloyd@gmail.com	English	2005	MA	St Louis, MO	Gloria Lloyd received her BA in English from the University of Illinois in 2005. She is now the government and education reporter for Call Newspapers in St. Louis. In the past she has worked as a reporter at the Raleigh News & Observer and The Chapel Hill News in North Carolina, and has interned at the Alton Telegraph in Alton, Illinois.
Paul Merrion	pmerrion@gmail.com	English	1974		Washington, DC	Paul Merrion, who earned a bachelor's degree in English from UIUC, worked for Crain's Chicago Business since its founding in June 1978. Prior to joining Crain's Chicago Business, he was a reporter in Washington and Chicago for two other Crain publications, Business Insurance and Pensions & Investments, serving as Washington Bureau Chief for the whole company since 1985, but mostly writing for CCB, covering a wide range of Chicago-related business and government news. He left Crain in March 2015 when his position was eliminated for budgetary reasons and since February 2016, he has been working at CQ Roll Call, covering data privacy and cybersecurity.
*Dan Petrella	dan.petrella@gmail.com	Rhetoric	2006	Journalism	Greater Chicago Area	Dan Petrella, who received his B.A. in rhetoric in 2006, is the Springfield bureau chief for Lee Enterprises, which owns newspapers around Illinois, including The Pantagraph in Bloomington, the Herald & Review in Decatur, and The Southern Illinoisan in Carbondale. He covers state government and politics from the Illinois Capitol. Prior to joining Lee Enterprises in January 2016, he was assistant metro editor and projects coordinator at The State Journal-Register in Springfield. Previously, he was a staff writer at the SJ-R, first covering the communities surrounding the capital and then Springfield city government. Before that, he was a reporter for CU-CitizenAccess.org, a project of the University of Illinois Department of Journalism, and a freelance writer. In addition to his rhetoric degree, Dan has a B.S. and an M.S. in journalism, also from the U. of I.

Carol  
Terracina-  
Hartman

terracina.car  
ol@gmail.co  
m

Rhetoric,  
English

PhD

Bloomsburg,  
PA

I chose to study English because it offered the best of both of my worlds: left and right brain. It also permitted me to study abroad and learn firsthand about the places I was reading about in literature (my specialty interests were Chaucer and Anglo-Irish literature; I studied at Stirling University and enrolled in courses with A. Norman Jeffares – THE authority on Irish literature!) But I found it important to participate in a lot of campus activities that demanded I write in a lot of different genres, not just rhetoric, poetry and literary analysis, which can be isolating and terrifying at times. So I worked for WPGU and The Daily Illini. Those experiences helped me land positions working in publishing companies in New York. I also gained the soft skills necessary to work with difficult authors (I was chiefly responsible for marketing the Atheneum imprint and the Scribners mystery list) and their much nicer agents. Presently, I am writing my dissertation at Michigan State University in the Media and Information Studies Program, School of Journalism. I also teach at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and advise the student newspaper, The Royal Purple. I am also a correspondent for CBS Local (Channel 13) in Northern California, and write a column for Examiner.com on animal rescue. I am working on a collection of short stories, based in part on my years as a Peace Corps volunteer, but with a bit of magic realism tossed in to keep it interesting. I also just completed a script (seeking funding) based on some animal rescue experiences.

## LAW

\*Kelly Burke

kmb7666@c  
omcast.net

English

1988 JD

Greater  
Chicago Area

Ms. Burke graduated in 1988 and received her J.D. from the John Marshall Law School in 1992. She worked for judges and law firms for 14 years before leaving practice to work in academia at Saint Xavier University in Chicago. In 2010 Ms. Burke was elected to the Illinois General Assembly to represent the 36th District, which covers part of the south side of Chicago and seven southwest suburbs. Ms. Burke is serving in her 5th term in the legislature and is an attorney at the firm of Odelson & Sterk in Evergreen Park.

James Burns

jburnsui@ao  
l.com

English

1987 JD

Greater  
Chicago Area

Earning a B.A. in English in 1987 and a J.D. after that, Mr. Burns is a partner in his own small law firm of Burns & Wincek, Ltd. He practices consumer bankruptcy and foreclosure defense.

\*John Deckert

jdeckert@la  
w-hd.com

English,  
German

2009 JD

Greater  
Chicago Area

After graduating from UIUC in 2009 with an English major and a German minor, John Deckert went on to pursue a law degree at Notre Dame. While in law school he focused on individual, estate, and corporate taxation, securities regulation, estate law, and corporate and business law. He now divides his time between Chicago and Champaign, working for a boutique investment firm. He writes: "An aspect of my practice that I believe students in the English department will find encouraging/refreshing, is that engaging the various markets is nothing more than an exercise in understanding the human condition. Many of the news/advisory/opinion newsletters that advise on investments and tax attempt to reference Shakespeare, Poe, and Nietzsche, etc. The most talented of the bunch merely manage to plagiarize; few do real justice to their respective thinkers."

Matthew Egan

megan@pret  
zel-  
stouffer.com

English

1979 JD

Greater  
Chicago Area

Mr. Egan began his legal career in the Cook County State's Attorney's office in 1982 and has been engaged in private practice in civil litigation since 1988. He is a 1979 graduate of English at UIUC. He attended law school in Chicago and received his J.D. degree in 1982. He recommends studying English to anyone contemplating a career in law.

Christina Faklis	cfaklis2@gm ail.com	English, Comm	2010	JD	Greater Chicago Area	Christina Faklis currently serves as a judicial law clerk for The Honorable Charles P. Kocoras of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. As an undergraduate student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from 2006-2010, Christina was a double major in English and Communication in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She participated in the University of Illinois' Subcommittee on Undergraduate Conduct, the Provost Student Advisory Board and served as President of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority. She graduated from U of I in May 2010 and received a full academic scholarship to attend law school at The John Marshall Law School in Chicago, IL in the fall of 2010. While in law school, Christina served as the Executive Assistant for Justice Margaret O'Mara Frossard, President of the Office of Professionalism and Career Strategy's Student Advisory Board, and participated in the Judicial Externship Program. She was a member of the August Rendigs National Products Liability Moot Court Team, the Trial Advocacy ABA Negotiation Team, and received a second place award during the 1L Mock Trial Competition. Ms. Faklis also worked as a law clerk for Cooney & Conway during her second year of law school and McNabola Law Group during her third year, both plaintiff personal injury law firms. Christina graduated from The John Marshall Law School in May of 2013.
Edward Feldman	efeldman@ millershakm an.com	English	1979	JD	Greater Chicago Area	Mr. Feldman has practiced in a wide range of general commercial litigation and civil rights. He has experience in securities law, RICO litigation, consumer fraud litigation, partnership and corporate disputes, legal malpractice defense, professional responsibility matters, employment discrimination, first amendment issues, contractual disputes, and health, construction, and environmental law. He has a B.A. in English in 1979 and a B.S. in Physics in 1980, both from UIUC. He earned his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1984.
*Abigail Fleming	abbyfleming @gmail.com	English	2008	JD	Peoria, IL	Abigail Fleming currently works as a civil litigation attorney at Fleming Law Office, in Peoria, IL, practicing in a variety of areas including primarily on complex personal injury cases, insurance defense & coverage, nursing home defense, among other areas. Her practice area covers most of central Illinois court venues. She received her Bachelors of Arts from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2008, studying both English Literature and Latina/o Studies. At U of I, she was on Homecoming Court, Senior 100, President of the Illini Union Board, interned for University of Illinois Student Affairs, taught a LAS 101 course, and worked at the Daily Illini. She then received her Juris Doctor from Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago, Illinois, where she was also actively involved in student government. Abigail currently serves on the board of Peoria Area Illini Club Alumni Organization and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Peoria. She is a General Assembly representative for the Illinois State Bar Association. She donates pro bono legal services for low-income clients through Courthouse Help Desks, and taking on pro bono cases from Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) and Prairie State Legal. She serves on the 10th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee and on committees of the Peoria County Bar Association.
Anthony G. Hopp	hopp@wild man.com	English	1984	JD	Greater Chicago Area	Tony Hopp is a partner in Edwards Wildman's Litigation Department. He represents clients in complex commercial, environmental and toxic tort matters. He has tried cases in Illinois, Mississippi, Georgia and West Virginia and has argued appeals in Illinois, California, New York, and Nebraska. He has represented clients in environmental and commercial cases in 20 states. He received his B.A. in English in 1984 and J.D. in 1988 both from UIUC.
Jonathan Jacobson	jonathanejac obson@gmai l.com	Journalism		JD		I currently work as a federal prosecutor with the U.S. Department of Justice. I prosecute international narcotics trafficking cases. Earlier, I handled civil litigation in Washington, D.C., also at the Department of Justice. Prior to that, I clerked for two federal judges after attending Northwestern University School of Law. Before law school, I was working at a business litigation newswire called Law360 as an editor for a year. And before that, I taught for two years in an inner-city school in Brooklyn through Teach for America. During my time at U of I, I worked primarily in journalism, at the Daily Illini, Buzz Magazine, and WPGU. I was a news editor at the DI, as well as a columnist and a news reporter at different times. At WPGU, I hosted a music radio show and co-hosted a news show with some of my fellow DI editors.

Kimberly Janas	kimberly.janas@gmail.com	English	2003	JD	Greater Chicago Area	Ms. Janas earned a B.A. in English in 2003, and then completed her J.D. at UIUC. She has been employed in a variety of different capacities in Illinois State government Ms. Janas was a Staff Attorney at the Legislative Reference Bureau, Assistant Attorney General in the General Law Bureau at the Office of the Attorney General, Lisa Madigan, and most recently served as an Associate Counsel for the Illinois Senate Democrats. Ms. Janas is currently the Secretary of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission where she is responsible for the Commission's administrative rules and also operations of the Commission staff.
Gina A. Jenero (Johnson)	Gina.Jenero@klgates.com	English	2012	JD	Greater Chicago Area	Gina A. Jenero is an associate attorney in the K&L Gates Chicago office. Ms. Jenero is a part of the firm's intellectual property and commercial disputes groups. She focuses her practice on patent litigation. Ms. Jenero's experience includes patent litigation matters before the International Trade Commission. She is experienced in many phases of litigation, including fact and expert discovery, discovery and dispositive motion practice, trial preparation, trial, post-trial motions and hearings. Gina is very involved in pro bono work. In particular, Gina serves as a guardian ad litem for minors through Chicago Volunteer Legal Services. Prior to her legal career, Gina attended the University of Illinois, where she graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in English. Gina was always interested in becoming a lawyer, and knew that honing her critical thinking, analytical, research, and writing skills would help shape her into an outstanding litigator. At the University of Illinois, Gina was a James Scholar and member of the Pre-Law Honors Society. Gina was also the President of her sorority, Delta Delta Delta, where she led several philanthropic events dedicated to raising money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Gina attended the University of Illinois College of Law and graduated summa cum laude. She received CALI Excellence for the Future Awards in two classes: Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Employment Discrimination and graduated with Honors in Legal Writing, Advocacy, and Legal Research. Gina was also the Admissions Editor of the University of Illinois Law Review, President of the Italian American Law Students Association, and a teaching assistant for three first year classes: Real Property, Legal Writing, and Advocacy. During her third year of law school, Gina studied in Barcelona, Spain, where she took classes on Public International Law, Spanish Law of Damages, and Catalonian Criminology.
John "Jack" O'Brien	john.obrien@morganlewis.com	English, Psychology	2005	JD	Wynnewood, PA	Mr. O'Brien is a partner at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP in Philadelphia, PA. His focus is in the financial services and investment industry and his clients are mutual funds, hedge funds and asset managers. He is a 2005 graduate of UIUC, with a B.A. in English and a B.S. in Psychology. He is a 2008 graduate of Villanova University, where he obtained a J.D. and an M.B.A.
Kathryn Skozinski (Patel)	kskozinski@gmail.com	English	2004	JD	Greater Chicago Area	Ms. Skozinski has been practicing law since 2008. She received her law degree at Chicago-Kent in 2007 and her English degree at UIUC in 2004 with a minor in Information Technology. She works for a boutique firm specializing in property subrogation and insurance coverage issues, McDonald & McCabe LLC.
Pam Valdes	pamelavaldes14@yahoo.com	Rhetoric, English	2011	JD	Greater Chicago Area	My name is Pam Valdes and I am currently a third-year law student here at the University of Illinois. I also completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2011. I graduated with a dual major in English and Rhetoric and a minor in Business. In undergrad, I was very involved with LAS Council, which provided me numerous ways to participate academically and civically. I also participated in Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society. I entered undergrad with a pre-law designation. I chose the English and Rhetoric path because I love to read and analyze narratives and authors. I am also passionate about creative writing and explored that with writing classes. I have found my English and Rhetoric degrees extremely valuable. They have given me a strong platform to learn legal writing and I was able to quickly adapt to the amount of legal reading in law school. I would love to talk to any student or recent graduate about pre-law, law school, or any other matter.

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*Bruce Warren	nottd@mchs i.com	English	1977	JD	Champaign/Ur bana Area	Bruce E. Warren concentrates his practice in workers' compensation and civil litigation. He joined Thomas, Mamer & Haughey, LLP in 1991. Mr. Warren is a graduate of the Southern Illinois University School of Law. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Illinois in 1977, and was awarded the Master of Arts degree in Telecommunications from Southern Illinois University. His Master's thesis was a survey of proposals before the Supreme Court of Illinois seeking televised coverage of court proceedings. In 2014, Mr. Warren was named among the 50 Most Influential in Workers' Compensation and Occupational Medicine by SEAK, Inc., and the National Workers' Compensation and Occupational Medicine Conference for 2014. Leading Lawyers Network named Mr. Warren one of the Top Ten Workers' Compensation Defense Lawyers in Illinois in 2014. In addition to the State of Illinois, Mr. Warren has been admitted to the federal bar. He is a member of the Champaign and Illinois Bar Associations, the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel and Illinois Workers' Compensation Lawyers' Association.
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Carol Wong	cann_wong @yahoo.co m	English	2002	JD	Washington, DC	I graduated from Illinois with an English degree in 2002 and received my JD from the University of Illinois College of Law in 2007. After receiving my law degree, I worked as federal law clerk for the Western District for Tennessee in Memphis and was a Senior Trial Attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division's Employment Litigation Section. I am currently a Senior Staff Attorney with Justice in Aging's Washington, DC office where I focus on securing access to affordable health care and economic security for older adults with limited resources.
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## LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

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*Liza Booker	liza.booker@ gmail.com	English	2011	LIS	Greater Chicago Area	Liza Booker is a User Experience Analyst with LCF, where she provides technical support for Argonne's supercomputers such as writing Python and Unix scripts, improving key user workflows, and generating performance metrics. Liza is also an Argonne Education Volunteer and a member of Women in Science and Technology (WIST), and she actively volunteers for a wide range of outreach initiatives, including Hour of Code, CodeGirls, Summer Coding Camp, and Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day. Her educational history consists of a Master of Science in Library and Information Science, a Bachelors of Art in English, and a second B.A. in Rhetoric (now called Creative Writing) with a minor in Informatics. During her career, Booker has worked for various companies, including the City Colleges of Chicago, University of Illinois, Chicago Tribune, and National Association of Women Lawyers. For leisure, Liza enjoys creative writing, traveling, and caring for her bossy cat.
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Kelly Czarnecki	kellyczarnec ki1@gmail.c om	English	2011		Charlotte, NC	Kelly is the manager of the Teen Loft at ImaginOn in Charlotte, NC. The Teen Loft is a space for youth ages 10-18. Kelly gained her library experience as a Graduate Assistant while at the University of Illinois, where she attended the I-School after graduating with her BA in English. She worked for four years in Bloomington, IL at the public library as the Teen Librarian which served both teens and adults. She also works as a Resident Advisor at a local homeless shelter that serves families experiencing homelessness. Kelly has experience with sheltered families since living in Champaign and volunteering at The Center for Women in Transition (now Courage Connection). Kelly has written extensively for the library profession including book chapters, peer reviewed magazine columns and articles, books, blog posts for YALSA and more. Kelly recommends involving yourself in the community to be a well rounded person and applicant. One never knows how their personal passion for something might tie into a career skill!
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Jarrett Dapier	jdapier@gmail.com	Rhetoric, English	2001	LIS	Greater Chicago Area	I graduated from the Department of English at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a bachelor degree in rhetoric (my focus was creative writing) in 2001. In the decade following graduation, I taught reading enrichment classes to students of all ages, worked as a legal assistant at the ACLU of Illinois, acted as assistant publisher at In These Times magazine in Chicago, and began my career in public libraries at the Evanston Public Library in Evanston, IL. After almost 6 years working in teen/young adult services in Evanston, I returned to Illinois to study at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (now known as the School of Information Sciences) where I graduated with a Master of Library and Information Science. Since 2016, I have been working as a young adult librarian at the award winning Skokie Public Library in Skokie, IL where I run a teen theater troupe dedicated to the adaptation and performance of young adult literature on the stage. While I'm not working at the library, I write. I have recently sold two picture books, Mr. Watson's Chickens and Jazz For Lunch, to Chronicle Books and Simon & Schuster. Both books are slated to hit bookstores in 2021. In 2011, I self-published an original stage adaptation of My Antonia by Willa Cather, (which premiered at Urbana's Station Theatre). I have also performed at Lookingglass Theater, the Goodman Theatre, and at the White House where I appeared as a skeleton drummer with Red Moon Theater at the Obamas' Halloween celebration in 2009. I am married with two children. I have been very lucky and happy in all my varied pursuits since I graduated from the Department of English. I credit the writing and reading guidance, critical thinking skills, and encouragement I received from creative writing and English faculty at Illinois - as well as the local theater artists with whom I worked in Urbana during my undergraduate years - for my abilities to work creatively and professionally in myriad work environments. I'd love to offer help in the form of advice, hope, and guidance to those currently enrolled in English at U of I.
Jane Easterly	jane.easterly@galesburglibrary.org	English	1983	LIS	Galesburg, IL	Ms. Easterly has been the Assistant Director and Reference Supervisor at the Galesburg Public Library since 2006. Previously, she worked for CCH Incorporated in Riverwoods, IL, where she started in the Editorial Proofreading Department in 1984 and then transferred into Computer Training and Support Services in 1990, serving as Senior Support Specialist, Assistant Manager and Manager. She has a B.A. in English from UIUC, a master's in Integrated Professional Studies from DePaul University in Chicago, and a M.L.S. from UIUC in 2005.
*Samantha Millsap Johnson	slmjohnson19@gmail.com	English	2011	LIS	Greater Chicago Area	After finishing her BA in English in 2011, Samantha began her MS at the Graduate School of Library & Information Science (GSLIS) at Illinois, graduating in August of 2013. While a graduate student she managed the libraries in the Busey-Evans and Illinois Street Residence Halls, and also worked in Library Acquisitions and at the Center for Global Studies. Her first professional position was with the White Oak Library District in Crest Hill, Illinois and she is currently the Interim Director of the Hodgkins Public Library District in the southwest Chicago suburbs. The field of library and information science is perceived as extremely book-centric, which might explain the large number of English majors who find themselves studying to be librarians, but for Samantha her interest in the program at Illinois was bolstered by her experiences interacting and working with University librarians and library resources. Her BA demonstrated its value at GSLIS in her abilities to conduct research, navigate a variety of large databases, and communicate effectively in writing and in speech.
Megan Sapp Nelson	mrsapp@purdue.edu	English	2001	LIS	Greater Chicago Area	Ms. Nelson enrolled in the M.L.S. program at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at UIUC right after receiving her B.A. in English in 2001. While in graduate school, she trained in the Grainger Engineering Library. After graduation she began work for the Purdue University system at two campuses. She is a tenured Associate Professor. Her primary area of research is transferring professional skills, information literacy skills and critical thinking skills within the context of disciplinary courses and curricula. She specializes in engineering disciplines and earth and atmospheric sciences.

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Katharine O'Brian	katharine.obrian@gmail.com	English and Creative Writing	2011	LIS	Greater Chicago Area	<p>I am a children's librarian at a mid-sized public library in Colorado. I arrived at this point by gaining library experience in a variety of ways. I volunteered as an undergraduate in different public libraries. I tried both adult and children's departments to see which I liked better. I also talked with library professionals about their own career tracks and any advice they had to share. I took a year off in between undergrad and grad school and worked in circulation at a public library. I learned a lot about how libraries work and about working with the public. (And actually, my manager at that library hired me because I had previous customer service experience at Subway, so every job counts!) After my year off, I spent two years at the University of Illinois' Graduate School of Library and Information Science working on a Masters in Library Science. While in graduate school, I worked at the Urbana Free Library as a Graduate Assistant in the Children's Services department. The experience I gained there was invaluable and led to my being hired as a children's librarian right out of graduate school. I always knew I wanted to be in a public library. The career track of someone who wanted to work in academic or special libraries would likely have been different from my own.</p>
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*Ryan Ross	rross2@illinois.edu	English	2008	LIS	Champaign/Urbana Area	<p>Ryan Ross received his B.A. in English in 2008 and M.S. in Library and Information Science in 2010, with a focus in archives. Since 2015 he has served as curator of the Richmond Family Welcome Gallery at Alice Campbell Alumni Center, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's welcome center. He creates interactive exhibitions about the past, present, and future of the University, telling stories about the heritage and global impact of the institution through using artifacts, images, videos, and interviews with alumni and students. In his role as the University of Illinois Alumni Alliance's Assistant Director of History and Traditions Programs, Ryan also develops public programming about the history of the University and delivers lectures about Illinois history to campus, community, and alumni groups. Ryan would be delighted to talk with any humanities majors with interests in museums, public history, creative writing, archives, or research.</p>
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Lissa Staley	estaley@tscpl.org	English	1999	LIS	Topeka, KS	<p>Ms. Staley received her B.A. in English with High Distinction, with a minor concentration in Math and Computer Science, in 1999. She went on to get her M.S. in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois in 2001. From 2001 until now she has served as a Public Services Librarian at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library with increasing duties including providing events and programming, peer leadership, presentations and webinars, community networking, facilitation, and training. Recent projects of interest include serving as a Municipal Liaison for National Novel Writing Month, directing the Community Novel Project for collaborative fiction writing, facilitating at local public health coalition meetings, leading a book discussion group, moderating National Issues Forum deliberations on divisive topics, creating a quarterly trivia night that draws 300 people, cohosting a podcast for 7 years to connect people to books, and working with civic engagement and voter education. She is currently the Community Connections Librarian and loves working directly on the front lines at the library helping people with anything and everything.</p>
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Laura Wilson	wilsonlaura48@yahoo.com	English	2013	LIS	Champaign/Urbana Area	<p>I graduated with my masters from the University of Illinois in library and information science in May 2016 - I also hold a K-12 school librarianship certification. I have worked in both school and public libraries, and am currently the Head of Youth Services at the Pekin Public Library.</p>
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## MARKETING

### Advertising, Copywriting, Public Relations

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<p>Brendan Bonham</p>	<p>bbonham22 85@gmail.co m</p>	<p>English, History</p>	<p>2008</p>	<p>Greater Chicago Area</p>	<p>Brendan Bonham is currently the Chief Operations Officer for The Black Sheep, a boutique marketing firm that connects college students with brands at over 200 universities nationwide. Brendan graduated in 2008, double-majoring in English and History. Brendan started his involvement with The Black Sheep at the University of Illinois when it was a print humor magazine known as The Booze News. Upon graduating, he accepted a full-time role at The Black Sheep's corporate offices in Chicago. In his time with The Black Sheep Brendan has assisted in growing the company from a 2-person operation to a 20-plus person operation that employs hundreds of student contractors across the United States. Furthermore, he played an important role in pivoting the business from a media outlet to a marketing firm. Coming from a background in English and history, Brendan firmly believes in the power of a liberal arts education, viewing a degree in the field as an asset in the modern workforce. In working with college students and recent graduates every day for 10 years, he's excited to be a part of the University of Illinois mentoring program, and pretends to still be cool.</p>
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<p>Barbara (Halvachs) Davidson</p>	<p>bdavidson23 @gmail.com</p>	<p>English, Cinema</p>	<p>2011</p>	<p>I graduated in 2011 with a degree in English and Cinema Studies with the intent to write (hopefully in the field of cinema). I took six months off upon graduating to work as an au pair in Germany and help teach children English. When I returned, most entry-level writing positions available at that time were in marketing. The jobs that interested me most were focused on content creation, or strategically writing for websites or social platforms. I held several contract positions that spanned such topics as weddings, divorce and travel, all providing me with the opportunity to fine tune my writing for the needs of Search Engine Optimization (SEO) and Pay-Per-Click advertising (PPC). I have been at my current company for just shy of seven years. As a Senior Content Strategist, I develop and execute content-focused strategies to support the marketing efforts for each of our brands (I currently work on six different brands). This includes, but is not limited to blog posts, social content, video content, infographics, influencer management, link building, guest posts, etc. Here are my top three pieces of advice for any new graduate: 1. For anyone looking to go into digital marketing, I would highly recommend getting familiar with SEO. It is the anchor of content creation and is only now seeping into the collegiate curriculums - teaching yourself is a major advantage. There are many great guides available to you on the web. 2. Don't be afraid to take a contract position — it may lead to something great, or it may just be another great learning experience. Either way, you are one step closer to a full time role. Also, if you leave a contract position, note it with an asterisk on your resume and note that it is contract. Once I made this distinction, I received an increase in responses to my resume. Omitting it may make you appear flighty or noncommittal. 3. If you are interviewing with a progressive company (and have a clean social media profile), tweet about how great it was to learn more about their company. Obviously, this does not work in all interview circumstances so use your best judgement, but it will make you stand out. When in doubt, follow up with a handwritten letter immediately after. This is less commonly practiced now and will also make you stand out.</p>
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<p>Karen Galbraith</p>	<p>kazgalbraith @gmail.com</p>	<p>English</p>	<p>2002 PhD</p>	<p>Boston, MA</p>	<p>With her English degree in 2002 from UIUC and a master's in English in 2004 from DePaul University, Ms. Galbraith found a position as Operations Clerk at an insurance brokerage firm in the fall of 2003. Over the course of a year she worked her way up to Marketing and Web Communications Manager at that same firm, where she wrote a procedures manual, wrote copy for advertisements, e-blasts, newsletters, and websites, and handled various IT and marketing issues. She currently works for this same company as a consultant while simultaneously pursuing a Ph.D. in English at Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI, where she taught English for one year and acted as editorial assistant for a scholarly journal published there, Renaissance, for two years. She currently resides in Boston, MA, where she is working on her third and final dissertation chapter. She also recently completed her first novel and is currently seeking agency representation.</p>
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*Julie Glassman	Julie_glassman@hotmail.com	Rhetoric, English	1999		Greater Chicago Area	After receiving her degree in English and Rhetoric in 1999, Ms. Glassman started work at World Book Encyclopedia in Chicago as an online production editor. A year later she found a position as a copywriter and web content specialist at Blick Art Co. in Highland Park, IL. She became a freelance copywriter and editor in 2003 and in 2005 began working as a marketing associate at Discover Financial Services in Riverwoods, IL. She went on to work as a copywriter at Leo Burnett, an advertising agency in Chicago.
Dan Hass	djcopywriter@gmail.com	English and Creative Writing	2013			Dan graduated in 2013 with a double major in English and Creative Writing. With some mentor guidance, he nabbed his first internship at a Chicago ad agency - then spent the years after graduation working at creative shops around the Midwest. Now, he lives in LA (with the tank top tan to prove it). He's written for brands like Kia Motors, Harley-Davidson, Jack in the Box, Invisalign, Lunchables, Hollister, and Universal Studios - working on everything from billboards to Super Bowl spots. At his current gig, he develops branded programming for Viacom Digital Studios, Nickelodeon, and AwesomenessTV. His original comedy musical, "Musical Therapy," played in Chicago, DC, and New York - and his short films, "Magic H8 Ball" and "Bookstory," are currently screening at film festivals across the country. Checkout some of his work at danhass.com.
*Jim Misener	misener@5000feet.com	English	1993		Greater Chicago Area	Jim is the President of 50,000feet, a Chicago-based brand consultancy and creative agency that develops integrated experiences for the world's most respected brands, including Abbott, Harley-Davidson, Knoll, Mastercard and Sony. With brand and creative leadership and experience across financial services, consumer electronics, automotive, retail and luxury, Jim oversees the strategic direction of the agency as well as business development and client services. Prior to joining 50,000feet, he held leadership positions at global agencies and consultancies, including EY and Accenture. Jim received a B.A. with highest honors from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and completed the AIGA Program for Creative Leaders at Yale and the Executive Program at the University of Chicago Management Institute.
Amy Pariser	amy.pariser@gmail.com	Rhetoric	2006	MA	Detroit, MI	Amy Pariser earned her BA in 2006, with a major in Rhetoric (Professional Writing) and a minor in English. As an undergraduate she both temped and interned at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (Chicago, IL), where she is now a Senior Web Marketing Consultant.
*Brad Petersen	bradp@illinois.edu	English	1998	MA, Comm	Champaign/ Urbana Area	After graduating with my bachelor's in English in 1998, I went to work for a community hospital as public relations coordinator. My responsibilities included managing the hospital magazine, writing news releases, working with the media, and contributing to other communications-related efforts. This was pre-social media, so this job looks much different today. After a few years, I moved on to a similar role for a health insurance company. This gave me the opportunity to learn more about print management, direct mail, and mass media advertising. I also had the fun challenge of doing PR for an HMO. No easy task. In 2005 I came to work for the University of Illinois in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE). ECE is a strong program and I enjoyed helping to tell the world about the work the faculty, students, and alumni do there. As director of communications, I oversaw just about every aspect of marketing and communicating for the department. My responsibilities also included day-to-day operations of our Office of Advancement, which means I was involved in fundraising, corporate relations, student relations, and alumni relations efforts. In 2015 I moved home to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to lead marketing and communications for the college. My role in LAS is similar to ECE, except that I now work on a much larger scale with many more opportunities to tell the world about the outstanding people and work that originates in the college. Doing communications work in higher-ed has been fulfilling, challenging, and fun. It's great to work in an environment where so many positive things are happening at an institution that is known throughout the world for producing outstanding graduates and impactful research.

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*Mike Santoro	mike.santoro@gmail.com	2003	Greater Chicago Area	Mr. Santoro is the president of a marketing and public relations firm in Chicago, Walker Sands Communications. He would love to share his career path with students and to offer tips on how to move up the corporate ladder.
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Peter Serchuk	peterserchuk@gmail.com	English	English	Carmel, CA	Prior to his recent retirement, Mr. Serchuk was the co-owner and Creative Director of an advertising agency in Los Angeles. He is also a published poet. He has a B.A. in English from UIUC and an M.A. in English from the University of Michigan, where he won the annual Hopwood Award for poetry. Starting out as a copywriter in a Detroit ad agency, Mr. Serchuk's career ultimately took him to St. Louis, New York and Los Angeles, where he served in a number of executive-level creative positions, until starting his own agency. He continues to write poetry and publish, as well as teach creative writing through the UCLA Writers' Program.
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*Amy Snyder	snyder.amyl ynne@gmail.com	Rhetoric and Comm	2010	Champaign/Urban Area	Amy Snyder graduated from LAS in 2010 with a double degree in rhetoric and communication. The summer before her senior year, Snyder took a marketing internship with the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (MTD) and never left. MTD was interested in extending public outreach efforts as well as customer services by creating accounts on social media. Snyder was hired full-time for the position of communications specialist in July 2010. She produces content for MTD's account on five social networks, a weekly blog, and a bimonthly e-newsletter. In July 2014, she was promoted to Customer Service Manager. Snyder's current responsibilities now include managing a customer call center, serving as the management representative for the District's ISO 9001 Quality Management System, and serving the customer in whatever medium they choose to connect. Recent accomplishments include serving on a South by Southwest panel on "Sexy Data Solutions for Transit" and a social media panel in Germany for transit technology company, Init.
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*Luke Trayser	ltrayser@gmail.com	English	2008	Greater Chicago Area	Luke graduated from LAS in 2008 with an English degree and knew he wanted to write for a living. Unfortunately, he had no idea how to do it. Now he knows. He has been a copywriter since 2009, writing for clients big and small. If you also want to write for a living, here are some tips. Even if you don't have experience, you have your words. Your portfolio is vital. Write all the time, write for free, and put the stuff you're proudest of in your portfolio. During an interview, don't try to be someone you think they want. That's a good way to be stuck in a job that doesn't fit. Instead, just be you. If you do that and get turned down, it was not the right place for you. Most writing jobs require a cover letter and résumé, but it's much easier, and more effective, to apply with your portfolio and résumé instead. It's a hilarious little irony that the people who ask for cover letters can't stand reading them. Best of luck out there! Luke is always available to talk more about work and life. Search for him on Medium or check out his portfolio at <a href="http://luketraysr.tumblr.com">luketraysr.tumblr.com</a> .
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## **MEDIA**

### **Broadcasting, Film, Gaming Industry, Screenwriting, Recording**

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Eric Anderson	eranderson6	@gmail.com	English	2010	Greater Los Angeles Area	<p>After graduating from Illinois with a BA in English in 2010, I moved to Los Angeles to work in entertainment. I'd always wanted to write books, movies, and TV shows, but it wasn't until I took a TV Writing class offered by the English Department my senior year that I thought it could be a reality. Through another Illini alum who graduated a year before me, I landed two (unpaid) internships: one at Village Roadshow, the other at Escape Artists on the Sony Lot. I worked as an intern for four months, doing script coverage, rolling calls, and yes, going on coffee runs (that's what they mean by "a no job too big or too small attitude!"). In early 2011, I got hired as a researcher for a short-lived Discovery Channel show called American Underworld. After that, I worked as a script reader at After Dark Films, a low-budget horror and action company, where I helped select 15 scripts per year to be made into films. Through a friend in my writers group (and Illini alum) I landed a job as a writer's assistant on Felt, a puppet show for MTV Networks. I ended up working for the showrunner on his next show, too: Outlands, a space comedy for YouTube channel Geek &amp; Sundry, this time as an associate producer. Since then, I've produced a commercial for E!, a show called The Straight Out Report for MTV Networks, and many other TV, web, and film projects in development. I'm currently an associate producer at Impossible Productions. My typical week involves writing onesheets, editing scripts, creating presentations, going to pitches, arranging meetings, coordinating with cast and crew, managing the office, organizing payroll and, of course, fighting LA traffic. There is no one path to working in entertainment, so you have to invent one through diligent networking. That can sound scary, but it's not that bad. I've networked via creative collaborations, intramural sports leagues, hiking in Malibu, surfing, hosting poker nights and dinner parties, going to screenings, and – yes – going on the annual Big Ten Bar Crawl in Hermosa Beach. If you're interested in working in entertainment, please get in touch!</p>
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Jeff Brandt	jeff.t.brandt	@gmail.com	English and Creative Writing	2009	Greater New York City Area	<p>I'm an Alton, Illinois native and a UIUC Class of 2009 graduate with a Bachelor's in Creative Writing and minors in English and Cinema Studies. Currently, I'm a Metadata Coordinator at In Demand Networks in New York City, where I assist with the monthly schedule of new movies that cable TV operators such as Comcast offer on demand. Directly after college, I moved back to Southern Illinois and completed an unfulfilling yearlong term as a Marketing/PR Assistant through AmeriCorps VISTA. As a creative person with a lot of internship experience but few entry-level publishing/media industry opportunities in the St. Louis area, it became clear that New York was the place for me. I saved up for a move to NY by freelancing for Patch.com news websites and a law firm. Despite not knowing anyone before I got to NY, once I arrived in May 2011, I made a friend who put me in touch with temp agency recruiters. Within two weeks of moving, I was temping at In Demand, which hired me full-time 3 months later. My Cinema Studies background, along with the editorial skills and attention to detail learned in English classes, helped me secure the position. Engaging my creative side, I organize a small fiction writers' workshop and a writers' meetup group in Queens. I'm also on the editorial board of a new literary journal. My creative writing background and experience as an editor-in-chief for Montage Arts Journal at UIUC have been invaluable for those pursuits.</p>
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Laura Castañeda	presspassLC@gmail.com	English	1987	Greater San Diego area	<p>Laura Castañeda is the founder of Press Pass International Talent Management, and a professional writer with more than 30 years of experience in various multimedia platforms. Ms. Castañeda is an Emmy award winning journalist, blogger, and filmmaker. Her first documentary, The Devil's Breath, screened at the San Diego Latino Film Festival in 2008 to a sold out crowd. In 2004, Castañeda transitioned from full time journalist to academia and is currently a Lecturer and Internship Coordinator in the Journalism &amp; Media Studies program at San Diego State University. Prior to her arrival in 2019, Castaneda retired as Chair and Professor in the Radio TV Department at San Diego City College where hundreds of her students went on to achieve success in media careers. In 2004, Castañeda also launched Stories de la Frontera, a bilingual, bicultural, Human Interest magazine show, which aired in PBS affiliates in several U.S. Cities. Castañeda has also handled press and marketing for the Media Arts Center San Diego, producers of the San Diego Latino film festival. Prior to Castaneda's academic career, she reported for Channel 4 Cox Communication's Emmy -Award winning news magazine show, "San Diego Insider" and worked as full time reporter and fill-in Anchor at KGTV, Channel 10, the ABC affiliate in San Diego. In addition, Castañeda also held the same position at KGUN-TV, the ABC station in Tucson, Arizona for four years. There she covered law enforcement as well as a variety of assignments along the U.S. Mexico border. Castañeda began her television news career in 1987 as a production assistant at WLS-TV, the ABC station in Chicago, Illinois, her hometown. Aside from her television work, Castañeda has contributed to several publications such as Latina.com, The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, San Diego Metropolitan Magazine, El Sol, and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Magazine. Castañeda is a proud Alumna from the University of Illinois-Urbana. Class of 1987. She currently resides in San Diego, CA and is the proud mother of four children.</p>
Michelle Crane	crane.michelle@comcast.net	Rhetoric and Spanish	1990	Greater Chicago Area	<p>I graduated from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign in May 1990, with a degree in Rhetoric and Spanish. I began my television career right out of college as a reporter in Champaign at the local CBS station, WCIA-TV. From there, I went on to work as a field producer at CNN, and then I produced documentaries for many years for A&amp;E, working with Bill Kurtis. Most recently, I worked as a freelance producer at Harpo Studios in Chicago on some of the new shows on OWN. Currently, I am working to build my own production company, producing and writing videos for television, hospitals, corporations and non-profit organizations. I have been in the television industry for nearly 25 years and have worked in every aspect of production: from research, to interviews, to writing, to editing and post-production. I am extremely passionate about producing heartfelt and meaningful videos that can help others and change lives.</p>
*Seth Fein	feinbooking@gmail.com	Rhetoric	2001	Champaign/Urbana Area	<p>Mr. Fein graduated in 2001 with a B.A. in Rhetoric. He is the founder and publisher of Smile Politely, an online magazine devoted to exposing culture in Champaign-Urbana since 2007. He also went on to found and produce the Pygmalion Music Festival, which takes place in and around C-U every year. In addition, he owns the Nicodemus Agency, a true boutique touring company where he represents artists like Damien Jurado, Viva Voce, +/- (Plus/Minus), Stars of the Lid, and more.</p>
Sarah Fischer	s_c_fischer@comcast.net	Rhetoric and Comm	2013 MFA	Greater Los Angeles Area	<p>Sarah Fischer graduated from the University of Illinois in 2013, earning degrees in both rhetoric and communication. She then received her MFA in screenwriting from the University of Southern California. Fischer has worked in production and development at OddLot Entertainment, HeyDay Films, the Kennedy/Marshall Company, and USA Network. Currently, she works for Marvel Television. A semifinalist for NBCUniversal's Emerging Writers fellowship and a finalist for the Sundance/Sloan fellowship for three years, Fischer has placed in screenplay competitions with the PAGE Awards, Final Draft's Big Break, Scriptapalooza, ScreenCraft, and the Austin Film Festival. In the fall of 2019, a short she wrote and directed premiere at the New York New Filmmakers Festival. She also wrote the film adaptation for the Image Comics graphic novel series Revival.</p>

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I graduated in 2011 with a BA in Rhetoric with a concentration in Creative Writing. I also majored in Spanish and minored in International Studies. Although my ultimate dream is to be Tina Fey, I've yet to have something trigger a Freaky Friday-esque body swap. But here's hoping! While in college, I had a summer production internship at a community theatre and worked with an independent filmmaker doing a little bit of everything. During the summer before my senior year, I worked on the Lifetime TV show, Army Wives in Charleston, South Carolina. For some inexplicable reason, even after working 17+ hour-long days, I decided I still wanted to work in the entertainment industry. I searched high and low for opportunities in any sort of television production. A month after graduation, I got my resume onto the desk of an executive producer at ABC News in New York City. I was hired as the Production Coordinator for This Week with Christiane Amanpour, which transitioned to This Week with George Stephanopoulos six months later. I stayed at the show for two years. It was a stroke of luck that the 2012 elections were ramping up right when I joined ABC. I was able to attend the two ABC hosted primary debates and both the Democratic and Republican conventions. It was a whirlwind year and a great opportunity to learn about journalism and news production from the best and the brightest. After This Week, I joined Katie Couric's talk show, Katie, as a researcher and associate producer. I gained valuable experience in producing a show with a live studio audience. It requires a lot of coordination and creativity that took me back to my grade school musical days. In 2014, I decided to stay with Katie and join her at Yahoo News where I'm an associate producer. I'm learning a lot and am thrilled to take on the new challenges and opportunities, such as producing pieces ranging in topics from the Cuban/ U.S. relations to 4K Television to the Pope. All told, from my various internships and jobs, I've gained production experience in scripted TV, news, daytime talk shows, Internet content and theater. Although it can be a little daunting, I've found networking is key to it all. I've actually worked with fellow Illini at all but one of my jobs. My advice is to not be afraid to reach out and ask someone to grab a cup of coffee to pick his or her brains. You never know when one conversation could lead to the right conversation. At the very least, you're probably getting coffee with an interesting person! So that said—feel free to email me if you're interested in production. Go Illini!

Kaye Foley      kpfoley2@g   Rhetoric and  
mail.com      Spanish      2011

Greater New  
York City Area

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Jeff Gärten	gärten.jeff@g mail.com	Rhetoric, English	2010	Reseda, CA	<p>I completed my BA at UIUC in 2010, double-majoring in Rhetoric and English and graduating with honors. Until my junior year, I was convinced that I wanted to write novels for a living. I took every fiction and narrative course I could get into, but found myself still wanting to write more substantial pieces of fiction. When I started entering three and four hundred level English classes, I was enthralled by how quickly the line between writing for television/film and novels evaporated. Suddenly, my childhood spent running around with my parents handy-cam seemed like something I could translate it into an actual career. While registering for classes for the fall semester of my senior year, I tried to enter a graduate class in TV writing taught by Dianne Stanley and was told it was full. I checked back in every few weeks that summer without making any progress. About two weeks into my fall semester, I got an email from my advisor saying that a few students had dropped and there was a spot for me if I wanted it. I jumped at the opportunity. After graduating, I tried applying for jobs in marketing, PR, print journalism, theater, and just about anything that utilized my skill set and had a strong base in Chicago. Meanwhile, I was applying to entertainment jobs in LA and New York and getting no response. I started reading more literature on the entertainment industry (The Mailroom, The Hollywood Assistant's Handbook, and my personal favorite: Small Screen, Big Picture), and it became apparent that I wasn't getting responses because no one knew who I was. I applied to a few unpaid internships that focused on the 'lit' side of things (meaning working with writers, directors, and producers as opposed to actors), and managed to land one at ROAR. After six months of interning, temping, and waiting tables the person I was working under at ROAR quit on short notice and I got my first full-time job. I'm currently an associate producer on Bravo's 'Vanderpump Rules,' and write &amp; produce on the 'Vanderpump Rules After Show' as well. Additionally, I'm writing/producing my own web content during my hiatus weeks, and continue the never-ending process of getting read and trying to sell my own original material. It's always fascinating to see how much more I know about how TV works now than I did when I moved out to LA, but it also highlights how much growing I still have to do.</p>
Steve Haruch	sharuch@gm ail.com	Rhetoric, English	1996 MFA	Nashville, TN	<p>Steve Haruch is a writer, journalist and independent filmmaker based in Nashville, TN. He graduated with a B.A. from UIUC in 1996 (English/Rhetoric double major), and went on to earn an M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Washington in 2000. After a series of teaching, copywriting and other odd jobs, he landed at the Nashville Scene, where he worked as a staff editor for seven years. Since then, he has written for The New York Times, The Atlantic, NPR's Code Switch and The Guardian, among other outlets. He edited People Only Die of Love in Movies: Film Writing by Jim Ridley (Vanderbilt University Press, 2018) and is currently producing a documentary film about the history of college radio. He is particularly interested in talking with students from minority backgrounds.</p>
Terry Hunter	terryhunter7 0@hotmail.c om		1968 English	Hawaiian Islands	<p>After four years of teaching at the University of Hawaii, Mr. Hunter worked in Honolulu TV news for 29 years. He retired from full time work in late 2009 but still does movie reviews for the local CBS affiliate once a week. Terry has an M.A. in English from UIUC and an M.A. in filmmaking from Stanford. He has covered every type of news story in his career but especially enjoyed doing profiles of people and reviewing films. He occasionally teaches a course in video production.</p>

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<p>Scott King</p>	<p>seking7@gm ail.com</p>	<p>English and Creative Writing</p>	<p>2007</p>	<p>Greater Chicago Area</p>	<p>Since graduating from the University of Illinois in 2007 with a Bachelor's degree in Creative Writing, Scott King currently works as a comedian, a regularly published writer, and an editor. After the recession cut a career in finance short, King took to the stage and to the page. He has performed at many venues throughout the country and even began producing many of his own shows. Scott graduated from Chicago's Second City training center and has appeared on WGN's Morning News and Comedy Central. After launching an entertainment and Chicago Blackhawks blog on ChicagoNow.com, King became a contributing writer for the Chicago Tribune's RedEye Chicago newspaper and website. He has also been a contributor for Yahoo! Sports, and currently contributes to the Wall Street Journal and the Chicago Tribune. King has interviewed such well-known figures as Mike Tyson, Louie CK, Elijah Wood, and more in his work. He is also the editor for the daily financial newsletter The King Report. Scott currently lives in Chicago with his wife Nora.</p>
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<p>Todd Looby</p>	<p>toddlooby@ gmail.com</p>	<p>English</p>	<p>1997</p>	<p>MS, Envi Sci</p>	<p>Bend, OR</p>	<p>After graduating with a Master of Science in Environmental Science in Civil Engineering from U of I. Todd spent eight years as Construction Manager for Chicago's biggest firm, teaching himself filmmaking on the side and eventually making the leap to full-time filmmaking in 2008. Todd's second narrative feature, "LEFTY," screened at festivals across the country and was named in "The Top 10 Movies of 2009..." by the Chicago Tribune's Metromix. His follow-up, "Son of None"—a narrative short shot in Liberia—won the Special Jury Award at Slamdance 2011 and won Best Short at the Boston Film Festival. Todd's latest narrative feature, "Be Good," stars indie-favorites Amy Seimetz and Joe Swanberg and was called, "Well acted, crafted and observed" by Variety. "Be Good" is distributed by The Orchard and is now available worldwide on iTunes, Amazon and Google Play. In conjunction with "Be Good", Todd also screened a short documentary, "Lollywood" on the Festival circuit in 2013. Recently, Todd has directed, shot, and edited commercial work for Carhartt, DJCN, Bloodshot Records, and multiple non-profit organizations. During his spare time, Todd is adapting the book "A Saint on Death Row" by New York Times best-selling author Thomas Cahill. In addition to his filmmaking, Todd has helped program Slamdance since 2011. In April, 2014 Todd took over as the Executive Director of BendFilm in beautiful Bend, OR. BendFilm recently held its 11th Annual Festival to great reviews. Prior to working at BendFilm, Todd was the Executive Director of a successful non-profit that runs a boarding school in Liberia. Under Todd's direction, the organization increased its annual revenue by 34 percent over the previous year. Avid hikers and all-around outdoors lovers, Todd, his Northwest-native wife, Monica, and their two young children are thrilled to be living in Bend.</p>
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<p>TJ Perillo</p>	<p>tjperillo@gm ail.com</p>	<p>English and Creative Writing</p>		<p>Seattle, WA</p>	<p>TJ Perillo is a Design Lead at Microsoft's 343 Industries, developers of the world-renowned Halo game franchise. TJ studied Creative Writing at UIUC with current faculty Michael Madonick and Philip Graham. After graduation he got his start in video games with a writing internship at a small California studio. From there TJ went on to work for a number of studios and publishers including Activision and Warner Brothers. In that time he developed the skills that help a game designer thrive in big team environments; practical skills such as using world-building tools and scripting in lightweight programming languages and leadership skills such as communicating and evangelizing a creative vision. TJ's focus on character and aspirational fantasy made him instrumental on such titles as the cult-classic Vampire: the Masquerade Bloodlines, the 2012 blockbuster Halo 4, and the upcoming Halo 5: Guardians. In his current role TJ is responsible for developing locations, storylines, missions, and gameplay for future Halo titles.</p>
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Ian Punnett punnett@vis i.com Rhetoric, English 1984 Tempe, AZ	As of September 2014, I am slightly more than halfway through my coursework toward a PhD from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication/ASU. My double major in English Literature and Rhetoric from the U of I gave me some unique tools in my 35 year mass media radio/TV/publishing career. For the most part, my focus has been on local and national radio content creation and format innovation but I have reported for TV news programs on special occasions as well as helped to produce and direct several HD productions of new opera works, one of which has been shown on PBS stations across the country. A Masters of Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary and subsequent ordination led to a contract with Random House for my first book, How to Pray When You're Pissed with God. I am an early adapter to new media with 12,000 Twitter followers (@deaconpunnett) and an ongoing interest in new forms of messaging.
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Mark Rubel mrubel@the blackbirdaca demy.com 1979	Mark Rubel (B.A. 1979) is Co-Director of Education and Instructor at The Blackbird Academy, an intensive recording school at famed Blackbird Studio, Nashville, TN. He crafted thousands of recordings at his Pogo Recording Studio, Champaign IL, currently in the process of relocating to Steve Earle's former studio in Nashville. Mark has taught recording, music business and the history of rock to thousands of college students since 1985, and travels around presenting audio-related panels and workshops for various schools and professional organizations. He is a member of the AES, NARAS and its Producers and Engineers Wing, MEIEA, and on the board of SPARS (the Society of Professional Audio Recording Services). Mark writes occasionally for recording magazines, including his Tape Op interviews with Les Paul and Terry Manning, and serves as an audio consultant and legal expert witness. His band Captain Rat and the Blind Rivets has been rocking East Central Illinois and beyond, for 34 years and counting.
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Gail Steinberg msgails@aol. com English Greater New York City Area	Gail Steinberg has been a producer and creator of programming in the talk, reality, and news genres for more than thirty years and has been mentoring young people since teaching English in Wilmette, Illinois from 1970-75. She was senior producer of "Donahue," 1981-86; senior producer of "CBS This Morning," 1986-89; senior producer of "Geraldo," 1989-92; senior producer of "Montel," 1992-93; co-creator and executive producer of "Ricki Lake," 1993-2003; executive producer of "Sharon Osbourne," 2003, and executive producer of "Star Jones," on Tru TV, 2007-08. She's done projects for CBS Eye Too Productions and the Food Channel and then spent three years as the executive producer of "Divorce Court," for which she earned an Emmy nomination, in a bid to add to the three Emmys she has won. Currently she continues to create and develop talk and reality programming under her production banner, Knock Knock Productions.
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Ryan Suffern rsuffern@gm ail.com English 1999 Studio City, CA	As the head of the documentary division for The Kennedy/Marshall Company, Ryan Suffern has an active role overseeing a full slate of films. He and Frank Marshall have collaborated on numerous documentaries, including three projects for ESPN Films, one of which Ryan directed for their popular "30 for 30" series. In 2016, Ryan directed Finding Oscar, a feature-length documentary about the search for justice in the case of the Dos Erres massacre in Guatemala, which Steven Spielberg executive produced. In 2017, Ryan produced The China Hustle, which was released by Magnolia Pictures, and he co-produced the Emmy-nominated What Haunts Us. In 2018, Ryan produced Satan & Adam, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival and is currently available for streaming on Netflix, and Ryan also directed a short documentary for Netflix entitled "A Final Cut For Orson", documenting the finishing of Orson Welles' The Other Side of the Wind. Most recently, Ryan was an executive producer on The Gift: The Journey of Johnny Cash, which premiered at SXSW 2019 and acquired by Google to be released on YouTube in November 2019. He's currently producing and directing a documentary series on the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. A native of Chicago, Ryan presently lives in Los Angeles with his wife and fellow UIUC English major, Kim, and their two daughters, Pearl & Iris.
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**NONPROFIT**

**Fundraising, Philanthropy, Social Services, Outreach**

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Meghan Bogaerts mbogaerts@gmail.com English and History 2006

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In 2006, Ms. Bogaerts received her B.A. in English and History. She then spent a year working for Farr Associates, an architecture and planning firm in Chicago. Her primary purpose was to help the founding principal of the firm write a book on sustainable community development, entitled Sustainable Urbanism: Urban Design With Nature. She then moved to Washington, D.C. to take a position at the U.S. Green Building Council, a nonprofit environmental organization that sets standards for green buildings throughout the world. As an associate on the LEED for Neighborhood Development team, she is working to create a rating system that sets standards for building vibrant, socially- and environmentally-responsible communities.

Benjamin Branham bbranham@gmail.com English, Linguistics 2001 MS, Pub Pol Greater New York City Area

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Benjamin M. Branham is an Executive Vice President at the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) in the administration of New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. Prior to joining NYCEDC, Ben worked at the global public relations firm Edelman as a Vice President in its public affairs practice and at Global Strategy Group, a national public affairs and market research firm, also as a Vice President. He previously served as Press Secretary for the New York City Department of Small Business Services, where he got his start in city government as a New York City Urban Fellow in 2003. Upon graduating from the University of Illinois in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in English, he moved to Boston to work for Community Servings, a not-for-profit food and nutrition program for individuals and families living with critical and chronic illnesses. He obtained his master's in public policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 2008. Ben is originally from Chicago's northwest suburbs.

Jamila Jabulani jamila\_jabulani@yahoo.com English

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Ms. Jabulani is a graduate of Loyola's Philanthropy and Nonprofit Sector Graduate Certificate Program and is currently working on an election outreach and voter registration initiative in Los Angeles, CA. She has spent the last five years working as a consultant on civic engagement initiatives in grassroots positions such as Regional Field Director, Canvass Director, Fellow, Volunteer Coordinator, and Development Manager. Previously, she worked as the Grants Manager at Trinity Wall Street, a church in lower Manhattan, New York and before that she worked for Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. While in Brooklyn, she was elected to serve a two-year term as a Kings County Democratic Committee Member representing an election district in Clinton Hill. Before transitioning to her career in philanthropy, she spent four years in Trust Administration at Northern Trust Bank and served as Vice President of the Metropolitan Chicago Chapter of Autism. She has a B.A. in English from UIUC.

Maryellen Langhout melanghout@usa.net Rhetoric, English 1969 MA, counselin g Greater Chicago Area

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Maryellen opened the Chicago office of Career Transition For Dancers in August 2008 at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, where she provides career counseling to area dancers, as well as dancer-clients throughout the Midwest. In her previous careers, she cultivated her investigative, artistic and communication skills as a reporter for the Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette, managing editor for Concrete Products Magazine, and as an ESL instructor and bilingual adult education counselor for City Colleges of Chicago. Maryellen is an Illinois Licensed Professional Counselor, a National Board Certified Career Counselor and a Myers-Briggs Personality Inventory Master Practitioner. She is also a Certified Distance Counselor. She holds a bachelor's degree in Rhetoric and Composition from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1969). She earned master's degrees in Linguistics-TESL (1981) and Counseling-Adult Career Development (1996) from Northeastern Illinois University. She is fluent in Spanish and French.

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Brian Robinson	brian.a.s.robison@gmail.com Psychology & creative writing 2017	Greater Chicago Area	Brian Robinson graduated with a double major in Psychology and Creative Writing in 2017. He was a transfer student, originally from Drake University as a music major. At U of I, he was part of Allen Hall's creative writing club, an assistant editor for Montage, and a Counseling Center Paraprofessional. He founded and facilitated a support group for young adults with mental illnesses in the Champaign-Urbana community. He also saw two of his short stories published in Montage. Upon graduating, he worked as a case worker for individuals with severe mental illnesses in Chicago, on the floor of a psychiatric hospital, and served a Fulbright grant in Taiwan as an English Teaching Assistant. He now works as a student success coach at Western Governor's University (an online college). He would love to be a mentor to current students looking for guidance or who have any questions!
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Carol A. Widmer	cwidmer@csufresno.edu English 1964 MA	Greater Chicago Area	Now retired Ms. Widmer has worked in development as a consultant, a Regional Development Director for California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, the Director of Planned Giving at California State University, Fresno, and the Director of Planned Giving at Good Samaritan Hospital, Los Angeles. Prior to that, she was Vice President of Planned Giving at Children's Hospital in Los Angeles, The Director of Planned Giving at Union College in Schenectady, NY, and at Western Reserve Care System, Youngstown, OH. Widmer previously had worked in financial planning with a CFP designation and in real estate as an agent and broker with a GRE designation. After earning her B.A. in English at the University of Illinois, Widmer taught high school English for four years, earned her M.A. at SIU-Edwardsville and became an instructor at Florissant Valley Community College and a lecturer at The University of Akron.
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*Amarin Young	Amarin@ywcauofi.org English 2016 MA	Greater Chicago Area	Amarin Young is the Program Coordinator of the YWCA of the University of Illinois, managing the Women in Leadership internship program. She earned her BA in English in May 2016. While a student at the U of I, she served as an Editorial Assistant for ABOPublic, an intern for the Women's Resources Center, a volunteer for R.A.C.E.S., and an I-Connect facilitator, among other roles. To those seeking careers in nonprofit work, Amarin recommends using the YWCA tradition of approaching it sideways—finding others on campus or in the community who are already doing the work you are interested in, and joining them.
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## OTHER AND MIXED CAREERS

### Engineering, Government, Social Work, Clergy, Visual Arts, Conservation

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Karen Aprill	karalayla@adol.com English and Psychology 1973	Champaign/Urbana Area	Karen Aprill graduated from UIUC in 1973 with a double major in English and Psychology. She immediately received a phone call offering her a job as a houseparent in Dixon, IL which began her occupational journey toward psychology. In 1976 she received a Masters in Counseling Education from Northern Illinois University, and began working in the mental health field as a therapist. She moved back to Urbana in 1977 and has lived here ever since. For 18 years she worked at the Mental Health Center of Champaign as a counselor and the Counseling Program Supervisor. Karen describes therapy as follows: sometimes it feels like reading 20 books at once and it's important to keep all the characters straight to figure out where the story is going. After 35 years in community social services Karen resigned her job in June 2011 and is currently working on building a private practice and also has started her first book club.
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Yoshiko Hill	yhill@bf.umich.edu Rhetoric and Engineering 1974; 1982	West Palm Beach, FL	Ms. Hill has spent the last 25 years as an Electrical Engineer. She has a B.A. in Rhetoric and B.S. in Engineering from UIUC. She is the Manager of the Electrical Operations and Engineering Section of the Utilities and Plant Engineering Department at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor. In her spare time she has participated in short story writing classes, participated in the Washtenaw Literacy Program (helping people, both children and adults, who have a difficult time reading), and serves on the board of a non-profit organization.
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James (Jim) Jay      james.jay@g  
mail.com      English and  
Pol Sci      2002      JD

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Jim Jay is a Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State. He currently lives in Hong Kong and serves at the U.S. Consulate General to Hong Kong & Macau. He previously served in Vietnam, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Washington, D.C. He joined the State Department in 2007, after working as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Illinois as a criminal prosecutor focusing on financial crimes and criminal labor law. Jim graduated from UIUC in 2002 with degrees in English, with Distinction, and Political Science. He received his J.D. from the University of Illinois College of Law in 2005. He and his husband have one son.

Jeanine Russell      jeanrussell82  
6@gmail.co      English      2012      Champaign/Ur  
bana Area

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After getting my B.A. in English in 2011, I joined an Americorps program doing trail construction and maintenance with the Montana Conservation Corps. It was important to me to try something off my logical radar, and I followed my instincts in seeing how conservation fit. For 5 months, I worked manual labor in the Rocky Mountains. We dug new trail, cut trees, built bridges, lived out of our backpacks, went 10 days at a time without showering, hiked a lot, articulated some distinct tan lines, and got very strong. I loved it. I kept doing it. I currently work as a Technical Advisor for the Pacific Crest Trail Association where I design and then lead trail projects on the Pacific Crest Trail. My job includes scouting a project, assessing the work, and then going into the field and completing the project with volunteers and other corps programs. My current role involves a great deal of planning, careful logistics, education, and good old-fashioned proper lifting technique. PCTA offers me a brilliant balance of being a filthy field creature as well as being a professional, articulate, well-organized advisor while working for an organization I find genuinely cool and important. There have been some deviations from this path where being a seasonal employee weighed on me. I seasonally substitute teach pre-school for Head Start. I worked for a few years running the guest services department of a motorsports museum outside of Portland, OR. I have written Customs Bonds, worked at a thrift store, and made a lot of lattes to support the conservation dream life. Please feel free to reach out if you want to hear more about Americorps, working outside, or have no idea what you want to do but decidedly will not be happy working a "traditional" job.

Ann Spurgeon      aspurg@aol.  
com      English      1975      Mdiv

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I graduated from U of I In 1975 with a BA in English Education minoring in Rhetoric (creative writing). I taught English twice at two different schools. In 1984, I received a Master's of Divinity from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. I served churches in Northern Illinois from 1983 through 2012, with a break for kids. I am now retired. I used my education almost daily. The profession requires a great amount of writing, composing, story telling. It also involved teaching, training, educating through sermons and mentoring. I hold that every pastor should have to take classes in education. I also spent 5 years co-writing an unpublished novel, had a parable published and won a poetry writing contest. I continue to write, most recently poetry.

Charles H. Traub      ctraub@sva.  
edu      BA      MA      Greater New  
York City Area

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Charles H. Traub is chair and founder of the MFA program in Photography, Video, and Related Media at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. He holds an MS from the Institute of Design at the Illinois Institute of Technology and a BA from the University of Illinois. Formerly the director of the venerable Light Gallery of New York, and for over 25 years, was President of the Aaron Siskind Foundation and he is one of the cofounders of here is new york: a Democracy of Photographs. Traub has had numerous one-person exhibitions, at Marcuse Pfeifer Gallery, Van Straaten Gallery, Chicago Center for Contemporary Photography, the Art Institute of Chicago, Light Gallery, the Hudson River Museum, and the Gitterman Gallery. He has received awards from the New York State Council on the Arts, Illinois Arts Council Agency, Olympics Arts Organizing Committee, and the Mary McDowell Center for Learning as well as the prestigious Cornell Capa Infinity Award. Traub is the editor and author of sixteen books including eight monographs of his own work and his editorial photographs have been published in the major magazines of the world. Recent publications include the monograph *Dolce Via: Italy in the 1980s* (2013), *Vision Anew: The Lens and Screen Arts*, coauthored with Adam B Bell, *Lunchtime* (2015), *No Perfect Heroes: Photographing U.S. Grant*, *iBook* (2016) *Taradiddle* (2018), and *Skid Row* (2020).

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**SECONDARY EDUCATION**

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**Middle and High School Teaching and Administration, Test Prep**

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Carlene Blumenthal	carlo606@yahoo.com	English					Ms. Blumenthal has taught high school English at all levels for over 37 years. In 2005-2006 she was a Student Teacher Supervisor for UIUC. Besides her teaching experience, she is happy to speak to students about working in charter schools, as well as other professions with trade journals that need English majors to edit them. She has been printed in various newspapers' "Letters to the Editor" sections 15-20 times and sends press releases to newspapers for various organizations.
Caleb Curtiss	cdcurtiss@gmail.com	Rhetoric, English	2010	MFA	Newark, DE		Caleb Curtiss is a Champaign-Urbana native and a 2010 graduate of the University of Illinois' College of Liberal Arts & Sciences with degrees in English, Rhetoric, and Secondary English Instruction. After graduation he worked for seven years in Champaign Unit 4 Schools as a Teacher, an Instructional Coach, and as a Data & Intervention Specialist. Outside of his career in education, Curtiss has organized a number of literary events and festivals including the Pygmalion festival, worked as an editor and a reader for various literary organizations including the award-winning journal Hobart, and has served and volunteered on various local boards and social service nonprofits. His chapbook, A Taxonomy of the Space Between Us won the Black River Chapbook Competition and was published by Black Lawrence Press in 2015. He is a two time recipient of the Folger Adams Undergraduate Poetry Award, a Travelling Quinn Fellow, and a finalist for the Poetry Foundation's Ruth Lilly Poetry Fellowship. His writing has appeared in journals such as The Southern Review, TriQuarterly, International Poetry Review, New England Review, Hayden's Ferry Review, Passages North, Ninth Letter, and elsewhere. He currently lives in East Lansing, Michigan where he works as a copywriter. In 2018, he will begin his MFA in Creative Writing at the Vermont College of Fine Arts.
*Ellen Dahlke	edahlke2@illinois.edu	English/Lang Arts Ed	2008	Master	Oakland, CA		Ellen Dahlke taught high school English in Champaign-Urbana for five years, earning an MA in Curriculum and Instruction on the way. She has since moved to the San Francisco Bay Area where she currently works as an adjunct instructor at the University of San Francisco and Mills College; the program coordinator of a volunteer GED program at San Quentin Prison; and a development associate for an arts organization that supports artists with developmental disabilities in establishing income-generating careers.
Mariel Fechik	mariel.fechik1@gmail.com	English/Lang Arts Ed	2016		Greater Chicago Area		Mariel Fechik is a Fiction/AV/Teen assistant at the Mount Prospect Public Library. After graduating from U of I's English/Secondary Ed program with a teaching license, she decided to pursue an Americorps service year. She worked at a small Chicago literacy nonprofit called Chicago HOPES for Kids as a program coordinator. After that, she decided to pursue librarianship. She is now working towards her master's at U of I's LEEP Program and hopes to become a teen librarian in a public library or a school librarian. Mariel also writes creatively, and has several poetry publications.
Tim Foley	tfoley@d125.org	Teaching in English	1997				Mr. Foley received his B.A. in Teaching of English in 1997. He was recently appointed as the Assistant Director of the Communication Arts Department at Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, IL.

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Audrey Hutchings	audrey.hutchings22@gmail.com	Teaching in English	2016	Pleasant Prairie, WI	<p>Audrey Hutchings graduated from the Teaching of English program in May 2016, earning additional teaching endorsements in 6-12 History, 6-12 French, and 6-8 General Science. Audrey originally entered UIUC as a Bioengineering major, and completed one year in the program. After one year, she decided to change her academic trajectory, but is incredibly thankful for her background in science and medicine. Upon graduation, Audrey starting working as an English teacher full-time at Grant Community High School in Fox Lake, Illinois. She has taught a wide variety of grade levels and students. She taught all levels of Freshman English for 2 years: Co-taught (SPED) Remedial, Advanced, and Honors. Now, she is teaching all Honors Junior English, and is working to completely redesign the curriculum to foster 21st Century Skills. She is also the Assistant Debate Team coach, and judges JV and Varsity Public Forum and Congressional Debate tournaments through the IHSA. Additionally, she teaches SAT prep courses through Grant and a private education service. Audrey also enjoys running scorebooks and scoreboards for Volleyball and Basketball games, and being a Head Timer and coordinator for home Cross Country and Track &amp; Field meets. She currently lives in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, and enjoys runs along the lake Michigan lakefront.</p>
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Emily Larkin	emlarkin@gmail.com	Teaching in English	2009	<p>Emily graduated from the Teaching of English program in 2009. After graduation, she joined Teach For America and taught middle school English in Bridgeport, CT, until 2012. From 2012-2014, she worked full-time for TFA as a Manager of Teacher Leadership Development in Indianapolis and has worked extensively in training corps members in the teaching of English and literacy in New York City, Tulsa, and Chicago. Currently, Emily is back home in Illinois, teaching both remedial and AP-level students at Palatine. She also coaches Speech Team, sponsors Drama Club, and is involved in directing multiple theatrical productions throughout the year.</p>
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David Lange	dlange@hinsdale86.org	English	MA	<p>David Lange spent time in the architecture and engineering schools at UIUC before he settled into Lincoln Hall to finish his B.A. and M.A. in English. He began his teaching career as a Rhet 105 instructor on campus. After a short career in publishing and design, David returned to UIUC to earn teaching certificates in English and reading. He taught high school English and reading at Hinsdale Central High School for ten years before returning, once again, to UIUC, this time to earn his M.Ed, in Educational Organization and Leadership at the school's satellite campus in Oak Brook. David is currently the English Department Chair at Hinsdale Central High School in west suburban Hinsdale.</p>
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Laura Kamka	lsksoccer@cox.net	Teaching in English	1994	MA	<p>Laura Kamka graduated from U of I in January of 1994 after doing her student teaching in the CTEP program, as it was then called. She taught high school English for 6 years at Glenbard East and then moved to Arizona, where she has taught English since 2001 at Desert Mountain High School. Her classes have mainly focused on literature and incorporating different forms of writing and technology into those literature classes. Since graduating from college, Laura has been a member of NCTE where she tries to keep up to date on the latest studies on English education and how to become a better teacher. She is also coordinator of the International Baccalaureate Program there. She earned her masters from Northwestern University in Liberal Studies in 2001 and earned her National Board Certification in 2008. She is happy to help any aspiring teachers, and will be pleased to respond to email queries.</p>
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Laura Koritz	laurakoritz@gmail.com	Rhetoric, English	2002	MFA, EdM	Champaign/Urbana Area	
Anne McClure	anne.e.mcclure@gmail.com	English & French	2005			<p>Anne McClure graduated from UIUC in 2005 with a BA in English and a double minor in French and Secondary Education. She taught high school Writing and Humanities at a Chicago charter school until 2007 and currently works as an education consultant specializing in ACT prep.</p>
Nicole Miller (Allard)	millernicole@mac.com	Teaching in English	1997		Carlsbad CA	<p>After receiving her degree in the Teaching of English in 1997, Mrs. Miller taught at Larkin High School in Elgin, teaching English, Speech/Debate, and Theater. After two years, she moved to southern California and was hired by the Fallbrook Union High School District as an English teacher in 2000. For six years, she served as Department Chair, AVID Coordinator, GATE Coordinator (overseeing the honors and AP programs), Teacher on Special Assignment for Curriculum and Instruction, and Teacher on Special Assignment for Professional Development. From 2006 to 2014, she served as an Assistant Principal and Professional Development Coordinating, overseeing Counseling, Attendance, English Language Learners, Advanced Placement, Master Scheduling, teacher evaluations, student discipline, and school improvement. In January 2015, Mrs. Miller became the Principal of Mission Vista High School in the Vista Unified School District in California. This is a dual magnet in Arts/Communication and Science/Technology with 1600 students and 80 certificated faculty members.</p>
Jessie Morrison	morijessie@gmail.com	Teaching in English	2002	MFA		<p>Ms. Morrison is currently a high school English teacher and is close to earning an M.F.A. in fiction at Columbia in Chicago. Her fiction and essays have appeared in McSweeney's, Writer's Digest, The Chicago Reader, and various other publications. She is a 2002 graduate of UIUC.</p>
Karen Blake Ruffner	kblaker@mcast.net	Teaching in English	1975	EdD	Rockford, IL	<p>Ms. Ruffner started her career as a high school English teacher. She got that position because she had Latin in her background and could teach one section of that as well. She also taught a few sections of art, which was her minor. After that, she had 8 years as a middle school English and/or reading teacher during which time she got her master's degree in reading. Next, she worked part-time for 5 years at Rockford College teaching a reading and study skills class for college students. When her own children were both in elementary school, she went back to work in public schools and found a position as a Title I teacher in a K-3rd school where she also got Reading Recovery and Literacy Collaborative training. This was the best training ever. She learned more about how to teach reading from both of these than she ever did from her master's program. In 2000, she became the district reading assessment coordinator for the Rockford Public Schools and stayed in that position for 10 years until she retired. Now she is working in her dream job of teaching student teachers at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. She teaches the elementary reading course and also observes student teachers in schools. It has been a long journey, but she could not have felt prepared to work at the university level until she had the 29 years of practical experience at all the levels kindergarten-college. She got her doctorate in Educational Leadership from National-Louis University. She felt she had such a strong background in literacy already that leadership was the avenue she should take to impact change in schools.</p>

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Mark Schack	fbslug@hotmail.com	MA	Mr. Schack graduated from UIUC with a master's in English in 1981, enjoying an incredibly thorough education. He then returned to his home state of California where he has been teaching middle school ever since. He has been involved with his local teachers' union as a negotiator and chapter president.
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Erin Stanek (Golden)	Erin.Stanek@sbcbglobal.net	Teaching in English	2013	Madison, WI	Ms. Stanek is a 2013 graduate of the English Teaching program and is currently working at New Trier High School in Winnetka as an Instructional Assistant. During the past school year she worked in freshmen co-taught classrooms and this fall will be taking on an eight week long term sub position to teach sophomores through seniors. In her free time she is training for a marathon, practices karate, and is an avid reader and writer.
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T. Andy Wicklunc	andy.wicklund@gmail.com	Teaching in English	2007	MS, ed	Ann Arbor, MI	Mr. Wicklund graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2007 with a bachelor's in English. That same year, he began his teaching career at Yorkville High School in Yorkville, Illinois. Spending six years there, he taught six different courses in the English department, coached the boys' soccer, and conducted an administrative internship with the principal which culminated in the creation of a school writing center. In 2013, after earning his master's in Educational Organization and Leadership from UIUC, Mr. Wicklund moved west to San Jose, California, where he teaches at The Harker School. His current teaching assignments include 9th grade English as well as senior seminars, including Arthurian Literature. Similar to his time at YHS, at Harker, Mr. Wicklund continues to coach soccer and support other student clubs and organizations.
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## TEACHING OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

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Kelsey Carnahan	kelseycarnahan@gmail.com	Greater Chicago Area				Kelsey Carnahan graduated with her BA in English in the spring of 2012. She then completed her TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) professional certification. After substitute teaching for several months she got a job at the English academy Sogang Language Program in Seoul, South Korea. She moved in March 2013 and is currently teaching kindergarten and elementary age students.
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Kelsey Carnahan	kelseycarnahan@gmail.com	Greater Chicago Area				Kelsey Carnahan graduated with her BA in English in the spring of 2012. She then completed her TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) professional certification. After substitute teaching for several months she got a job at the English academy Sogang Language Program in Seoul, South Korea. She moved in March 2013 and is currently teaching kindergarten and elementary age students.
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William Doeckel	doeckeliv@gmail.com	English and Creative Writing	2015	Great San Diego Area		I graduated with a double major in English and Creative Writing in 2015. I currently work as a Software Implementation Specialist for Reynolds and Reynolds. My company makes and sells software for automotive dealerships, and it's my job to travel on site to dealerships and train the employees on their new or upgraded software. I enjoy it immensely; it combines learning, teaching, and traveling, three aspects of life that I love. I didn't get hired with Reynolds and Reynolds right out of school. I actually got a good, salary-paying job a few months after graduating and absolutely hated it. I moved across the country, quit, and got a job working with autistic children and adults as a behavior technician. I worked hourly for over a year and I don't regret a minute of it. I love to hike, play basketball, travel and explore new music. I won't lie and say I have my dream job or that my life is perfect, but I'm happy that I can honestly say I enjoy what I do, and that I'm proud I didn't take a cookie cutter route to get here. If I can be of any assistance to you, I'd be glad to share some of my experiences and opinions, and hopefully learn something in return.
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*Pat East	pat.east.desi gn@gmail.com	Rhetoric, English	2009	Champaign/Ur bana Area	After graduating with a degree in Rhetoric from the U of I in 2009, Pat used his new rhetoric super powers to convince employers to hire him for a number of different jobs including being a Visiting Web and Graphic Designer for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at U of I, the webmaster for the City of Champaign, a WordPress developer and then the customer support team lead for the software development firm Pixo. In 2015, Pat magnified his superpower of rhetoric with a Masters of Science degree in Communication from Northwestern University and now he is working as a Community Manager for GitHub after spending a year and a half as an Enterprise Support Agent.
*Nicole Moore	nicolemoore 91@icloud.com	English	2014		Since February 2011 Mr. Meyer has been working for Adobe as a product specialist for the Adobe Digital Marketing suite of products. Prior to that he was an account manager at a digital advertising software company called Kenshoo, and before that that he worked for the online media group Performics. He is a 2006 graduate of UIUC English.
Jonathan Meyer	Jonathan.w. meyer@gmail.com				Prior to graduating in May 2014 I was heavily involved in English Student Council and the honors program in the English department. I had multiple internships, including ones at the Illinois Alumni Magazine and the Spurlock Museum. After graduating, I spent three years as a managing editor at local publishing company, Human Kinetics, when I decided I wanted to branch out more. I am currently a quality assurance specialist at a local tech consulting company, Pixo, and would be happy to talk with anyone about the skills in an English degree that can be used in more non-traditional ways.
Colleen Noonan	cbnoonan@ gmail.com	English	1997	Greater San Francisco Area	After receiving her degree in English in 1997, Ms. Noonan worked as a software developer for an internet advertising company in Chicago/. She has spent the last twenty years in Silicon Valley in California as a Senior Software Engineer, Database Architect, Engineering Manager and Director. She is currently an engineering manager for a global team at Cloudflare in San Francisco. She picked up her computer skills by having her own website and completing volunteer work during summers while at UIUC.
Patrick Nowlan	pnowlan@illi nois.edu	History	1989	Champaign/Ur bana Area	Patrick Nowlan is a happy generalist. He likes knowing a little bit about a lot of things. At first he thought that would be a hindrance in finding meaningful employment but over the years he learned it was an asset that led to fulfilling and interesting jobs that allowed him to live a life he loves. Patrick could have majored in anything in LAS during his undergrad years but chose History as it encompassed everything. He then went on to earn a Masters in Library and Information Science, which gave him a little technical training to go along with the vital reading, writing, organization and communication skills he developed during his undergrad LAS education. Patrick's first job was working as a historian for the Corps of Engineers, evaluating and documenting historical structures owned by the government. Soon, he was called a Cold War Missile Expert as he documented missile and space launch facilities at Cape Canaveral Air Force Base in Florida and at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California (he read the right history books apparently). After nine years of travel and adventure, he married, had a child and took his career in a completely different direction, settling into the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus as a fund raising researcher at the University of Illinois Foundation. There, he used his research, writing and people skills to help identify top individual, corporate and foundation donors to the university, working with and for the top administrative levels on campus. Rising to the level of Director of Research, Patrick honed his management and organizational skills and also experienced, mostly amusedly, the political vagaries and quirks of a large complex organization. More importantly, he learned that constantly trying to move up and chasing more money does not necessarily lead to more happiness. Sometimes the best jobs are those middle level jobs where you are serving people, doing good work and making lives easier but where the pressure and stress (and pay) is less. Patrick currently happily works in such a job as a data specialist in the UIUC Gies College of Business, tracking and working with student outcome data and working with fabulous people. He firmly believes that one needs to define for oneself what success means and looks like and not necessarily blindly accept how society defines those things.

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<p>Todd Reese</p>	<p>tmreese2@il linois.edu</p>	<p>English</p>	<p>2013</p>	<p>Champaign/Ur bana Area</p>	<p>In Todd Reese's final semester as an English major at UIUC, he orchestrated an independent study on web content strategy with Dr. Bruce Erickson, the Director of Programs in Professional Writing. Through the findings of his independent study, Todd began to draw parallels between the ability to process, synthesize, and form cohesive arguments about literature and the ability to use language to problem solve in a technical/business environment. During his internship with Applied Technologies for Learning in the Arts &amp; Sciences (ATLAS) at UIUC, Todd found that in the same way a cogent argument can tie together seemingly disjoint works of artistic prose, one can also employ language to clarify workflow, technical/business goals, or complex procedures in a way that speaks directly to the intended audience to achieve a desired consequence. After being hired as an Application Integration Specialist with ATLAS after graduating, Todd has continued to develop his skills as an interpreter of processes and an ambassador for client understanding in a higher education technical development environment. While his field is technical, Mr. Reese's skillset is firmly rooted in the humanities, and his professional life is all the richer for it.</p>
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<p>Daniel Seeder</p>	<p>danielseeder @gmail.com</p>	<p>English and Creative Writing</p>	<p>2016</p>	<p></p>	<p>I graduated in 2016 with a degree in English and Creative Writing. Currently, I work as a Technical Support Analyst at a start-up known as RingDNA located in San Francisco. When I initially graduated from UIUC, I spent about six months working as a content writer for an automotive extended warranty company in the suburbs of Chicago. It wasn't long after that I moved to the Bay Area to work as a Customer Support Specialist at a tech company called RangeMe. Working in support is a great way to utilize the skills you gain during your time as an undergraduate, and I would be happy to talk to anyone who has questions about weaseling into tech.</p>
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<p>Henry Soong</p>	<p>henry333@g mail.com</p>	<p>English &amp; Finance</p>	<p>2011</p>	<p>Greater San Francisco Area</p>	<p>I am currently a Product Manager at Facebook in Menlo Park, California. I work with designers, data analysts, and engineers to decide what new features/apps get built at Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Oculus etc. Specifically, my role as a PM is to create the vision for new products, determine the metrics we'll use to measure the success of what we build, and lead interdisciplinary teams to develop new features that make Facebook a better social tool for 1.3+ billion people. Before Facebook, I taught high school mathematics in Oakland, California with Teach for America. Working in public education helped prepare me for my current role by pushing me to develop a few, essential skills: the ability (a) to motivate people behind a common cause, (b) to empathize deeply with people from different world-views, and (c) to prioritize ruthlessly when there is too much to do. I graduated from the University in May 2011. I studied English in LAS and Finance at the College of Business, without ever thinking I wanted to write or work for an investment bank. At school, I joined a student-run consulting group called OTCR Consulting, where we worked with small businesses and entrepreneurs from the College of Engineering to improve their businesses. My best advice to English undergrads is to spend your time trying out as many different experiences as possible. Have a restless sense of curiosity. Undergrad is brief; make it an adventure!! If you are interested in learning about careers in technology, education, or consulting, feel welcome to contact me.</p>
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## WRITING -- FICTION AND POETRY

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<p>Sidney Taiko Sheehan</p>	<p>sidney.taiko @gmail.com</p>	<p>English and Creative Writing</p>	<p>2013</p>	<p>MA</p>	<p>Sidney earned her B.A. from UIUC in Creative Writing in 2013. She earned an M.A. in Creative Writing and English from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2016. She's the Editor-in-Chief of Storm Cellar literary journal and currently works for the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Her poetry and prose can be found in numerous literary journals including CutBank, PANK, The Comstock Review, New Mexico Review, Niche, and a 2016 Sage Hill Press anthology. She would be more than happy to discuss English literature, creative writing workshops, publishing, and grant writing.</p>
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Kristen (Lazzaretto) Strom	krstrom2@g mail.com	English , Education	2005	PhD	Galesburg, IL	Kristen Strom graduated from UIUC in 2005 with a BA in English and a double minor in Secondary Education and Spanish. She taught high school English Language Arts at Hinsdale Central High School (Hinsdale, IL) and Dunlap High School (Dunlap, IL). She received her MA in Curriculum and Instruction from Bradley University and PhD in English Studies from Illinois State University focusing on English Education. Currently, she is the Coordinator of Teacher Education in the Educational Studies Department at Knox College (Galesburg, IL).
Yelizaveta (Liz) Sorokin	liz.sorokin@ gmail.com	Art History	2006			I am a graduate from the LAS school, class of 2006. I received my BA in Art History with a minor in Chemistry. I now work at the Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis, MN as a paper conservator. My undergraduate degree is exactly what I needed to pursue my career, and while I was eventually able to find my way in terms of the field, I struggled as an undergraduate to find the proper mentors.
Clara Mount	linkedin	English	2014	MBA	Winter Park, FL	Clara is a level 28 Bard/Rogue/Sorceress with an array of skills built around professional management and leadership. She is currently pursuing her MBA with concentrations in Marketing and International Business, but still isn't sure what she wants to do for the rest of her life. (Pro Tip: That's normal. It keeps her agile.) What she does know is that her passions lie in community development, LGBTQ+ advocacy, and storytelling. Clara received her BA in English with a minor in Classical Civilization from UIUC in 2010. She considers her undergrad a "degree in transferrable skills" and feels it has led her down a nontraditional career path. Since graduating, she has worked in a variety of fields including hospitality, healthcare, retail, and cybersecurity – in a variety of roles, such as operations, management, and marketing – and in non-profit, for-profit, and government sectors. During her time at UIUC, Clara was on the founding team for Equinox Literary & Arts Magazine as well as Re:Search: The Undergraduate Research Journal for Literary Criticism. Both publications are still ongoing.
Cass Grimm	cgrimm21@ gmail.com					
David Mackinson	david.mackin son@eurom onitor.com	Spanish and Econ	2008		Chile	I am originally from Pontiac, Illinois and I grew up on my family's dairy farm. I remember visiting U of I the summer before my senior year in high school and I fell in love with the campus. I had the privilege of getting a dual degree at U of I, within the College of LAS (Spanish) and within the College of ACES (Policy, International Trade & Development). I was smart enough to go to an ACES job fair during my junior year, where I was intent on finding something (anything!) within an international business that would send me abroad. I ended up working as an intern at a Syngenta corn and soybean production plant in Washington, Iowa for a summer (which is not abroad), but upon graduation they offered me a full-time role (with the promise of working alongside their team in Chile during the southern hemisphere's summer months). I did this for 2 years, before I decided I wanted to study again. I had started dating a Chilean and I felt like I wanted to stay in Chile, and I was lucky enough to find a Masters in Economics that Georgetown offers there in conjunction with another Jesuit university in Santiago. Upon graduation I found a job at Euromonitor International in Santiago doing market research. At the time it was in response to having student debt to pay, but 7 years later, I'm still with the company (and still in Santiago), loving what I do. I manage a team of analysts in our office in Santiago and throughout Latin America, monitoring everything that is going on in the region. Life is good.

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					Charlotte is a PhD student in Classics at Cornell. She earned her BA summa cum laude from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2016 with a major in Classics. In 2018, she earned her MA in Classics, also from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Charlotte is interested in ecological literature in Greek and Latin including literary depictions of oceans, water, and voyages. She has presented on human/animal relations and waterways in Hanno's Periplus, as well as nature religion in Roman philosophy. Currently, Charlotte is working on one project comparing nautical voyages and the ocean in Robert Silverberg's The Face of the Waters and the Odyssey and another on geography in Senecan tragedy.
Charlotte Hunt	alh298@cornell.edu	Classics	2014	PhD	Ithaca, NY

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					I graduated with my Anthropology degree from U of I in 2013. After bouncing around various concentrations I landed on cultural anthropology focused on Latin America. While I didn't formally major in English, I took at least 1 literature or writing-focused class each semester for an overall writing-heavy course load. In addition to Spanish I also studied Quechua (courtesy of FLAS and our LAC department) and went on 4 different study abroad trips. I then moved to rural Ecuador on a Fulbright English Teaching Grant, which was the single best year in my life. I returned to try to work in nonprofit or academia in some entry level capacity and failed miserably; while applying to jobs desperately, I took a part-time job at Mariano's handing out food samples & selling at the meat counter. This short stint made me realize that my degree in anthropology was actually very pertinent to sales--in both, you have to learn to ingratiate yourself to strangers, earn their trust, and convince them to give you something--information, or their business. Furthermore, all the writing practice comes in very handy in the business context. I then got a sales job at a translation firm per my language background; I was then recruited to a cybersecurity company, where I've just been promoted to a management position after 3 years. I have a lot to say about the wild twists and turns of turning a passion for anthropology, Spanish, and literature into a lucrative corporate sales career. It was psychically very difficult and there have been numerous rough patches. I would have really appreciated any kind of mentorship as you describe here, so I'd love to give back. On a related note: in the background of all this, I have also written 2 novels and continue to write short fiction as I go through the business motions of selling the novels. Would be happy to connect with any aspiring writers on this subject as well.
Tara McGovern	tmcgovern1648@gmail.com	Anthro, minor Spanish	2013		Greater Chicago Area
Ryan Wood		Philosophy		law	New York, NY

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					I graduated from the University of Illinois with my Bachelor's Degree in May 2015, with majors in Spanish and Anthropology and a Certificate in Translation Studies. I benefited from service-learning courses within the Spanish program that allowed me to volunteer with Spanish speakers in the community, which helped me develop an interest in immigration. After graduation, I completed an AmeriCorps service year with the AmeriCorps Legal Advocates of Massachusetts, where I was placed in a nonprofit law office focusing on immigration legal services. I currently live in Madison, Wisconsin, where I work as a Bilingual Legal Assistant at a nonprofit law firm specializing in immigration and family law. My advice to students would be to take advantage of opportunities that allow you to explore your interests and apply your skills outside the classroom – and to be creative in thinking about how the skills you have learned can be applied in the workforce."
Hannah Rickey	hannahrickey1@gmail.com	Spanish, Anthro, translational	2015		Madison, WI
Miranda Savel		psychology			

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