For academic year 2013-14, USCA is launching a new strategic plan with the intent of moving the campus forward under the leadership of our new chancellor, Dr. Sandra Jordan.

This is a good time for the Department to take stock of its current efforts and to plan ahead for the future. To that end, our faculty periodically reexamines the English curriculum to make sure that we are responding both to the needs of our students and the expectations of a rapidly changing society. This fall, for example, we revised our minor in professional writing to introduce a new gateway course, ENGL 245: Writing in the Workplace. We hope that this new offering will help USCA better meet the demand of employers for individuals who are conversant with typical workplace formats such as procedural writing and grant writing. Today's corporate leaders consistently cite writing proficiency as one of the three skills they value most in their employees.

Just as the members of our faculty continually monitor the curriculum to keep the educational experience of our students engaging and relevant, the scholar-teachers that make up the Department of English challenge themselves to reach new heights of productivity. After all, to demand scholarship of our students, we ourselves must be active scholars. This year alone, members of the English faculty completed or are in the process of completing seven book projects; they published over 30 shorter scholarly or creative works; they presented nearly 20 papers at professional conferences.

Our majors also continue to shine. This past year, nine were enrolled in the honors program (two of those students completed capstone projects); four of our majors won Magellan grants; four made presentations at professional conferences. Five English majors participated in USCA Research Day (one won gold in the humanities oral presentation category—that same student also won a first place award at USC Discovery Day—and two won silver in the same category). Twenty of our majors defended senior projects in front of a faculty committee as part of ENGL 499. In short, undergraduate research is fast becoming a trademark of the Department.

Ours has always been a productive and forward-thinking department. I feel confident that we—our program, our faculty, and our students—are poised to meet the challenges that USCA and our service community face in the coming years.

Tom Mack, Chair
Department of English
Dr. Tom Mack

Dr. Mack has been very busy in 2013. He finished one book and readied another for imminent publication.

This past summer, Lamar University Press published *A Shared Voice*, a first-of-its-kind short story collection. Co-edited with Dr. Geyer, the book contains twelve anchor tales—six by writers from Texas and six by writers from the Carolinas—and twelve original works of fiction written in response to the anchor narratives. Each tale is linked to another by at least one literary element such as character or setting or theme. This composite collection is already garnering rave reviews.

The second book is part of an ongoing project of USC Press. One of a series of guides inspired by *The South Carolina Encyclopedia* published in 2006, *The South Carolina Encyclopedia Guide to South Carolina Writers* will contain 128 essays, each one focused on a writer who has made a significant contribution to our state’s literary heritage. The series editor is Dr. Walter Edgar; the editor for this particular guide is Dr. Mack. The book is due out in March, 2014.

This past year, Dr. Mack continued to give talks about his two books published by The History Press (Charleston, SC); last spring he spoke about *The Hidden History of Aiken County* as part of a panel at the SC Book Festival, and over the past year, he conducted three visual tours of *Circling the Savannah* for local historical and genealogical groups.

This fall he presented a paper on the senior capstone experience as part of a panel that he organized for the annual conference of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association (Atlanta); the panel consisted of professors from four Southern states.

Dr. Mack served as master of ceremonies at the 2013 induction ceremony of the South Carolina Academy of Authors at the Hollings Library, USC-Columbia, in April (he is the current chair of the Board of Governors of that statewide organization); edited the fifteenth volume of *The Oswald Review* (www.scholarcommons.sc.edu); and continued to write his popular column “Arts and Humanities,” which appears each Friday in *The Aiken Standard*. In recognition of his work as a cultural columnist, he received the 2013 Media Award from the Greater Augusta Arts Council.

Dr. Lynne Rhodes

This past summer, Dr. Rhodes began working with the Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC) and the National Assessment Governing Board (NAEP) to do a college course content analysis study. Briefly, she is working with a national team to analyze and code course syllabi to determine what are the prerequisite knowledge, skills, and abilities in reading for success in entry-level courses that satisfy general education requirements. She travelled to Portland, Oregon to complete this work. She also presented a paper with Kari Weaver at the Indiana University Libraries Information Literacy Colloquium (August 2013) and chaired a panel focused on articulation agreements for first year composition at the South Atlantic MLA conference in Atlanta (November 2013). She’s also working with Dr. Gary Senn with the RPSEC and CE-MIST to present a year-long series of workshops focused on TILT development at Ridge Spring / Monetta Elementary / Middle School (having received a $20,000 federal grant for this work from the National Writing Project). She also recently served as a Lead Evaluator on a SACS accreditation on-site review team. All of this consulting work is keeping her very busy, but she is also enjoying her two 101 classes, her advanced composition class, and for the first time of teaching, her composition studies class. And of course, she enjoys working in her flower and vegetable gardens! She’s picked hundreds of roses, as well as bushels of beans, tomatoes, peas, peanuts, grapes, figs, blueberries, and kiwis to date.
Dr. Andrew Geyer has finished up his fifth year at the University of South Carolina Aiken and is enjoying the beginning of his sixth. It has been a good but busy year as he continues to serve as Coordinator of Critical Inquiry in addition to his faculty role in the Department of English.

In the editorial department, *A Shared Voice: A Tapestry of Tales*, an anthology of short fiction by writers from Texas and the Carolinas that Dr. Geyer co-edited with Dr. Tom Mack, was published in July 2013 by Lamar University Press. The collection features a total of twenty-four short stories—twelve by writers from Texas and twelve by writers from the Carolinas—each linked to another by at least one literary element such as character or setting or theme. This composite anthology explores the cultural, geographical, and historical connections between the “bookend states of the Old Confederacy.” Dramatic monologues, fictions that take the form of student essays and professors’ responses, tall tales in the tradition of Twain, frame stories a la Irving, stream of consciousness narratives, all of these and more are here—and the quality of the writing is breathtaking. Dr. Geyer also continues to serve as Fiction Editor at *Concho River Review*.

As for his own writing, Dr. Geyer had five short stories selected for inclusion in an anthology entitled *Texas 5 X 5*, which will be published in the spring of 2014 by Stephen F. Austin University Press. He also published a piece of creative nonfiction in the Hub City Press anthology *Literary Dogs and Their South Carolina Writers*. And he managed to find time to get new writing done, finishing up the final draft of a brand new story cycle entitled *Lesser Mountains* for which he is currently seeking a publisher. He is now hard at work on a novel, tentatively entitled *Easy Keepers*, for which he received a 2013 RISE Grant for Creative Activity.

Dr. Katie Kalpin Smith was on maternity leave for Fall of 2013; she will return to campus for Spring 2014. One of her projects during her leave is creating a two-semester Shakespeare sequence which would allow students to take two terms of Shakespeare for credit towards their degree if they desire. Dr. Smith is excited at the prospect of adding to the department’s course offerings.

Since the last newsletter, she published the essay “Women’s Speech in the Age of Shakespeare” in the March issue of the journal *Literature Compass*. This essay provides an overview of the state of the field of women’s speech in the early modern era, as well as indicating future directions for investigation.

In personal news, last spring she travelled with her family to Washington DC and to the Outer Banks. This past summer Dr. Smith and her family welcomed a new son. They are eager to begin travelling with him; their first collective adventure was a ski trip to California's Sierra Nevada over the holiday break.
Dr. Miller has had the opportunity to teach courses in Modern American Writers and Contemporary American Literature, the first offering of the latter. He was very excited to develop this unique course devoted to fiction written from 1980 to today. Additionally, his students produced posters about various cultural and historical topics over this period of time, including MTV, the End of the Cold War, the AIDS Crisis, the Monica Lewinsky Scandal, the OJ Simpson Trial, the Internet, and Cell Phones. He also taught his surveys of American literature and African-American literature. Last spring, he concluded an independent research project with Ms. Delicia Williams and her comic adaptation of Stephen Graham Jones’s *Demon Theory*. She won first place at both USCA’s Research Day and USC Discovery Day.

Dr. Miller submitted a successful book proposal to McFarland Press on teaching graphic novels in the college classroom. He is currently editing essays for a tentative fall 2014 publication. He also completed another book proposal on transnational American writing. He is seeking to land a commitment from a university press for that book. In anticipation of that project, he presented a partial chapter at the SAMLA conference in November 2013 on Claude McKay and his vagabond philosophy in life and letters. Additionally, he chaired panels on transnationalism and teaching comics at SAMLA. He was an invited speaker at the Comics Symposium at USC in October 2013. He also submitted an essay on Chang-rae Lee’s *Native Speaker* for the *South Atlantic Review*.

This past year he completed a two-year chairmanship of the university’s Courses and Curriculum Committee. In exciting developments, he has assumed the role as the university’s Writing Assessment Director, a torch passed from Dr. Lynne Rhodes. As one major priority, he hopes to improve the connection between the WPP and Writing Intensive courses. He also joined the Promotion and Tenure Committee this year. Within the department, he remains the coordinator of non-Western World Studies assessment.

Personally, his oldest son began middle school (jeez!). He is dreading all the trombone noise he will hear as his son improves to “first chair.” His twins started second grade. Each child has a very distinct personality, which is fun, challenging, and rewarding. He enjoyed a fantastic trip to Disney World with the family over last Christmas Break and a wonderful vacation to Huntington Beach State Park this past summer.

Dr. Doug Higbee
Associate Professor

Dr. Higbee presented a paper on student veterans at the annual Modern Language Association convention held in Boston in January 2013 and presented a paper on George Orwell in November 2013 at the annual South Atlantic Modern Language Association convention in Atlanta. He is currently working on three book projects: on teaching First World War literature, on Augusta-Aiken area veterans of the Second World War, and (with department colleague Dave Bruzina) on the academic hunter.

Prof. Higbee taught a Major Authors course on George Orwell in Spring 2013 and is teaching both modern and contemporary British literature in 2013–14. Prof. Higbee now endeavors for success in hunting antlered ruminants rather than rodents.
Dr. Eric Carlson  
Assistant Professor

Business has gone apace for Dr. Carlson in 2013. On the scholarship side of the house, Dr. Carlson participated as a panelist in a roundtable discussion at the 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies in May. His presentation was on teaching *Njal’s Saga* as the keystone text in an interdisciplinary studies course, and a more formal version of this presentation is slated to be published late next year in a special-topics issue of *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching*. In October Dr. Carlson participated as a panelist in a roundtable discussion on teaching Anglo-Saxon literature to undergraduates, this time at the annual Southeastern Medieval Association conference, presenting his thoughts on choosing the appropriate translation of *Beowulf* for the classroom. Dr. Carlson also finished off “Grendel as Novelistic Outlaw-Hero: A Girardian Reading,” his chapter for the book *Goode Myrth Ye Shall Heere*, forthcoming from Medieval Institute Publications; and his review of Hugh Magennis’s *The Cambridge Introduction to Anglo-Saxon Literature* appeared in the Spring 2013 issue of *Pedagogy*. At the end of this semester Dr. Carlson has plans to begin a book project based on his doctoral dissertation.

On the personal side of the house, Dr. Carlson and his family have bought just that: a house. Their new abode is a sprawling Victorian monstrosity that Dr. Carlson lovingly refers to as “ramshackular.” He and his wife Ali expect that they may have the renovations complete when their two-year-old son James graduates from high school. Dr. Carlson is also looking forward with great pride to the anticipated graduation of his wife from the USCA School of Nursing this May. Finally, he and young James may start a bug collection soon. Fun!

Dr. Julia Wise  
Assistant Professor

Since joining the Department of English in August, Dr. Julie Wise has greatly enjoyed meeting her colleagues and students while settling into the USCA community. She comes most recently from Columbia, SC, where she had served as an Assistant Professor of English and director of the Writing Lab at Allen University. Previously she had earned her PhD from Indiana University, in English literature with a concentration on Victorian studies.

At USCA, Dr. Wise continues her scholarly pursuits, with several projects focused on Victorian poets, poetics, aesthetics, and identity. She has presented most recently at the North American Victorian Studies Association’s annual conference as well as at the Nineteenth-Century Studies Association’s annual meeting. She is currently completing an article on the role of the consumer in Robert Browning’s long poem *The Ring and the Book*.

This year Dr. Wise looks forward to teaching a full array of composition and British literature courses. When not occupied by reading, writing, or teaching, she is most likely to be found chasing after a madcap pair of boys, her one- and three-year-old sons.
Karl Fornes
Senior Instructor

Karl Fornes and his wife Jennifer Onofrio Fornes are spending much of the Fall 2013 semester touting their "Study Away" program in New York City planned for Maymester 2014. The program, a collaborative endeavor by the University of South Carolina Aiken and Georgia Regents University, will allow students to tour and study New York City while earning up to six credit hours--three in photography and three in travel and leisure writing. The agenda will include some standard stops, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Ellis Island, the Brooklyn Bridge, the Empire State Building and the 9/11 Memorial; but the real appeal will be some "behind-the-scenes" glimpses of the city, including a visit to internationally renowned photographer Andrew Moore's studio, an "insider's tour" of Chelsea, and a tour of Penguin Publishing.

In the Fall 2014 semester, Fornes taught two courses he has never taught before--the Nonfiction Workshop and Critical Inquiry. Critical Inquiry is USC Aiken's first-year common experience. Students explored Jon Krakauer's book Into the Wild as well as Sean Penn's movie rendition. His other classes include two sections of English 101, in which students read and responded to Malcolm Gladwell's Outliers.

Karl continues to serve as faculty advisor to Broken Ink, USCA's literary and visual arts magazine and was especially pleased that the 2013 edition of the magazine earned All-American Honors with five out of a possible five marks of distinction from the Associated Collegiate Press's critique service.

In the meantime, Karl is slowly gathering and shaping years of old journals and gibberish into some of his own writing. His short memoir "Lake Effect" won third place in the 2013 Porter Fleming Literary competition hosted by the Morris Museum of Art.

Vicki Collins
Senior Instructor

During the summer, Vicki Collins offered her annual Young Writers Camp to local 5th – 8th graders. She attended the Hub City Writers Conference in Spartanburg where she was mentored in creative nonfiction. Professor Collins' teaching assignments in the fall included four sections of English 102 and English 111 (English as a Second or Other Language). For the Academy of Lifelong Learning, she offered a special topics course on Appalachian Studies. In the spring, she will teach a special section of Critical Inquiry for international students. Her advisement obligations are for undeclared students and English majors; this fall, first-year international students were added to the mix.

Plans are underway for the 2014 Western Carolina Language Arts Festival managed by Professor Collins and co-director Professor Roy Seeger. In an effort to be inclusive, students in counties that border Aiken County will now be eligible to participate. For the second year, Professor Collins will be coordinating the International Poetry Reading event during International Education Week. Committee service for the past year includes Staff Development Task Force, Academic Services, New Faculty Orientation (chair), Scholastic Standings & Petitions, Judicial Procedures Advisement, First-Year Reading and Critical Inquiry, and the Pacer Club Athletic Board. She is also a host family member to a USCA soccer player. Continued service on the executive board for the South Carolina Council of Teachers of English (SCCTE) has been a pleasure, as the board plans the annual winter conference on Kiawah Island.

Ongoing scholarship and research about Appalachian literature has been a labor of love for Professor Collins, whose family roots are firmly planted in North Carolina and East Tennessee. After making a presentation at the 2013 Appalachian Studies Association Conference in Boone, she was contacted by a publishing company about a possible book manuscript. As a result, she is able to offer a research assistant scholarship to a USCA student.
As she has done for 37 years, Ilona Law is very busy with class preparation and the massive task of paper evaluation, which is a major part of that commitment. She’ll be teaching one of her favorite courses this Spring 2014, Classical Mythology. It gives her the occasion to use her background in Classical Greek and Latin language, history, and thought and affords her students the opportunity to engage in some of those subject areas as well. There are many benefits to the study of the classics and a well-rounded liberal arts education, and besides, the students love the course. She continues to work as a mentor to home school writing teachers in the Augusta area and an editor of documents for her husband’s business, HBOL Architects, with offices in Aiken and Augusta. She is frequently a guest speaker/discussion leader with the Aiken Co. Library’s book club where she has done presentations ranging from the novels of Julia Peterkin and Katherine Anne Porter to those of Charles Dickens and Jane Austen. She will retire from USCA in December 2014, but has many exciting ideas about what her next “career” might be.

October (or maybe November) saw the release of Roy Seeger’s poetry chapbook, *The Prayer Book for the Midwestern Agnostic*, through Main Street Rag. He has also published poems in *Jasper* and *Main Street Rag*. His poem “Two Fishermen before the First Frost” was reposted as a featured work on storySouth’s webpage. Seeger’s full-length poetry manuscript, *The Distance of the Stage*, has been submitted to over a dozen national poetry contests, but as of yet no takers.

This fall semester, in addition to his regular classes, Seeger taught a Lifetime Learning course on several contemporary American poets including Gwendolyn Brooks and Dean Young. In the spring he will lead a discussion on Langston Hughes at the Aiken Public Library. As the faculty advisor to The Guild of Poetic Intent, USCA’s creative writing club, Seeger supervised the organization of various events including a public reading by award-winning poet Dan Albergotti at the Aiken Center for the Arts, a spring book sale to raise funds for the First Book charity, and the third volume of *Soapbox Blues*, an anthology of poems by Guild members. Seeger also helped organize the Guild’s “World Domination Tour,” where four members acted as the featured readers at Mind Gravy, a weekly open mic. event in Columbia. The Guild also hosts their own monthly open-mic night at various local restaurants like Mi Rancho and Zorba’s. In terms of scholarship, Seeger was part of a roundtable discussion on digital communities at the 2013 SAMLA conference.

As is his routine, Prof. Seeger also spent a week last summer in Louisville, KY with 3000 other English teachers to read AP exams. He would like to report that Bluegrass Brewing Co. in Louisville, KY helps make the grading tolerable. Proof on Main is also something definitely worth seeing: it’s a restaurant, it’s a hotel, it’s a conceptual art gallery that lets you walk through the exhibits with a can of PBR. It’s magical.

On a personal note, Seeger has moved his office into the A wing of H&SS. In the transition he picked up a free coffee pot. He has been honing his online teaching skills by creating an arsenal of Power Point presentations that he hardly ever uses. His front yard remains unmowed.
Dr. Amanda Warren has, as usual, been working diligently on poetry, non-fiction, and academic writing. Although none of her projects is as of yet completed, she has made some headway on several of them. Among those projects are a new chapbook of poetry; her ongoing non-fiction collection centering on cars, roads and pie, entitled Divination Road; a collaborative poetry project; and three (incomplete) novels. This year, amid her usual hectic teaching schedule, Dr. Warren has managed to publish a handful of poems in both print and online journals, to present two conference papers, to write two entries for the forthcoming South Carolina Encyclopedia of South Carolina Authors, edited by the English Department's very own Dr. Mack, to keep her blogs updated, and to help USCA’s Guild of Poetic Intent manage their special brand of poetic mischief. At last year’s Student Life Leadership Award banquet, Dr. Warren was thrilled to have her hard work recognized when she received the “Two Thumbs Up” award from USCA’s Disability Services for her work helping students with disabilities achieve their academic goals. Dr Warren feels especially excited about opportunities for the coming 2013-14 school year. In October and November she worked with USCA’s own Brandy Horne, of the Gregg-Graniteville Library, to gather students for the second annual USCA National Novel Writing Month event series...and maybe she’ll finish a rough draft of one of those three novels she thinks longingly of between grading papers. In mid-November she joined her fellow USCA instructors, Dr. David Bruzina and Roy Seeger, in a panel discussion on digital communities and publishing at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association conference. The panel highlighted her work as owner of the largest poetry community on Google+ (at nearly 4,000 members), while discussing the benefits and pitfalls of working as a creative writer in an increasingly digital world. Last spring she joined fellow USCA faculty member Vicki Collins at the Appalachian Studies conference where Dr. Warren discussed how the post-colonial linguistic theory of code-switching could be applied to the marginalized voices in Appalachian poetry. She’s hoping her proposal on Appalachian poetry will be accepted soon, so that she can present again this spring at Marshall University. Later in the spring semester Dr. Warren will be leading a Life-time Learning course on the nineteenth-century Aiken poet James Matthews Legare, and working to put the final polishes on a new poetry manuscript. As always, in her spare time, she has no spare time.

Jim Saine

Summer 2013 was an international one for Jim Saine. In May, his wife and he were fortunate to participate in a three-week Biblical, Historical, and Geographical Study Tour in Israel. Israel had been #1 on their bucket list for a long time. They didn't spend much time in Palestinian-occupied territory, but they think their mentor and guide, Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum, a well-published author, lecturer, and teacher who is a Messianic Jew, took them up every trail and back road in the country. Then for three weeks in July, he went to Beijing, China, and taught a crash course in American culture to Chinese students applying for acceptance at American universities. It was quite an experience. An anthology, Nights of Horseplay, to which he contributed a short story entitled “Forbidden Love,” was published in September 2013.
In 2013, David Bruzina developed and taught online English 201 courses at USCA—woof!—while teaching classroom English 101 and helping USCA freshpeople appreciate and meet the unique demands of writing for an academic audience. He also taught a Writing Room workshop on writing emails to professors and helped coordinate the USCA Guild of Poetic Intent’s efforts to bring poet and editor Dan Albergotti and editor and publisher Terry Kennedy to campus for a reading and a workshop on publishing. (And he served as Ad Hoc Adjunct Faculty Representative to the USCA Faculty Welfare Committee and organized the election of USCA’s first official adjunct representative.)

Bruzina wrote poems and contributed entries on notable South Carolina authors Jon Tuttle and Elise Blackwell to the South Carolina Encyclopedia Guide to South Carolina Authors. His poem “Hum” was nominated for the anthology Best New Poets 2013. At the 2013 SAMLA convention, he joined a number of editors and poets from North and South Carolina in a round table discussion of the impact of digital technology on literary communities.

Though weather put a damper on some 2013 outdoor activities, Bruzina went tubing, kayaking, fishing, crabbing, frogging and hunting. He continues to augment his culinary repertoire and is currently perfecting a new dish: frog legs in white wine and tarragon sauce.

Dr. David Bruzina
Lecturer

Over the past year, Jason Walter has self-published four graphic novels (Orange Flag, E-Ghost, Ninja Ghosts, and S.W.U). This year, he also self-published his first novel, Dick Hell, and illustrated it all himself. Likewise, he has self-published six illustrated books of poetry. All of the art for the “Comic Poems” series was done by him, and almost all of the writing is his own, with the exception of about four poems that were collaborations. He has submitted his work to Arthur magazine to be reviewed and also to the “Best American Comics Series.”

The poet Gillian McCain, who lives in New York City, has been collaborating with Walter on a version of Dante’s Inferno for about ten years now. In the past year, Walter has been sending her all of his publications. She has posted some of his work on her extremely popular website. Likewise, he has been posting ALL of his work online, and he has reached one thousand pages of illustrated writing this year. He has recently started making “funnies” that are based off his poems and graphic novels, and they are gaining a rapid fan base. Gillian and he are in talks to have the funnies appear on her website regularly.

Jason Walter
Lecturer
Kathryn Hauer, a technical writer, editor, and business development manager, teaches Business Writing at USCA and taught as an adjunct professor at the College of Charleston. She currently works in business development for a construction company and spent many years as an editor for Savannah River Site environmental impact documents. Professor Hauer is committed to helping her students become the best writers and readers they can be.

In 2013, Professor Hauer continued her marketing and business development work at Savannah River Site, using experiences from that job to reinforce academic examples in her Business Writing classes. Additionally, she is in the process of self-publishing a children’s historical novel set in the Aiken area. She consults for Resume Edge as a resume writer and contributes PR and marketing copy to her daughter’s communication consulting business, Hifive Agency.

Additional Faculty

Dr. Jill Hampton
Associate Professor

Dr. William Claxon
Associate Professor

The Oswald Review

The longstanding goal of The Oswald Review, to spread a deeper appreciation of the complexity and richness of the English language and its literatures, became a greater reality in 2012. All back issues of the journal, which showcases undergraduate research and criticism in the discipline of English, were digitized. Each of its fifteen annual issues is now accessible to eager learners around the world. Its published articles have an expansive geographic spread; the location of the journal’s authors crisscrosses the globe from India to England, from Canada to every corner of the United States.

Since its first issue in 1999, The Oswald Review has published seventy-nine articles of undergraduate research. The current volume (2013) covers topics such as William Faulkner’s treatment of African American characters, rhetorical fragmentation in Vladimir Nabokov’s Lolita, and situational links between Virginia Woolf’s Mrs. Dalloway and Christopher Isherwood’s A Single Man.

Scholar Commons houses the journal in its newly digitized form. The website allows one to choose between downloading specific articles and accessing the entire volume as a whole. Anyone can visit the journal on the web at http://scholarcommons.sc.edu/tor/.
The 2012 Fall semester became my proving ground in the USCA English department. As the semester started, I was content to maintain the same degree of understated anonymity that had helped me through the previous school years—or so I thought. An alternative test strategy perpetrated in Dr. Miller’s class seduced the long-latent artist within, thereby providing an opportunity of the comic book variety. Dr. Miller became as much a mentor in that he conjured a plan to adapt Stephen Graham Jones’ novel Demon Theory into a graphic novel. The project coincided with Dr. Miller’s graphic novel class and was accomplished as an independent study.

Dr. Jones visited USCA in October 2012, at which time he latched onto the adaptation idea and, after a few weeks of emails back-and-forth, helpfully provided a remodeled version of Demon Theory—one that fit a comic book script. The fact that he had enough confidence in my interpretation of his characters to reshape his oldest work was as unexpected as it was validating. The lines of communication stayed open throughout the creation of all 32 pages of the first issue (he wrote 15 issues/scripts to encompass the entire novel) and I expect they will continue to stay open for as long as we are working on the graphic novel.

In early May, Denver, Colorado held its 2nd annual comic book convention. Dr. Jones was a guest speaker in some of the panels, so he invited me to join him at the convention, this was so I might make connections with publishers, meet some of his friends in the industry, and talk face-to-face about the adaptation. The trip was well worth it. Although we did not find a publisher for the graphic novel, I met some influential people: editors, artists and comic book shop owners. I was also able to talk at length with Dr. Jones about the future of Demon Theory. He is planning to pitch the entire graphic novel to Dark Horse publishing, Image, and a few others. I have already started work on the second of twelve issues.

The whole journey from class project to becoming friends with Stephen and drawing comics again has been mind-boggling. I am grateful for the mentors USCA has provided me with in Dr. Miller, Prof. Fornes, and Dr. Mack. The English department and its faculty have been most supportive and kind to this transfer student from the Northwest.

Thanks abound.
I have been in love with the English language for as long as I can remember. An early reader, I always held reading and writing to be as natural and necessary as drinking water or breathing oxygen. Guided by the redoubtable faculty of USC Aiken’s English Department, that love and enthusiasm was deepened, strengthened and refined.

Dr. Sue Lorch, for example, taught me that the critical eye developed in the study of classic literature was equally potent across a broad spectrum of life experience. From Dr. Don Blount, I gleaned that an open mind can draw powerful and important correlations, and that one should not disregard a valid argument simply because it comes from an unexpected perspective. And Dr. Tom Mack compellingly convinced me that literature is not only a conversation between the writer and the audience, but also between the authors and artists of other media as well.

These awareness-expanding lessons, and those of many other professors, served to forge and hone the skills that serve me daily, not only in my profession as a reference librarian for the Nancy Carson Library in North Augusta, but as a father and a responsible citizen of the world.

As a reference librarian, my job is to find solutions for people who may not even be able to properly articulate their needs. My ability to think outside standard parameters, strengthened to no small degree by the USC Aiken English Department, is an absolutely critical factor in my efforts to provide timely and concise information to everyone who needs it.

I am so glad that I chose to be an English major in college. The skills that I learned have been invaluable to me in my current career and schooling. Because I am taking all online classes, there is a lot of reading and writing involved. I am able to do my Masters coursework with no problems, and all of my professors have complimented me on my writing skills. Also, as a teacher, I have lots of reading and writing to do every day. Paperwork, lesson plans, and newsletters all require me to use these skills. Several of my fellow teachers get me to proofread things they send home or post online because they know I was an English major.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to attend USC Aiken and be a part of the English Department, a member of Sigma Tau Delta, and a Magellan Scholar while there. The skills and connections that I made have made my experience in the “real world” a great one so far!
When I interviewed for the position of Reference Desk Clerk II for the Aiken County Public Library, I was terribly nervous. Luckily, because of my background with USCA’s English program, when the managers of the department asked me about my experiences with online research databases as well as my personal preferences in reading, I was able to give them detailed, informed responses. I realized that all of that endless navigating of databases for papers counted for something beyond the classes; it showed potential employers that I could assist others in discerning which sources they should use for their research. The very fact that I had a degree in English imparted to them that I had a deep love for all the facets of the written word – enough to study it extensively. So, despite all of my feelings of inadequacy, because of what I absorbed from taking numerous English classes, I was found to be an appropriate fit for the job.

Upon beginning my library life, I was warned by my employers that I might be required to wear “many hats.” This meant that I might be asked to complete a project in addition to my usual tasks if the customary individual was unable. Fortunately, meeting the requirements for multiple classes prepared me to balance tasks in the job environment, as well as teaching me the importance of meeting deadlines. I also credit my classes with ensuring that I am efficient working either by myself or in a group. Through peer editing, I have learned the importance of revising anything I do, and am driven to seek out and accept criticism from my co-workers for even the smallest task. Though I suspect this might annoy them, I personally hope it makes me endearing.

Currently, I am in charge of mailing the ILLs (Inter-Library Loans) from the Reference department safely back to their home libraries, sorting donations for additions to our collection and our book sale (which can be daunting depending on the condition of the materials), and helping patrons with minor technical difficulties on our computers. When I am trying out other hats, I might be asked to create a flyer for an upcoming author visit, collaborate with a co-worker on a display, or add a list of events to our online calendar. I am indebted to the English program’s faculty for always pushing me to go beyond what is required, and to expect more of myself. I would not want their efforts to be unacknowledged, and therefore I give thanks to them for patiently shaping me into the person that I am today. I do not know what the future may hold, but I know that because of their influences, I can only move forward.

Dana Blackmon
Class of 2012

Less than two weeks after earning my B.A. in English, I interned for the legal directory Best Lawyers as an editor for their U.S. team. My job mostly consisted of data entry, particularly the addresses of various law firms located in the United States. Best Lawyers uses specific formatting guidelines for the address entries, which proved easy to comprehend; a degree candidate in English quickly learns to focus on detail. Overall, I found my experience to be refreshing. After working on two editions of USCA’s visual and literary arts magazine, Broken Ink, I discovered some challenges with the more business-oriented Best Lawyers. Unlike my work with Broken Ink, which included presenting various creative ideas and copy editing for short stories and poems, my work with Best Lawyers limited me to strict formatting geared towards technical writing. Although I missed a more liberating approach to working on a publication, Best Lawyers provided me with a new work experience I can add to my resume for more possible job opportunities.

Since graduating, I have centered much of my time reading various novels and poetry volumes in order to observe a multitude of voices and writing styles. In addition to working my regular job as a photo lab technician, I constantly strive to one day become a more polished writer with a distinct style of my own. I aim to continue my education in writing, as I frequently long for the academic community. I intend to earn an M.F.A. in Creative Writing with an emphasis in poetry in order to further explore my passion.

Patrick Sanders
Class of 2012
Brianna Arnone
Class of 2012

Since entering the English program, I had the goal of becoming a copy editor; as an introverted reader who loves being right, what could be a better career than reading manuscripts and correcting people? But my opportunities have taken me down a different path. Immediately after graduation, I was hired as a temporary clerk at Mid-Carolina Steel and Recycling. While I was there, however, I was offered a full-time position as a Legal Assistant at the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General, which I accepted. My current position gives me an opportunity to work with attorneys within the Civil Division and help with some of their work. Another big aspect of my position, apart from answering the phones and handling all incoming and outgoing mail, is working with various state agencies on acquiring outside counsel assistance. Overall, my experience in the English program has helped me greatly not only in acquiring this job but also by giving me the knowledge to be an asset to the office. This job requires much attention to detail, which I learned from many of the close reading assignments in various English classes, and it also requires enhanced writing skills to compose professional and grammatically correct letters. Some skills are simply useful, but other skills are timeless.

This position has allowed me to enter a field that I never thought about entering previously, and has given me the opportunity to make contacts and learn aspects of a new field while still correcting grammar and punctuation errors. After being in this position for about 3 months, I am now considering pursuing a career in law, starting by possibly attending USC to earn a paralegal certificate. Although I have not abandoned the idea of trying to become a copy editor, the opportunities that I have come across have led me in a different direction, and possibly for the better. After all, everything happens for a reason.

Jonathan Overstreet
Class of 2007

Since my graduation, I have utilized my degree in ways I never could have anticipated back during my college days.

The skills that I gained in college have been integral to my career following graduation, which has included working as a newsroom assistant, as a reporter, and also as a copy editor at The Augusta Chronicle.

Working in the journalism field, I put many of the skills I learned as an English major to good use, including being able to conduct research, think critically, and communicate effectively.

While I have immensely enjoyed all of my work experiences post-college, starting about two years ago, I began to get a nagging feeling in the back of my mind that I wanted to do something different with my life. That nagging feeling led to my investigating a variety of potential new career fields. As I looked at more and more options, there was one field in particular that stood out to me above all the others: speech-language pathology, also known as speech therapy.

Part of my desire to seek this particular field of study stems from my college days when I was working as a Writing Consultant in the Writing Room at USC Aiken. As a Writing Consultant, I learned that I enjoy working one-on-one with people and that helping others improve themselves in any manner is a reward in itself.

I am back at USC Aiken as a student once again, currently taking some undergraduate-level courses that I need in order to apply to graduate school. Getting the chance to return to school once more has been an exciting experience, and I look forward to putting the skills I learned as an English major to further use as I pursue a Master’s degree in Speech-Language Pathology in graduate school.
I am currently in my second year of law school at the University of South Carolina School of Law. The first year of school was extremely hard and not at all what I expected. Reading cases is completely different from reading anything else and it took time for me to learn what was important in cases and what professors didn’t think was very important at all. I certainly wasn’t prepared for the struggle I endured that first year, to be required to stand (and humiliate myself) when answering questions from certain professors, or to earn Cs after working so hard, but it happened and I got through it. I made it through the first semester, and then the first year, and I realized that I wasn’t the only one having difficulties. It made it much easier knowing that basically everyone around me was struggling right along with me, and there were always people on the sidelines, whether second or third year students or professors, that were available to talk to and to help me.

Unlike the majority of my classmates, I was not a political science major. Instead I earned my degree in English. While political science may have given me a foreshadowing of what the reading would be like, being an English major prepared me for the writing I had to complete my first year, which I think was much more helpful. I had to write a legal memo my first semester and an appellate brief my second semester of Legal Research and Writing. While the material was substantially different from what I wrote at USCA, I knew how to write. That may sound simplistic, but it is true. There were people who still struggled with writing a proper sentence or where to use a comma, as opposed to a period or semi-colon. While I still had to spend a lot of time on each assignment, I did well on both of them and even earned my first A of law school because of it.

Over the summer I interned at a local personal injury firm, which was a great experience because I was able to apply much of what I learned in my first year of school to my work. It was a great feeling to actually use what I learned so soon instead of having to wait until after I graduate or take the bar.

This semester has been different from the first two, but so far that seems to be a good thing. I was able to pick my own classes this year, so I’ve enjoyed them more than last year due to my level of interest. I recently joined the Columbia chapter of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund and am now the secretary and in charge of public relations for the group. I am also currently competing for a spot on the mock trial team and working on a thirty-page paper for an environmental class.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience at law school thus far, and part of that can be attributed to the fact that I felt as prepared as possible from my undergraduate classes and professors at USC Aiken. It has taken a lot of work, but I have learned to carve out time for myself. Whether I go out with friends, walk my dog, or look at wedding stuff (yes, I am planning my wedding as well), that ‘me’ time is important and it has certainly made this entire law school experience an even better one.

Since graduating in 2000, I have worked in a number of industries, ranging from industrial security to software development. I have primarily focused on the areas of technical communication and project management, working for companies like Ingersoll-Rand, Morris Communications, and Intermedix, Inc. Most recently, I have been appointed the Project Management lead for the Augusta office of Rural Sourcing, Inc. In addition to this, I have acted as a liaison and technical advisor for a number of local and national charities. In 2012, I became a certified Project Management Professional (PMP).
Since graduating from the USCA English department twelve years ago, Sgt. Ben Hutto has used the skills he learned there and applied them as a Public Affairs journalist for the United States Army.

Since joining the active duty force in late 2005, Sgt. Hutto has written thousands of stories and press releases, worked with multiple major news outlets ranging from The NY Times to CNN, and helped tell the Army's story to the American public.

After graduating from Basic Training at Fort Jackson, SC and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Meade, MD, Hutto was assigned to the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division in Fort Benning, Georgia. During his time with the unit, he deployed to Iraq twice. These deployments gave him the opportunity to cover “The Surge” in 2007 and the US drawdown from combat operations in 2009. Several of his stories and photos were used in major news publications throughout the US, including the Fresno Bee, The Los Angeles Times, and Chicago Tribune. These deployments also gave him the opportunity to work with celebrities and important military figures ranging from Oliver North to Gen. David Petraeus.

Because of his work with the 3rd HBCT, Hutto was one of the final four soldiers selected to take part in the Newhouse School of Journalism at Syracuse University's Military Photojournalism program. The program allowed him to study, as a civilian, for a year at one of the nation’s finest journalism programs. He graduated from the program with a 3.4 GPA and 12 credits shy of a Master’s degree in photo-journalism. The program has since been cancelled by the Department of Defense because of financial cutbacks.

After his time in Syracuse, Ben was selected to become a journalism instructor at the Defense Information School at Fort Mead, MD. His job duties allow him to teach aspiring military journalists the basic skills they will need to be effective writers, photographers, and public affairs practitioners. He works with students assigned to all four services (and the Coast Guard) daily and helps them hone their skills to be effective storytellers of their service.

"Being an instructor here is some of the most rewarding work of my career," says Hutto. "I can honestly say that I apply the things I learned at USC-Aiken in my classrooms daily. Good writing is good writing, whether you are writing a thesis on John Locke or forging a press release about a natural disaster. My time at the USC-Aiken English department gave me a leg up in the Army as I began my career and it continues to be my foundation as I progress through it. Things like meeting deadlines, paying attention to detail, double-checking sources and finding unique angles to write about were all honed by the faculty there and prized by Army leaders. Those skills put me into positions that were often above my paygrade and opened doors that most soldiers in my career field never get to see. To have come full circle and be able to teach the same lessons I learned at USCA to my students here at the Defense Information School is very satisfying and gives me a new appreciation for the job my old professors did with me.

**Broken Ink**

The Associated Collegiate Press is the largest and oldest national membership organization for college student media in the United States. Each year, a new issue of Broken Ink is sent to the ACP to be critiqued. In this critique, publications receive a numerical score along with an honor rating—the lowest being “Fourth Class” and the highest being “All-American.” The 2013 issue of Broken Ink received a score of 497 out of a possible 500, earning it the prestigious “All-American” honor rating.
The fall reading of the 2013-2014 Oswald Writers Series on Tuesday, October 22 featured authors George Singleton and Terry Dalrymple. Both writers presented a story of their own creation from the collection A Shared Voice, a book which merges Southern and Southwestern culture in the form of anchor and response stories—one story written by a Texan and the other by a Carolinian.

George Singleton is a native of Greenwood, South Carolina. A recipient of the Hillsdale Award in Fiction from the Fellowship of Southern Writers, he currently holds the John C. Cobb Endowed Chair in the Humanities at Wofford College. The author of two novels and several collections of short stories, Singleton proved himself to be a master of comic fiction with his anchor tale entitled “Thank You.”

In this hilarious tale, Singleton manages to make the difficult subjects of attempted suicide, marital turmoil, and mental illness palatable by masking them in humor’s blackest coat. Its plot deals mainly with the difficulties the narrator Daniel finds when he attends speech therapy recitals in support of his step-cousin Tony, who suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound to his mouth. The funniest moments arise from Daniel’s sufferance of the recitations performed by Tony and his fellow attendees: “I won’t go through what went through my mind when these people either read pieces of Shakespeare (‘Na! Na na na? for ‘Hark who goes there?’) or Edgar Allan Poe (nay-naymore).” Daniel becomes almost instantly attracted to one of the patients, Felicia, who had a voice that was “soft, whispery, and buttery as orange sherbet.” To his dismay, however, this woman appears to believe her life story consists of unusual amounts of literary allusions, walking with Jesus 2000 years ago and writing thank you notes after being accused of pushing her husband from the bow of a cruise ship. Her puzzling non-sequiturs, accompanied at times with cocked eyes, finally became too much to Daniel to accept. This absurdity was welcomed by the Etherredge Center crowd with much laughter and set the stage for the next narrative.

Terry Dalrymple, writer of the response story “Nasty Things,” was raised in the Texas Hill Country. He is the founding editor of the Concho River Review and the John Cargile Professor of English at Angelo State University. Critics have praised his numerous short stories as “character-driven fictions that convey the mysterious magic of human relationships.” It therefore comes as no surprise that Dalrymple chose to elaborate upon Singleton’s Felicia, a character who was all but entirely left up for interpretation.

“Nasty Things” shifts to third person, but doesn’t lose a bit of the dark humor employed by Singleton. It navigates the topics of sexual repression, stigmas held towards those with mental illnesses, and upper-class ignorance by juxtaposing the sympathetic character of Felicia alongside terrible circumstances. Her absolute fear that men may force her to do “nasty things,” a term coined by her mother and burnt into her memory through repetition, causes her to seclude herself and dedicate most of her time to study. Her refusal to participate in the social outlets normally associated with college life leads to loneliness, and she eventually resorts to attending various support groups where she creates stories derived from her readings to feel accepted. What results is an explanation of Felicia’s descent into madness. The Etherredge Center audience appeared quite invested in the story of Felicia, reacting most strongly when her aversion to nasty things is contradicted by tingles that she cannot repress. The cocked eyes that once signaled her own libidinous urges are converted to a humanizing quality. This resolution of character was a perfect way to end the night, topped off by Singleton and Dalrymple signing copies of A Shared Voice in the lobby.
Derived from the Spanish word for “mixed,” the term “mestizo” is popularly used to describe an individual of mixed European and Indian ancestry. In that linguistic tradition, Austin-based singer-songwriter Eric Beverly describes his paintings as “Tex-tiño” – a blending of Scottish, Irish, German, French, Cajun and Latino influences that he “mixes and matches” to come up with his unique creative vision.

After completing a Bachelor of Art in French at the University of Texas, Beverly settled in the state’s capital city where he and his band, The Sunday Best, have become fixtures of Austin’s vibrant nightlife. When he isn’t writing songs and performing, Beverly is plying his brush. Approximately a dozen products of his visual imagination were on view in the lower gallery of USC Aiken’s Etherredge Center from September 29th to Nov. 2.

Beverly himself avows that anyone examining his paintings may detect various sources of inspiration. The subject matter may remind some viewers of the whimsical inventiveness of folk artists hailing from the Deep South and the Southwest as well as the magic realism often found in modern literature. The artist’s techniques are reminiscent of those favored by the principal exponents of some of the major European movements: the visible brushstrokes of the Impressionists and the vibrant colors employed by the Fauvist painters. The artist’s long residence in Texas, his travels in South America, his passion for French culture – all inform his work.

The exhibition of paintings by Eric Beverly coincided with the launching of the new short story collection entitled *A Shared Voice*, co-edited by USCA’s Andrew Geyer and Tom Mack. Beverly did the cover painting for the book, and this particular work, which is also entitled *A Shared Voice*, offers an excellent introduction to the artist’s subject matter and style.

Measuring about 30 inches by 48 inches, this acrylic painting features a circle composed of eight stylized faces, most with open mouths as if they were sharing a song. The resulting image, rendered largely in saturated colors, mirrors the creative fusion that can be found in the twenty-four tales that make up the anthology, half by writers from Texas and the other half by writers from the Carolinas. In fact, to reinforce this point, the artist has carefully inserted at strategic points in the circle, visual references to the flags of Texas and South Carolina.

Other paintings in the Etherredge Center show that especially catch the eye are *Dixie Fish* and *Tiger, Tiger*, largely because of the surrealism the artist achieves by anthropomorphizing familiar animal shapes. The *Dixie Fish* might more appropriately be identified as a mermaid struck by lightning; her right fin bears the jagged scar of a lightning strike, and the top of her head is a blazing bonfire. The big cat in *Tiger, Tiger* is actually a man with a tiger’s face; his eyes are rectangular slots through which the viewer can see the cloud-filled sky beyond. Since the figure holds a paintbrush in his right hand, Beverly may regard this work as a self-portrait of sorts; after all, the fauvist style, noted for its distortion of form and its use of pure color, is derived from the French word for “wild beast.”
My Magellan project on James Matthews Legare, a nineteenth-century poet and inventor, allowed me to enter the realms of competitive academia for the first time since making it to the state spelling bee in 3rd grade. It was invigorating, rewarding, disappointing, and an excellent way to prepare me for the challenges awaiting me in graduate school and onward. Over the course of nine months, I developed an interdisciplinary curriculum for 6th grade students covering the topics of Language Arts and Science. The necessary books and materials for my lesson plans were then stored in a Travelling Trunk, which I delivered for use to the Ruth Patrick Science Center last May. Before then, however, I presented the Trunk at three separate conferences: USCA Research Day, USC Discovery Day, and the South Carolina Middle School Association conference in Myrtle Beach.

My conference in Myrtle Beach came first, a good beginning to my run as a presenter since the focus was relaying information and not competition. Though the crowd could not have been said to be large, the teachers who were in attendance asked interesting questions and inspected the trunk following the end of my presentation. Overall, I would label the conference a success.

USCA Research Day was my first time competing at a collegiate level for anything aside from pick-up soccer. I was able to maintain a level of professionalism due to the nerves I’d shaken off in Myrtle Beach, but the nerves were still very apparent to me. Whether it was the nerves or the qualities of the other materials being presented, I was not awarded any medal for my efforts. USC Discovery Day proved equally as fruitful, but winning at these events was not the ultimate reward in creating these trunks.

In handing over the trunk to the Ruth Patrick Center for check-out by middle school teachers in the tri-county area, I knew that something I had created would have a lasting impact.

A crucial part of my Magellan project, which pertained to David Drake and his role as a poet, potter and slave, was presentations at a series of conferences. With the assistance of my partner and fellow Magellan scholar Brianna Arnone, we showcased our Travelling Trunk in three separate places: USCA Research Day, USC Discovery Day, and the South Carolina Middle School Association Conference in Myrtle Beach.

It was rather nerve-wracking to present what I had worked so hard on throughout the year, but those worries turned out to be completely irrational. The Myrtle Beach conference involved the presentation of our project to the middle school teachers who would be utilizing it. The goal was to illuminate the contents of our 8th grade curriculum units in four different subject areas. After the presentation, the questions asked by the teachers in attendance reassured me that the project was well-crafted.

USCA Research Day, the first place where I would give a presentation in the hopes of an award, received me with open arms. Although admittedly I was not entirely confident in my abilities as an orator, it turned out that the merits of my project were enough to supersede my public speaking skills. At day’s end, I was awarded the silver medal in Humanities/Social Sciences for my project “A Poet, a Potter, and a Slave: What David Drake Can Teach Us.”

USC Discovery Day, although it proved less fruitful, was an engaging experience. Our project did not win any awards, but we were able to more fully understand the challenges that present themselves in large, competitive settings. It was intimidating, but if I continue down the path of academia, it is something I will not only adapt to but thrive in as well.
A prayer book is defined as a collection of prayers for use in places such as church services and private devotions. The most common example of this genre, the *Book of Common Prayer*, was published in 1549 during the reign of Edward VI, a product of the English Reformation. This book sees use in almost all denominations of the Christian religion.

Roy Seeger’s latest book, *Prayer Book for the Midwestern Agnostic*, extends the standard objects of prayer—prayers for the sick or prayers for victory in battle—to include such subjects as cheap gas, photosynthetic skin, and two-dimensionality. It is not these unusual topics of prayer, however, that carry this chapbook’s weight or hook its readers; it is, as stated by USCA professor emerita Phebe Davidson, how in these poems, the “typography illuminates, sounds echo, and images refract” in ways that entrance the reader and keep him or her captivated.

Some of Seeger’s poetic inspiration derives from his being a native Midwesterner transplanted to South Carolina. Remarking upon the religious focus of the work, he stated that “the word ‘agnostic’ gets confused with the word ‘atheist’ commonly down South. It’s a very religious geography down here.” The confusion which accompanies agnosticism—defined as a religious orientation of doubt—is largely clarified, or the idea at the very least made accessible by the work’s pop culture references.

By relating his prayers to well-known shows such as Hogan’s Heroes and Scooby-Doo while also elaborating upon comic book heroes from the Marvel Universe, readers new to the topic of agnosticism can enjoyably enlighten themselves. While making sure to clarify the importance of poetry as an art form accessible to all, he does believe that there is “a branch or niche for pop culture.”

Poet Dan Albergotti describes Seeger’s poems as “small green shoot[es] breaking the soil of a grey desolation,” but Seeger insists in describing *Midwestern Agnostic* in more humble terms, calling it “entertainment with substance” and “a different way of looking at the world and its cultural influences.”

Copies of the chapbook, published by Main Street Rag, can be ordered directly from the publisher’s website.

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**A Note from the Editor**

Editor of the department newsletter and co-president of USC Aiken’s Sigma Tau Delta chapter? What could I possibly undertake after accomplishing so much already? The dregs of graduate school, pulling out my first loans, taxes, and the eventual doctorate. However, it’s not all nearly as bad as it sounds (and I’m not talking about the two sentence fragments above). I’m actually rather looking forward to the educational experiences that await me following my undergraduate education. While I’m not sure whether I’m going to dive head-first into graduate school or restrain myself by living in Charleston for a year, my ultimate goal is to become an active English faculty member just like many of the people reading this article right now. You’ve still got half a semester to alter my course, so if you think my life should be filled with misery and woe, now is the time to act.

Anyway, working on *Words, Words, Words* has been a refreshing break from my standard formula classes (lecture, read, write, repeat). It has given me a chance to step back from my curriculum and see everything happening within the borders created by English faculty and students. Under the ever-watchful eye of Dr. Mack, I have maintained the professional standard required of all newsletters that pass his inspection. I hope that it is as much of a pleasure for you to read as it was for me to edit.