English Students Abroad
Two English majors Maggie Achey and Christine Meyer are currently studying abroad in London

Interning at the Writers’ Guild of Great Britain couples nicely with Maggie Achey’s studies in PWR and she has learned a great deal through her interactions and experiences at the Guild. Interning there has been an extremely rewarding process where she has developed a more comprehensive view of professional writing. She believes this is because the union represents various kinds of writers, including writers involved with books, film, television, radio, theatre, and video games. Her favorite part is working with the weekly email newsletter because she enjoys contributing to something that will reach every member. She looks forward to incorporating the experiences she had while abroad into her future studies and professional work.

Christine Meyer is the marketing intern for a catering and event planning company who recently partnered with Watermen’s Hall, an event venue. Despite her newness to the culture and this British business, her internship has been one of her favorite parts of the studying abroad. During the days she interns, she works on marketing materials. She finds her studies in PWR useful, especially CUPID Studio with Dr. Pope-Ruark. The PWR connections range extensively from audience awareness to tone of message to speaking with the right style. She is very grateful to have had the opportunity to study abroad and experience working for a company, but she also notes that one should never take for granted the experiences and teachings from the classes right at Elon University.

“One of Us”
Award-winning novelist and essayist John Jeremiah Sullivan reads his work at Johnston Hall

On April 3rd, Elon had the privilege of hosting esteemed essayist John Jeremiah Sullivan for a reading of his own work. The reading was held in the stately Johnston Hall, and Mr. Sullivan remarked that he was “startled” by the beauty of our campus.

Mr. Sullivan attended University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. He has published two books – Blood Horses: Notes of a Sportswriter’s Son, a book in remembrance of his father, and Pulphead, an anthology of his short essays. Additionally, his work has been featured in GQ, Harper’s Magazine, New York Magazine, New York Times Magazine, and the Paris Review. He has received numerous awards, including the National Magazine Award in 2003 and 2011.

Mr. Sullivan recited from his essay “One of Us,” an indulgence as he admitted to having never read it to an audience before. The essay is essentially a philosophical musing on whether thought is an inherently human capability. As he read, he sparked existential questions – are we as humans indeed superior? Why should we assume that animals are incapable of thought and emotion?

“This is what the study of animal consciousness can teach us, finally—that we possess an animal consciousness.”

Abruptly, Mr. Sullivan gave a poignant pause, thanked his audience, and sat down again, leaving these questions to hang in the air.
Spotlight
Jacqueline Alnes and Jane Siegal presented literature-based papers at NCUR. Jacqueline’s work is on Willa Cather, while Jane wrote on Sherman Alexie.

Ashley Hairston, Associate Professor of English and Law and Humanities, and Crystal Anderson, Associate Professor of English are currently working on books to be published in upcoming months.

English faculty traveled to Las Vegas this April for the CCCC conference. Representing Elon were Victoria Shropshire, Paula Rosinski, Paula Patch, Rebecca Pope-Ruark, and Jessie Moore.

Professor Russell Gill will be retiring after the 2013-2014 academic year. He has been invaluable to Elon, serving as chair to what is now the English Department, Dean of Arts and Sciences, and the chair of Academic Council, among several other leadership positions during his thirty-seven years here.

Paul Crenshaw has had three recent publications: “Girl on the Third Floor” was published in Ecotone by UNC-Wilmington, “Thinking of Chickens” was published in the Southwest Review, and “First Loser” was published in the New Madrid Review.

Congratulations to the newest inductees of Phi Kappa Phi...
Chelsea Deidre Beveridge
Emily Frances Cinquemani
Danielle Nicole Cooper
Hillary Hunter Dooley
Brianna Lorette Duff
Claire Elizabeth Fyvolent
Sarah Rebecca Lentz
Lainey Amilia McQuain
Elizabeth Vivian Purvis
Robert Jacob Shapiro
Emily M. Steiner

…and Phi Beta Kappa!
Chelsea Deidre Beveridge
Sarah Rebecca Lentz
Robert Jacob Shapiro
Chelsea Anne Vollrath

Accidentally an Author
Olivier Magny, French businessman, reaches the bestseller charts
On April 8th, Olivier Magny, best-selling author and wine educator, visited Elon. Magny’s book “recounts the new reality of Paris” and the reasons behind the new makeup of Parisian society. Magny, a graduate from a renowned business school in France, did not plan to become an author. Instead, he founded his own wine business at the age of 23 and then submitted a manuscript for Into Wine to his literary agent. However, the first book he had published was not one he had intentionally constructed. Stuff Parisians Like was created as a blog, a genre that he was told would not be well received by the public. Now, Stuff Parisians Like is an international best seller and has been published in several languages.

Integration of Rhetorical Studies
Grant Writing for Non-Profits allowed students to gain experience and implement rhetorical strategies by Rachel Fishman ’15
By reading about grant writing, analyzing grant proposals, understanding the funding side of the process and actually writing a grant proposal ourselves, we were able to get a first-hand look into the world of grant writing last Fall in ENG 313.

About a third of the way into the semester, we chose our community partner from the choices provided to us and began the process of actually writing a grant proposal. We were told that $1,500 would be divided among the organizations by a committee, according to our adherence to the Request for Proposal guidelines and our demonstrated argument for our organization. In the end, every group was awarded some sum of money, as determined by the committee, which on the final day was revealed as being composed of the students in the class. My group was able to give our community partner Men’s Empowerment Resource Center (MERC) a check that covered the cost of a color printer, allowing them to print more marketing materials in-house.

MERC is a non-profit organization in Alamance County that serves previously incarcerated males by helping them become stronger fathers and male role models in the community. The purpose of the grant proposal was to improve MERC’s communication with the community in order to benefit its participants through providing MERC with a color printer and a computer.

Throughout this grant writing course, I learned more about the power of rhetoric and the necessity of professional communication than I would have been able to learn in any other course. The service learning component allowed for me to combine writing with a real-world application, which completely changed the writing process and the source of motivation. Writing a grant is a difficult task, necessitating effective writing choices and a concentration on the audience.

The fact that we were writing this grant on behalf of a community partner added a level of responsibility and sparked a level of motivation that I had not experienced before. Rather than just being extrinsically motivated to learn the steps to write a grant in order to get a good grade, I was motivated to get our deserving community partner the much-needed money. I became so invested in the grant proposal, as did the rest of my group members, that we found ourselves putting more and more time into it outside of class. We would revise repeatedly, not because we were worried that we would get points deducted, but because we wanted to make MERC sound worthy of the money in a way that didn’t diminish their credibility or degrade them but still demonstrated their need and gave them every possible chance of getting the money.

Our rhetorical decisions had a direct effect on this organization that we had grown to love. Through this process, I learned the value of professional communication with our community partner, as well as the necessity of effective communication among group members. The power of rhetoric was demonstrated to my class, and we learned to view it as an integral tool that can be used to help create change.