

News & Notes in English

Dear Majors,

I know it's a challenge to balance routine with news of the war in Ukraine, especially if you have family or friends there or have an experience with military service. I hope that you had a restful weekend, despite the many disturbing stories in the news.

One way to manage all the negative is to gather with others to talk and decompress. Although our numbers at last week's English department Game Night were small, it was fun to connect. I look forward to future gatherings in the next academic year. Also, I want to thank Professor Kristi Maxwell and Administrative Assistant Sherry McCroskey for their help in organizing last Monday's event.

Extension of deadline for Undergraduate Scholarships: You have until Friday, April 8, to apply for the Thomas, Smith, Riedley or Bornhauser Scholarships. For this spring, we are not requiring letters of recommendation as part of the application for these awards. For more information, follow the link: <https://louisville.edu/english/undergraduate/scholarships-contests/undergraduate-scholarships.html>.

What can I do with an English major? The first newsletter of every month will feature an interview with or story about a former UofL English major. This time, we feature Stephen George, the President and General Manager of Louisville Public Media.



1 - Stephen George, Class of 2003

Why did you choose UofL English?

I chose UofL English because I wanted to be a better writer and a more careful, thoughtful reader. My career ambition was journalism, and I pursued an English degree to not only better position me for that field, but also to enrich my life in a way no other major would.

What is the most important thing you learned while you were an English major/minor?

I learned to have confidence in my interpretation of literature and story. We're often led to believe in a limited range of thinking about narrative, but UofL English broadened my view of the power and implications of storytelling.

Describe your career path. How did your English education prepare you for what you are doing today?

I learned to be a more careful reader and became a much stronger writer, both of which have helped me in every aspect of my career. For nearly 20 years I worked as a reporter and editor; the value of an English degree there is obvious. But I've been on the business side of our operation as president of Louisville Public Media for several years now, and I've found that the lessons I learned in college are just as resonant. To be an effective business leader, you have to tell a good, succinct story. You have to synthesize information quickly. And you have to assign value to ideas to make decisions efficiently. The same could be said for writing and reading a great novel.

What is one of your favorite professional accomplishments and/or most fascinating aspects of your job?

I was part of a team that won a Peabody Award for a long-form podcast. That's a highlight.

What advice would you give current students or recent graduates interested in pursuing a career in your professional field?

Take every opportunity you can to learn how decisions are made, processes work, and how people use their influence. I did not follow a traditional career path; I worked my way into rooms I had no business being in and paid close attention once I was in. Also, don't ever overlook the power of good luck.

What advice do you have for current students who want to make the most out of their experience in the Department of English?

Pay attention to the joy in the work you're doing, immerse yourself in the details, and don't forget this is a rare opportunity in your life.