On April 5th, Stark Gallery was full of Texas A&M University students celebrating their Asian-American heritage and their many accomplishments over the course of the school year. The Institute for the Development of Asian American Leaders, or IDEAAL, was hosting their annual capstone art gallery. IDEAAL is a student-led organization that has been a part of Texas A&M's multicultural services for nearly twenty years. Taran Rao, director of this year's art gallery, explained that IDEAAL was “designed to be a safe space and support system for [Asian American freshmen] students as they expand on their own perception of their identity.” The organization consisted of biweekly workshops with guest speakers, leadership trainings, written reflections, and one-on-one mentorship. To conclude the spring semester, IDEAAL hosted an art gallery that allowed its freshmen students to showcase work that answered the question of “Who Am I?” Students completed works that ranged from paintings to poetry to even performances. It was a performance by Audrey Hidajat that particularly stood out to Taran. Audrey’s dance symbolized “gaining confidence in herself and expressing her passions.” Audrey is now a peer mentor herself, but when she was a freshman, Taran was her peer mentor. He has enjoyed watching her grow as a leader over the years and seeing that growth expressed in her performance.

For the Capstone Gallery Exhibit, Anna Huynh showcased her visual plexiglass poem titled “Tôi Thấy Tôi Là Ai,” which was translated to “I See Who I Am.” The poem was about Anna “seeing [her] roots and understanding that [she] was a walking mosaic of [her] culture and that [her] parents and [her] ancestors [made her] love being Vietnamese.” She was grateful to IDEAAL for the chance to participate in a gallery exhibit and see other people’s reactions to her work and hopes to participate in similar events in the future as she continues her academic and artistic endeavors.

Anna also praised the work of her fellow members, which she found extremely creative and moving. She particularly enjoyed Isabelle Dela Cruz’s piece, titled “Work in Progress.” Isabelle’s artwork and presentation explored the common struggles with identity that young women of color face, and it was a beautiful reminder that “the journey of coming to relearn and love yourself is not a linear one.” The piece encouraged acceptance of oneself wherever one was even during periods of perseverance and uncertainty, just as students have found acceptance within IDEAAL.
Congrats & Good Luck to our Newest English Aggie Graduates!

Sarah Pardue
Sarah’s favorite memories at Texas A&M are thanks to the amazing people that she has met through Fish Camp and Aggie Emeralds. After graduation, Sarah will move to Florida to participate in the Disney College Program for eight months. Then, she will attend the University of North Texas to pursue a Master's degree in English.

McKenna Fridye
Throughout her time as an undergraduate student, McKenna has been grateful for all of the kind and understanding professors in the English department—especially Dr. Robinson, Dr. McKinney, and Dr. O’Farrell—who have shown that they truly care about their students’ wellbeing and mental health. After graduation, McKenna plans to work in Austin as an editor or writer.

Bianca Lopez
After graduation, Bianca plans to work in the Dallas-Fort Worth area as a secondary teacher. She will teach English, Language Arts, and Reading through the Teach for America program, a non-profit organization that places educators with high-achieving, goal-oriented students in low-income or Title I schools across the US. Bianca looks forward to the relationships she will build through Teach for America and the opportunities that the experience will bring her.

Matthew Elliott
Matthew will never forget the memories and friends he has made at Texas A&M University. Matthew is an English minor, and he plans to look for a job in the Texas A&M University Library System after graduation.

Kayanna Resetar
At her campus job as an academic peer mentor, Kayanna made great connections and felt the support of her fellow Aggies. After graduation, Kayanna will attend graduate school at Texas State University to pursue a Master's degree in student affairs.

Samuel Tamplin
Samuel’s best memories of Texas A&M University are without a doubt the football games at Kyle Field. Samuel is an English major with a coaching minor, and after graduation, he plans to work as a logistics account executive.
Student Sonnets

Poetry Selected From Dr. Francis’s Creative Writing Class

**The Moon**
Audrey Hendrick

To hold you tight
And let you poison my skin
Your rays fill my night
Preventing the darkness from being my ruin

But oh how that is a lie
my nightblind, only a reflection of you
You are deceiving my eye
You knew.

I study you, loving you from a far
If I were too close, you will be my demise
Because I am the still earth and you a star
So I watch in awe as you fill my skies

But without you, I will join the darkness
And the void in me would be endless.

**In Defense of Apathy**
Tyler Gonzalez

My heart is mercurial, fickle, and small.
I have a depth, both endless and shallow.
My chest contains the cosmos, skin a shawl;
Graint from the stars in my eyes, face sallow.

Though the universe implores within me,
I long for the sea, a dream we both knew.
while I’m asleep, and I won’t see daylight.

But now you’re drowning, praying you don’t die,
After war, I don’t stop searching for you.
Holding my hand, you said come back to me.

Soon I’m forced away, stuck in a tower.

The vase breaks, but whose fault? We disagree.
On the fountain’s edge, its water showers.
That hot summer day, you were drinking tea,
Mia Helpert

For it has vanquished me, your faithful thrall.
Shall love as mighty as ours conquer all?
Our gilded rings remain intact, held fast.
My hands—your claws—do melt in flames, and yet,
Exudes a warmth, as cold regret lambasts.
Eternal flames assuage and fade my tears.

Forbidden to succumb to lover’s clash,
Our love, unable to reduce to ash,
The bluebirds tweet, the dragons coo as doves,
But your embrace of soothing fire devours,
My tears implore you to relent your love,
River Scott

It’s been a great semester, English Aggies! You all have so much to be proud of. Keep up the hard work, and finish the year out strong with your fi-
nal exams and papers. You’ve got this!

There have been many successful events over the course of the spring semester. On April 6, the De-
partment of English was helped host Brazos Valley Reads. Thank you to all of our sponsors who helped make the event possible. Thank you to At-
tica Locke for being our speaker this year. Locke’s presentation was titled “Bluebird, Bluebird and the Souls of Black Texas,” she discussed her award-winning novel Bluebird, Bluebird, her fam-
ily history, her writing process, and the current state of black Texans and the legal system. If you were unable to attend this event, consider reading Tiara Drisker’s article, found on the Department of English’s homepage at https://liberalarts.tamu.
edu/english/2022/03/31/bvr_2022/.

The Department of English is excited to of-
fer three new minors beginning in the fall. The
Health Humanities minor will prepare stu-
dents for installations and creative projects, re-
search studies, the education of undergraduate
and medical students, and policy development.
This field is inherently cross-disciplinary and
and collaborative because it uses methods of human-
istic inquiry to analyze cultural practices and
products related to health and illness. The mi-
nor requires eighteen hours, which will include
an introduction to the field of health humanities,
Furthermore, a study in rhetoric and literature, and a final
capstone course. Possible elective courses range
from health to communications, history, and bio-
medical science!

The Professional Writing minor provides a strong
professional background which can increase
graduates’ job opportunities. Students will learn
technical editing, rhetorical theory, new media
and technologies, effective communication of
complex information, and critical reflection of
their methods. The minor requires 18 credit hours
do coursework, which will include technical and
professional writing, technical editing, and rhet-
oric of style.

The Science Fiction and Fantasy minor will build
communication, close reading, and argument-
building skills that benefit both liberal arts
and STEM students. Students will explore human-
ity and our relationship to technology and science
as well as our desire to explore other worlds and
imagine utopian societies. This minor requires 15
credit hours of relevant coursework, such as sci-
ce fiction and film, fairy tales, graphic novels,
or creative writing courses.

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or creative writing courses.

Glancing Back

**Flaming Sonnet, Draconian Love**
River Scott

My tears implore you to relent your love,
But your embrace of soothing fire devours
The bluebirds tweet, the dragons coo as doves,
Deception I condemn, lament for ours.

Our love, unable to reduce to ash,
For it has always been ablaze, my dear.
Forbidden to succumb to lover’s clash,
Eternal flames assuage and fade my tears.

Its singing scorn of passion and of threat,
Exudes a warmth, as cold regret lambasts.
My hands—your claws—do melt in flames, and yet,
Our gilded rings remain intact, held fast.

Shall love as mighty as ours conquer all?
For it has vanquished me, your faithful thrall.

**A Hot Summer Day**
Mia Helpert

That hot summer day, you were drinking tea,
walking with a vase for mother’s flowers.
On the fountain’s edge, its water showers.
The vase breaks, but whose fault? We disagree.
I write to you, for it will set me free,
but for the two of us, limited hours.
Soon I’m forced away, stuck in a tower.

Holding my hand, you said come back to me.
After war, I don’t stop searching for you,
But now you’re drowning, praying you don’t die,
While I’m asleep, and I won’t see daylight.

We long for the sea, a dream we both knew.
while I’m asleep, and I won’t see daylight.
But now you’re drowning, praying you don’t die,
After war, I don’t stop searching for you.

Holding my hand, you said come back to me.

Firstly, congratulations and good luck to our new-
est English Aggie graduates! You all have achieved
so much over your time at Texas A&M University.
Be proud of yourselves. WHOOP!
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Use our hashtag #theenglishaggie

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Texas A&M Department of English

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