Storm The Mic
By Libby Booth

Most English majors know there are many career fields where they can apply their degree. But what can they do now to hone their talents and expand their portfolio? Anyone who writes poetry, fiction, nonfiction, screenplays, etc., will find themselves at home when they participate in events such as Storm the Mic right here in St. George.

Storm the Mic is a weekly off-campus, open-mic held every Tuesday at 7pm at Rock on Main. In its second season, the series welcomes the local academic and general community to share their creative work. Their goal is to create an artistic space that is comfortable, safe, and collaborative as well as supportive of self-expression.

Of course, you may be imagining the stereotypical open mic night where the same small group of people read to an uncaring audience over loud conversation and untimely laughter. This is not the case at Rock on Main or with Storm the Mic. Rock on Main is a unique venue, if for no other reason than a disco ball and gold and silver records adorn the walls. The audience is genuinely interested too, and if you hang out after all the readers are finished, you’ll likely receive compliments and useful feedback.

With DSC students and faculty in attendance, you’ll find other readers practicing their craft on stage. Some readers have read before, some are well-known, but a lot of readers are simply your average writer who has discovered the wonder and welcome that is Storm the Mic. Do not be intimidated by the description! You have to see it for yourself. STM welcomes all.

In an interview with co-founder Darren Edwards, an English Instructor at Dixie State College, I asked him about his overall goals and what made him want to start such a grassroots reading series. “I’m a believer in open-mics. I think they play a big part in fostering a creative community. They provide people with a creative outlet and a way to find their voice,” Edwards said.

Of course, Edwards commented, it isn’t always easy to see the impact on the community, especially when an event is under-attended.

English Majors: Exploring Your Options
By Jade Savage and Vance Warren

When people think of an English major, they most likely think of teaching. The truth is that not all English majors aspire to be teachers. The Professional and Technical Writing emphasis is probably the least popular English emphasis, but it is a great option for those less interested in teaching and more interested in writing.

Professional and technical writers mostly find jobs in technical writing, editing, writing for websites and other interactive media. In fact, Dr. Cheri Crenshaw, English department Composition Program Coordinator, thinks that the Professional and Technical Writing program at Dixie adequately prepares students for careers such as these.

“Writers who intend to work for companies or to do freelance technical writing require a good comprehension not only of basic writing skills but of writing for various genres, and all the professional/technical writing classes include sections not just on the basic writing skills, but skills in such things as overall document design, designing for web applications, and editing for both print and web sources,” Crenshaw said.

Most employers hiring technical writers are not only looking for someone who can write well, but also someone who has skills with
Message from the Chair

It is a privilege and a pleasure to serve as chair of Dixie State College’s English Department. This next year will be a year defined by change, and with change comes reflection. Our move to the new Jeffrey R. Holland Centennial Commons is soon to come.

With this new foundation set, I would like to congratulate our students and faculty, who have attended conferences both in-state and elsewhere, for building on their short- and long-term aspirations. We are proud of your accomplishments. As we move forward, I ask you to mind toward our future. Enjoy!

Dr. Tim Bywater: Ebullient Educator
By Lori Mayfield

Albert Einstein once said, “A clean desk is the sign of a sick mind.” If that is true, then Dr. Tim Bywater is the healthiest man I have ever met. Upon entering Dr. Bywater’s office, your initial reaction might be, “Holy Cow! How can he find anything in this place?” But upon closer inspection, what you will find is thirty years of Dixie State College history and a method to the madness. When asked about moving to the new Jeffrey R. Holland Centennial Commons Building, Dr. Bywater stated, “I’m not gonna move.” He explained that his office is such a clutter that he has decided to stay. Personally, I feel his office is not so much a clutter, but rather a very organized mess that represents his years as a stable figure of the Dixie State College English Department. After all, Dr. Bywater began his career at Dixie in 1982. This year will mark his 30-year anniversary and he has “not a glimmer of retirement” in the future.

Dr. Bywater grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah. He joined the Army Reserves at the age of seventeen, spending six months on active-duty and an additional five-and-a-half more years as a reserve. At the age of eighteen, he began his academic career at the University of Utah, where he received his Bachelor’s of Science degree in Political Science, his Masters Degree in English, his Masters in Social Work, and his Ph.D. in English. While being a Masters and Doctoral student, Dr. Bywater taught at the University of Utah. He then worked at Montana State University for three years, returning to the University of Utah for a few more years, before he ended up at Dixie State College of Utah in 1982.

Dr. Bywater chose Dixie State College because there was a job opening in English and he “respected the fact that Dixie State College was a 2-year school that had a 4-year mind set.” He added, “I admire the English Department faculty and staff. The English Department has such an incredible faculty, that I always feel as though I’m always playing catch up (with the other faculty’s), because they were and are such great teachers.”

Dr. Bywater appreciates the opportunities provided him. As he states, “Teaching opportunities, travel opportunities, writing opportunities. Opportunities that I couldn’t have gotten anywhere else.” He has already published two books, one of which is on film criticism, and he is currently in the process of writing another. He has a Chinese version of his book on film criticism, as well as a version published in India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and The Maldives. In regards to having published a book, Dr. Bywater said, “It’s always nice to see your name in print.”

When asked what his most memorable teaching moment was, he had a difficult time thinking of just one. He stated, “Every day in class is a memorable moment for me.” But when pressured to think of just one, he said it was the first time he walked in to a classroom to teach on his own at the University of Utah. He said it was “the most frightening, but the most memorable teaching moment.”

In 1969, Dr. Bywater married his wife, Kathy, in Yellowstone National Park. Together they have three children and three grandchildren. Dr. Bywater worked as a Park Ranger in Yellowstone National Park, and later at Grand Teton National Park, every summer from 1965 to 2011, so his family has a deep love for and connection to the outdoors. He absolutely loves owning a fish; however, he does not eat fish. He is a catch and release fisherman, using only barbless hooks to reduce injury to the fish he catches.

Dr. Bywater also loves films, not just any films—great films. One of his favorite, recent films is the 2011 silent film, The Artist, this year’s Academy Award Winner for Best Picture. Other recent films he also likes are Beauty and the Beast 3D and The King’s Speech. He also expressed that he is “looking forward to seeing The Hunger Games.” He added, however, that he does “not like violence in movies.”

Dr. Bywater is a seasoned traveler as well. He has been privileged to visit Machu Picchu (Peru), The Great Wall of China, The Taj Mahal (India), Iguazu Falls (Argentina), Prague, and South Africa, not to mention England, France, London, and Italy. Many of these travels were possible due to grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) that Dr. Bywater secured along with his former colleague, Dr. Allan Payne. The NEH grants provide funds for faculty seminars at Cambridge University in England, as well as other academic locations abroad. Dr. Bywater pointed out that “Dixie State College has been incredibly supportive of the academic seminars and Dixie State College’s tie to Cambridge University.”

When asked about fun, personal facts, Dr. Bywater expressed that the following are his favorites: Non-fiction book: A River Runs Through It by Norman Maclean; fiction book: The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald (“because Gatsby encompasses America’s story in 200-pages”); favorite author: Mark Twain; favorite food: anything Kathy (his wife) cooks; favorite travel destination: Kruger National Park in South Africa; favorite class to teach: “I can’t say I have a favorite. They are all so different and they do their own thing. I like them all.”

When asked what his pet peeve is, he replied, much like I would have, “My pet peeve is that I have too many pet peeves. I’m obsessed with pet peeves. Give me a category, and I will give you some pet peeves.”
Over the last few years Dixie State College has experienced growth. While other colleges struggle to fund programs and keep attendance numbers up, it seems that Dixie is flourishing. This influx of new students and faculty members - many from out of state and other countries — one may wonder if our college is able to offer enough opportunities and activities to keep newcomers happy. Gleaned from a random survey I administered, the answer is: Yes. On the one hand, most students and new faculty feel content on campus. But on the other hand, some students and faculty voiced their concerns about the community of St. George and the opportunities provided to them.

Of the 46 random people surveyed, 37% have lived in the St. George area for less than two years, and about 35% have lived here longer than 10 years. The other 28% of people have lived here between two and ten years. I was quite happy with these results because it confirmed that my survey provided equal proportions of people who are new to the area, relatively familiar, as well as very familiar. Knowing that the survey could provide a relatively realistic representation of the people of the St. George area, in terms of ethnicity and life circumstance, I moved on to the more pressing questions.

As an ice breaker, I asked: “Overall, how satisfied are you with your experience of living in the St. George area?” The survey, again, seemed to have a good variety of responses with 37% being extremely satisfied, 32.6% were somewhat satisfied, 21.7% were either somewhat or extremely dissatisfied, and the remainders were neutral. Again, I felt that this was an adequate distribution of numbers to provide me with a fair representation of information.

I then asked what types of activities they would participate in if they were available in St. George. The majority (79.5%) answered that they would participate in more music and entertainment venues if they were available, and 52.2% of survey-takers would prefer more cultural events and festivals. Half of all persons surveyed said that they would like to see more social groups for diverse sports, such as hikes or soccer games. In sum, 45.5% would prefer more nightlife venues, 36.4% would like to see larger sporting events, 34.1% said more dance venues, and 34.2% wanted more bar-type venues.

I was not at all surprised that people would prefer to have more entertainment and cultural events because I’ve heard that from St. Georgians many times before. If you were for any amount of time, you’ll likely realize that sporting events and music concerts aren’t going to be coming to our area.

See Dispatch pg. 11

Dispatch from St. George
By Libby Booth

English Electives
By Doug Klarman

Each semester students at Dixie State College must choose which electives to take. In the English department, there are many different courses that can be used as electives for the English major. According to Dr. Steve Armstrong, some of the most popular courses are those that encourage “free thinking.” These classes include:

- Creative Writing: This course is open to all students who wish to develop expressive skills in writing poetry, short stories or dramatic presentations on stage or in film. This popular course is required for all students pursuing an English Major. Successful students will master material which includes figurative language, alliteration, rhyme in poetry and prose, dialogue, plot, setting, theme, and critical vocabulary. It will also focus on students’ understanding of literature.
- Introduction to Mythology: This course fulfills a General Education Humanities requirement as well as course credit towards the English degree. Introduction to Mythology is focused on the student’s interest in the myths of the Greeks, Romans, Vikings, Slavs, and Celts. The course will provide a brief look at the historical backgrounds of the above peoples and their myths and some of the ways in which myths have been used in literature from Homer to contemporary fantasy and science fiction.
- Children’s Literature: This course is for students who love children and reading or who have an interest in elementary education, child development, or parenthood. This class will teach the historical development of literature, and examine literary elements, such as characterization, plot, and style. It will cover a variety of literary genres in children’s literature, such as realistic fiction, picture books, poetry, and informational books. Within this course students will become familiar with major authors and illustrators of children’s literature, past and present. Students will create a file of all books and stories read in addition to tests, quizzes, and papers on textbook readings.

These are just a few of the many classes that are offered in the English Department. Depending on whether you are in your Junior or Senior year, some may be required for your major while others may give you credits in other departments like Humanities. Whatever the need Dixie State College has something that will fit your schedule.

Managing Stress
By Lori Mayfield

For some students, it’s the first year of college. For others, it’s a new semester at a new college. And, finally, for others it’s the last semester of college. Regardless of the status of a new semester comes on like the crash after five energy drinks, and sometimes it creeps up slowly like the additional pounds known as the “freshman fifteen.” Either way, you’ve got to deal with the stress or it will inevitably affect you physically, emotionally, and academically. The question is: How can you deal with the stress? I have compiled a variety of stress-tips from my own personal arsenal, as well as the arsenal of other seasoned students. The list is not in any particular order, as one stress tip might be more successful for you than another.

1. Schedule it
Every Professor hands out a syllabus, so, rarely does a test or paper come as a surprise. So—schedule it! Actually write it down, or type it in to your schedule. Then back track and schedule “dates” with your laptop to give yourself time to work on it. Physically writing it down and marking a date makes a major commitment. That mental note will pester you! It will scream at you when you are idle or wasting valuable assignment, paper-writing, or test studying time. And yes, it seems tedious to write down “due dates,” but the day before the assignment or paper is due, or the test is to be taken, you will sleep easy as your fellow classmates will lose precious beauty sleep trying to finish what you had done yesterday.

2. Talk to Your Professors
Believe it or not, professors are human! No, really, they are. Their office hours aren’t listed so they can gobble up students and spit them out. Professors want to help. And, although you may find it hard to believe, they are very, very smart. They have a wealth of knowledge to share, I kind of like to think of it as: they did all the work to get their Master’s or their Doctorate degree, and now they finally have the time and thought to absorb all the knowledge they gained. Even both you to get through the class you think. Side note: don’t go to their office seeking answers without having done the necessary prep work. Make sure you have tried your best to figure out what you are seeking assistance for, then seek it. If something is unclear—or if something is kind of clear, but you want further information—ask. If you want to review for a test—ask. If you want to look over a test you have taken to see what you got wrong—as. And, remember, professors don’t do what they do for the money, they do it because they want to educate you—let them! Go to them! Ask them!

3. Take a Break
Not the “take a deep breath” kind of break, and not the “go for a 5-mile run” kind of break (unless you like that kind of stuff AND have time for it), I’m talking more like check Facebook, play Modern Warfare 3, call a friend, run to Maverick and get an Icee, tackle your kids (for those of you that have them), play Angry Birds or Words with Friends, kind of break. Do something to breathe and feel comfortable:

- Do something to break the monotony and refresh your mind. The key here is to physically set a timer for 10, 15, or 20 minutes and when the timer goes off—STOP! Taking a little break to get the blood flowing is good. Not so good is playing Modern Warfare for 5 hours, checking Facebook for one hour, or running to Maverick for an Icee in Marshmellow.

A quick break won’t make you lose focus on what you are doing, it will simply provide a fresh set of eyes to re-read a paper, or stop the dozing over the book you are reading. It’s okay to let yourself take a little breath.

4. Laugh
You know what makes you laugh, so take a few minutes to laugh.
Whether it be watching “America’s Funniest Home Videos,” looking at photos on awkwardfamilyphotos.com, or watching videos on failblog.org—take a break and laugh. Just remember, like in the tip “Take a Breather,” be sure to set a timer or you might get hooked. Then you won’t be laughing when you see your grades at the end of the semester.

5. Eat
Keep your favorite snack, in moderation of course (like a handful or 5. Not the “take a deep breath” kind of break, and not the “go for a 5-mile run” kind of break (unless you like that kind of stuff AND have time for it), I’m talking more like check Facebook, play Modern Warfare 3, call a friend, run to Maverick and get an Icee, tackle your kids (for those of you that have them), play Angry Birds or Words with Friends, kind of break. Do something to breathe and feel comfortable:

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5. Eat
Keep your favorite snack, in moderation of course (like a handful or 2, near by. For me the snack of choice is Jel- laby Bellys. They help me stay alert—and they are Fat Free (so what if they have a ton of sugar)! Keeping something nearby like popcorn, raisins, m&m’s, jelly beans, sunflower seeds, etcetera, keeps your hands and mouth moving while allowing your eyes and brain to stay focused on the task at hand. Just make sure you don’t eat the entire Costco-size-tub of Jel- laby Bellys in one sitting or you won’t stay focused for long. Although there are many more tips to manage stress, these are just a few suggestions. Most importantly, find out what works for you and run with it! College is supposed to be fun as well as educational. After college, real life begins (and for some, real life has already begun), but, college is generally a once in a lifetime event. Don’t let unnecessary stress sneak up and grab you.
Terry Burton summed up the feeling the Holland Centennial Commons building has brought to campus, stating that it is a "dream come-true" for all Dixie State College Administrators.

In a moment of quiet reflection, English Department Chair Randy Jazmine expressed that the Holland Centennial Commons is a "pivotal point in Dixie State College history." Dr. Jasmine believes the edifice in the future will become the focal point of the college (and one day the university) for the next 100 years to follow. In 2009, the architects asked Dr. Sue Bennett, "how she envisioned the fourth floor." She said, "They were more concerned with faculty offices and classrooms, but I was more concerned with how the design would meet the needs of our students."

In February of 2012, Dr. Bennett, after her first tour of the Holland Centennial Commons, was so pleased with the English Department floor. She said the space was welcoming and would nurture the students, adding, "I saw my vision materialize before my eyes." Dr. Bennett said students do not remember faculty, staff, or text books as much as they remember the space they inhabited while attending college. This statement makes a lot of sense. In fact, Dr. Jasmine observed, "I believe the numbers of English majors will grow at a steady pace." Dr. Jasmine believes that the Holland building will aid in that growth.

These are indeed some of the reasons to be excited about the function of the Holland Centennial Commons. Additionally, Sherry Ruesch, Executive Director of Campus Services, explains that another exciting characteristic of the building is "daylight harvesting," which will bring a lot of light directly into the middle of the building. In addition, she said the building is a "minimum LEED silver building." This is a specialized Energy Efficient Certification. Sherry says that "The whole building will be involved in heavy recycling," and that "spring water will be available for refill and recycling bins will be placed for convenient use."

Adding another exciting fact she said, "All the basest are for the students."

This spring will be a very exciting time. This is "history in the making" and thus we should celebrate this spring with a new perspective. Dr. Terry Burton summed up the feeling the Holland Centennial Commons building has brought to campus, stating that the building’s "very height suggests improvement, upward growth, and hope."
By pure chance he picked Professor Terry Burton. “Professor Burton is an excellent teacher who not only puts your fears at ease, but also makes you realize they can write and can be successful at it.”

Bywater has a deeply-rooted love for his family, the English Department, Dixie State College, teaching, and life. As a former student of Dr. Bywater’s, in more than one class, I can honestly say he never came to class in a foul mood, was unfair, or lacked a passion for what he was teaching. Regardless of the subject, Dr. Bywater teaches it with love and passion. He is a true teacher for the sake of the students. When asked if there were anything he would like to add, he had one comment: “The closer I get to retirement, the more I feel incredibly lucky I am to be a teacher.” This comment after many years of teaching—remarkable!

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Options (cont. from page 1)

Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, Adobe Photoshop and InDesign, and with other technological skills related to technical manual writing.

Applicants will also find that companies are looking for someone who can work as part of a team. These are all skills taught in Professional and Technical Writing at Dixie State. Dr. Crenshaw also adds that it is a good idea to gain experience in these areas outside of the classroom, and she says that the faculty in the English Department are very supportive of internships and other projects that help to bring in real life experience. For students who wish to pursue this type of writing, the Professional and Technical Writing concentration is the best preparation.

Even so, students may still have questions about Creative Writing, such as: What is the difference between Technical and Professional Writing and Creative Writing, and which one is the best choice? Dr. Crenshaw says that not only is there no difference in the field of Creative Writing either produce journals, become editors, or work their way up in publishing firms. "So, the better understanding the writer has of editing, the more options he or she will have after graduation, and the more likely it is that the writer will be successful," said Crenshaw. It seems that no matter what kind of writer you aspire to be, a well-rounded, in-depth knowledge of the art is required.

Creative Writing, as is the misconception, may seem like an easy concentration to complete. However, Dr. John Chavez, a practicing published poet, said that a "Creative Writing degree in a lot of ways is similar to receiving a degree in any specialized area of writing. Students who receive a Creative Writing degree usually have to take many of the same courses that Literature students take. But they can also benefit from Professional and Technical courses as well." No matter the concentration, "The writing style and the consistency of the writing is just as important. All students wanting to receive an English degree must have a very good understanding of the English language, as well as enjoy the study of the English language," Chavez said.

After working as a technical writer, he said "A Professional and Technical Writing student with the right kind of discipline can write like a Creative Writing student, and a Creative Writing student can write like a Professional and Technical Writing student, just so long as the student is willing to put in the time to learn the two different styles of writing." When asked if it was difficult for him to learn the technical aspect of writing, Chavez explained "Learning to do the technical side of the job was neither easy nor hard. Writing is writing. Being a student of the English language and being dedicated to your writing and your writing habits is just as important as the type of degree one holds."

Professors (cont. from page 7)

at the University College London on a scholarship. Turning these two offers down, Bacabac chose to come to the U.S. to earn her Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Writing while teaching freshman and intermediate writing courses.

Dixie State was the first campus she visited after graduating and the first interview she went through on the job market. She was offered the position on the spot. "Even if I never got to visit other campuses, because I accepted the first job offer, I have no regrets because the people here are warm, the weather more agreeable, and the town very charming," says Bacabac. She now teaches freshman composition courses and Professional and Technical Writing courses, such as English 2101, 3340, 3180, as well as English 3341. While her accent is unmistakable, even more evident is her knowledge of writing and English.

I'm sure her students can agree that she truly learn valuable writing skills in her classes. She even has a chapter in Collaborative Writing and Learning (Ed. Kathleen Hunzer) which is going to be released this May. On a more personal note, she loves poetry and music, is a devoted Beatles, Clapton, and Hendrix fan and even played keys in a rock band when she was in college.

Bacabac says that she is proud to say that she is part of the English Department. "I think the openness and support we get from both the faculty and students focused on both tracks, DSC will continue to be a [community] college in all but name."

Finally, I asked participants to provide feedback concerning where they felt Dixie State College and St. George could use improvement. More places to "hang out," more activities, and more diversity were popular among the answers. Some people wished for more help from the financial aid and administration offices, and some suggested an improvement in the relationship between the college and the community, stating: "St. George and the college could work much more closely together to develop college towns in some ways. That is the thing that is most likely to improve the student experience and it will make a major difference in recruiting new students."

It's without doubt that St. George is a unique place. Unparalleled beauty is a point of pride in our area. Many people find themselves in St. George because of these assets. Unique to St. George is the variety of outdoor activities that would not be possible in many other areas. Quite a few survey participants wanted to make sure this fact was not overlooked. Sure, we may not have the diversity of an inner-city university, but slowly we are making substantial strides. Until then, we may have to drive out of town or state to visit places with more diverse entertainment and larger sporting venues, but when we return home we'll be greeted by beautiful natural wonders and hopefully this will serve as a good reminder of why we choose to stay right here in St. George.

Teachers (cont. from page 8)

Warren responded, "I was shocked. Here was a college professor telling me, Vance, the guy who has never been good at writing or any English, that I can be a good writer if I just put my mind to it."

Now, Vance recalls, it is almost four years later, and he is only one year away from a bachelor's degree. If Professor Burton would have just let him "twist in the wind," and not given him those kind words, he doesn’t know what would have happened. Vance personally thinks that Professor Burton saw that he was terrified and that he needed all the help he could get. Vance said, "My wife knew it too."

These experiences affirm the fact that not only do good teachers have an impact on all the students they teach, but also that great, caring teachers are right here at Dixie State College. We as students are grateful, and we want to take this opportunity to tell all teachers thanks for the encouragement and extra help and long hours of under paid work that you give to each of your students every year. Thank you, teachers.