My early papers were filled with loose inferences and a lot of shoddy speculation. After “Advanced Composition” I was really able to bite into a text and to draw my analysis deeply but directly from the source material.

I chose to major in English the summer before my first semester at State and I’ve never regretted it. My own experiences and the statements of other people continue to hammer home my belief that the ability to write is an invaluable skill that can take you places. It’s only when you step beyond the fold of the English Department that you realize that there are many intelligent people who don’t know how to write well. While applying to various law schools, I was told time and time again that my English B.A. was one of the most attractive degrees a prospective law student can have, and I feel certain English students applying for postgraduate school and work in other fields would find their degree similarly valuable.

I’m still very up-in-the-air about what I’m going to be doing in the next few years. I still really enjoy writing and plan on being somewhere where I can continue to scratch that itch. I’m certain that my English degree—especially when coupled with my J.D.—will continue to provide many opportunities.

In 2010, many of our English majors followed in Matt’s footsteps. English majors were accepted into a variety of law schools including Tulane, University of Missouri, Temple University, University of Tennessee, University of South Carolina, University of Alabama, Ole Miss, Mississippi College School of Law, and the University of Memphis.

Seniors Kathryn Hope Long and Jessica Porter and MA students Lillian Rogers and Jannell McConnell won the Howell H. Gwin Memorial Scholarship.

Elise Boone won the William H. Magruder Scholarship.

MA students Christina Collins, Lisa McMurtray and Raquel Hollingsworth and senior Matthew Morgan won the Eugene Butler Creative Writing Award.

Matthew Tutor received the Peyton Ward Williams Distinguished Writing Award.

Sophomores Hannah Rogers, junior Victoria Mayhall, and junior Jessica Humphreys won the Helen W. Skelton Scholarship.

Hannah Rogers, Victoria Mayhall, and freshman Reginald Swanson won the Roger LeMoyne Dabbs Memorial Scholarship.

Kelsey Norris won the Undergraduate Gender Studies Paper Competition for her paper “Her Own Worst Enemy: A Feminist Analysis of Women and Self-subjugation in Lahiri’s Short Stories.” Tyler Trimm won the same award at the graduate level for his essay on “Edna O’Brien and the Madwomen in the Irish Attic.”

Mariana Prather and Lisa McMurtray won the MSU Undergraduate Writing Contest.

Jessica Porter won the Peyton Ward Williams Award for her essay “Political Advancement and Identity in Carroll’s Through the Looking Glass.”

Careers and Accomplishments:

Leslie Adams, MA, pursues the creative writing PhD program at the University of Illinois.

Laura Allen will move to Memphis to apply for the program in Cognitive Psychology and Linguistics at U Memphis.

Roderick Allen will begin the Masters Program in Public Administration at MSU.

Lindsayann Anderson accepted a position as Tutor Center Administrator in Arlington, Texas.

Catherine Bryant Bell received her law degree from Ole Miss.

Andy Black, BA, received his MA in Medieval Studies at the University of Memphis. He also pursues his PhD studies at the University of Maryland.
Casey Bonner will attend law school at the University of Alabama.

Angela Taylor Brewer, BA, received her MS at MSU and now serves as an assistant editor at McGraw-Hill.

Shannon Brewer, BA, earned her law degree at the University of Florida and now practices law in Orlando.

Laurie Buchholz, MA, serves as Director of the Study Skills Center at Monterey Peninsula College.

Sarah Bush has begun her MA program in English at Hunter College in New York.

Erica Cain accepted a $10,000 scholarship to support her studies at Vanderbilt’s Peabody College of Education.

Tiffany Love Curtis, MA, pursues the PhD in English and creative writing at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Annie Falor earned her MA in Education at the University of Northern Arizona; she now teaches tenth and eleventh grade English at Winslow High School near Flagstaff.

Amy Halford has begun her master’s work in nursing at U Memphis.

Molly Hartzog pursues graduate studies in linguistics and ESL at North Carolina State University.

Meg Herbert has accepted a $17,000 scholarship to enroll in the Law School at U of South Carolina.

Misty Jameson, MA, earned her PhD at the University of Georgia and now serves as an assistant professor at Lander University.

Reagan Joyner attends law school at Ole Miss.

Rachael Loftin has accepted a position with Portrait Innovations in Memphis.

Beth Clayton Luthye, BA, earned her MA at Florida State University and taught writing in Tennessee. Currently, she works as compassionate ministries coordinator for a faith-based organization that provides aid for people in the Caribbean.

Lynn Mullen, BA, pursues her master’s degree in communication at Auburn University.

Ester Neal, BA, received her MBA at MSU and works now as a research analyst in Huntsville, Alabama.
Kudos for Our Students

(continued from page 7)

Candler Ragland accepted a full scholarship to Emory University to pursue graduate work in theology.

James Redd, MA and current lecturer, will begin his PhD studies in the fall at the University of Nebraska.

Michael Shelton, MA, teaches English at Hebron Christian School. He also serves as president of the Mississippi Poetry Society.

Krista Sherman pursues her MA in English at the University of Colorado.

Kathy Ward Shields, BA, completed her MS in Library and Information Science at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. She now serves as Head of Reference at High Point University.

Lauren Shook has begun PhD studies in early British literature and women’s writing at North Carolina State University.

Emily Stinson, MA, pursues her PhD in literature and creative writing at Western Michigan University.

Matthew Varner has begun PhD studies in English at Purdue University.

Wesley Venus, MA, received his PhD in English from the University of Georgia.

Susan Walker, BA, earned her Juris Doctor degree at St. Louis University and now practices law in St. Louis.

Brigid Welsh received $20,000 in scholarships to study law at the University of Memphis.

Dr. Genevieve West, BA and MA from our department, teaches English at Texas Women’s College.

Nick White pursues his PhD in English at Ohio State University.

Diana Worthy began law school at Ole Miss.

Thank You to our Alumni

Over the last six years, our generous alumni have donated nearly $20,000 for the English Advancement Fund, which supports the travel and equipment needs of faculty and graduate students.

Of course, our needs continue to grow. In addition to supporting our writing contests, we need further support for scholarships, for faculty travel, and for departmental equipment, especially for our Clyde Williams Film Room and our Writing Center.

If you’re interested in making a tax-deductible donation to help us to meet these needs, please contact Rob Jenkins, Director of Development at MSU. You can reach Mr. Jenkins at 662-325-6762, or at rjenkins@foundation.msstate.edu.

You may also click on “opportunities for donors” on our departmental website:

http://www.msstate.edu/dept/english