

Alumni Spotlight: Alex Muckler

B.A. in English (2007)



Why did you choose UofL English?

Initially I didn't! I was a Political Science major, but I took a creative writing workshop as an elective and it changed the whole trajectory of my college experience! I enjoyed it in a way I had never enjoyed school before.

Please share a little bit about a favorite class or project you developed in English about which you are particularly proud.

As a student, I was really focused on writing poetry and did a number of local readings. There was a pretty cool scene in town at that time with lots of opportunities to share my work with like-minded folks. I even opened for Ron Whitehead! So, my proudest moments were taking the work I did in the classroom out into my community. It felt so alive!

Share your best memory of being an English student.

My friends used to have poetry parties where we'd all gather at someone's house and workshop one another's work (meaning I was taking work to class that was already fairly polished). It was wonderful to learn from one another and weave our academic pursuits into our real lives.

What is the most important thing you learned while you were an English student?

As a writer, when you share a creative piece, the reader's understanding of the work becomes as much a part of it as your intention. That's hard to grapple with, but also why the work is so dynamic and important.

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

My English education was absolutely essential. In addition to providing publications and professional development opportunities, my PhD helped me gain expertise in the field, and it was required for my current position as an Assistant Professor.

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

For 13 years, I had a career that involved, among other things, drafting curriculum for leadership and character development programs, which allowed me to tap into the same sort of creativity that made me love my time at UofL. Soon after ending my time in that field, of course, I came home to work in the UofL Brandeis School of Law where I meet incredible students, travel, and share stories of why I love this school and this city!

What is one of the most fascinating aspects of your job?

In Law School admissions, I'm always aware that we're selecting and training the folks who will write and interpret the law for a new generation. It's an incredible way to make a real and lasting impact.

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

Take risks. Learn from your peers. Support one another.

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

I wouldn't be who I am if I hadn't landed in exactly the right place at exactly the right time with exactly the right people. 20 years later, the folks I met here are still my family. We've all gone on to do brave and impactful things and we continue to support one another fiercely.