What do
Joe Paterno, Michael Eisner, and Amerie
have in common?

They're all former **English majors!** Obviously, there's more than "1 Thing" you can do with a BA in English…

An English major provides, in the fullest sense of the word, literacy — that is, both an understanding of the marvelous variety of literary works in the English language and the ability to read sensitively, think critically and creatively, communicate effectively, and argue persuasively. The major is thus extraordinarily broad in its scope, providing a foundation for success in almost any walk of life. The major is also both traditional — opening up the whole history of writing in English — and future-oriented — helping you navigate a culture in which forms of verbal expression are constantly proliferating in number and expanding in influence.

The skills developed through majoring in English — writing, editing, critical and analytical thinking — are highly valued by a great variety of employers, as well as schools of law and medicine and other post-baccaulaureate schools and programs. As a recent CNN article asserts, "**The verbal and written communication skills that English majors possess remain in top demand at nearly every company in America.**"

Required major courses taught by exceptional faculty ensure you acquire those skills. Yet the major is also flexible, allowing you the electives you need to take your course of study in the direction that best suits your personal needs, interests, and goals.

Some students, for example, take courses in professional writing in order to open the door to work as a technical/professional writer or editor — one of the fastest growing areas of employment in the U.S. today, with positions available in business, industry, government, education, and publishing.

At the same time, the English major is not merely a vocational degree that sets you on one — and only one — career path. Rather, it fits you to adapt to, and excel in, any line of work and any kind of life. For ultimately, both the empathy for others and the flexibility of mind great literature helps us to cultivate are invaluable, whether we label this "imaginative capability," "the ability to 'think outside the box,'" or "cultural sensitivity." Such qualities and skills, combined with the ability to communicate effectively in an ever-more-interconnected world, means that the English graduate will be uniquely well prepared for 21st-century work and citizenship.

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For a recent guide to career possibilities, see *Great Jobs for English Majors*, Julie DeGalan and Stephen Lambert (McGraw-Hill, 2006).

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Famous English Majors

Law, Government, Non-Profits

- **Carol Browner** — former Head of the Environmental Protection Agency
- **Mario Cuomo** — lawyer, former Governor of New York
- **Kathryn Fuller** — Chair of the Ford Foundation, former President and CEO of the World Wildlife Fund U.S., former official in the U.S. Justice Department
- **Paul Newman** — founder of Newman's Own Foods
- **Clarence Thomas** — Supreme Court Justice
- **Pete Wilson** — former U.S. Senator and Governor of California

Science & Medicine

- **Dr. Sally Ride** — NASA astronaut, physicist
- **Dr. Harold Varmus** — former Director of the National Institutes of Health, winner of the Nobel Prize in Medicine

Sports

- **Joe Paterno** — Hall of Fame football coach (Penn State U)
- **Marty Schottenheimer** — former coach of the San Diego Chargers and All-Star NFL linebacker

Journalism

- **Russell Baker** — host of PBS's *Masterpiece Theater*, former *New York Times* columnist, winner of multiple Pulitzer Prizes
- **Diane Sawyer** — co-anchor of *Good Morning America*
- **Barbara Walters** — creator and co-host of *The View*, first female network news anchor
- **Bob Woodward** — Assistant Managing Editor of *The Washington Post* and Pulitzer-Prize winning investigative reporter (*All the President's Men*)

Television and Film

- **Michael Eisner** — former Chairman and CEO of the Walt Disney Company
- **Michael Lynne** — Co-Chairman and Co-CEO of New Line Cinema
- **Herb Scannell** — former President of Nickolodeon Networks & Vice-Chairman of MTV Networks

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- **Steven Spielberg** — Academy Award-winning film director and producer (*Schindler's List, ET, Jaws*)
- **Linda Bloodworth-Thomason** — television writer-producer (*Designing Women, Evening Shade*)

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- **Chevy Chase** — Emmy Award-winning comedian, actor, writer (*Caddyshack, Saturday Night Live*)
- **David Duchovny** — actor (*Californication, The X-Files*)
- **Jodie Foster** — Academy Award-winning actor, director, producer (*Silence of the Lambs, The Accused, Taxi Driver*)
- **Famke Janssen** — model, actor (*Golden Eye, X-Men*)
- **Tommy Lee Jones** — Academy Award-winning actor (*Men in Black, The Fugitive*)
- **Paul Newman** — actor (*Empire Falls, The Entertainer*)
- **Joan Rivers** — comedienne, talk-show host
- **Emma Thompson** — Academy Award-winning actor, screenwriter (*Sense and Sensibility, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*)
- **Sigourney Weaver** — actor (*Alien, Ghostbusters*)
- **Renée Zellweger** — Academy Award-winning actor (*Bridget Jones' Diary, Cold Mountain*)

Music

- **Amerie —** singer-songwriter ("1 Thing")
- **Kris Kristofferson** —singer-songwriter ("Me and Bobby McGee," "Help Me Make It through the Night")
- **Paul Simon** — Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter (*Graceland*)