

SAM SWANN

Master's student in English at the University of Tennessee. Driven by a deep respect for language and literature's intersection within region and culture.

Email: sswann7@vols.utk.edu

EDUCATION

Master of Arts University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN English – Rhetoric, Writing, and Linguistics	Expected Spring 2028
Bachelor of Arts Maryville College, Maryville, TN English – Literature Minor in American Studies Graduated Summa Cum Laude (GPA: 4.0)	2022-2025

HONORS AND AWARDS

Alexander English Prize Awarded to the senior student who achieved the best academic record in the study of English at Maryville College. This award is named for Jane Bancroft Smith Alexander who taught Latin, Modern Languages, and Literature until her retirement in 1934.	Spring 2026
Dean A. Boldon Liberal Arts Core Award Given to the graduating senior who has earned the highest grade-point average in all core courses taken at Maryville College. This award is named in honor of sociologist Dr. Dean A. Boldon.	Spring 2026
Sigma Tau Delta An international English honor society recognizing academic excellence in language, literature, and writing studies.	Spring 2024
Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor society awarded for academic performance and achievement. Offered to the top 10 percent (by GPA) of graduating seniors.	Spring 2025
Arthur S. Bushing Scholarship	Fall 2025

Named after Dr. Arthur S. Bushing, this scholarship is awarded to an English major at Maryville College whose academic record illustrates diligent scholarship within the field of English.

Ruth Lloyd Kramer Award

Spring 2025

This award is given to a junior English major who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and exceptional service to the college and community.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Thesis, Maryville College, Maryville, TN November 2025

“Constructing a Wall of Separation: The Rhetoric of Religion and Regulation Among Appalachian Snake Handling Sects”

An extended rhetorical consideration of the phenomenon of snake handling in the Southern Appalachian United States—considering hermeneutics, regulatory discourse, and depictions in media to construct an understanding of the practice within current scholarship.

Awarded Exemplary Senior Study in Spring 2026

Published in the Maryville College Library, April 2026

Access: [Maryville College Digital Library Archives](#)

Study Abroad, Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand May 2025-June 2025

Immersed in the culture of Buddhism in Chiang Mai, Thailand, under the instruction of professors at Payap University.

Published blogs on the experience titled, “Human Impulse and Heart Water: Takeaways from a Study of Religion and Society in Chiang Mai, Thailand.” Posted in the Maryville College Study Abroad Blogspot.

Access: ["Human Impulse and Heart Water..."](#)

And “Reconciling Religion and Government Through Discussion in Thailand.”

Posted in the Maryville College Study Abroad Blogspot. Access: ["Reconciling Religion and Government..."](#)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Aretha Frankenstein’s, Knoxville, Tennessee

May 2025-July 2026

Server

Hot Rod’s 50s Diner, Alcoa, Tennessee

May 2021-May 2025

Shift Lead, Server, Host, Expo

Northview High School, Kodak, Tennessee

July 2023-December 2023

Music Instructor