

Testimonial from Michael Stowe, Advisor for the English Department at USF



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To Whom It May Concern:

Based on conversations with the English majors I work with, Dr. Heather Sellers is perhaps the most beloved creative writing professor in our department. Students consistently gush about her expertise and, more importantly, her concern for their success and general wellbeing. This past year has been difficult for many of our students, but Dr. Sellers has been one bright spot for many of the students who were fortunate enough to have her class. After the disruption in the Spring 2020 semester, she taught an introductory poetry course in the Summer term, and every student I spoke with from her class gushed about their experience. For many, this course was an oasis in a trying time. One of our more advanced students, who'd been forced to leave a study abroad experience in the Spring, was particularly grateful for the calming and supportive environment those six weeks provided and went on to take her advanced Fall course and then register for her Spring offering.

Such loyalty is not restricted to a single student. When Dr. Sellers was away during the last academic year, students who had taken courses with her previously inquired when she would return, and even new students frequently asked when they would get a chance to take her simply because of the reputation she's developed with our majors. Perhaps most striking from an advising perspective is that Dr. Sellers' primarily teaches poetry, which is the genre our majors often gravitate away from, but when she is teaching, even those who are convinced they could never write a single poem raved about their experience, and more than one has continued in the genre. In the same Summer poetry course that proved so fortifying for the students, one of our Professional and Technical Writing majors took her course as an elective. To say he was trepidatious would be an understatement, but when I met with him after the course ended, he was so happy for the experience. He noted that Dr. Sellers had been one of the most communicative instructors he'd had and her course, which he'd taken simply to satisfy an elective, had actually been a joyful experience. In my five years advising for the department, I have yet to meet a student who has not shared a similar perspective. Dr. Sellers is truly a department favorite, and if our students are to be believed (and they are), she's earned all their praise and more.

Best,
~ Mike

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Pronouns: they, them, their