



thistle

The undergraduate literary arts
journal at the University of Idaho

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH & CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM

Call for Lead Editors | 2026

Send applications to Michael McGriff, Faculty Advisor | mmcgriff@uidaho.edu

How to Apply for Leadership Roles at *Thistle* (ENGL 486, 3 credits) for the Spring 26 Semester

Thistle, the University of Idaho's undergraduate print literary journal, is published each Spring semester through a Department of English publishing and editing course, ENGL 486. Though any qualified student can sign up for ENGL 486 as part of the editorial team, *Thistle* is now seeking to fill its leadership positions for the Spring 26 semester. *Thistle* is currently accepting applications for the following editorial positions:

Editor-in-Chief: 1 student

Lead Fiction Editor: 1 student

Lead Poetry Editor: 1 student

Lead Nonfiction Editor: 1 student

Qualifications for the Editor-in-Chief (EIC) position

The EIC will be announced by the end of the Spring semester. Applications will be screened and the successful candidate will be selected by the *Thistle* Faculty Advisor, the *Fugue* EIC, and the current *Thistle* EIC.

The role of the EIC is to interface with the *Thistle* Faculty Advisor; manage section editors and editorial staff; develop and maintain a production schedule; work, oversee, and manage all copy editing; and generally serve as a personnel manager for the Spring ENGL 486 staff. The EIC will also steer the direction of the journal by assisting the Faculty Advisor to determine the makeup of the *Thistle* masthead for the following year. The EIC will bear responsibility for implementing best practices for manuscript screening, navigating issues of fairness when screening work by *Thistle* editors, organizing workflow distributions to section editors, interfacing with a social media director (also selected by the EIC), and organizing *Thistle*-related events.

Minimum Qualifications

- Must have editing experience at a college-level literary arts journal, including at least 1 semester on the *Thistle* staff in an editorial capacity
- Must have Junior standing by the time of serving during the Spring semester
- Must live and attend classes in Moscow during the Spring semester. Due to the nature of this position and the face-to-face ENGL 486 class, this role cannot be carried out remotely
- Must be willing to work on a tight deadline, including extra hours during peak production times
- Must have excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Must be comfortable in a leadership role in a peer-management setting
- Must be a great collaborator

Preferred Qualifications

- Proficient in Adobe InDesign

If you have previously served as *Thistle* EIC, you are ineligible to serve a second term; however, you are encouraged to apply to be a section editor during the Spring semester or contribute as a genre editor, etc.

In 500-750 words, please discuss your candidacy in terms of the minimum and preferred qualifications listed above. Please, speak to how you see yourself in this role, including how you see yourself suited for personnel management, design and production oversight, and your general relationship to literary publishing at UI and beyond. In basic terms, what makes you qualified for this position and why do you think you're the right person for the job? If you have adjacent experience or are involved in the Dept of English in other ways, please speak to those facets of your student/professional life as well.

Qualifications for Lead Editor Positions

- Any full-time, Moscow-based, degree-seeking undergraduate student may apply for a Lead Editor position (Lead Fiction Editor, Lead Nonfiction Editor, or Lead Poetry Editor).
- You must have taken ENGL 290 and at least 1 300- or 400-level creative writing class at UI.
- Any major may apply (you don't have to be an English major).
- Experience in editing (such as serving as a *Fugue* reader or on the *Thistle* staff) is not required, though it will greatly serve to strengthen your application.
- You must take ENGL 486 in the Spring semester to work on *Thistle* (*Thistle* is imbedded in ENGL 486).

Lead Fiction Editor. The Lead Fiction Editor (1 position available) will serve as the section/genre editor for *Thistle*. The Lead Fiction Editor will work under/report to the Editor-in-Chief. The Lead Fiction Editor will oversee all Fiction submissions, coordinate with the Fiction Editors (a team of readers and editors), maintain deadlines, and oversee editorial and selection processes. The Lead Fiction Editor manages the Fiction Editorial team in a capacity outlined by the Editor-in-Chief.

Lead Poetry Editor. The Lead Poetry Editor (1 position available) will serve as the section/genre editor for *Thistle*. The Lead Poetry Editor will work under/report to the Editor-in-Chief. The Lead Poetry

Editor will oversee all Poetry submissions, coordinate with the Poetry Editors (a team of readers and editors), maintain deadlines, and oversee editorial and selection processes. The Lead Poetry Editor manages the Poetry Editorial team in a capacity outlined by the Editor-in-Chief.

Lead Nonfiction Editor. The Lead Nonfiction Editor (1 position available) will serve as the section/genre editor for *Thistle*. The Lead Nonfiction Editor will work under/report to the Editor-in-Chief. The Lead Nonfiction Editor will oversee all Nonfiction submissions, coordinate with the Nonfiction Editors (a team of readers and editors), maintain deadlines, and oversee editorial and selection processes. The Lead Nonfiction Editor manages the Nonfiction Editorial team in a capacity outlined by the Editor-in-Chief.

Applying for Book Designer

If you would like to serve as Book Designer, please email Faculty Advisor Michael McGriff (mmcgriff@uidaho.edu) directly. The book designer must be proficient in Adobe InDesign, have access to InDesign, and have experience with file prep, Parent/Master Page setup, and a keen eye for typography.

To Apply

Please, send a 1- to 2-page Word doc outlining the following:

- The position(s) you are applying for (you may apply for multiple positions).
- Why you are applying to the position(s) and how you are qualified to carry out the specified duties.
- Your relevant experience in publishing and editing (*Fugue* or *Thistle* internships, working for *BLOT*, prior work at another institution such as NIC, as four of many possible examples).
- A complete list of the creative writing classes you have successfully taken at the university level (non-UI classes, too).
- Your track record with regards to carrying out creative group work/projects.
- And anything else that highlights your experience in and engagement with publishing, editing, and the literary arts.
- Email application letter to *Thistle* Faculty Advisor Michael McGriff: mmcgriff@uidaho.edu.
- Use the subject heading “Thistle Editor Application”.
- Label your letter clearly: your full name, date, year in school, major, and UI email.
- Address your letter to Michael McGriff .
- Attach your letter as a Word Doc or PDF (no Google Doc, Pages, or links).

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE

NO LATER THAN FRIDAY OF FINALS WEEK

DURING THE SPRING SEMESTER

{ If you have any questions, email Michael McGriff, Faculty Advisor: mmcgriff@uidaho.edu }