

Abounding Opportunity

SPECIAL POINTS OF IN- TEREST:

- Learn about Dr. Kang's journey to Gonzaga
- Receive inside information on Gonzaga in the Wilderness from Dr. Eliason
- Discover the potential of an English major through one student's experience

Letter From the Editor

The beauty of a college campus is the diversity of interests found within the student body, each providing unique and equally valuable perspective.



Meet Kaylee Bosse, sophomore English Writing Concentration major and creator of this issue.

All photos courtesy of Kaylee Bosse

When seemingly opposite fields are combined, you may be surprised at the possibilities you can discover when working with someone in a different major. To learn more about how English can apply to anything from fashion to IT, read about Dr. Kang's unconventional journey to becoming an English professor in *Journey to GU*. As an English major on the Pre-Med track, sophomore Georgia Veverka similarly demonstrates the many benefits of studying English in conjunction with the sciences. Be sure to read more about what led her to make the switch to English in *English and PreMed: An Unlikely Combination*. Additionally, study abroad opportunities abound for those interested in English, regardless of your major. Get an insider look at the Literary London and Gonzaga in the Wilderness programs in *Literary London: An Insider Look* and *Get Wild with Gonzaga-in-the Wilderness*. I want to see you unlock the benefits of a humanities education and how it can help you pursue your passions, regardless of your field of study. There is something for everyone in the English major, and I encourage you to use this newsletter to help you consider how you can get involved in the humanities. *Kaylee Bosse is this semester's Digital Media Intern for the English Department.*



Students bond at English Club



Students enjoy a slam poetry workshop



**Ann Caindec ('20),
English major**
All photos courtesy of
Ann Caindec



Literary London: An Inside Look

Whether you love Shakespeare or simply enjoy delving deeper into the cultural richness of a new place, Literary London is the program for you, regardless of whether you are an English major. To learn more about her five weeks in London this past summer, we sat down with Ann Caindec, a sophomore English major from California.

What made you decide to attend the program?

The Literary London program is one of the reasons I decided to attend Gonzaga because it combined my major, English, and my favorite city, London. When I discovered there would be a Literary London trip the summer of 2017, I knew I had to go.

What was your favorite part of the trip?

The entire trip was fantastic, but if I had to pick a favorite part, it would either be our weekend trip to Liverpool where we went on a Beatles tour or our visit to the Tate Modern. Both experiences were absolutely amazing and unique. The excursion to Liverpool was so much fun because we had read about the Beatles and their connection to Liverpool, so seeing those locations in real life

was amazing. The Tate Modern is unlike any museum I have ever been to and being able to wander through it and then write about the museum for homework was unlike any experience I had ever had.

Were there any challenges you faced on this trip, and if so, how did you overcome them?

The biggest challenge for me was finding enough hours in the day to do the coursework. I stayed up late most nights writing journal entries and doing the reading for my classes. However, everything I was reading and writing about related directly to the city around me which made it all worth it because I was in London.

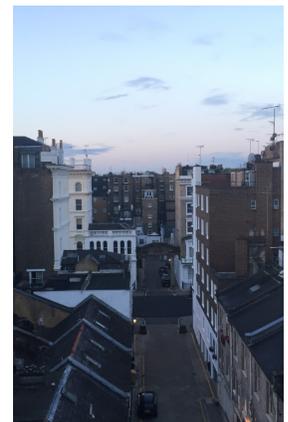
Would you recommend this trip to other English majors/minors/non majors, and why?

I would recommend the Literary London trip to anyone who wants to understand London on a deeper level and is ready to do the work. I absolutely loved the program because the excursions allowed us to see so many different parts of the city for our classes and see London through a different lens than a tourist.

How did your experience abroad enhance your experience of the English major/minor at Gonzaga?

Given that this trip is one of the aspects of the English department that drew me to Gonzaga, I believe the Literary London program greatly enhanced my education. Being able to see the paintings, buildings, and experiences first hand that were described in the reading was incredible. It really allowed me to get a sense of the city and understand the material we were learning on a deeper level that definitely enhanced my learning experience.

Ann's words highlight the unique opportunity to see London in a new way through the intermingling of exciting excursions and engaging course material. Apply today at studyabroad.gonzaga.edu by January 20, 2018. For more information, contact Heather Easterling at easterling@gonzaga.edu.



**View from dorms in
Kensington**

Get Wild With Gonzaga in the Wilderness



Gonzaga in the Wilderness is a unique program that allows students to apply knowledge gained through online study in Summer Session 1 on a 15 day trip to Montana, including a ten day canoe and hiking adventure. Although perfect for budding Lewis and Clarks, this journey does not require canoeing or hiking experience. Here are some highlights from our conversation with Dr. Eliason, an English professor and Director of the Writing Center at GU who will be teaching Nature Writing during this program, to find out more about this exciting opportunity for all majors.

When asked why he recommends this program for English and non-English majors alike, Dr. Eliason emphasized the potential that can be reached when a field studies component is added to a course. The ability to compare and contrast what Dr. Eliason called “book learning” with experiential learning is a priceless opportunity for all students, and the community built through traveling and learning together is also something that all students can find beneficial.

In the words of Dr. Eliason, this program complements an English education at Gonzaga in a variety of ways.

A day in the life on the river

All photos courtesy of Greg Gordon

Through the field studies component, students build skills in research, formulating questions, and interviewing as they meet different culture representatives such as indigenous people and government agency representatives. These experiences also help students understand how writing is animated in different cultures and settings.

However, Dr. Eliason’s favorite part of this program is the non-traditional community built through students and faculty working together and depending on each other in ways that they would not be asked to in the classroom, such as ensuring each other’s physical safety on wilderness excursions.

For people who aren’t too crazy about camping, Dr. Eliason would like to note that we partner with GU Outdoors to fulfill the teaching mission of Gonzaga. There will be professionals on the trip to assist with tasks such as cooking meals. Dr. Eliason would also like to assure students that he wants them to feel comfortable and confident with activities such as canoeing by the program’s end. His hope is that students will envision possibilities for their futures they would not have otherwise.

Montana’s luscious forests, rugged cliffs, and the famous Wild and Scenic Missouri River await. Apply now at

studyabroad@gonzaga.edu by February 1, 2018. For more information, contact Dr. Eliason at eliason@gonzaga.edu.

Note: There was a mistake in the flyer and ENV5 353, Environmental History does NOT meet the history core requirement, but it does count for the Writing Enriched designation. ENV5 353 also fulfills the Environmental Studies Humanities requirement for ENV5 majors and minors, or general elective for other majors.



Experience nature’s classroom



Dr. Kang's



Dr. Kang, English professor

Photo Credit: Dr. Kang

“All students, regardless of major, can succeed from studying English”



Dr. Kang says English could have helped her better communicate her ideas to judges while in the fashion industry

Photo credit: Creative Commons

Introducing Dr. Kang, an Assistant Professor of English in her second year here at GU! Dr. Kang earned her PhD in Writing Studies at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a school with 46,000 students. Dr. Kang cites the community and relationships fostered by Gonzaga's smaller size as an important factor in her decision to come work at Gonzaga, and we could not be happier that she did. We sat down with Dr. Kang to learn more about her unconventional yet remarkable path to GU, an inspirational story to students who are afraid to change their path of study or are discouraged from pursuing an English major because English is their second language. Here are some fascinating highlights from our interview, which ultimately illuminated the benefits of studying English and its potential when combined with different fields in unexpected ways.

We were surprised to learn that Dr. Kang did not major in English for her undergraduate education. Born in South Korea, Dr. Kang earned her BA in Fashion and MA in International Studies there before realizing she wanted to teach. Inspired by her sister's involvement in an interpretation/translation club for international students and her own experiences as an English tutor throughout school, Dr. Kang found joy in studying English. Dr. Kang's

mission to illuminate the injustices faced by international students through her dissertation and her current work displays her genuine kindness and willingness to help students succeed.

Students wanting to experience Dr. Kang's warm teaching style and learn more about language diversity and social justice can take her classes that examine how language contributes to inequality in the US. In the Spring 2018 semester, Dr. Kang is teaching Writing and Research. When asked what students can expect in her classes, Dr. Kang says she looks for the original motivation, development of ideas, and effort behind students' work, and remarks that making theories and concepts more personal and relatable to each student is one of the most important actions a teacher can take to aid learning. Dr. Kang also states that all students, regardless of major, can succeed from studying English, which does not entail constantly burying one's nose in a book. Rather, the study of rhetoric and composition can help one understand how language is used by everyday people, and seeing as language is the foundation of the world and how we understand it, the study of English can benefit everyone.

When asked how pursu-

ing English has helped her succeed and how it can aid student success, Dr. Kang answered that English gave her a space to delve deeper into her passion to help international students. Though Dr. Kang worked in many different fields including fashion, IT, and business prior to her English education, she commented that English was the place where she grew the most as a human being and was able to consider the complexities of society in a deeper way. She says her studies in English could have really helped her articulate her ideas more in her previous jobs. For example, she could have been able to relate her fashion designs to judges at competitions in a way that did them more justice. Dr. Kang had a similar comment regarding her experience in the IT business. She noted that although computer scientists were needed to produce digital content, people who articulated their ideas to the public were often in the humanities. In effect, we would not have iPhones without English majors, which is not an observation commonly made.

Having grown up with a utilitarian education solely focused on preparing students to pursue high-paying jobs, Dr. Kang says that all students should have a liberal arts education and that English pushed her away

Journey to GU

ABOUNDING OPPORTUNITY

from this utilitarian type of thinking. In fact, she says English makes one into not only a critical thinker, but a passionate thinker. Commenting further on these benefits of studying English, Dr. Kang remarks, “an English major was a savior for me.”

Having not majored in English for undergrad and having English as her second language, Dr. Kang is a true example of the accessibility of an English education. She desires students, especially international ones, to realize that English is not about the perfection of one’s work. Rather, she stresses the importance of exploring English for all students, regardless of their English speaking abilities. In doing so, one may realize the true potential of English, especially when combined with other fields.

Dr. Kang’s passage through diverse fields such as business, IT, and fashion prior to English is an inspiration to all students, especially those who are afraid to change their major to something they are truly passionate about or want to



Dr. Kang reflects on how the humanities contributes to the IT business

Photo Credit: Creative Commons

explore further. Her long but rewarding journey to discovering the benefits of an English education encourages us to step boldly toward our own desires for our futures. For example, she could have been able to relate her fashion designs to judges at competitions in a way that did them more justice. Dr. Kang had a similar comment regarding her experience in the IT business. She noted that although computer scientists were needed to produce digital content, people who articulated their ideas to the public were often in the humanities. In effect, we would not have iPhones without English majors, which is not an observation commonly made. Having grown up with a utilitarian education solely focused on preparing students to pursue high-paying jobs, Dr. Kang says that all students should have a liberal arts education and that English pushed her away from this utilitarian type of thinking. In fact, she says English makes one into not only a critical thinker, but a passionate thinker. Commenting further on these benefits of studying English, Dr. Kang remarks, “an English major was a savior for me.”

Having not majored in English for undergrad and having English as her second language, Dr. Kang is a true example of the accessibility of an English education. She desires students, especially international ones, to realize that English is not about the

perfection of one’s work. Rather, she stresses the importance of exploring English for all students, regardless of their English speaking abilities. In doing so, one may realize the true potential of English, especially when combined with other fields such as technology or fashion.

Dr. Kang’s passage through diverse fields such as business, IT, and fashion prior to English is an inspiration to all students, especially those who are afraid to change their major to something they are truly passionate about or want to explore further. Her long but rewarding journey to discovering the benefits of an English education encourages us to step boldly toward our own desires for our futures.

“An English major was a savior for me”

Dr. Kang’s passion is helping international students and encouraging them to pursue an English major
Photo credit: Creative Commons



English and PreMed: An Unlikely Combination



Georgia Veverka ('20), an English major on the PreMed track

Photo credit: Georgia Veverka

“By taking time to become more educated in the humanities, I think that I will be able to show more empathy and understanding as a doctor.”



Photo credit: Creative Commons

A sophomore pursuing English Literature, on the premed track, Georgia Veverka is a prime example of how the study of English in conjunction with any field unlocks so many possibilities. To learn more about the way English enhances her medical studies, we sat down with Georgia to discuss her unconventional decision to switch to English.

What led you to pursue English in conjunction with premed?

Over winter break, I was able to meet with one of the deans of the University of Utah’s medical school. He asked me why I chose to study biology and I really didn’t have a good answer for him other than that’s what I thought premed students should pursue. He encouraged me to change my major to English, explaining that this is my last opportunity to study something other than science. So I willingly took his advice!

Did you receive criticism for this decision, and if so, how did you respond?

While my parents were supportive, they were initially concerned. I assured them that I spent a lot of time considering my decision

and that I was confident that I’d end up happier and more satisfied with my education if I was an English major.

Does English make you a better premed student, and if so, how?

While it’s somewhat difficult balancing my Shakespeare readings with organic chemistry mechanism problems, I’ve found that my English classes provided me with a nice outlet and more enjoyable diversion from the hard sciences.

How will English aid your goals for the future?

Not only will being an English major set me apart from most other medical school applicants, I think it will mostly benefit me in the long run as a physician. As a literature major, I’ll be studying the human condition; how we think, write, feel, build relationships. By taking time to become more educated in the humanities, I think that I will be able to show more empathy and under-

What is your biggest challenge with pursuing English with premed, and what is your favorite thing about it?

My biggest challenge will be trying to craft a schedule that allows me to finish the English major and dance minor as well as fulfill all of the prerequisites for medical school. But my favorite thing about my choice to pursue English is that I’m being true to myself. I am proud of my bravery to step outside of the norm and challenge myself to this pretty daunting task. I’m really looking forward to drawing connection between my three fields of study (English, dance and science.)

Georgia’s experience shows the benefits of going off the beaten path and pursuing one’s true passion. A deep understanding of the human condition is a major asset to any career, and can be found through an English education.

To learn more about the English major, please contact Dr. Ingrid Ranum, Department Chair, at ranum@gonzaga.edu.

Georgia is also pursuing a dance minor here at GU
Photo Credit: Creative Commons



English Advising FAQs

Whether you are a prospective Gonzaga student or a current English student, these frequently asked advising questions will ease confusion you may have about satisfying course requirements.

Please enjoy these gems supplied by our very own Department Chair, Dr. Ingrid Ranum.

Q: I'm an English major, and the requirements say I need to take a 100-level literature class (102, 104H, 105, or 106) and a 200-level literature class. This fall, I was placed into a 200-level Core literature class. Do I still need to take the 100-level course?

A: If you did not bring in literature credits (through transfer, running start, or advanced placement) that have satisfied the 100-level requirement, you do need to take a course that will do that. If there's a 100-level course that interests you, you can certainly take it, even if you've already taken a 200-level course.

However, if your 200-level literature is going well and you see another literature course in the 200s that you'd like to take (or even in limited cases a 300- or 400-level course), come talk to me and we can likely arrange a substitution.

Q: There's an English class I really want to take, but by the time I got to register, it was full. Should I contact the professor about getting written into the full section?

A: No. In the English Department, only the chair signs off on overloading a section, and I don't do it often. Typically, unless you're a senior who needs that class to graduate, you are unlikely to be added to a full section. If it is essential that you take that class, come talk to me.

Remember, too, to keep an eye on Zagweb. There are frequently changes in enrollment right into the first week of class and you might be able to grab a seat later.

Q: I want to take a course that's cross-listed with Women's and Gender Studies. On the English page, Zagweb says the seats are all taken, but when I look at the WGST page, there's still room. If I register for this class through WGST, does it still count toward my English major?

A: Yes. However you register for your class, it

counts the same toward your English major.

Regardless of whether you are a seasoned upperclassman or a first year student navigating the world of registering for classes for the first time, we hope these answers are helpful. If you have any more advising questions, please contact our department chair, Ingrid Ranum, at ranum@gonzaga.edu.



Photo credit: Creative Commons

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

502 E. Boone Avenue
Spokane, WA 99258-0018

Dr. Ingrid Ranum

English Department Chair, Associate Professor

Phone: (509) 313-6675

ranum@gonzaga.edu



FOLLOW US!
Gonzaga University
English Department
[@GonzagaEnglish](#)

The Department of English is a community of active scholars and writers dedicated to forming a deeper sense of themselves and their world. We celebrate the beauty of words and the power of language as a path towards that goal, and offer cultural, historical, and theoretical approaches to literature and the creative process. In so doing, we affirm the importance of creating and carefully understanding all forms of discourse. This affirmation occurs in part by embracing a catholic definition of literature that includes poetry, fiction, non-fiction, multimodal composition, and film. We also value well-crafted arguments, sophisticated analyses, elegant writing, and thoughtful engagement with research. We help students hone their critical thinking and writing skills in ways both creative and practical. Students apply these skills in courses and in writing for *The Bulletin* and other campus publications, tutoring in the Writing Center, and presenting their work at conferences. Graduates from the English Department have gone on to pursue careers in writing, teaching, law, editing, publishing, and the tech sector.

Upcoming Events

Visiting Writer's Series

Yusef Komunyakaa

Poetry

January 25, 2018, 7:30pm

Hemmingson Ballroom

Marie Howe

Poetry

March 6, 2018, 7:30pm

Cataldo Globe Room

Gonzaga Reads

With Jessica Halliday and

Michael and Gail Gurian

Award Winners

Various genres

March 25, 2018, 7:30pm

Wolff Auditorium

**All Events
are FREE!**