

Kari Keech-Babcock, B.A. Professional Writing, 2011

By Megan Siers

Administrative Assistant, Royal Winnipeg Ballet School

You never know where life may take you or what job you may find, but an English degree is a versatile tool that can translate to any market, even ballet. Just ask Kari Keech-Babcock!



Keech-Babcock (2011) graduated from Western Kentucky University with a BA in English and a concentration in professional writing. In 2012, she married her husband and moved with him to Winnipeg, Manitoba, which borders part of North Dakota and Minnesota. After immigrating to Canada, she applied for an administrative assistant position with the [Royal Winnipeg Ballet School](#). Having worked for an insurance company prior to graduating, she knew she could work in an office setting and thought the position would “be a great job to get [her] foot in the door with the company.”

Little did Keech-Babcock know that—after only eight months—she would be promoted to interim professional division registrar. Along with the professional division’s task of training students from around the world for potential careers in ballet, she now works closely with “students, their families, [and] the school’s artistic faculty to ensure that everything runs smoothly and successfully.” She uses her English degree every day to help her when writing “difficult letters to families for things like late payments and non-acceptance letters.” Her degree also assists her in letters for grant and tax purposes. She feels that her time at WKU gave her the ability to meet short and strict deadlines, to be more flexible, and to be a well-rounded employee.

Her advice to all English majors is as follows: “Always learn new things and try new things career wise. Sometimes the field you think you might not fit into turns out to be a great experience. After graduation, I felt like my career field was limited, and now I know that it is quite the opposite. Embrace your time at Cherry Hall and learn to develop your skills. If you don’t get the job you dream of, apply for a smaller job within the company and work your way up.” Keech-Babcock didn’t let the fact that “ballet

school” and “English degree” don’t normally go together stop her, and she couldn’t be happier.

