

Cindy Childress, Ph.D. B.A. English Language & Literature, 2000

By Megg Wright & Max Chambers

The Expert's Ghostwriter & Founder, Childress Business Communication

"Being broadly educated has allowed me to continually reinvent myself when life happens."



Dr. Cindy Childress graduated from WKU with a BA in English Language and Literature in 2000. Childress pursued her MA in Modern British and American Literature at University of South Florida and completed a PhD in English with a creative dissertation at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She is the founder and CEO of [Childress Business Communication](#), where she has ghostwritten three Amazon bestsellers in the past two years.

Childress always knew she wanted to study English. She chose WKU for the Department of English and unique campus atmosphere. "It was smaller than some campuses I considered, which I liked, but it was also big enough to have an interesting schedule of speakers and workshops and felt vibrant."

Childress planned to become an English professor, but her courses at WKU showed her the wide range of career options that an English degree provides. "Introduction to Creative Writing with the late Mary Ellen Miller [was] when I realized I had some talent to be developed as a creative writer, in addition to my critical reading skills. Dr. Dale Rigby's Advanced Writing Class was also a pleasant surprise about what could constitute 'writing,' and the practice of self-writing has served me very well, both when I write my newsletter and when I write my clients' stories for them." Childress also thanks her advisor Walker Rutledge for helping her "think outside the box and choose a more diverse education than I would've on my own."

After earning her PhD, Childress moved to Balikpapan, Indonesia, where she became president of the Balikpapan International Women's Organization. She then moved to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where she served as the President of the [American](#)

Association of Malaysia. After returning to the United States in 2014, Childress worked for the personal training business The Perfect Workout, eventually becoming the Senior Vice President of the Client Experience Center. Her technical writing work there inspired her to form Childress Business Communication in 2017.

As the Founder and “Expert Ghost Writer,” Childress writes and edits books for clients, in addition to developing sales and marketing for her own business. In addition to ghostwriting, Childress is organizing a Write Your Book in Paris retreat and a Journey of Poetry 6-week class at Writespace Houston, both planned for Fall 2019. While Childress isn’t surprised to be thriving outside her collegiate career, she says, “I never thought I would be in Houston with a six-figure business before I was 40.”

Childress wants to remind current English students that each writing discipline is valuable in their future career. “Poetry makes me better at copywriting, fiction makes me a better storyteller, and directing endless freshman essays makes me amazing at overseeing stages of the writing process for the books I ghostwrite and edit.” She also passes along the advice she was given as an undergraduate at WKU. “Investigate any areas of study that you find interesting, and almost any field of study is going to relate back to the English major and literature in some way, so take all your coursework and learning opportunities seriously.”

