

Teresa Witcher, M.A. Teaching English as a Second Language, 2014

By Caroline Mason

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“The opportunity to think with another mind is my preferred mode of travel.”

- Eula Biss



Teresa Witcher graduated from WKU with her master’s in English in December 2014. With a concentration in TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language), she quickly felt right at home in the English department. She currently works as an international academic advisor at Iowa State University.

Graduation was a very hectic time for Witcher and was, initially, far from ideal. After defending a graduate thesis only a week prior and immediately having to apply for internships and other opportunities, she wasn’t able to fully reflect on and revel in her many accomplishments. She had always been very focused on her goals. When she entered the program, she knew she wanted to succeed, graduate, and teach in South Korea, and she figured the rest would work itself out. She was right.

Witcher was excited about the possibility that she would find herself in a place she never even expected. She credits her opportunities of working in the Writing Center in Cherry Hall, the graduate program as a whole, and her experiences living in South Korea with properly preparing her for her current position.

While she loves being able to work with government agencies to advise students, she is still looking to grow, learn, and one day have a position in a government agency that she now cooperates with. Her degree, coupled with vital personal experience, helps push her forward in a direction that goes far beyond the common English major career paths.

Looking back on her college career, Witcher is very adamant that all students should immerse themselves in as many different areas of study as possible. She is a firm believer that this not only makes you a more rounded person, but it can help you in

ways you may not understand or even know about yet. “Be realistic about the outside world and where you’re heading. Not everyone can be a published writer or a tenured professor, but that doesn’t mean that you can’t still find something that lights the fire in your belly every morning.”

In her time at WKU, she became very involved in gender studies and used her interest and knowledge to make her literature courses more meaningful and memorable. Her personal feminist interest led her to now serve on a committee that addresses sexual assault prevention. Her passion also encouraged her to become an advocate for the Green Dot program that discusses violence prevention and intervention on college campuses. Witcher strongly advises any and all to find a cause they are passionate about and act to affect positive change.

Witcher’s personal experiences both in and outside the classroom has allowed her many opportunities to utilize her own skills as an English major and be a part of something that she truly loves.

