

# Hannah Good, B.A. English Professional Writing, 2019

By Zoha Shahbaz

## Designer, Comics & Illustrated Reporting *The Washington Post*



*"I often say I could get raptured tomorrow and someone could read my workflow procedures and know exactly how to do my job. I use my Professional Writing degree every day to standardize our workflow practices, conduct newsroom trainings, and communicate efficiently with freelancers around the world (everywhere from [Chennai, India](#), to [Davao City, PH](#), and [right here in the DMV](#)). I also have to [present frequently in front of audiences](#), so I use my PW skills to create audience-centric presentations. Dr. Jones also taught me how to write THE most efficient emails in the world, so that's a big bonus."*

Hannah Good graduated from Western Kentucky University in 2019 with a major in English and a minor in Journalism. After graduation, Good accepted a job offer in Washington, D.C. and began working for *The Washington Post* as a comics designer.

Good started her college career at a private liberal arts college but realized that it was not a fit for her and would have put her in great debt. Therefore, she chose WKU to continue her career in English. Good states that "the turning point came during a campus tour when I sat in on a Chaucer lecture in Dr. Langdon's class. My eyes widened with glee as she read 'The Wife of Bath's Tale' in the original Middle English and the class discussed it animatedly. It was the best decision of my life."

In the beginning, Good was not sure about possible careers when she chose English, but Professional Writing "felt like a safe bet that could dovetail into many careers" and aligned with various interests Good had, such as rhetoric, grammar, linguistics, and writing. During her time at WKU, Good took a number of courses but found Dr. Jones's capstone class to be most helpful. "The client projects, mock job interviews and resume exercises were indispensable to the jobs I later pursued," Good stated. She says that it was in Dr. Jones's capstone class where she was introduced to the *Talisman*, which she said "changed the trajectory of my life."

Good decided to get involved in many different things at WKU while pursuing her English degree. "The WKU *Talisman* was the most important to me. The hours I spent in

that office gave me indispensable experience in writing, editing and curating journalism. It provided a safe space to experiment, create, and fail (sometimes miserably) in the pursuit of becoming a better storyteller and person,” Good said.

Good mentioned how there were various professors that helped her along the way while she was pursuing her English degree at WKU. “Dr. Rice and Cierra Waller mentored me through my various major changes. Dr. Jones introduced me to so many alumni and taught me how to negotiate a salary (this should be a standard lesson for ALL college students). Dr. Branham taught me what kind of person I want to be, encouraging me to think deeply and with empathy, which shaped my politics and ethics forever.”

Now that Good has graduated and has begun working a full time job in *The Washington’s Post* design department, her everyday tasks consist of commissioning and editing projects told through illustrated storytelling and comics. “I’m pursuing projects with teams across *The Post*, including our World desk, Health & Well+Being, Local, and Business & Technology. I’m also working with my Design colleagues to create a Comics Style Guide to standardize our comics conventions,” says Good.

Aside from all that, Good enjoys distance running, reading comics, playing with her bunny Emmylou, roller skating, dancing at shows around the city, cooking vegan food, and playing the *Legend of Zelda* on her Switch. Her recent favorite book is [Shubeik Lubeik](#) by Deena Mohammad. Good intends on staying in the position she is in right now and ultimately hopes to become a visual enterprise editor.

