

Seth Dukes, B.A. English Professional Writing, 2015

By Lauren Bunch, Megan Dunn, John Reecer, & Madelyn Chambers

Newsroom Coordinator, Meade County Messenger

"The skills I have learned in the professional writing program, specifically in the capstone class, helped me get a job which leads me to very interesting places."



Seth Dukes graduated from WKU in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in Professional Writing and a minor in Literature. In June 2019, he left his position as the Editor of the [McLean County News](#) and became the Newsroom Coordinator for the [Meade County Messenger](#), which provides local and regional news to residents of Meade County, Kentucky.

Dukes says he was first attracted to journalism because he "loves writing, and journalism allows [him] to write every day." He also emphasizes that not having a journalism degree had little bearing on his entry into journalism. The skills he developed as an English major, especially in his professional writing classes, created a smooth transition to journalistic writing, and the skills he learned in the Department of English at WKU made him an attractive candidate for a journalism job.

Dukes started out as a reporter for the [Leader-News](#) in March of 2016. Three months later, the previous editor of the [Ohio County Times-News](#) retired, and Dukes was promoted to the role of editor there. Dukes was the editor of the *McLean County News* and wrote feature articles for Owensboro, Kentucky's [Messenger-Inquirer](#) until June 2019, when he was offered the position of Newsroom Coordinator at the *Meade County Messenger*.

Dukes' position as Newsroom Coordinator will involve duties similar to his previous editorial positions. "(I will be) writing articles, taking photos and covering the community in every aspect from fiscal court to feature stories," said Duke. Although he never expected to work in journalism, Dukes credits his time at WKU with leading him

to a career he vastly enjoys. “When I graduated college, I didn't picture myself involved in journalism at all. Now, it's hard to imagine doing anything else.”

Reflecting on his time on the hill, Dukes said he wishes he had taken advantage of WKU's study abroad opportunities. He shared his belief that studying abroad “is an experience that every undergraduate should have.” When asked if he had any advice for incoming freshmen, he reiterated the important role of academic advisors. “Your advisor is more than just the person who removes the hold on your account so that you can register for classes,” Dukes explained. “Get advice from them!” He also suggests that soon-to-be English graduates should compile their work into a portfolio to provide examples of their skills to potential employers.

