

Elizabeth Garrett, M.A. English Creative Writing, 2014

By Melissa Hayden

English Teacher, Dallas County High School

Elizabeth (Burke) Garrett of Hardinsburg, Kentucky, studied English at Western Kentucky University and received an MA in Creative Writing in 2014. In 2013, Elizabeth participated in the annual WKU Gender and Women's Studies Contest and won for her creative non-fiction piece "Chore." She continues to hone her skills in creative writing. Most of her work currently is for personal pleasure.



Garrett chose WKU's creative writing program for several reasons. She loves the location and atmosphere of the campus. She also likes that WKU's English department has a connection to Robert Penn Warren, and therefore has a deep affiliation with the Kentucky storytelling tradition. All in all, she feels that WKU was a great fit for her personality and desire to pursue creative writing.

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She advises that current English students think creatively about their options and always stay positive in their educational endeavors. She believes that the best way to get the most out of WKU's English program is to become involved in the community and get to know the professors.

Garrett used her experience in WKU's English department to launch a career as a teacher once she moved to Alabama to be close to family. The fact that a local school needed an English instructor was "serendipitous," and Elizabeth took full advantage of the situation, since her English education provided her with adaptability and versatility. She currently teaches freshmen, juniors, and seniors at Dallas County High School.

She attributes her education at WKU for providing her with "the credibility and content authority needed to obtain the position." Her education gives her the knowledge of how to break language down for her students. She knows the questions to ask her

students in order to coach them into asking their own questions about their writing, thus strengthening their command of the English language.

Her degree has also provided her with perspective. Alabama is a state that is deeply entrenched in history. Garrett thinks that being able to have an open mind about that history and its implications is necessary to reach students and that her creative writing concentration helps her achieve that status.

