

Teresa Witcher, Class of 2014

By Caroline Mason



International Academic Advisor at Iowa State University

*"The opportunity to think with another mind
is my preferred mode of travel."*

- Eula Biss

Teresa Witcher graduated from the WKU Graduate School with her Masters 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, it wasn't until later that she was 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, 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 perhaps she never even expected. She credits her opportunities of working in the Writing Center in our very own Cherry Hall, the graduate program as a whole and her experiences living in South Korea to have properly prepared her for her current position.

While she loves being able to work with a number of 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.

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.

“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.”

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.