



Jacky Killian

Class of 2014

**Professional Writing
Major and Literature Minor**

By: Tyler Keeton

“We write to taste life twice, in
the moment and in retrospect.”
— Anaïs Nin

Jacky Killian graduated in December 2014, with a degree in English. A [Professional Writing](#) Major and [Literature](#) Minor, Killian is extremely well-versed in the world of writing as a brand and business. He had one internship through Western Kentucky University’s [English Department](#), and has since went on to conquer the globe – quite literally.

Killian explains, “I’m currently halfway through a one-year contract teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) at [North China Electric Power University](#) in Boading, Hebei Province, China. I try to teach them about life in America and expose them to things they may not normally see, such as Bluegrass music.” Killian believes many foreign perceptions about the U.S. come from the media (in the film and television industry), and those perceptions do not necessarily give the rest of the world an accurate depiction. He says, “The university gives me some freedom to design the course, so it’s been a great time to develop organization and leadership skills.”

Killian’s classroom routine, in his own words, is “as well-oiled as a first time teacher can get it.” A typical class session starts with a

writing prompt to warm the students up, get them to think in English, and let them practice writing in the language. A lecture typically follows, relating to average American life and culture, followed by an activity to get the students talking to each other in English. Killian explains that “Once a routine gets going, it’s pretty easy to manage the class. I’m also young enough to remember what it was like being a student, and interning for the English Major’s Weblog—boy howdy, was it fun.”

Killian interned for the [English Majors’ Weblog](#) (prior to being renamed *First Floor Cherry*). In the fall of 2014, Dr. [Angela Jones](#) assisted Killian in getting the position. He began working under the direction of Professor [Terrence Elliott](#), who was in charge of the English Majors’ Weblog at the time. Elliott urged Killian to follow a semester-long prompt: “What does it mean to be an English major?” Killian reflects: “He gave me as much creative freedom as I liked. I went nuts. I interviewed professors, wrote about [Bill Nye’s visit](#) to WKU, interviewed students from other programs about the impact of English...and I enjoyed every minute of it.” In the height of the internship experience, Killian was blogging two to three times a week. This sparked him to start his own passion project, “[Jacky the Nerd’s Blog](#).”

Now, in February 2016, Killian is halfway through his current teaching contract, and is constantly planning for the future. “I’m not sure what my future holds, but I’m working on some novels (500 words a day gets novels and blog posts written), and I plan on maybe using some of the money I’ve been saving to start my own sewing business selling handmade plush dolls and other sewn goods. Or I might go to graduate school and continue my teaching career. The world is full of possibilities.”