

Sarah Miller

Class of 2016

**Professional Writing Major and
Folklore Minor**

By: Tyler Keeton



“Writing is the high alchemy of the soul
that combines words and ideas to
create magic.”
— Sharif Khan

Sarah Miller is on track to graduate this coming semester, in spring 2016. Miller began her time at WKU as a photojournalism major, but later switched to English, of which she states, “Was the best choice I think I could have made for myself. The amount of personal growth and skill development that I've achieved through the [English Department](#) is honestly amazing!”

Miller had doubts about her ability to effectively write until she received encouragement from one of the most influential teachers in her academic career, Dr. Angela Jones. Dr. Jones mentioned the possibility of an internship in its initial creation stage, and followed up with Miller over the course of the 2015 spring semester. Miller says, “I am so thankful that I agreed, because interning for the English Department was the most rewarding college experience I have had to date.”

Miller had the opportunity to be the [Alumni Profile](#) Writer intern, where she took data from [Alumni Surveys](#), contacted alumni, and then wrote profiles about their lives after graduation. She used both survey answers and interviews conducted over email or

telephone to write the profiles. Her interview questions pertained to the information provided in the survey and expanded upon ideas such as career choice and their time at WKU. On a personal note, Miller “found that the interviews tended to give much more information and led to different ideas and points” that inspired her for her own career. She says, “I have had the opportunity to improve my written and oral communication, professional writing skills, and had a work experience that will benefit me beyond my college experience.”

In previous work experiences, Miller had been in a customer service field that did not require much written communication. Being able to work with writing was something she wanted to have before graduation, and her internship gave her just that. “Writing papers for a class feels very different than writing for an internship to me. I felt that I had a higher degree of accomplishment when I had completed these profiles than I had for documents composed for classrooms.” Miller considered her experience as more of a job than a simple course assignment. She says, “I feel that this is something that future employers would see as relevant to working in a professional setting as well.”

It is Miller’s hope that her experiences with the English Department will be of benefit to her into a future career in public relations. The level of communication, reaching out, and synthesis of information has given Miller ample opportunities to sell herself to future employers. She says, “Writing for a specific intent and tailoring interviews for content is another component that I believe will help me to understand working with clients to boost their brand and connect with audiences in a public relations position.” She believes the educational opportunities she has had are exactly what she needs to construct the beginning of a five-year plan for herself.

Miller is also interning this semester at the [Office of Scholar Development](#), where she hopes to further her writing and editing abilities. Working one on one with students will be “a new and exciting opportunity” for her. In reflecting on her time at WKU, she says, “I also have the English Department to thank for helping me develop the abilities and confidence to take on a second internship that will help me beyond my time left on the hill.”