

An Unforeseen Passion

Most English majors have a unique connection with literature from childhood. They read and analyze pieces in a way that others are not able to. Katherine Bateman is different than most English majors.

Her voice lightens as she speaks about her hopes to teach college level English in the future.

Bateman has not always recognized her connection with literature. She entered the college as a Pre-Med student, completely unaware of what the next few years would bring. It was not until her junior year, while taking a few English courses, that she realized her deep passion for reading and analyzing.

"I think that's really for the first time my relationship with literature actually existed and started to grow," stated Bateman. "And you know, became this late love in life. There was no turning back."

Now, she is a graduate student at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington seeking her masters degree in English with hopes of later earning a PhD.

Upon earning the Wentworth Fellowship, she chose to travel to South America- specifically using the scholarship money in Argentina. In January she travelled to study Victoria Ocampo, a writer who is seen as key to the women's movement in Argentina. Ocampo is also the founder of the literary magazine *Sur*.

Bateman feels a connection with Ocampo's pioneering movements and leaped at the opportunity to travel to South America. "I don't know. I wanted to learn more about her...I guess that was the motivation (for travelling)."

During Bateman's Wentworth travel she toured Buenos Aires and Beccar, the town where Ocampo grew up. Bateman made note to visit Ocampo's grave and family home- Villa Ocampo- now preserved as a museum in honor of her literary contribution and that of many other Argentinian authors. "Just to be able to walk and see where she grew up and...stayed was a really just a neat experience."

For her first visit to South America, Bateman decided to make a trip of it. She traveled with her sister to Machu Picchu, Peru and Argentina- Buenos Aires, Beccar, and Ushuaia (the southern most tip of the country).

"It's all about traveling, going out of your comfort zone. Its about exploring, having an adventure. As well as connecting with literature," stated Bateman.