

**ECC ARTS & HUMANITIES**  
**ENGLISH & MEDIA STUDIES ALUMNI**





## KAREN BUTTERFIELD BUSINESS OWNER

### **Current Hometown:**

Union, Missouri

### **High School/Hometown:**

Union High School

### **ECC Class of 2008**

Associate of Arts, Emphasis in Liberal Studies

### **Webster University**

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism

### **What made you choose to continue your education at ECC?**

In high school, I earned a scholarship to Southeast Missouri State University to study in their newer polytechnic building. I went directly from high school, but after one semester, I knew I had chosen the wrong major. My scholarships didn't transfer outside of the polytechnic program, and to continue studies there would have been cost prohibitive. I loved the school and my time there, but I also had the A+ scholarship and time to use it.

### **How did you determine your major?**

In school, I had two strong interests: computer aided drafting and design (CADD) and journalism. Looking back, I had the most incredible teachers in both courses who encouraged and supported these interests. I even attended a journalism camp at the University of Missouri-Columbia (Mizzou), where I became excited about a future in journalism. After I realized drafting was more of a hobby than a future career path for me, journalism was my natural choice.

### **Was there a challenge that you faced in your educational career?**

I faced many challenges during my educational journey, two of which stand out most. As a first-generation college student, the financial aid process was foreign. It was not something I was confident working through. I remember filling out the FAFSA paperwork and being selected for an audit, which felt overwhelming. I knew my chosen field wasn't high-paying, and navigating the cost portion was a significant factor in choosing to go to ECC and transfer to another institution, rather than continue at a four-year institution.

In my first semester at ECC, I became pregnant with oldest son, and at the same time, I became a "nontraditional student." I was sick during my pregnancy, so even attending classes was a challenge. My husband was working full-time, so to accommodate our schedules, I attended classes starting at 7:40 a.m. One of my closest friends and I switched days. For an entire semester, she watched my son until my classes ended. Creative arrangements and odd class times continued throughout my college career so I could meet both my family and educational objectives.

### **Do you have any favorite memories of your time at ECC?**

I was able to explore journalism by freelance writing for The Cornerstone. Little did I know that my future would include a ton of freelance work. I got to experience managing deadlines, writing op-eds and exploring topics I wouldn't have in other courses. It provided an outlet that I truly enjoyed. Later, when I covered the college as a beat reporter, I was able to work closely with the ECC trustees and President, Dr. Jon Bauer. I was honored to meet and have a 1:1 with then-governor Jay Nixon, former Sen. Claire McCaskill, and others. I toured and wrote about Hansen Hall, the new Business and Industry Center, and I was honored to receive the News Media Award at the 2017 Missouri Community College Association banquet.

### **Current Career**

I currently own my own copywriting business, KE Butterfield.

### **What does a "normal" day at your job look like?**

My job is copywriting, so I spend each day working on writing content for my clients. I have clients across

the country in a variety of industries, from an ed-tech enterprise solution company to cybersecurity, public policy, tourism, retail, web developers and others. I write everything from video scripts to blogs, case studies, product descriptions, press releases, media kits, brochures, marketing collateral, social media posts and more.

A significant portion of my day also goes to running the business: project management, communicating with new and potential clients, updating websites, invoicing, working with vendors, attending meetings, and updating social media. I also have some freelance writers I manage.

### **If you've had other jobs in your field, share other positions (how you got to where you are now).**

Webster University required J School students to have an internship. I was commuting to Webster Groves, and I wanted something closer to home. My advisor at Webster had a connection to The Missourian, and I was able to secure an internship there my final semester at Webster.

The Missourian kept me on as an intern over the summer, and then offered me my first full-time job as a general assignment reporter. During my tenure at The Missourian, I covered everything from the Washington and Union park boards to the Union School Board of Education, Washington Bridge Committee, Washington Annexation Committee, East Central College, planning and zoning boards, you name it. I became the Union Missourian Editor in 2017, following in the footsteps of Gregg Jones. I covered the entire city, from crime to schools, and everything in between. In early 2018, I was recruited to serve as the Director of Communications for a boutique healthcare executive recruiting firm in Clayton. The company was acquired the following year, and when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, healthcare executive recruiting took a hit. As a result, I was furloughed with many of my colleagues companywide. I started my own copywriting company to try and fill in the gap while I searched for a new role amid the pandemic. To my delight and surprise, my company took off. It turns out, businesses of all sizes are looking for solid writers, and the pandemic eliminated barriers of working remotely and working from home. Some need help for a single project, while others are retained for ongoing marketing materials, website copy, product descriptions, newsletters, case studies, or blogs.

My career has come full circle. In working for someone else, I craved job security that I thought I couldn't have in working for myself. In two years, I've

been able to build a thriving business, a community of "colleagues," mentors, clients and friends. Like when I worked for the newspaper, I get to learn new things each day and tell stories, albeit in a different way than before.

### **What are your proudest accomplishments up to this point?**

Overall: My son is now a sophomore in high school and he's an amazing, kind, intelligent human who I admire greatly. I have two babies (ages 2 and 1) who have huge shoes to fill. These three and my husband are my whole world. It sounds trite, but I would be nothing without my family, and everything I do is to make our lives better and more enriching.

Professionally: I have been honored with multiple state-level writing awards, and I received an honorable mention at the national level. I also received a number of awards for my photography in The Missourian. Launching my business and making it work has been a labor of love. I'm incredibly grateful for incredible clients, referrals, being able to work from home, and the support I've received from all directions. I would have never guessed where I would be today, but I can't imagine anything else.

Personally: I was named Young Kiwanian of the Year in 2019. I served as the Union Kiwanis Club president in 2020. I served the Franklin County Area United Way Board of Directors from 2018-2020. I was nominated as Outstanding Young Person through the Union Area Chamber of Commerce (but didn't win. It was still a huge honor!). My husband and I have a solid marriage, amazing kids, and we're building a beautiful life.

### **Are you involved in any professional/nonprofit organizations?**

I have been a member of the Union Kiwanis Club since 2015.

I served the United Way from 2018-2020.

### **Do you have any thoughts about the value of studying the Humanities?**

My best advice is to do what interests you, but don't get caught up in the details. There are so many things you can do when you have a strong grasp of language, so don't limit yourself. Written expression isn't at a point where it can be outsourced overseas

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## VICTORIA KNIGHT DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES

**Current Hometown:**  
Columbia, Missouri

**High School/Hometown:**  
Washington, Missouri

**ECC Class of 2014**  
Associate of Arts, Emphasis in English

**University of Missouri - Columbia**  
Bachelor of Arts in English; Master's of Library Science

### What made you choose to continue your education at ECC and at your transfer school?

ECC was always a part of my life, as my mom worked in the bookstore. I loved attending the summer camps as a kid, and spending time on campus with my family at various events and theater performances. I was lucky enough to participate in the A+ program in high school, which provided two free years of community college. I knew I wanted to attend the University of Missouri, so it just made perfect sense to get those gen ed credits done in a small campus community I already knew I loved.

### How did you determine your major?

I knew going into ECC that I wanted to work in libraries, and after doing a little research, I found out that you should get a degree in an area you enjoy, but that might also help you later down the road, if you ever wanted to be a subject specialist. I always liked reading and analyzing literature, so becoming an English major seemed like an easy choice.

### Was there a challenge that you faced in your educational career?

Math was always difficult for me, and when I started at ECC, I needed to take a lot of math credits before I could get into College Algebra. I basically started from the bottom, and worked in a self-paced math course online, and took the tests in the Learning Center. I stopped by for tutoring if there was something I wasn't getting, and used every resource offered to me from the Learning Center. I actually ended some of those math classes with A's, which had never happened before! I was finally able to get into College Algebra and passed it no problem.

### Do you have any favorite memories of your time at ECC?

ECC provided me with so many wonderful opportunities to explore various aspects of the humanities. I had an incredible film class with Leigh Kolb, and wonderful creative writing opportunities with Josh Stroup. I always enjoyed writing, but did it mostly as a hobby. While going to school there, I was published in the literary review a few times, presented original poetry at readings, and even won contests for original work. I never imagined I would feel comfortable enough to share my work so widely, but working with the incredible humanities faculty really made me feel confident and excited in what I was writing.

### Current Career

My currently job title is Director of Library Services at Reeves Library, which is the academic library at Westminster College in Fulton, Mo.

### What does a "normal" day at your job look like?

The great thing about my job is that every day is different. Now that I am a director, I am doing a lot more behind the scenes administrative duties, but I still get to work 1:1 with students and faculty needing help with projects or planning assignments. A lot of my day might be working with students who have research questions or who need help finding articles. The more administrative aspects of my job are creating and updating library policy and procedures, updating the collection with new digital and print titles, working with faculty to best utilize the library resources for classes, and working with library staff to plan new services and programs. The main thing I do every day is make connections. I get to help people find the right resource, or work with staff to help create a new program to making utilizing the library easier, or working with faculty to connect them with materials to help build their classes.

### Career History

I have had many other jobs in my profession, even at ECC! I was able to work as a student worker at the Library, which gave me such an incredible foundation for understanding the ins and outs of academic libraries. Working for the Library Director, Lisa Farrell, was such a great opportunity. When I started my MLS program, I was able to secure a Graduate Research Position working at Mizzou Libraries. I was able to use the knowledge I learned while working at ECC to help gain this position, and I truly believe securing the Graduate Reference position has made all of the difference in my career as a Librarian.

### What is your proudest accomplishment up to this point?

One of my proudest work accomplishments has been winning the Cynthia Hurd Memorial Scholarship to attend the Charleston Library Conference. The award was given to a Librarian helping promote diversity in their collections and programs, and was named after a Charleston Librarian who was a victim of the tragic shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC. The work submitted to win this award was a major project I started as collaboration with student groups to help promote materials that mattered to them. We would compile books, ebooks, website, infographics, films and more to help promote topics chosen by various groups on campus. Some of the topics featured were voting rights for Black Americans, LGBTQIA+ History in Missouri, Disability Awareness, and Hispanic Heritage.

While you don't always get to experience a large professional win like this every day, one thing I love about this job is you get to help individuals with so many interesting questions, each time you get a resource into the hands of someone who needs it, it feels like a major win.

### The Value of the Humanities

The things I learned throughout my years of studying the Humanities has been incredibly helpful. During my classes, I learned critical thinking skills, discovered different ways of thinking about the world and analyzing what is happening around me, as well as a greater passion for finding and sharing information that directly effects my day-to-day life. No matter the field you go into, I think being able to understand complex issues and learning to think critically about events and experiences is necessary for success. The humanities teach us so much more than reading and writing. It lays

a foundation that allows us to understand each other, our communities, and change things for the better.

### What advice would you share with a student starting on their journey at ECC?

Take advantage of every opportunity you can. As a person who now works in a student support role at a college, I see how little I took advantage of all the experts around me, and how few students do reach out when they really need help. Your professors, the Learning Center, the librarians, advisors and everyone else on campus want to see you succeed. Let them help you!

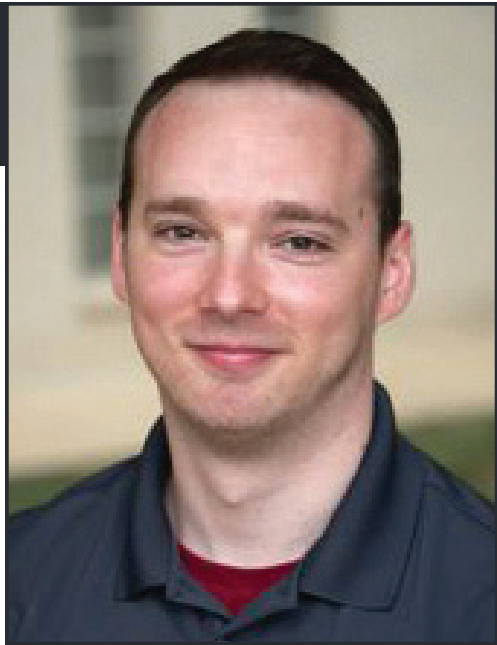
# 84%

Percentage of  
humanities majors  
who, a year after  
graduation, are  
satisfied with their  
choice of major



*From the American Academy's Humanities Report Card 2013*





## BRIAN JOSEPH FARRAR

### INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNER

**Current Hometown:**

St. Louis, Missouri

**High School/Hometown:**

Pacific/Robertsville, Missouri

**ECC Class of 2010**

Associate of Arts, Emphasis in English

**UMSL**

Bachelor of Arts in English (emphasis in Creative Writing)  
Master's in Education - Higher Education Administration  
(certificates in Professional Writing, Honors Certificate from UMSL's Pierre Laclède Honors College)

**Was there a challenge that you faced in your educational career? How did you overcome it?**

In primary and secondary school, I struggled to read and write. I was often at a reading level several grades below where I was supposed to be. So, deciding to major in English was probably not the most obvious path for me, but I was determined to prove to myself that I could succeed, even if it was going to be a little more challenging for me. I was also a first-generation college student, so I had to rely on learning the ends and outs of college myself. While I am very close with my parents, they made the decision early on not to be involved in my college career because they wanted to prepare me for the responsibilities of being an independent and self-sufficient adult after I was done with school. So, I dedicated myself to college as much as possible. Oftentimes, I felt like a college campus was my second home.

**Favorite memories of your time at ECC?**

The thing I am most proud of at ECC was when Professor Stroup awarded me with the English Student of the Year Award. Over a decade later, I still remember Mr. Stroup telling the audience, that I could become the next great American author.

I never did become a writer, but the confidence that speech and that award gave me pushed me to learn more, express myself in new ways, and stick up for my ideas.

**Current Career**

Instructional Designer for Ungerboeck, an event management software company located in O'Fallon Missouri.

**Career History**

After I graduated with my BA in English, I spent

several months teaching English to ESL students. From there, I worked my way into becoming a Program Coordinator for UMSL's Advanced Credit Program. After that, I found a passion for supporting online students, so I moved to Maryville University to become one of their first Online Life Coaches before transitioning to their growing instructional design team. After a few years of building online courses for college students, and a career dedicated to higher education, I was ready to try something new, which is when I moved to Ungerboeck, a software company.

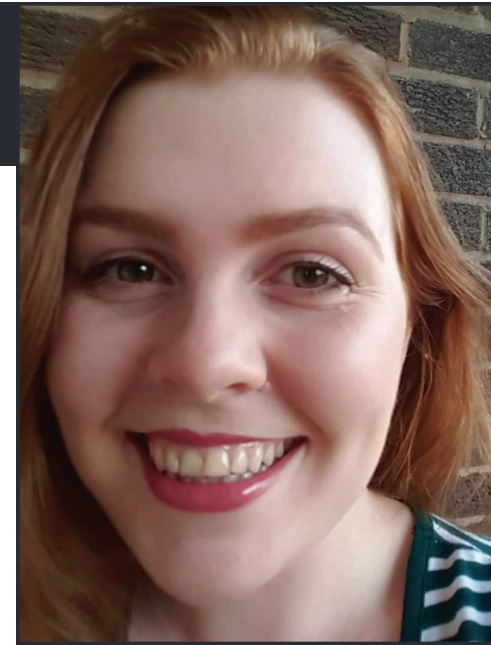
**The Value of the Humanities**

Without a doubt, I have used the skills and knowledge gained as an English major every single day of my career. Sometimes it is in obvious ways like writing emails, project proposal, or marketing campaigns; however, there are other times, like when I am coaching an SME through the content authoring process, that I see my educational background shining through. For example, we may be discussing how we can alter the composition of their materials to better suit the learning process, which would be difficult to communicate had I not written so many essays and stories in college, not to mention providing feedback to other writers in the classroom. In these moments, I am thankful for having the experiences I did as an English major.

**What advice would you share with a student starting on their journey at ECC?**

Be an explorer; search for new and impactful things both inside and outside of the classroom. Find good friends, books, mentors, projects, bands, advisors,

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## KELSI ANDERSON

### SENIOR DIGITAL DESK PRODUCER

**Current Hometown:**

Union, Missouri

**High School/Hometown:**

Cuba, Missouri

**ECC Class of 2014**

Associate of Arts, Emphasis in Media Studies

**University of Missouri's School of Journalism**

Bachelor of Print and Digital Journalism

**What made you choose to continue your education at ECC and at your transfer school?**

ECC was affordable (especially with the A+ program) and also nearby, so I got to live at home while attending, which saved me so much money. Mizzou seemed the obvious choice for transfer because of the articulation agreement between ECC and the Journalism school (I was the first person to make use of it!).

**How did you determine your major?**

I've always loved writing and telling stories, and journalism was a natural extension of that.

**Was there a challenge that you faced in your educational career? How did you overcome it?**

Probably continuing school full time while my dealing with my dad's terminal illness and eventual death.

It was definitely my biggest challenge but to be honest I couldn't tell you how I overcame it. I didn't choose to deal with it in a healthy way. I piled my coursework too high and pushed those feelings down until I graduated. If I could redo it I would have taken it easier on myself and give myself more time to work through my grief.

**Do you have any favorite memories of your time at ECC?**

Hanging out in the Cornerstone newspaper office with the rest of the crew. My boyfriend and I met there and are still together eight years later. It's also where I got to know Leigh Kolb, who ended up being my advisor and the best mentor you could ask for.

**Current Career**

Senior Digital Desk Producer at KSDK News

**What does a "normal" day at your job look like?**

When you're covering the news, it changes every day! But in short, I help tell the stories of what's impacting the community – I've just started my new role as a senior leader on the digital team, but my daily tasks in the newsroom have included just about every part of the news gathering and disseminating process, including writing, copyediting, video editing, editorial decision-making, news monitoring, communicating with officials and assigning crews.

**Career History**

I wrote for the Missourian newspaper and Mizzou's School of Engineering while I studied at Mizzou. KSDK was my first real job out of college. I started as a PA, moved up to the digital team, and recently was promoted to Senior Digital Desk Producer.

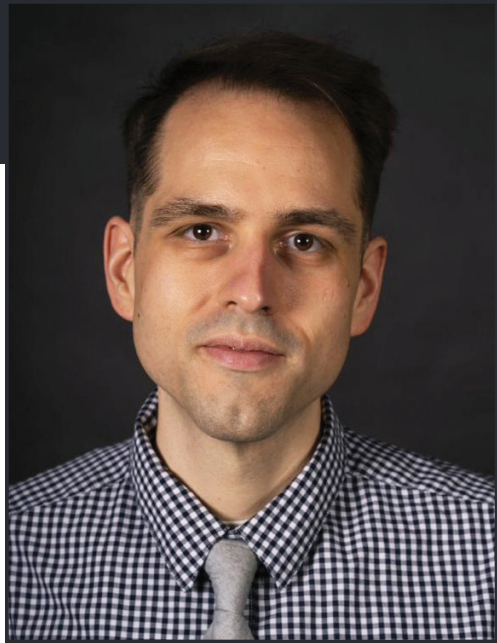
**What is your proudest accomplishment up to this point?**

I can't pinpoint one, but telling impactful stories is the most fulfilling part of my day-to-day work.

**What advice would you share with a student starting on their journey at ECC?**

Make the most out of it while you can but also make sure to take care of yourself.





# DANIEL SHULAR

## STAFF PHOTOJOURNALIST

**Current Hometown:**

Tulsa, Oklahoma

**High School/Hometown:**

St. Clair, Missouri

**ECC Class of 2011**

AAS in Graphic Design and Multimedia

**University of Missouri, St. Louis**

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography

**The University of Missouri School of Journalism**

Master's in Journalism

**What made you choose to continue your education at ECC and at your transfer school?**

I came to ECC with the A+ scholarship and it was the closest school to where I grew up. I took a lot of Art and Humanities classes while I was there, and the film photography classes were the ones I enjoyed the most. I found the photography program at UMSL. I did some freelancing before deciding I wanted to go to grad school at Mizzou to pursue journalism.

**How did you determine your major?**

At ECC I started out trying different classes because I had no idea what I wanted to do after I finished high school. Art classes were by far my favorite and had my favorite professors, so I went with that first. For my bachelor's degree I decided to concentrate on the type of art I liked doing most and thought I could get a job with after graduating. Before starting grad school, I wanted to use writing and storytelling skills I had developed together to get into journalism.

**Was there a challenge that you faced in your educational career? How did you overcome it?**

I was totally unprepared for college coming out of high school, and I almost dropped out because of my grades. Once I was able to figure out what I wanted to study I was able to pull my grades high enough that I went from academic probation at ECC to graduating with honors at UMSL.

**Do you have any favorite memories of your time at ECC?**

One of the coolest experiences of my life was going to London for an Art Club spring break trip with our professor, Adam Watkins. It was the first time I had left the United States and we visited several campuses that gave us an idea of what going to an

art school and studying abroad could be like.

**Current Career**

Staff Photojournalist at the Tulsa World in Tulsa, Oklahoma

**What does a “normal” day at your job look like?**

I have very few days where I know what I will be doing, and that's a part of my job I enjoy. It keeps me from being bored. During any given week I'm photographing, writing, or creating videos for digital and print. In the past year I have covered hyper local stories like community events and national stories like natural disasters and mass protests.

**Career History**

I just finished an internship at the Grand Rapids Press in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I have had photos, videos, and stories published as a freelancer by outlets like the New York Times, the Washington Post, NBC, and CNN. I have also worked in newsrooms at three different newspapers--the Hartford Courant, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the Grand Rapids Press

**What is your proudest accomplishment up to this point?**

My proudest accomplishment is probably having some of my video footage included in Spike Lee's BlackKkKlansman.

**What advice would you share with a student starting on their journey at ECC?**

Try studying classes outside of your major or just anything that sounds interesting if you're undecided. It will never be more affordable than at a community college.



# JAMIE FOUTCH

## UNIVERSAL BANKER

**Current Hometown:**

St. Clair, Missouri

**High School/Hometown:**

St. Clair, Missouri

**ECC Class of 2018**

Associate of Arts, Emphasis in English

**Truman State University**

Bachelor's in Creative Writing, Minor in Design

**What made you choose to continue your education at ECC and at your transfer school?**

I came to ECC first because it was local and affordable, but I stuck with it because I loved all the teachers I met and got to work with. They were all so supportive and truly helped push my interest in every subject they taught.

I kept up my education at Truman because I loved the people I met there and the campus. Plus, my professor that taught the Novel Workshop class I took is literally the only reason I'm basically done with the first draft of my novel, so it was worth it for her class alone.

**How did you determine your major?**

I absolutely adore studying and creating stories! I'm kind of a nerd about the craft behind writing/literature and so I of course wanted to study it more. It's just so fascinating and gives me this new, kind of wild/weird perspective on every piece of media I consume.

**Was there a challenge that you faced in your educational career?**

Coming from the background of being a gifted kid, I had some unreasonably high expectations and standards for myself when it came to my schoolwork. Over time, I just had to learn how to let them go by letting myself turn in projects late or turning them in before I felt truly satisfied with my work. I couldn't keep expecting myself to be up until way past midnight to finish every single project, so I had to learn to do my best and be satisfied with whatever work I could get done instead of trying to get an A on everything. It was honestly worth it, and I wish I had figured that out way earlier in my college career.

**Do you have any favorite memories of your time**

**at ECC?**

Literally every class I took with Leigh Kolb, Joshua Stroup, Adam Watkins, and Robert Mahon. They were all such amazing people with such supportive and open personalities. I can't explain how much I learned from them and how much I appreciate their efforts. (Honestly, all of my teachers were amazing and part of making my experience there wonderful.) I think one of my favorite memories of a specific class was my Creative Writing class with Joshua Stroup. All of the critiques were so in-depth and everyone always had something to say. Plus I kind of wrote a thriller-esque story, so seeing everyone get so passionate about it when my critique came around was really fun and affirming to my choice in major.

**Current Career**

Universal Banker 1 at Midland States Bank

**What does a “normal” day at your job look like?**

Right now I mainly work the teller line, handling deposits and withdrawals for customers, as well as make phone calls to make sure everything is going smoothly for them as well. When my training is over, I'll also be able to do things like open accounts and handle loans.

**What is your proudest accomplishment up to this point?**

After around eight years of work, I've (technically) finished the first draft of my book! It's still got some scenes I need to go back and finish, but I think +200,000 words is a reasonably length to call done at this point.

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## HAYLEY VAWTER

### DIGITAL DESK PRODUCER

**Current Hometown:**  
Union, Missouri

**High School/Hometown:**  
Union, Missouri

**ECC Class of 2019**  
Associate of Arts, Emphasis in Media Studies

**University of Missouri School of Journalism Class of 2021**  
Bachelor of Journalism, emphasis in print and digital news reporting, minors in women and gender studies and sociology, and multicultural certificate

#### What made you choose to continue your education at ECC and at your transfer school?

ECC had an articulation agreement with MU's journalism school, and I loved Columbia.

#### How did you determine your major?

I took ECC's Applied Journalism course with Leigh Kolb and fell in love with the field

#### Current Career

Digital desk producer at KSDK in St. Louis.

#### What does a "normal" day at your job look like?

Producing and managing digital content for the KSDK website, including writing and copyediting using AP Style, writing breaking news and looking for opportunities to create enterprise content to serve our audience.

#### Do you have any favorite memories of your time at ECC?

I loved Student Media with everyone in the course my first year at ECC. My favorite professors were Leigh Kolb and Josh Stroup and they both had a huge impact on how far I've come.

#### If you've had other jobs in your field, share other positions (how you got to where you are now).

In summer 2021, I worked as a student worker for the Columbia Missourian's social media/audience strategy department and loved it. .

#### What is your proudest accomplishment up to this point?

Graduating during a pandemic and getting a job in my degree area so soon after graduating.

#### The Value of the Humanities

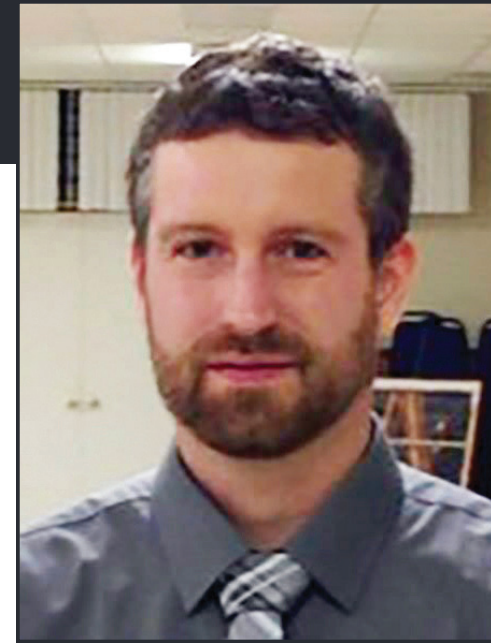
The Humanities are such an undervalued area of study. I truly believe studying Humanities is something that should be encouraged more in high school and early college years.

#### What advice would you share with a student starting on their journey at ECC?

Have fun! ECC has some great clubs and organizations that will make your experience there so much more meaningful.

Younger employers and employers with higher levels of educational attainment see greater value in civic skill-building, community-based and global experiences, and the civi and liberal arts emphases of a liberal education.

Source: AAC&U and Hanover Research's: How College Contributes to Workforce Success: Employer Views on What Matters Most



## MIKE THOMAS

### SPORTS EDITOR

**Current Hometown:**  
Hannibal, Missouri

**High School/Hometown:**  
Sullivan, Missouri

**ECC Class of 2015**  
Associate of Arts, Emphasis in Media Studies

**Webster University Class of 2017**  
Bachelor of Arts in Journalism

#### What made you choose to continue your education at ECC and at your transfer school?

ECC was close and affordable. It also helped me at the beginning stages of getting into journalism. I went to Webster because it is a good school for journalism and it had smaller class sizes where you can have more one-on-one time with your professors, opposed to a bigger university. Also, being located in St. Louis was a big selling point for me.

#### How did you determine your major?

I wanted to get into sports writing. I was in my late 20s at the time and took a chance on going back to school to work toward a degree.

#### Was there a challenge that you faced in your educational career?

I worked full-time during most of my collegiate years. At ECC, I had a job that required me to work a lot of overtime. I changed jobs when I started at Webster, but still worked around 35-40 hours a week.

#### Current Career

Sports editor for the Hannibal Courier-Post

#### What does a "normal" day at your job look like?

It's different day to day. I'll usually plan my day out in the morning and decide what I'm going to cover. Some days are longer than others, depending on what's going on.

#### Career History

My first job out of college was for a company called the Community Newspapers Group out of northeast Iowa. I started as a news and sports reporter for the Oelwein Daily Register and Independence Bulletin Journal. Within a year, I was promoted to sports editor.

I interned at the Webster-Kirkwood Times for a semester in fall 2017. At Webster University, I was a staff writer and later the sports editor for the Webster Journal.

#### What is your proudest accomplishment up to this point?

I recently won an award for best sports news story/package from the Missouri Press Association--first place for our coverage of Hannibal's trip to the football state championship game. I was also part of the Webster Journal staff that won best college newspaper in Missouri for the 2017 calendar year.

#### What advice would you share with a student starting on their journey at ECC?

This is specific to journalism, but try to branch out and do different types of stories. Learning how to write news stories helped open some doors for me that otherwise wouldn't have.





## BRITTNI CEBULAK

### GRANT WRITER

**Current Hometown:**

Gerald, Missouri.

**High School/Hometown:**

Owensville/Hermann (Bay/Mt. Sterling area)

**ECC Class of 2016**

Associate of Arts, Emphasis in English

**William Woods University Class of 2018**

Bachelor of Arts in English, Minor in Political Studies

**Southeast Missouri State University Class of 2020**

Master of Arts in English Studies

**What made you choose to continue your education at ECC and at your transfer school?**

After graduating high school, I didn't feel ready to leave home yet. But I knew I wanted to go to college. So ECC was a good option that allowed me to continue living at home while attending college. I chose William Woods to finish off my degree because it is a small school and also not too far from home. Because the school was so small, English students got a lot of individualized attention from our professors. We would often only have about three to five people in a single class. I decided to pursue my master's degree in Cape Girardeau at Southeast Missouri State University because I have grandparents that live in the area, so I was able to live with them while I pursued this higher degree. I decided to pursue a Master's degree after my BA degree because I was interested in pursuing a career teaching at the community college level.

**How did you determine your major?**

English was always my favorite (and my best subject) all throughout middle school and high school; I had always loved reading and writing, and so studying English in college seemed like a natural fit for me. At the time of beginning school at ECC, I thought that I would become a high school English teacher. So I basically just chose my major based on my love of the subject.

**Was there a challenge that you faced in your educational career?**

When I got to William Woods, my major started off as English Education. I found that I really disliked my education classes and I had to determine if I should stick with the program and change my major back to just English Studies. I didn't know what the right choice would be because I wasn't sure what kind of job I could get with just an English degree. But being in the Education courses was so miserable for me

that I eventually dropped those classes and became a full English Major again. I also started minoring in Political and Legal Studies. Dropping those courses was a big deal for me because I had never dropped out of a class before. It made me feel like a failure and I was second guessing myself a lot at that point in time. But it was worth it. That change ended up being the right choice for me. I got to take more literature courses. I also really enjoyed the political and legal courses. They added a lot of value to my education and helped develop my critical thinking and analytical skills, which came in handy for literary analysis. I learned how to write case summaries and draft policy proposals. I never would have had those experiences if I stayed in the education program.

**Do you have any favorite memories of your time at ECC?**

My memories from that time are kind of foggy, but I do remember several things from the African American literature course with Leigh Kolb. That was literally the first time I had ever really been exposed to Black writers, and it was the first time where I truly had to confront the difficult history of my country (a history that I wasn't even fully aware of until college!). I think that class was uncomfortable for students at times, but I took a lot away from the course. I ended up writing my senior portfolio project for my bachelor's degree over Langston Hughes work (the "Simple" stories) when I was at William Woods. It was at ECC where I was exposed to a critical race theory of literary analysis, so I think that course probably played into my choice of topic for my senior project.

I also had a creative nonfiction writing class that I really enjoyed with Sue Henderson. I have continued to write creatively over events in my life ever since that course. I enjoy creative nonfiction better than

creative fiction, which is primarily what I had been writing as a teenager. I think that course played a really important role in helping me process my mom's breast cancer diagnosis in 2015 and all of the associated hardships of growing up and letting go of childhood to embrace the more painful sides of growing up and moving on. I think I still have some more creative nonfiction work in me. My mom's cancer came back in 2020, and she died that December. I still haven't really fully processed that, but I do have some secret aspirations of writing a collection of creative nonfiction to help give voice and clarity to that incredibly painful life experience.

I enjoyed having Leigh Kolb as my advisor and professor for several of my classes at ECC. She made me feel like my efforts in my pursuit of English were worthwhile, and I reached out to her to discuss my concerns about my education courses at William Woods before I ended up dropping those to pursue only English and Political Science. She made me feel that it was okay to take that chance to drop those courses and strive forward with just a BA in English. I am still really thankful for that.

**Current Career**

Grant Writer at Preferred Family Healthcare

**What does a "normal" day at your job look like?**

Checking and responding to emails; checking the daily grants.gov listserv email for potential federal funding opportunities appropriate for my organization (most of our federal funding is from SAMHSA and HRSA); attending any scheduled meetings via GoogleMeets; reading through "RFPs" (Request for Proposals) and "NOFOs" (Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcements) to find all required elements for a proposal submission; making an outline of all the required components; finding previous narrative from older projects that could be recycled and revitalized for a current project; writing narrative in alignment with the program requirements per the RFP/NOFO; editing/proofreading narrative proposals; submitting proposal applications on the grants.gov workspace. If there is no current project at hand: we read through old submissions to find narrative to recycle for future projects, attend trainings/webinars to increase content knowledge of behavioral health to better inform our writing, review reviewer feedback from previous submissions to see where our strengths/weaknesses are and how we can improve in the future; work on organizing / streamlining our processes (we have a shared Google Drive folder and

have also started using SmartSheets for workflow tracking);

**Career History**

At William Woods, I served as a Writing Tutor in the Academic Success Center and also spent a semester as a Marketing and Communications intern with the University's Communications Department.

At Southeast Missouri State University, I served as a Writing Tutor in the Writing Lab and also gained experience teaching a section of English Comp I in the Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 semesters (in person and virtually during the pandemic)

**What is your proudest accomplishment up to this point?**

Finishing my thesis (Food, Consumption, and Nostalgia in Atwood's MaddAddam Trilogy) and surviving my Master's Degree

2020 Best Dissertation on Atwood and Her Work (<https://atwoodsociety.org/awards/>)

2020 Best Essay- Literati: An Annual Journal of Literary Studies ("Lost in Shadow: A Lacanian Analysis of Inspector Javert" - published in the Spring 2020 edition of the Literati Journal on campus; <https://www.southeastarrow.com/story/2670158.html>)

But speaking of nonprofits, I think it is important for students to realize that there is a wealth of job opportunities available with nonprofit organizations—and many of the positions are even remote. When I was in college, I never once considered the possibility of working for a nonprofit. It never crossed my mind. I was thinking I would either have to teach, get a government job somewhere in Jeff City, or resign myself to working retail/customer service somewhere. There really are a lot more opportunities out there than students might realize from where they are sitting right now.

*Continued on p. 33*





# CARSON MOWERY

## COORDINATOR OF CAMPUS LIFE AND LEADERSHIP

**Current Hometown:**  
Union, Missouri

**High School/Hometown:**  
Salem Senior High School, Salem, Missouri

**ECC Class of 2019**  
Associate of Arts, Emphasis in English

**Southeast Missouri State University**  
Bachelor of Arts in English Literature,  
minor in Small Press Publishing

**Lindenwood University**  
Master's in Higher Education

### How did you determine your major?

I knew from high school that I wanted to major in something English-adjacent, but until getting to ECC I thought my only option was teaching high school English (which I did not want to do). After taking a handful of literature and writing courses at ECC and getting to know the faculty, I learned more about the career options for English majors simply by building relationships with them and asking questions. This continued at SEMO.

### Was there a challenge that you faced in your educational career? How did you overcome it?

My primary obstacle in my educational career (outside of finishing my bachelor's degree remotely during a global pandemic) was originally rooted in not knowing what my options were as an English major. Had it not been for the knowledgeable faculty who were always willing to explore options with me, I may have changed my major due to feeling uncertain about the value of my degree. If institutions spent more time and money advertising the flexibility within those degrees and the invaluable skills acquired, I truly think more students would pursue those paths instead of being persuaded to go into business, healthcare, etc. due to pressures and myths about not being able to use that degree.

### Do you have any favorite memories of your time at ECC?

ECC was a fantastic place for me, and it really changed the trajectory of my life without me realizing it up front. Two of my favorite experiences were, naturally, the trips I took to London with the Art and Student Media groups. It's also where I met Leigh Kellmann Kolb, an outstanding individual who has been an advisor, mentor, colleague, and friend. I learned so much about myself while traveling and

they are forever some of my favorite memories. Dr. Patsy Watts was a major influence on me; when I took Women's Literature with her my first semester at ECC, I was sold on the English major life. Women's Literature is also where I met one of my now very best friends who will be in my wedding.

### Current Career

I am currently the Coordinator of Campus Life and Leadership for East Central College.

### What does a "normal" day at your job look like?

In my role, I am in charge of planning and executing student activities, New Student Orientations, advising Student Government Association, overseeing student organizations, and more. I also sit on or co-chair many committees, and I serve as the President of the Professional Staff Association. I use my English major skills by writing constantly (emails, proposals, research, social media, partnership inquiries, etc.) and by needing to be a phenomenal communicator.

### Career History

Before my current role, I worked primarily in journalism and marketing. From high school through my time at ECC as a student, I was an intern and then staff writer for Salem Publishing Company (who owns The Salem News and the Phelps County Focus). I also worked as a Learning Center Specialist for ECC, where I was the English and Writing specialist. From there, I worked as a marketing coordinator for Heartland Camps, and then a content creator for SEMO Marketing. I also worked through AmeriCorps and the Community Partnership of Southeast Missouri as a marketing coordinator and content strategist.

### What is your proudest accomplishment up to this point?

My proudest accomplishments might be the conference papers I have had accepted while in undergrad. Delivering presentations among big-time scholars is still one of the most intimidating experiences I've ever had, but I grew so much from that.

### Civic and Community Engagement

I am involved with Stories Matter, which "promotes the use of stories as a way for all people to understand themselves and others, both as unique and as members of a common community." I am also the facilitator of Dangerous Reads, a book club dedicated to reading frequently banned or challenged books. Professionally, I am a member of NASPA, the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

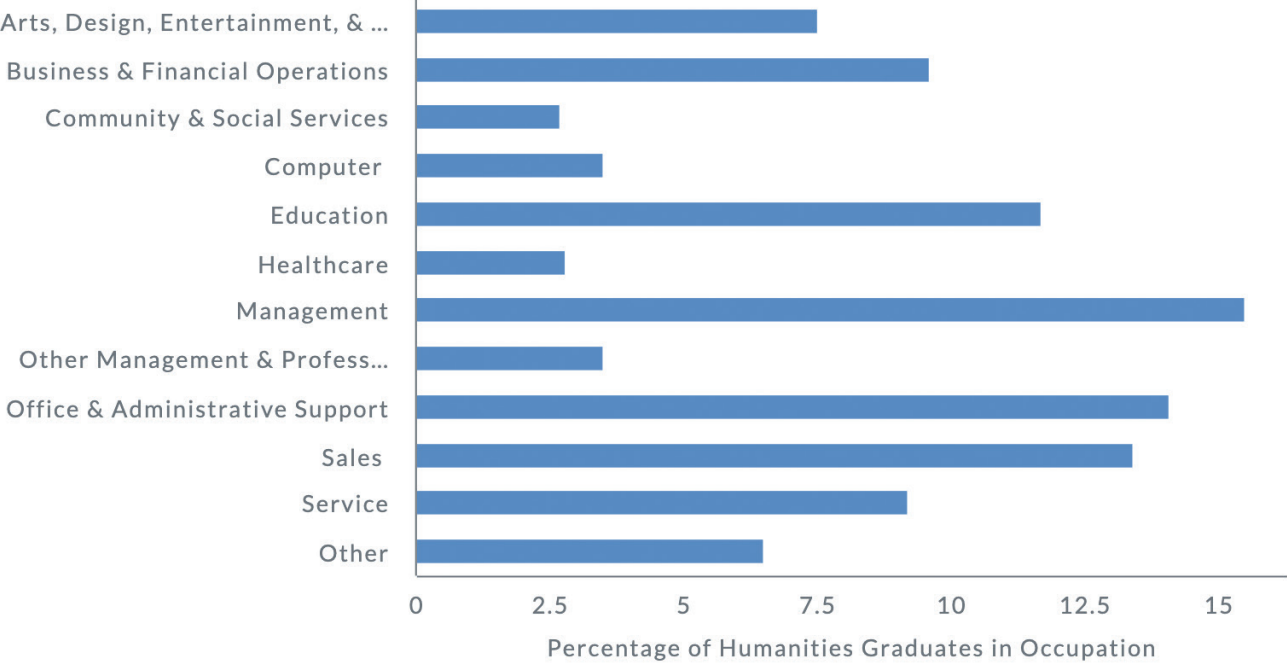
### The Value of the Humanities

I think that now more than ever we need the humanities. Of course, the professional and technical skills are essential, but the impacts of reading, media literacy, and more, extend far deeper into emotional and psychological levels that impact who we are as people, not just professionals. Reading has long been proven to cultivate empathy toward others, a component of which our society is in short supply.

### What advice would you share with a student starting on their journey at ECC?

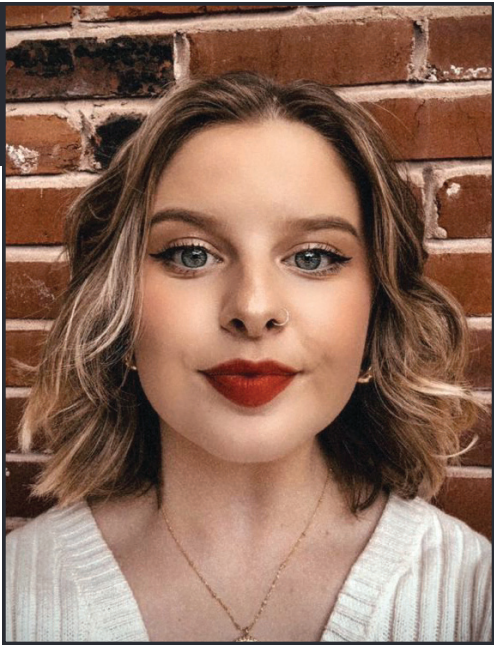
I would tell students to be open minded—to people, to classwork, to activities, everything. My best experiences at ECC came from being in situations where I was a little uncomfortable simply because I didn't know anyone, I was traveling, or I was learning something new. Opening myself up to sitting with that discomfort made the difference for me, and it allowed me to grow as an individual.

## Humanities majors are employed in a wide variety of occupations



Source: Humanities Indicators, 2018





# JENNIFER SOMERS

## DIGITAL DESK PRODUCER

**Current Hometown:**  
St. Louis, Missouri

**High School/Hometown:**  
Washington High School, Washington, Missouri

**ECC Class of 2018**  
Associate of Arts, Emphasis in Media Studies

**University of Missouri School of Journalism**  
Bachelor of Journalism, Minor in Sociology

**How did you determine your major?**

I've always had a love of English and reading growing up. When I reached high school, a teacher recommended I join the school's student newspaper because she was so impressed with my writing abilities, and a passion for journalism has stuck with me ever since.

**Was there a challenge that you faced in your educational career?**

The biggest obstacle I faced when I transferred to the University of Missouri, Columbia was coming into journalism classes where a majority of my classmates already know one another. Once I finished my first semester's prerequisite classes and was finally admitted to the School of Journalism, though, I formed some close connections with my classmates as we worked alongside one another at the Columbia Missourian. It just took some time to get adjusted to the move from community college to a giant university without the traditional freshman dorm situation.

**Do you have any favorite memories of your time at ECC?**

My favorite memory of East Central College was the student media club. That's where I met a lot of my friends during my time at ECC, and I loved the freedom and opportunity to create something in a very hands-on way.

Leigh Kolb is one of the most impactful teachers Throughout my time at ECC and beyond, she's served as an advocate for me and pushed me to become the hardworking journalist I am today. I enjoyed the opportunity to work with her on the student newspaper, especially during the semesters I didn't have any other classes with her.

**Current Career**

Digital Desk Producer for KSDK

**What does a "normal" day at your job look like?**

Although every day is different in the news business, I'll always be writing up breaking news stories for our website; managing the website, YouTube channel and social media accounts; monitoring analytics; and working with reporters to clip video from the broadcasts and copy edit the web stories that go along with their video packages.

**Career History**

Prior to KSDK, I worked as a digital content producer for WQAD News 8 in the Quad Cities, and I worked as a digital editor, designer, outreach member and reporter for the Columbia Missourian. I also was an infographic designer for Missouri Business Alert.

**What is your proudest accomplishment up to this point?**

I'm proud that I graduated with honors from the Missouri School of Journalism, landed a job that I was well qualified for within my industry and made it out of my hometown.

I'm also proud to be one of the founding members of WQAD's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, which works to create policies and outreach opportunities so that our station better represents the diverse communities within our coverage area.

My proudest accomplishment is that I was one of about 30 people chosen company-wide to be a part of an innovation summit to rethink our we do local broadcast journalism. I networked and brainstormed with people from TEGNA stations all over the country.

**What advice would you share with a student starting on their journey at ECC?**

Community college is a stepping stone. It is a great opportunity to save money and get a more gradual transition to college life. If you're still living at home, make sure you get involved in student organizations or clubs that keep you out of the house, help you socialize and give you more of the traditional college experience. If you plan on transferring to a four-year university, look into articulation agreements early in your time at ECC to experience the smoothest transfer process and spend the least amount of money on tuition. This will also mean you'll spend fewer semesters at your transfer school completing required courses. Share this goal with your academic advisor, and they will guide you along the way as you're signing up for classes.

“It’s in Apple’s DNA that technology alone is not enough. It’s technology married with liberal arts, married with the humanities, that yields the results that make our hearts sing.”

—Steve Jobs, cofounder of Apple Inc.

**Employers Prioritize Skills the Humanities Cultivate**



Source: Association of American Colleges & Universities, 2018





# MIKE BAUER

## SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGIST

**Current Hometown:**  
St. Louis, Missouri

**High School/Hometown:**  
Washington High School, Washington, Missouri

**ECC - Attended 2011-2012, Class of 2015**  
(Associate of Arts, Missouri Reverse Transfer Program)

**University of Missouri - Columbia School of Journalism**  
Bachelor of Journalism

**Saint Louis University**  
MBA (expected graduation date - 2024)

### What made you choose to continue your education at ECC and at your transfer school?

At the time, ECC had just signed an articulation agreement with the journalism school at Mizzou that would allow students to take two journalism courses at ECC and transfer them into their journalism degree program at MU. I had also completed the Missouri A+ program in high school, which provides free community college tuition to students who complete the program. ECC allowed me to stay close to home and save money while completing my general education requirements, all while working toward my four-year degree from Mizzou.

### How did you determine your major?

When I was in high school, the Missourian ran a teen section in their weekend newspaper that was staffed by students from area high schools. I joined to try something new and was given the opportunity to write editorials for the new page. It was here that I discovered how much I enjoyed writing and decided to pursue journalism as my major in college, with my sights set on Mizzou.

### Was there a challenge that you faced in your educational career?

After one year at ECC, I transferred to the University of Missouri, which I had been planning to do since high school. To be honest, my first year at MU didn't go very well. All I really did during that first year in Columbia was go to class and go home, and as a result, I had a hard time making friends, and I just wasn't very happy. I think I expected my dream college experience to just fall into my lap, but when that didn't happen, I began to wonder if I really belonged at this university, and I considered transferring to a smaller campus hoping to find a better experience there.

Instead, I decided to come back to Mizzou, and this time, I made it a point to step out of my comfort zone and get the college experience I wanted rather than just wait for it to be handed to me. At the advice of someone I met at a focus group for transfer students, I got involved with Mizzou's campus radio station, and this is where I ended up meeting the people who would become my core group of college friends. I discovered a new passion for radio, I did better in the classroom, and my mental health greatly improved.

This leads me to the most important advice I can give to any new college student: take time to get involved with your campus, and don't be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone when doing so. This is one of the best ways to make new friends and discover new passions when you're in college. You'll get more out of your college experience this way.

### Current Career

Social Media Strategist, St. Louis Cardinals

### What does a "normal" day at your job look like?

As a social media strategist for the St. Louis Cardinals, I am in charge of managing the club's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts. This involves game coverage, community content, local and national sponsored campaigns, and other fun player or team content we may develop ourselves. Right now, I am one of two full-time employees in charge of managing the account, along with one part-time employee who assists with game coverage. We do this so that each of us has enough time off during the baseball season.

My office is in Busch Stadium. On an average home game day, I'll get to the ballpark around 9 a.m. and start my day. If I was covering a game the previous night that didn't end until 10 p.m. or so, I'm allowed

to come in a little bit later so that I have plenty of rest between games.

When I get to my office, I'll get caught up on everything that's been happening with the team lately, and send out any posts that I may need to do before we move into game coverage (these can be sponsored content, player birthdays, highlights from the previous night, etc.)

From there, I'll begin focusing my attention on the game that night. I'll start designing the lineup graphics using a template that our designers have already provided to us. Our PR staff usually sends me the lineup about 4 or 5 hours before the game, then they send it to Major League Baseball's offices in New York. Once MLB approves the lineup, we are good to post on our social channels.

From there, I'll look over the pregame schedule for this evening and contact our videographers in the scoreboard control room to let them know if there is any particular video footage I would like them to get before the game. For example, if we are doing a cool giveaway that night, or if a celebrity is throwing out the first pitch, we'll ask them to go get footage of it that we can post on social media.

At about 4 p.m I'll head down to the field and watch batting practice. Most of the time, players will come over and sign autographs for kids before the game or visit with people from a local nonprofit or charitable organization who have field passes, so I'll have my phone on me in case we decide to post that on our Instagram story.

After BP, I'll take a quick break and head to the media room to have dinner with members of the press. The Cardinals provide a complimentary catered meal to members of the media before each game, and the menu changes every night. Once I'm done eating, I'll go upstairs to the press box and set up for game coverage. We always have at least two people covering each game for social media, so one person can focus on Instagram and the other can focus on Twitter and Facebook.

I sit with our PR and Communications staff in the upper deck press box behind home plate. Once the game starts, I'll watch it unfold and look for exciting plays to post on our social media channels. For example, if a Cardinals player hits a home run, I'll be able to go into our highlight software, cut the clip from the broadcast feed, and tweet it out within a matter of minutes. Other times, I'll ask our scoreboard control room folks if they could put together a quick

clip of a certain play using their own unique camera angles, and they'll send it to me for use on social media.

Throughout the game, our team photographers will be sending me photos of the action on the field that I can use on social media as well. Major League Baseball will also have photographers and videographers at every game shooting and recording the action on the field and sending that content to us.

As the game plays out, if a player on our team has an impressive night hitting or pitching, I'll be designing a "player of the game" graphic for them that we can post later in the game. I'll also be looking out for any particular milestones like a no-hitter or hitting for the cycle in case we need to have our designers work something up for that as well.

Once we get into about the 7th inning, I'll begin designing our final score graphic so that it's ready to post as soon as the game ends. If a team scores after I'm done designing, I have to make sure the score is accurate, and if the lead changes hands, I have to start over. Sometimes if it's a close game, I'll have both a winning and losing graphic ready to go depending on the outcome.

Usually, I'll stick around at the ballpark for about 30 minutes after the game ends to make sure we have all of our bases covered for that evening and the next morning. If the team wins, sometimes we'll get video of the handshake line or photos of them getting a water cooler dumped over their heads that makes for fun content to post. If the team loses, I often just post the final score graphic and pretend the game never happened!

This is the best way I can describe a "typical" day at the ballpark, but really, every day since I started with the Cardinals has been different. Some days, we'll have roster moves that we'll need to announce, other days, we'll have important organizational initiatives or promotions that we'll need to work into our social calendar as well.

Most people don't fully realize the kind of work that goes on behind the scenes just to make a Major League Baseball team operate on a day-to-day basis. The baseball season is incredibly long, and it's a huge time commitment for anyone. But I love what I do, I'm always excited to come into work, and I'm truly proud to be part of my hometown team!

*Continued on p. 34*





**TYLER MOHESKY**  
**CUSTOMER SERVICE SPECIALIST**

**Current Hometown:**  
University City/Saint Louis

**High School/Hometown:**  
Union High School, Union, Missouri

**ECC Class of 2016**  
Associate of Arts, Emphasis in Media Studies

**Webster University**  
Bachelor's in English Literature (Creative Writing), Emphasis in Poetry

**How did you determine your major?**  
My Webster Groves Mentor showed me how awesome poetry was

**Was there a challenge that you faced in your educational career? How did you overcome it?**  
Commuting to Webster from Union, moving to Saint Louis (this one is both a challenge and an overcoming off commuting), and deciding that I would pursue Poetry as a craft was a challenge.

**Do you have any favorite memories of your time at ECC?**  
Leigh Kolb and Josh Stroup made ECC great for me. Stroup exposed me to poetry in a way outside of the tedium that is high school and made me consider it seriously for the first time. Leigh was a great mentor to my writing.

**Current Career**  
Customer Service Specialist with Edward Jones, based out of the STL Home office in Maryland Heights .

**What does a “normal” day at your job look like?**  
Take a lot of calls and write, respond to issues, and provide tech support.

**What is your proudest accomplishment up to this point?**  
Publishing my first poem in October Hill Magazine.



Three out of four employers want new hires with precisely the sorts of skills that the humanities teach: critical thinking, complex problem-solving, as well as written and oral communication.

Source: *It Takes More Than a Major* (Association of American Colleges and Universities, 2013)

From the American Academy's Humanities Report Card 2013



**CAMPBELL HAMAI**  
**INTERN**

**Current Hometown:**  
Columbia, Missouri

**High School/Hometown:**  
Washington, Missouri

**ECC Class of 2020**  
Associate of Arts, Emphasis in English and Media Studies

**University of Missouri - Columbia**  
Bachelor's of English and Journalism (Summer 2023)  
Master's in English (expected 2024)

**What made you choose to continue your education at ECC and at your transfer school?**  
I really enjoy the resources and teaching I have through higher education. Learning is fun, and its easiest with help.

**How did you determine your major?**  
I've always wanted to work with books since I was younger. Journalism seems like a more practical form of using English knowledge as a career.

**Was there a challenge that you faced in your educational career? How did you overcome it?**  
I think avoiding becoming overloaded or intimidated by the workload is my most prevalent challenge. I'm honestly not completely sure how or if I have overcome this challenge! I suppose the pressure to also be working, specifically having a job related to my education, is another pressure. I might just be amazing at compartmentalizing.

**What is your current career?**  
I'm doing an internship at The Missouri Review (a literary magazine) and some work through courses at the Columbia Missourian and KBIA.

**What does your job entail (or what does a “normal” day at your job look like)?:**  
At The Review, I'm reading 20 manuscripts a week and passing my favorites to editors and I am assisting with publicity strategizing. At the Columbia Missourian, I am editing the sports section every Friday night. At KBIA, I am the afternoon anchor for headlines every Wednesday.

**What other positions have you had?**  
I worked as an assistant for MU Extension and created content and campaign material for its fall

fundraising event.

**What is your proudest accomplishment up to this point?**  
I'm really proud at how much I've grown, I guess. I didn't start my journalism career until freshman year at ECC, so I felt incredibly behind my classmates who had been on their high school or middle school news teams.

**Do you want to share any information about your personal life that is meaningful to you (spouse/partner, children, their names, etc.)?:**  
I met my very first, and current, boyfriend through a journalism assignment. My classmates and I were sent out to conduct interviews with random people in order to practice using cameras and audio recorder. I persistently encouraged my subject to do the interview, which he did, and he asked for my number afterward. That was about seven months ago.

**Do you have any thoughts about the value of studying the Humanities?**  
I think people tend to not prioritize understanding people's motivations or their pasts. Studying Humanities has helped me develop a sense of empathy and curiosity about people other than myself.

**What advice would you share with a student starting on their journey at ECC?**  
Stay on top of your own education as well as the planning of it. I had some great people who helped me create the preliminary plan, but I was largely left alone to be consistent and firm about it.





## JAKE THEBEAU

### COPYWRITER

**Current Hometown:**

Union, Missouri

**High School/Hometown:**

Union, Missouri

**ECC Class of 2014**

Associate of Arts, Emphasis in Media Studies

**Webster Class of 2016**

Bachelor of Arts in Video, Film, and Television Production

**What made you choose to continue your education at ECC and at your transfer school?**

I decided to return to college after a short hiatus. ECC was affordable and had a lot of options for elective classes that fit with my interests.

**How did you determine your major?**

I had a lot of interests going into my classes, I was interested in politics, film, philosophy, game design, history, and journalism. I ultimately decided on Mass Communications because it offered the most classes that interested me and it made transferring to the Webster University Film program easier.

**Do you have any favorite memories of your time at ECC?**

My most cherished memory from ECC is my time in the Cornerstone news room. I loved working on the Cornerstone! It ignited my passion for writing, taught me a lot about the world of media, and introduced me to some lifelong friends.

I especially enjoyed and appreciated Leigh Kolb the professor that oversaw the newspaper. She instilled in me a sense of confidence and taught me what was right. I will never forget the lessons I learned from her and the rest of my Cornerstone comrades.

I was a different person before I joined the Cornerstone. My time at the paper made me a better, smarter, and more curious person and I will always be grateful ECC gave me the chance to do it.

**Current Career**

Copywriter at Notion

copywriter full time at an ad agency In St Louis. My days are filled with writing, editing, reading and generally just working with words

**Career History**

My career in film has run the gamut. I started in television as an Assistant Editor for several TV shows. I worked with HGTV, Discovery Channel, and the Esquire Network.

After that, I ran the video department of a boutique St. Louis wedding company. I managed videographers and editors plus shot weddings every weekend and edited throughout the week. I did that for about two years.

I eventually started working at video production company called 90 Degrees West where I again worked as an assistant/junior editor. After about a year I was asked to apply for a position at Samsung.

I started with Samsung in late 2020 and spent nearly two years there as a Video Content Specialist. I worked on videos for retail training and marketing. I was responsible for writing scripts, directing shoots, and editing final videos. I enjoyed this work but I quickly got disillusioned by the long hours, lack of support, and brutally competitive culture of corporate life.

After years of working as a video professional, I decided to start freelancing under my own banner--partly because I wanted to make more fair wages for my work but also because I wanted to focus on switching into a writing career.

I made the full switch In September 2022 when I started working as a copywriter full time at an ad agency In St Louis. My days are filled with writing, editing, reading and generally just working with words--a nice change of pace from the high velocity film and television Industry.

Today, between writing full time and freelancing for some online publications, I mostly spend my freetime

working on my novel, spending time with my partner and pets and bumming around in my garden.

**Civic and Community Engagement**

I served on the board for the Community Literacy Foundation

**The Value of the Humanities**

It is not an exaggeration to say that attending ECC changed my life. I had always wanted to pursue a creative career but I thought it was impossible. Taking the Humanities courses at ECC completely changed my perspective and gave me hope for the future.

More than that, I learned a lot about life and myself. Humanities allow students to explore what life has to offer. Even if it doesn't turn into a career, there is value in just understanding the world and yourself a little better. Humanities are essential to growth in that way.

**What advice would you share with a student starting on their journey at ECC?**

College is not just school, it's a playground for your mind. Take classes that sound interesting or challenging. Don't look to just check a box because when you're out, you'll find yourself lamenting the things you didn't take the time to learn.

Also, don't be afraid to redefine your idea of success. There is a lot of pressure on people to achieve a certain type of success--be it high pay or prestige. Just remember that If you are doing something you enjoy and give you fulfillment, that is success. Don't be afraid to chase the things you want regardless of outside pressures. Productivity does not define your value; you matter because you are you.

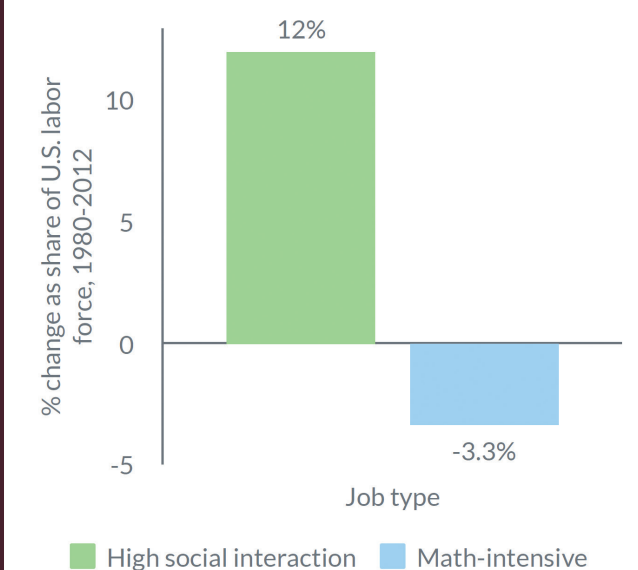
## Demand for the skills humanities majors acquire has increased in recent decades

Deloitte highlights human skills that are more valuable than ever:

- Empathy
- Communication
- Persuasion
- Personal Service
- Problem Solving
- Strategic Decision Making

Source: "Talent for Survival," Deloitte, 2016

### The Labor Market Increasingly Rewards Social Skills



Source: Deming, David. "The Growing Importance of Social Skills in the Labor Market." The Quarterly Journal of Economics (2017).





## VIRGINIA WARD

### ENTERPRISE ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

**Current Hometown:**

Denver, Colorado

**High School/Hometown:**

Branson, Missouri

**ECC Class of 2016**

Associate of Arts, Liberal Studies

**University of Missouri**

Bachelor of Journalism, emphasis in Data Journalism,  
Minor in Business Administration and English Writing

**What made you choose to continue your education at ECC and at your transfer school?**

I earned a scholarship to play volleyball at ECC, and during the offseason, discovered the Cornerstone. At first, I thought it'd be a great way to meet friends and get more involved in the campus community. I eventually gravitated toward the reporting process, and soon discovered that I wanted to pursue a degree in journalism at the University of Missouri.

**How did you determine your major?**

I did not understand media literacy, or the impact journalism has on a community, until I began reporting and consuming the news. I wanted to justify my reporting with data so that any notion of fake news was eliminated. With my data journalism degree, I learned to scrape data from websites and databases, clean it, analyze it, and find trends or outliers that were necessary to unpack with an expert.

**Was there a challenge that you faced in your educational career? How did you overcome it?**

The biggest challenge was juggling work, school and a social life. My senior year, I held two jobs, two internships and was applying for an internship abroad for my final semester. I learned to prioritize my time by creating calendar blocks, making note of when I'd be traveling to my next job, when I needed to complete an article, and even when I set aside time for friends.

**Do you have any favorite memories of your time at ECC?**

My passion for journalism started in Leigh Kolb's African American Literature class. If I hadn't met her, I wouldn't have pursued journalism, made out-of-state friends, or traveled the world as a reporter.

**Current Career**

What does your job entail (or what does a "normal" day at your job look like)? As an account executive, I run a sales cycle from prospecting, to closing new business. Most of my day is spent emailing prospective customers, cold-calling, leading demos, and negotiating with procurement and legal teams.

**Career History**

Following my data reporting role at the Kansas City Business Journal, I decided to pivot into sales. At the start of the pandemic, I was offered a sales development role with ChannelAdvisor, an ecommerce software company, where I was tasked with targeting ideal customer profiles for account executives. After becoming the top outbound representative there, I was offered the same position at a data movement software startup called Fivetran. After a few months, I was promoted as a senior representative for the business development team, then to an account executive position.

**What is your proudest accomplishment up to this point?**

My proudest accomplishments all include my relocations, from Brussels, to Kansas City to Denver. I'm proud of my ability to step outside my comfort zone, and network in professional and business settings.

**Are you involved in any professional/nonprofit organizations?**

I served on the volunteer committee with the Bacchus foundation in Kansas City. When I moved to Denver, I joined Pavilion and RevOps Co-Op.

**The Value of the Humanities**

Studying journalism completely changed my perspective of the world. I learned to ask questions, connect with people different from me, and critically think about events taking place in my community. While I'm no longer in journalism, I continue to use this perspective in my current role and personal life.

**What advice would you share with a student starting on their journey at ECC?**

Take as many extracurriculars as you can fit into your schedule, because it could very well lead you toward your passions, as well as new friends.

**The top 5 skills employers look for include:**

1. Critical thinking and problem solving
2. Teamwork and collaboration
3. Professionalism and strong work ethic
4. Oral and written communications skills
5. Leadership

**The Humanities prepare students to be good managers**

Google's Project Oxygen found that the following skills make a good manager:

- being a good coach
- communicating and listening well
- possessing insights into others (including others' different values and points of view)
- having empathy toward and being supportive of colleagues
- being a good critical thinker and problem solver
- being able to make connections across complex ideas

Source: Valerie Strauss, December 20, 2017

Nearly 60% of humanities majors have jobs that involve managing or supervising.

Source: Humanities Indicators, 2018





**GIA M.  
TEACHER**

**Current Hometown:**  
Big Island, Hawai'i

**High School/Hometown:**  
Homeschooled / Washington High School, Washington, Missouri

**ECC Class of 2019**  
Associate of Arts, Emphasis in Liberal Arts

**Lindenwood University**  
Bachelor of Arts in English, Emphasis in Creative Writing and  
Certificate in Intercultural Fluency

**What made you choose to continue your education at ECC and at your transfer school?**

I'd always wanted to go to college, ever since I was little, because I just loved learning. I decided on ECC specifically as the first stepping stone because it was affordable and close to where I lived. As to Lindenwood, I was drawn by the University's incredibly varied list of programs and by its Ivy League-esque campus.

**How did you determine your major?**

I decided on Liberal Arts because I knew that it would allow me to dip into many disciplines. I had a huge amount of interests and had no idea what I wanted to specialize in, so Liberal Arts made it easy for me to chameleon in different subject areas to find out which of those interests stuck and which ones were just passing. Through ECC's writing contests, however, I rediscovered my love for writing stories, which led me to pursue a Creative Writing degree later on.

**Was there a challenge that you faced in your educational career? How did you overcome it?**

I had a uniquely challenging experience of being a college student: in those four years, I navigated homelessness, depression, suicidality, and a traumatic family event. It was without a doubt the most tumultuous time of my life. However, the only way out was through, and God carried me the whole way. I'm happy to be on the other side of the cocoon now!

**Do you have any favorite memories of your time at ECC?**

I vividly remember the Cuban Missile Crisis simulation that we conducted for Professor Dennis Pohlman's International Relations class. Our class was split into two groups that were in two different classrooms-- one was the United States and one was Cuba-- and we had to try to diffuse the political situation between our nations without inciting nuclear war. It was Dungeons & Dragons-esque in that we could basically choose to do whatever we wanted to do. At one point, we sent the U.S. a huge crate of bananas and Cuban cigars as a peace offering. No pun intended, it was a blast.

**Current Career**

Middle-School CTE (Career and Technical Education) Teacher, Ka'ū High & Pāhala Elementary School

**What does a "normal" day at your job look like?**

I provide middle schoolers with whatever knowledge and resources they need in order to choose which educational pathway they would like to pursue in high school. In Hawai'i, the students get to choose "pathways"-- agriculture, medicine, etc-- that they'd like to focus their high school courses on, and I help them on that journey by exploring their interests with them and diving deep into who they are as people and what they believe their purpose in life is.

**Career History**

Before coming on as a full-time teacher at Ka'ū, I was a combination Educational Assistant, Paraprofessional Tutor, and Substitute Teacher, teaching all the way from kindergarten through high school.

**What is your proudest accomplishment up to this point?**

I've worked closely with Hawaiian sacred-burial guardian and filmmaker Keoni Alvarez to novelize his documentary KAPU: Sacred Hawaiian Burials, about ancient Hawaiian burial practices. The resulting novel-- Kapu 'The Hole Truth'-- exists with the goal of educating the world on the history and culture of true Hawai'i and of advocating for the protection of these sacred burial locations against land development.

**Civic and Community Engagement**

I partner with filmmaker Keoni Alvarez to advocate for land rights for iwi kupuna (the bones of Hawaiian ancestors). I'm also involved with Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, We Are Mauna Kea, PETA, No More Stolen Sisters, and 4Ocean.

**Do you want to share any information about your personal life that is meaningful to you?**

I live in Hawai'i with my sunshine boy-- my golden retriever Koa Kamehameha.

**The Value of the Humanities**

As long as humanity exists, there will always be value in studying Humanities. We are complex creatures who

are only on the edge of understanding ourselves. Just as in The Giver, there will always be a need for keepers of literature, language, film-- basically, the best and most beautiful artifacts humanity has to offer.

**What advice would you share with a student starting on their journey at ECC?**

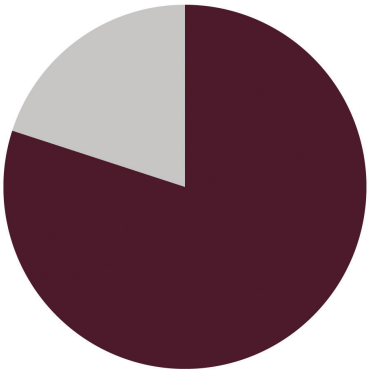
Keep your mind open to whatever learning opportunities present themselves to you. Take classes you don't think you'll like and walk into the classroom with a positive, willing-to-try energy. Nothing you learn will return void.

**Is there anything else you would like us to know about you or your experience at ECC or beyond?**

I'd just like to celebrate ECC for what a good college it is. Naysayers will rag on community colleges as if they can't possibly measure up to the quality or prestige to be found at universities, but ECC is one of those schools that proves them dead wrong. The faculty at ECC are knowledgeable and full of heart, which is a rare combination (non-existent at many schools). I'll always look back with fondness at my days as a Falcon.

**Humanities majors are prepared to navigate the ambiguity and complexity facing 21st-century leaders**

The majority of respondents agree that 21st-century leadership has unique and new requirements.



■ Agree (80%) ■ Disagree (20%)

Respondents that agreed were asked: "What do you believe are the unique requirements for 21st-century leaders?"

**81%**

**"The ability to lead through more complexity and ambiguity."**

Source: Global Human Capital Trends survey, 2019





## JOSH GERMAN

### PRODUCTION TEAM MEMBER

**Current Hometown:**  
Washington, Missouri

**High School/Hometown:**  
Sullivan, Missouri

**ECC Class of 2019**  
Associate of Arts, Emphasis in English

**Truman State University**  
Bachelor's in English

#### How did you determine your major?

I have always had a passion for reading and learning about as many different stories as possible, and that led me to focus on studying and discovering a ton of stories, poems, and other works in preparing for Scholar Bowl. Once I had learned about hundreds of different stories through Scholar Bowl, I wanted to pursue my education in Literature to get a better in-depth understanding of these stories. Then, I decided that I wanted to teach others, and specifically have class discussions and hear many different perspectives and theories about the stories, which is why I decided to be an English major

#### Do you have any favorite memories of your time at ECC?

I made many incredible memories in my short time at ECC. Joining Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) and becoming president led to me having a lot of exciting opportunities and I was able to create connections with faculty and student alike. I became president of PTK and joined the leadership of the Student Government, which immediately made me one of the busiest students on campus. On top of that I attended meetings and helped with activities for a few social clubs--Rotaract, and Student Media. Through these organizations, I was able to travel to England with Journalism, go to conferences in Florida and Missouri, speak after a showing of Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice, and receive numerous awards and scholarships. However, my proudest moment at ECC was planning, funding, and attending a trip to see the Legacy Museum and the National Museum for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. The trip itself was a world-view changing experience, but

the aspect of getting the funds and figuring out the logistics of how to plan the travel and schedule led me to be more confident in my abilities.

#### Current Career

I am currently taking a gap year after this admittedly exhausting time during the pandemic, and I work at a Menards Distribution Center. I specifically wanted to stay away from my field because I did not want to burn out and lose my passion for stories and education.

#### What is your proudest accomplishment up to this point?

My proudest achievement was receiving Student of the Year from ECC at the end of my graduation year. I felt confident that I deserved the award, and I was incredibly happy that all of my hard work had paid off.

Becoming Vice President and working with the Student Body at Truman State was also one of my proudest accomplishments, as it was a prestigious position that I had been able to achieve in only my second year at the university, which I also had to do all throughout the pandemic.

#### Professional Organizations

I have held leadership positions in PTK, ECC SGA, and Truman Student Government, and Sigma Tau Delta. I have also been an active member in Rotaract, Student Journalism, and TruOutdoors.

*Continued on p. 35*



## BETHANY MILLER

### FREELANCE EDITOR

**Current Hometown:**  
Union, Missouri

**High School/Hometown:**  
Homeschooled, Leslie, Missouri

**ECC Class of 2011**  
Associate of Arts, Liberal Studies

**Webster University**  
Bachelor of Arts in English/Creative Writing, Minor in Professional Writing

**Western Governors University**  
Master's in English Education (6-12)

#### What made you choose to continue your education at ECC and at your transfer school?

Being a community college, ECC was fairly close to home, and when I started my college career at 17, it was a perfect choice. ECC has a great track record of transferable credits, I had a scholarship, and it was affordable.

Later, I continued my education at Webster University because I finally knew what I wanted to do! I wanted to edit books, or at least work with language, so I majored in creative writing with a minor in professional writing. Once I graduated, I got a job working for a tech company writing blog posts, developing and writing website content, and more. I loved it, but grew weary of sitting in front of a computer after about five years. I remembered how much I loved substitute teaching during some "gap"-type years, and I decided to pursue that.

Finally, I continued my education with Western Governors University. I received my MA in English Education 6-12 grade, gaining the tools I needed to teach my most very favorite thing: English.

#### Current Career

I wear many hats right now because I'm staying home with my first baby. I was a substitute teacher from the School District of Washington. I am now a freelance book editor, riding instructor, and piano teacher, all of which I've been for many years regardless of my career.

#### Career History

Right after I graduated from Webster University, I worked for Anderson Technology and its sister company, Anderson Archival, in St. Louis. I was there for five years, until I received my MA and Covid hit, and I decided to stay closer to home. I was an imaging

specialist and content writer there. I worked on websites and historical documents, which was a really neat combination.

#### Civic and Community Engagement

Up until this spring, when I had my first baby, I was a youth leader at my church, taught children's Sunday school there, and played piano in the band. I also volunteered at Exceptional Equestrians in Krakow. I can't wait to get back to it!

#### The Value of the Humanities

Studying the Humanities is invaluable. I believe they're the backbone of daily life, since the Humanities are essentially how we communicate with our fellow humans! I believe the proper use of the English language, both written and verbal, are critical to effective communication.

What do you gain by studying the Humanities? You develop the skills that enable you to communicate well, as in, politely, directly, with ethos, pathos, and logos. There is no better way to learn these skills than to study literature, and then put what you've studied to task in analyses to see if your train of thought or opinion really holds up to review or to see if you can sway opinion or present solid information using evidence. Understanding the English language provides for clearer communication, vetting thought processes and proving our theories with evidence instead of letting our opinions stand on their own and expecting others to be swayed.

*Continued on p. 35*



**Butterfield, continued**

or to AI. Even companies who use these tools need someone who can read, review, edit and add a human touch to their communication.

Another piece of advice I always tell people (and did even before starting my own business), is to study outside of your field. Have a backup. No one wants to fail, but when the deck is stacked against you, a little knowledge in another field can go a long way.

**What advice would you share with a student starting on their journey at ECC?**

Each journey is unique. Don't compare your journey to someone else's. Education is not a race, and it's ok to be uncertain what you want from your life. When

you need help, ask. People are almost always willing to help if you ask. There are so many resources available, and people who want you to succeed.

**Is there anything else you would like us to know about you or your experience at ECC or beyond that we didn't ask?**

I always say that going to ECC was one of the smartest decisions I made, and I stand by that. It made sense in so many ways, and I'm proud to be an ECC alumna.

“In a society in which we expect all people to be effective citizens, all people need to have access to the liberal arts in order to have the knowledge and moral foundation that they need to think about what is a good life and a good society, and the skills necessary to help them work to achieve it here in our democracy.”

Johann Neem  
Associate Professor of History  
Western Washington University



National Humanities Alliance

[www.nhalliance.org](http://www.nhalliance.org)

# The Humanities Build Empathy

Great familiarity with literary fiction correlates with a stronger ability to understand others' thoughts and feelings.

Source: David Comer Kidd and Emanuele Castano, August 2016

Findings from neuroscience show that reading fiction stimulates the brain networks responsible for understanding the perspectives of others.

Source: Diana I. Tamir, Andrew B. Bricker, David Dodell-Feder, and Jason P. Mitchell, February 2016

Those who participate in philosophical or ethical discussions and take humanities classes in college are more likely to volunteer, give to nonprofit groups, and become otherwise altruistic.

Source: Scott Jaschik, January 9, 2017

# Humanities Majors Are Satisfied With Their Jobs

78%

of humanities majors believe they are close to living “the best possible life.”

84.5%

of humanities majors are satisfied with their job

Source: Humanities Indicators, “The State of the Humanities 2018: Graduates in the Workforce & Beyond,” American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2018, 19, 24.



**Farrar, continued**

tutors, websites, apps, food, hobbies, and anything else you can to expand your mind and experiences.

Get in the habit of asking for help, even if you are not sure you need it. The ability to say that you are struggling, don't know something, or that you need some help will be rewarded in your career.

In college, I avoided asking for help and it caused me a lot of unnecessary stress. So this has been a journey for me, but the two best jobs that I have been offered started with interviews where my response to a question was, "I don't know how to answer that." I was told both times that being able to admit weaknesses and knowledge gaps during an interview showed that I am honest and willing to learn.

**Foutch, continued**

**The Value of the Humanities**

I think studying the Humanities really gives you an insight into the lives of other people (even fictional) that can help develop empathy for the people around you. The act of creating something is such a vulnerable experience for a lot of people because they work so much of their thoughts, feelings, and experiences into their work, and by studying that you can get insight into their struggles and lives. I think it really helps people to develop the skills to be invested in others and the patience to come to understandings with them.

**What advice would you share with a student starting on their journey at ECC?**

Be patient and understanding with yourself. There's nothing wrong with being lenient with yourself.

**Cebulak, continued**

**Do you want to share any information about your personal life that is meaningful to you?**

I have a nephew who I love more than life itself. His name is Asher. He turned 5 this year, and he starts kindergarten this fall.

I have another nephew (Jayse) who was born in 2021 on the one-year anniversary of my mother's death (December 13). That feels like a significant sign.

I have a cat named Ollie (female, tabby, about 10 years old) who is also a great source of joy and comfort in life.

I am engaged as of July 23, 2021 (Dalton).

**The Value of the Humanities**

I think there is so much value in studying humanities, particularly with the critical thinking skills that are fostered during this pursuit. With many other avenues of study, students will be taught the exact things they need to know for the exact profession that they will be entering. So if you go to a vocational / tech school, you will be trained specifically on the chosen trade. If you are studying to be a dental hygienist, you will study specific to dental anatomy. With the humanities, there is so much room for creative thinking and critical problem-solving. There is always more than one answer—more than one way to see the world. I think that a serious pursuit of studying the humanities fosters a flexibility and resilience that can be transferred to a myriad of other jobs. People often claim that students are limiting their employment options by studying the humanities, but I have found that the exact opposite is true. We are able to take in, process, and analyze information more critically and effectively than most because we are trained to do that when reading and interpreting text. We are able to take concepts and apply them in different ways to produce different outcomes that can make us (or the organization that we work for) stand out. A lot of employers are really looking for individuals who can think for themselves and work with limited supervision to meet deadlines. That's basically all an English student does!

**What advice would you share with a student starting on their journey at ECC?**

I would say take time to enjoy the journey along the way and not worry about the destination so much. I know it is hard to see now from where you are sitting, but things really do have a way of falling into place in the end. I wish I would have taken more time to be present and involved with clubs and activities while I was at ECC. But I was too worried about the academic side of things (making sure I got all those credits I needed so I could move on to the next thing) and working to pay for my gas that I didn't really take the time to appreciate where I was at in that point of my life.

Also, if you feel like you are struggling with anxiety/ depression, get help as soon as possible. I didn't get help until 2020. So I basically went through all six years of college with debilitating anxiety that impacted every aspect of my health and life. Heart palpitations. Nausea. Vomiting sometimes. Insomnia. Etc. When I finally started taking medication, it felt like so much weight had been lifted off of me. I felt like I could finally function without so much internal pain from overthinking and over analyzing everything.

Don't underestimate the importance of exercise and nutrition. This is something I have only truly begun to appreciate in my mid-twenties. But it does make a difference. I feel better physically and mentally if I am making an effort to eat fruits and vegetables and go outside to take a walk or bike ride. I prioritized my academics so much in college that I placed that above my own physical and mental well-being. I didn't make much effort to nourish my body with healthy food, and I barely made the effort to exercise. If I had done those things, I likely would have had a much more enjoyable (and less depression/anxiety filled) overall college experience.

“Languages, art, history, economics, ethics, philosophy, psychology and human development courses can teach critical, philosophical and ethics-based skills that will be instrumental in the development and managment of AI solutions.”

- Brad Smith, President of Microsoft  
Harry Shum, Executive Vice President of Microsoft's Artificial Intelligence and Research

As automation and AI take on tasks that require thinking and judgement, it will become increasingly important to train people—perhaps through a renewed focus on the humanities—to develop their critical thinking, creativity, empathy, and reasoning.

- Microsoft Corporation, 2018

**Bauer, continued**

**Career History**

I've previously worked as a marketing and public relations specialist at Saint Louis University, a social media coordinator at the University of Missouri Office of Admissions, as well as a Digital Content Producer at KMOV in St. Louis.

**The Value of the Humanities**

Studying the humanities has immediate value in helping us become better writers and communicators. But beyond that, the humanities help us become more knowledgeable consumers of media, they allow us to gain new insights into the world around us. I majored in journalism; I have never worked as a professional journalist since graduating college, and yet, my journalism background taught me to ask questions (even to people who might not want to be asked those questions), to think critically, and to read beyond the headline or the body copy of a story. The humanities give us better insight into the human experience, into our various cultures, and how we interact with one another. Through studying the humanities, I believe I became a more open, empathetic, and understanding member of society.

**What advice would you share with a student starting on their journey at ECC?**

Take time to build connections while you're here! Get to know your professors, your advisor, your tutors--these people want to help you on your academic journey, and they can be great resources for you long after your time at ECC is over. I still keep in touch with some of my professors from my ECC years, and these connections are great to have for job references, career advice, or even just a friend to keep in touch with!

Another piece of advice: If you intend to transfer to a four-year institution after ECC, don't think of your time here as just a pit stop. This is part of your college education too, and college is more than just classes. You'll experience personal growth here just like you would at any other college or university. Do your best in school, join a new club or campus organization, make new friends, and enjoy your time at East Central!

Liberal education is at its core a way for learners to become their most complete selves. Liberal education encompasses the many transformative opportunities for learners to engage with the wider world. It does not prescribe what to think but rather encourages learners to develop the habits of mind and willingness to engage with ideas from many disciplines and perspectives. Ultimately, the goal of liberal education is to help facilitate the learner's discovery of wholeness, bringing together the mindsets, skill sets, and values needed for their flourishing as a human being and an agent of positive change in the world.

—Sarah Stanlick, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Source: AAC&U Liberal Education Magazine

**German, continued**

**The Value of the Humanities**

I personally hold a lot of value in being able to critically analyze any work, and I think the Humanities are the best area to learn that skill. I believe the Humanities help expand your beliefs, examine arguments critically, summarize other works or sources efficiently, and espouse your own arguments in a more effective manner.

**What advice would you share with a student starting on their journey at ECC?**

I would suggest talking to other students and getting involved. Have a reason outside of class to explore the many opportunities available to you at ECC. Many students do not take advantage of them, but engaging with other organizations or creating one of your own will help keep you motivated and lead you on the path towards success!

For some, college is a means to an end. They have a career goal, and college is just a vehicle for getting there, like a plane ticket to a specific destination. Liberal education, by contrast, is like a passport: it takes us to any destination. Unlike a plane ticket, it is infinitely renewable. It is also personalized, complete with our picture and stamps that remind us of all the stops on our educational journey. Like a passport, a liberal education is good for life, which is why we cherish it even after we have graduated.

—Louis E. Newman, Stanford University

Source: AAC&U Liberal Education Magazine

**Miller, continued**

You also gain sympathy for the human plight, which is the essence of good literature. You learn of different perspectives, of deep struggles within human nature, of literary devices such as metaphors, imagery, symbolism.

Combined, these develop the art of effective communication.

More than any other subject, the Humanities develop soft skills, such as critical thinking, public speaking, and writing, which are essential in the workplace. No other subject develops imagination, critical thinking, and communication as the humanities subjects do.

In addition to all of these attributes, every other subject must start with English skills to be able to comprehend them thoroughly enough to exceed in them.

**What advice would you share with a student starting on their journey at ECC?**

I think it's important that people, especially young graduates, know that you don't have to do all of your education at once, nor do you need to know what you want your career to be.

I've been very successful with several gap years between courses of study. Life flows, and education (and careers) can flow right along with it.

However, once you are in a program, don't quit until you're done.



# Arts and Humanities at ECC

## Humanities Pathway

English Track

Media Studies Track

## The Classes

### English

Survey American Literature I & II  
World Literature I & II  
Survey British Literature I & II  
Creative Writing  
Women's Literature  
African American Literature  
Latino/Latina Literature  
Introduction to Shakespeare  
Literature of Science Fiction  
Classical Mythology  
Fiction  
World Fiction

### Media Studies

Intro to Mass Media Communication  
Introduction to Film Studies  
Diversity in the Media  
News Writing  
Media Production

## Contact

Leigh Kellmann Kolb, Associate Professor of English  
Media Studies Coordinator  
leigh.kolb@eastcentral.edu



<https://www.eastcentral.edu/humanities-arts/>

Cover Art by Megan Pritchard, ECC Associate of Fine Arts, Class of 2023