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Lessons from a Professor

Linfield Magazine Staff

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Lessons from a professor



Over the course of two decades, Katherine Kernberger, professor of English, enlisted

the help of 17 students to assist in the project to translate the diaries of Marie Bashkirtseff. Years later, the research experiences continue to influence their lives and careers.

Kathryn Tippetts '95, French

Sherra (Inman) Welp '95, '96, philosophy

Tanya (Matthews) McDonald '96, creative writing

Diana (Polhamus) Renz '97, English

Karen (Churchill) Garcia '99, physics

Sarah Breeze '00, '06, French

Carolyn Flannery '01, sociology

Krista Olsen '02, music performance

Alita Putnam '03, creative writing and international business

Erin Annis '04, English and French

Meredith (Blake) McCullough '08, creative writing and English

Hannah Bressler '08, religious studies

Stephanie Fry '08, biology

Allison Smith '08, French

Nichole Tyska '09, English

Amber Ball '11, English and mass communication

Kaitlin Seitz '11, English and creative writing



Meredith (Blake) McCullough '08 – English and drama teacher, published author

I was able to witness true scholarly passion at work. If you talk to Professor Kernberger about Marie, you see her light up; this excitement was electrifying and taught me that any teacher who is truly passionate about her (or his) subject will make a lifelong impact on any students fortunate enough to be in class. I try to pursue my teaching career with as much passion and joy as possible.

Erin Annis '04 – English teacher

We did most of the translation work over the summer, and I presented a paper at the PAMLA fall conference in 2003. We've collaborated since I graduated as well. I did some editing of two of her papers presented in French in 2008 and in 2013. Much of what I gained was personal to me: knowledge of the Parisian art world at the end of the 19th century, an understanding of women's roles during that time, as well as a greater facility with the French language. I also obtained better collaborative skills, and a more thorough understanding of the research process; these are skills I use daily.



Hannah Bressler '08

I gained a better understanding of what goes into academic research and saw up close the life of a professor. Kathy was full of clever insights about feminism and humanity. She helped us see the differences in how women were portrayed in history and how they articulated themselves.



Carolyn Flannery '01 – Road Scholar project assistant

I was struck by the fact that Marie thought she was interesting enough to write about. But as the semester progressed I realized she was just recording the events in her life. I was lucky enough to study abroad for a semester in England and a January Term in France and Italy, documenting each day in my own journal.

Karen (Churchill) Garcia '99 – CEO, GTO Management

I travelled abroad on a January Trip to Paris and Nice, which was an experience I doubt I would have had otherwise. With her guidance, I learned better how to manage the information I gathered, and that skill has served me very well. Often, I had to remind myself that I was actually working as I found the entries and Marie's inevitable opinions about everything completely absorbing.

Nichole Tyska '09 – Word processor, Moss Adams LLP

Being able to bear witness to the completion of not just Kathy's, but her mother's work as well was a great academic experience. It was a dream literally unfolding and will always be special. Kathy was able to bring back a real voice from history.



Sarah Breeze '00, '06 – Speech-language pathologist

I gained a deeper appreciation for how research is conducted, how you have to be committed to the mundane in addition to the exciting. She was a strong female role model, and she inspired me to pursue my career goals.