

Christine Gelatt Interview:

How would you describe your area of study to a novice?

A Masters in English involves a lot of writing and even more reading. ☺ For the most part, people pursue a Masters in English who want to teach, go on to further PhD work, or pursue a field in technical writing/editing.

What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?

Timing was one of my main motivations. I knew that at some point I would want to get my Masters, I just didn't know exactly when that would be. My husband had two years left of medical school when I started the program, so I kind of figured that if he was going to be studying all of the time, I might as well do the same right beside him!

Do you think there is any value in social networking with other graduate students in non-related fields?

The value in Social networking is incredible. I have learned that through several jobs that I had throughout college and beyond. So the answer to the question is most definitely "yes," although I have to admit that I haven't taken full advantage of this opportunity.

What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?

Usually when I am feeling stressed it is because I have my priorities all out of whack. Working hard on school is extremely important to me, but it definitely is not all that there is in life. For me, my personal relationship with Jesus Christ comes first. Then my relationship with my husband, family, and friends. When I keep those in balance, the rest of my responsibilities always seem to fall in place. No matter how stressed I am, when I think about how great I have it compared to most of the world, I am humbled that I am fortunate enough to receive an education in the first place. So for me, perspective is the key to reducing stress.

What is the last book you read strictly for pleasure and how long ago was it?

When the *Hunger Games* movie came out this past Spring, I hopped on the train with everyone else and didn't look back. Unfortunately it was in the middle of a busy semester when I first picked up the trilogy, so I only got through the first book. Ashamedly, I was just able to read the second two this summer! Team Peeta all the way!

Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.

Wow, there are a lot! My first semester I took a class with Dr. Moira Baker and I am so thankful for all that she taught me. She whipped us all into (research) shape. I don't think I had ever worked so hard in a class, but I felt incredibly accomplished by the end of the semester. I really feel like she equipped me with all of the tools necessary to be successful in subsequent graduate classes.

What surprised you the most about graduate school?

I think the thing that surprised me the most is that I can do it! I remember being so intimidated by the thought of starting graduate school. It was really encouraging for me to see that as long as I worked my hardest, stayed focused, and planned my schedule well, I could be a successful student. I was also surprised about how long three hour night classes feel!

If travel to Mars happens in your lifetime, would you want to be one of the scientists on board? If yes, what would you contribute to the mission?

Ha! Interesting question --- I've definitely never thought about this before. I honestly don't think I would want to be one of the scientists on board precisely *because* I would have nothing to contribute! I guess I could be the water girl or something...?

What is your favorite comfort food and why? How often do you consume it?

That's a toss-up. I can't deny a 12 pound bag of Sour Patch Kids from time to time. That's right...I said 12 pounds! But I also like to indulge in an Iced Caramel Macchiato from Starbucks from time to time. Apparently I am the picture of health.

If you hadn't been admitted to graduate school, what do you think you would be doing right now?

Speaking of the Caramel Macchiato, I'd probably be a barista at a Starbucks. I don't know why, but I've always wanted to do that!

When do you expect to complete your degree?

Spring 2013!