

*Catalyst Profile*  
**Jennifer Dayle-Corn**

Miami native, Jennifer Doyle-Corn, who graduated from WCU in 2010, has forged her own niche in Irish literature and theater, all thanks to the anti-Catholicism of John Milton. As a doctoral candidate at Florida State University, this former Catamount has traveled nearly 4,000 miles to the mouth of the River Liffey to discuss the rebellions of the 1640's, and the conversation is not over quite yet.

Her interest in the bigoted propaganda dispersed by the Cromwellian government in the 17th century began during her graduate studies at WCU. In a course taught by English professor Mimi Fenton, Doyle-Corn wrote a piece titled, “(Mis)shaping History: Milton’s Nationalist Rhetoric in ‘Observations Upon the Articles of Peace.’”

The essay, an argument proposing that Milton’s discourse encouraged sociological intolerance, was accepted for publication in the 2009 to 2010 issue of the Sigma Tau Delta Review. The intensive study of Irish culture and history would also bolster up her literary repertoire, later winning her a full scholarship to attend both the 2011 and 2012 Irish Seminars in Dublin hosted by the University of Notre Dame’s Keough Naughton Institute.

“Take advantage of the expertise, experience, and guidance that the English faculty has to offer,” said Doyle-Corn, referring to mentors Fenton, Brent Kinser and Laura Wright. “They are invested in their students; that fact, coupled with the smaller teacher-to-student ratio, truly gives Catamounts an advantage over students at other universities.”

Still, there was a time when this lit-buff retired her purple and gold garb. In 2004, after receiving a bachelor's degree in English from WCU, Doyle-Corn began teaching language arts at a local middle school. Unsatisfied, however, she headed to the Midwest to study at Southern Illinois University.

There, at a school of nearly 20,000, she failed to find the same sense of Catamount community. Thus, she returned to the Tar Heel State to finish her degree.

As a graduate student, Doyle-Corn met Worth Corn, her soon-to-be husband and editor of *The Mountaineer* in Waynesville. She also forged a love for Milton, a less available poet. In 2010, with her intensive research in mind, the English faculty awarded her the Dennis J. McKeelin Memorial Graduate Award.

Soon after bidding Cullowhee a final farewell, she was offered a teaching fellowship at Florida State University. Since then, she has scored an editing job with Pearson, revised her professor’s book on Samuel Beckett, and, most notably, visited the rolling hills of Dublin. And though much of the legwork can be accredited to Doyle-Corn, WCU helped her along the way.

“When I initially attended WCU, I was worried about the quality of the education I’d receive at a smaller, more regionally known institution,” she said. “But I’ve found that the education I received more than adequately prepared me to work in highly competitive and diverse fields.”