

RYAN FLANNERY (BA, 2012)
VISUAL ART / CREATIVE WRITING

What was your experience like in the Creative Arts program?

My experience was excellent. I came into the program with not a lot of experience in either subject area as I went to school in a rural location, where we didn't have the ability to take Visual Art or creative writing in a way that exposed us to developing as writers. The program offered me developmental experiences as both an artist and person, especially in the way of exposure to many forms of expression in both disciplines. The Creative Arts program at B.U. was also very powerful in the sense that I had first had access to experts in the field, which is exceptional in advancement in my chosen disciplines. Because of the smaller size, the format of the program, and excellent professors, I also had experiences that helped me develop as an artist and person. Through my focus in creative writing, I had the opportunity to work one on one with an expert in the field, eventually create my own bound book of poetry. Overall, I wouldn't change anything about my experience.

How has the degree prepared you to get to where you are?

The degree has had a huge impact on where I am now. I am in my 11th year as a high school teacher. I teach Visual Art, Printmaking, and English. My degree has given me the ability to connect with my students and a deeper level. Having firsthand experiences in the processes of generating, developing, and revising creative works, whether visual or written, allows me to better assist, guide, and model those skills for my students. I felt as though I was seen as an individual in University, and I want to provide my students with the same experience. Another point where my degree prepared me for where I am now is due to the amount of subject specific learning I did. I gained knowledge of prominent artists and writers which are beyond the status quo. Many references I learned in my degree I use in my teaching on a regular basis.