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# Oh, the Places You Can Go: Meet Randy Ball, '95 (Alumni Interview)

January 27, 2020



**What are you doing now? What paths led you to this point?**

I am currently teaching high school English at [Korea International School–Jeju Campus](#), on a wonderful little volcanic island off the coast of mainland Korea. Previously, I taught internationally at schools in Lahore, Pakistan, and in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. I also spent ten years teaching high school English in Beaufort, South Carolina, where I channeled my inner Pat Conroy. These days, with all my travels, I seem to be channeling either Mark Twain or Andrew Zimmern.

**Did you major or minor in English? How did your English education shape you?**

I majored in English, but with teacher certification. So I spent half my time in one department, and half my time in the other. There was never enough time in the day to take all the courses I wanted, but my experiences were invaluable.

**What advice would you give to current English students or students considering English as a major or minor?**

Read. Read every chance you get. And then write.

**Can you tell us what's on your bookshelf? Or, if you'd like, tell us about a book you read—recently or not-so-recently—that you would call a "favorite."**

Well, I'm getting ready to teach *Lord of the Flies*, so that's on my shelf right now. And I just finished Guy Delisle's *Pyongyang: A Journey in North Korea* (because I'm teaching that too). But I always find time for personal reading. A favorite that is stuck in my mind is John Irving's *Until I Find You*, whose main character will be stuck with me forever (it's right up there with *A Prayer for Owen Meany* and *The World According to Garp*). When I want something less cerebral, I turn to my birth state (Florida), and two of its most popular writers: Carl Hiaasen and Tim Dorsey.

**Is there anything else you would like to share that we haven't asked?**

I didn't just bring myself halfway around the world; I have a family, including two little girls who have traveled to 30 countries in their first decade alone. They are growing up a little differently from the way I did.

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*Thanks so much for interviewing with us, Randy! We're so grateful to you for joining us today!*

*Are you an alum with an English degree? Would you like to be featured on our blog for the 2020-2021 academic year? Email us! [gsuenglish@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:gsuenglish@georgiasouthern.edu). We would love to hear from you!*

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