

## Professor finds happiness at home and in class

Written by Kasha Henricks, Daily Vidette Reporter  
Wednesday, 08 February 2012 15:54

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Associate English professor Katherine Ellison learned to balance work and her three sons while still making time for her students and herself.

“I’ve got three sons, ages six, four, and two. They are my hobby,” Ellison said.

The boys have helped Ellison get reacquainted with her passion for art.

“They have gotten me involved again in illustration and painting, which is actually what I went to school for. I went to the Heron School of Art,” Ellison said.

“Having my three sons who love to color and draw has made me make the time to draw and paint with them and teach them different techniques,” Ellison added.

For Ellison, art is not the only hobby she tries to do in her spare time.

“I’m a runner. I’m training for a mini-marathon. Well, I guess I’m more of a jogger, I’m up to seven miles a couple of times a week,” Ellison said.

Although running is not necessarily something Ellison enjoys, she does it to help keep her heart strong and relieve stress.

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“I had preeclampsia when I was pregnant with my youngest son and went into cardiac arrest. It made me slow down, in part because I had to, because I have a heart problem,” Ellison said.

Ellison now has a new outlook on balancing her life.

“It made me, obviously, appreciate, and want to just spend more time with [my family]. I typically am a workaholic and I always have been. I never took a summer vacation; I always took summer classes straight the way through. I was always working on research or writing anytime over break. I felt like I constantly had to do work,” Ellison said.

“Nothing stopped because I didn’t get my work done, so that was definitely a wake up call. I realized, I can just spend my weekends with family, and I can get all my work done during the week,” Ellison added.



Although Ellison believes she has slowed down, her students have nothing but nice things to say about her.

Mary Karol, senior English studies major, thought Ellison was a great teacher.

“I had her for two classes, each that were very different yet she made each class unique and

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fun to go to. I had her for a very large lecture and for a smaller class in a computer lab. In each class, she made me feel like the only one in the room. If I could have her for every class, I would," Karol said.

"A unique teaching style she has is to relate subject material from the 18th century to today. Even though we would be reading documents that were old and sometimes boring, she would always keep everyone interested in the material and relate it back to our lives today," Karol added.

Fellow senior English studies major, Devon Ledbetter, also believed Ellison to be an ideal teacher.

"Prior to being in Dr. Ellison's class, I had heard nothing but good things about her. I'm a big believer in first impressions and it is easy to say that after the first day of introductions, I knew it was going to be a great semester. The coursework allowed for creative expression and she was always willing to lend a hand," Ledbetter said.

"It is not hard to see that she loves teaching and sharing her experiences with her students. She is creative, innovative, and compassionate. I would recommend her classes to anyone," Ledbetter added.

Ellison agrees that ISU is a great place to be, and share her knowledge with not only her students but also her children.

"It's a great job where I get to be creative, have a lot of freedom. You get to meet new people every semester. And then I go home and my kids are all at these developmental levels where exciting things are happening," Ellison said.

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At the end of the day, Ellison finds her happiness in both her professional life and her home life.

“So, it’s fun here and it’s fun at home,” Ellison said.