
Meet Your Departmental Student Advisor!

John McGowan
Chinese

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Hometown: Brookfield, WI

Majors: History and East Asian Studies

Minor: Chinese

Study Abroad: Beijing and Harbin (9 months)

Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Vanilla

Best Adjective to Describe You: Ambitious

In 10 words or less, why should someone want to be a part of this department?

To better understand Chinese culture and learn Mandarin.

When did you know you wanted to study this area? What pathway led you to this department?

I began to seriously think about studying Chinese after taking a History of Modern China course in high school. I found Chinese History to be interesting and always wanted to have an opportunity to take on the challenge of learning Mandarin.

What is the best way to get (and stay) connected to this department?

The best way to get involved in the Chinese department is to sign up for Chinese language or culture courses and to communicate well with your teachers inside and outside of class.

What would you miss the most if you were no longer a part of this department?

I would miss my classmates. You start to develop strong bonds with them after taking the same Chinese language courses for two years and then as juniors spending time together on study abroad.

What are your career aspirations/next steps after K?

I'm not completely sure yet, but I would definitely like to go back to China and study there, possibly as a graduate student.

What has been the biggest surprise you have encountered at K?

The fact that we all really do have great opportunities to study abroad for either three, six, or nine months in a variety of countries. Furthermore, K is a really small school, so it is great that we all have the opportunity to really get to know our professors and classmates.

How does your department connect to your other interests and activities?

My department connects to my other interests by holding events for Chinese department students geared at teaching us more about Chinese culture. For example, going to see performances or eating at Chinese restaurants. In Chinese class, we also often study and learn to discuss our interests and activities with our classmates. This makes attending class much more interesting!

What has been your favorite class at K? Why?

My favorite class at K has been my Sophomore History Seminar. It was probably the most challenging and work intensive class I have taken at K, but because of that it was also the most interesting and rewarding.

What is your SIP?

I am still in the process of nailing down my final SIP proposal, but right now I would like to research China's Warlord Era.
