

Michael Wettengel

Major: Creative Writing and Environment

Experience has taught Michael Wettengel that graduate school can always ask more of you.

Michael is a Creative Writing and Environment Major at Iowa State University, and has already **published a novel and a few short stories**.

His biggest piece of advice is to, daily, **write your own story**, even while graduate school is at its most demanding. He suggests to not treat grad school like school, but **like the start of his professional life**. And shortcuts defeat the purpose.

Winding journeys through campus have lead him to interesting locales like the stairs in the wings of Beardshear, corners of the library with books on the psychological effects of playing board games, and courtyards with bas reliefs of cows.



This is all part of the big journey, the big story.

He recounts with strange affection his first encounter with the Brown North Cyride bus. It was on his very first day as a Lit Major, and a trip to the North Grand Mall in Ames was necessary to replace a stolen phone. It was raining. The dismal weather and purpose of the trip would seem an odd memory to hold. But it is a story nonetheless.

As for the whole story on grad school Michael says there may always be a feeling that you could do more, but you need to respect yourself as much as your profession, because, in grad school, the two are intertwined.