5 Questions With…

Michael Everton, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Chair

Q: What does an average day look like for you this term?
I’m a morning person; I do my heavy lifting early. Before anything I write for a few hours and then fine-tune notes for the next day. In the afternoons I do admin tasks (I’m undergrad chair right now), prep my Fall Engl. 111W, and tackle whatever else needs tackling.

Q: What are you reading for fun?
Like others, I tend to have a few things on the go. I’m writing about Salem witchcraft, so I get to read wacky 19th-century accounts thereof—I count that as fun. Otherwise, on my bedside table are Sophocles’ plays (see below), Marilynne Robinson’s Gilead, and Nancy Isenberg’s White Trash.

Q: What are your hobbies outside academia?
Outdoorsy stuff, especially cross-country skiing. That and hiking are half the reason I moved to British Columbia in the first place. Beyond that, I’m about to become a coach of my daughter’s soccer team. I’m terrified.

Q: What work do you wish you could read again for the first time?
Zora Neale Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God.

Q: What “classic” have you not actually read but maybe occasionally pretend to have read?
Believe it or not, it used to be Jane Eyre. Now I’m a Jane freak. That leaves Sophocles and Finnegans Wake. My logic: I’m not a fan of Ulysses, so why torture myself? Before you Joyceans throw something in a righteous rage, “The Dead” is stunning. See, I’m not all bad.