DeSpain uses latest technology to study English

Aldemaro Romero Jr.
CUNY Bernard M Baruch College

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In the public's imagination, English majors are often perceived as one group of students who, when not teaching, are choreographers or graphic designers. In reality, the English major is a broad and diverse field of study, with students exploring a wide array of topics and interests. The humanities, however, are often challenging that perception, and students are discovering that they can pursue a wide range of careers using their English education.

Jessica DeSpain, an assistant professor in the English Department at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, is one such example. DeSpain uses the latest technology to study English, and her work has been recognized with awards and distinctions.

DeSpain's research focuses on digital humanities, a rapidly emerging field of study that combines computer science and the humanities. She conducts research in new and exciting ways, and her work has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. She also works with students to help them find work in digital humanities.

DeSpain received her bachelor's degree in liberal arts from Mount St. Clare College in Clinton, Iowa, and her doctorate in English from the University of Iowa. She is currently an assistant professor in the English Department at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, where she teaches courses in digital humanities and liberal arts.

DeSpain's research has been recognized with awards and distinctions. She was named a 2013 NEH Digital Humanities Fellow and received a Research and Information Scholarship. She has also received a grant from the Cultural Heritage Commission of Southern Illinois. Her work has been published in a variety of journals and books.

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