

Dr. Cindy Childress, B.A. English Language & Literature, 2000

By Megg Wright

President, The American Association of Malaysia

Cindy Childress (2000) lives in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and serves as the President of the [American Association of Malaysia](#), an organization that creates a community for American expatriates in Malaysia and raises money for local charities. After Childress followed her husband to Malaysia, she was encouraged by two of the organization's former presidents to pursue the presidency herself. In that role, which she has held since 2014, she coordinates a board of 11 directors and 400 members.

Prior to becoming its president, Childress served as Membership Director and Corporate Relations Director for the American Association of Malaysia. In Balikpapan, Indonesia, she was president of the Balikpapan International Women's Organization. Her education in English has contributed to her career in many ways because her career requires business writing, event planning, networking, and public speaking.

After earning her BA in English from Western Kentucky University, Childress went on to pursue her MA in English with an emphasis in Modern British and American Literature at University of South Florida. She then completed a PhD in English with a creative dissertation from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

During her time at WKU, Childress was a member of [WKU's English Club](#), and she says that experience provided a solid foundation for the path she is on. She also passed along the advice she was given as an undergraduate at WKU, "investigate any areas of study that you find interesting, and almost any field of study is going to relate back to the English major and literature in some way, so take all your coursework and learning opportunities seriously."



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