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The Writerly Review

News from the UM Writing Center in Oxford *Spring 2015*

Oxford Hosts MSWCA/TutorCon

Mississippi Writing Center Professionals Gather to Share Ideas for the Future

This January, the University of Mississippi's Department of Writing and Rhetoric hosted the annual Mississippi Writing Centers Association (MSWCA) conference, in conjunction with the fourth annual TutorCon. The Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies, the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation, and the UM Division of Outreach and Continuing Education all offered support for the event.

The conference, which featured a keynote address on code-switching and code-meshing by Dr. Vershawn Ashanti Young of Waterloo University, attracted 80 attendees. Panels discussed everything from multimodal compositions to the overall importance of writing, and several Writing Center staff members and Department of Writing and Rhetoric faculty members served on panels, presented papers, and led workshops.

Consultants Jamie Jones and Keri Maher presented a panel on personality assessment in tutor training, and consultant Hayley Cheatham presented a paper on the Writing Center's role in helping students bridge the gap between high school and college writing. Consultant Brian Powers led a workshop on thesis reform, and Writing and Rhetoric instructor Dr.



Conference attendees gather to hear Dr. Vershawn Ashanti Young's talk.

Alice Myatt's workshop discussed strategies for maximizing the growth opportunities of university assessment. Dr. Myatt also served on a popular panel about multi-campus writing centers with Oxford Writing Center director Brad Campbell, Tupelo Writing Center director Rachel Johnson, DeSoto Writing Center director Jeanine Rauch, Graduate Writing Center director Claire Mischker, and Instructional

Technology Designer Andrew Davis. The conference received strong statements of support and appreciation, garnering attention throughout the region. In light of this success, the University of Mississippi has been invited to submit a bid to host the Southeastern Writing Center Association (SWCA) conference in 2017.

**Have you been to the new Writing Center in Lamar Hall?
Visit <http://rhetoric.olemiss.edu/writing-centers/> or call 662-915-7689
to make an appointment.**



Oxford Writing Center Director Brad Campbell

From the Director

Brad Campbell Discusses the 2014-15 Year

It is my privilege to serve as the director of the Writing Center in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric at the University of Mississippi, and I'm writing to share some of the successes and accomplishments that we have had.

The students and writers at the University of Mississippi who utilize our services are paramount to the success we have experienced this semester. Assisting students with writing assignments, presentations, and multimodal projects in a variety of disciplines and striving to enhance the support that we offer remains central to our mission, and thanks to the work of our dedicated writing consultants and staff members, we've witnessed tremendous growth and success over the past year.

During the summer 2014 semester, the Writing Center relocated from the J.D. Williams Library to Lamar Hall. We are very excited about the new Writing Center space in Lamar Hall as it has allowed us to increase our visibility,

“Our staff is one of the most dedicated groups with whom I've had the pleasure of working.”

to expand our services, and to foster a culture of writing across campus. Our new multimedia rooms allow us to work with students on a greater variety of project types, such as speeches, group presentations, research projects, and multimodal compositions. Further, the state-of-the-art facility in Lamar Hall reflects the university's unwavering commitment to students' academic success. It is our hope that the design of the new space will facilitate creativity and critical thought among student writers as we continue developing an atmosphere that fosters a link between composition and creativity across the disciplines.

In an effort to build relationships with students and administrators across campus, the Writing Center began offering mobile location hours during the fall 2014 semester, and I'm happy to report that this initiative was successful. Currently, we have mobile locations in the J.D. Williams Library, Pittman Hall, Northgate Hall, and the Luckyday Residential Hall. We will continue to grow these locations in the future in order to increase our visibility and to provide convenient locations for students.

With more than 4,400 appointments in the 2014-2015 academic year, demand for our services has increased dramatically, but we are up for the challenge. We will have 15-20 new consultants and consultation coordinators joining our staff in the fall 2015 semester. These staff members

come from a variety of academic backgrounds and disciplines, and they are enthusiastic about completing WRIT 301: Peer Tutor Training during the summer 2015 semester in preparation for their work in the center.

Beyond completing this course, our consultants participate in a number of professional development activities, including regional and national conferences, ongoing College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) training, workshop presentations, orientation sessions, and weekly staff development meetings. The amount of time and energy our consultants and consultation coordinators devote to the Writing Center clearly demonstrates their desire to professionalize and advance the services we offer, and our staff is one of the most dedicated groups with whom I've had the pleasure of working.

The Writing Center seeks to advance student success in writing across the University of Mississippi campus, and I invite you to be part of this conversation as you reflect on our collective accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Brad Campbell
Brad Campbell
Director

National Day on Writing

UM Students' Words Cover the Writing Center Walls

On October 20, the Writing Center partnered with the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation to celebrate the National Day on Writing. Students were given prompts, such as “How has diversity positively impacted you?” or “What would be the title of your autobiography?” They were then invited to anonymously write their answers in dry erase marker on the glass walls of the Writing Center.

By the end of the day, students' words covered every section of available glass. One student wrote, “Living in diversity has taught me more than I ever imagined.” Another claimed *Fully Misunderstood* as an autobiography title. The responses remained on the walls for two weeks, as a testament to the power of UM students' words.

Consultant Hayley Cheatham contributes her thoughts for the National Day on Writing.



Department of Writing and Rhetoric judges listen to presentations.

Supporting Readers

The Writing Center Hosts K-7 Home School Reading Fair

The Writing Center was proud to host the North Mississippi Regional Home School Reading Fair this February. Approximately thirty students, ranging from Kindergarteners to 7th graders, competed in the two hour event. Writing Center staff members, Department of Writing and Rhetoric instructors, and English Department graduate students served as judges.

The competition required each student to present and discuss a book she or he had recently read. Students spoke in front of tri-fold display boards, like those used in science fairs, which featured artistically arranged images and information about their books. Many students brought plot-related props, and some even came in costume. Judges asked students questions about character, plot, writing style, and intended audience, and encouraged them to talk about their books at length. At the end of the event, prizes were awarded by grade level.

Parents and students alike expressed

an appreciation of the Writing Center's new space in Lamar, and voiced an interest in continuing to hold the Reading Fair there in future years. Similarly, many judges and Writing Center staff members expressed a sense of gratitude at having been able to be part of an event designed to promote and encourage childhood literacy in the North Mississippi area. The Writing Center hopes to host the Reading Fair again in 2016.

Did you know?

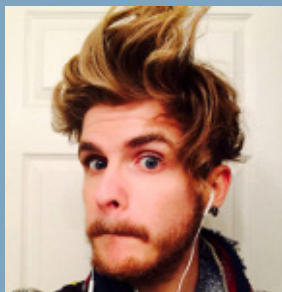
A Writing Center consultant can help you at any stage of the writing process, including brainstorming. You don't even need to have a draft. Just bring your assignment sheet, and we'll get you started on the right foot.

This year, the Oxford Campus Writing Center held more than 4,400 appointments and conducted over 90 workshops and in-class sessions.

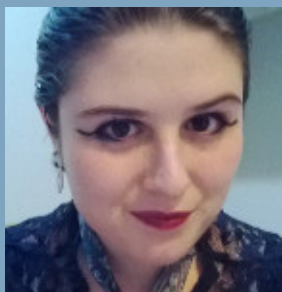
We're proud of our graduating seniors!



TAYLOR BRACK



MATTHEW FERNANDEZ



ROSE KINNEY

Taylor Brack

Taylor was accepted into the Center for Chinese Studies at the University of Michigan. She helped Matthew Fernandez organize the Identity Across the Curriculum conference, and she is writing a thesis on the political identities of Chinese women.

Sam Breite

Sam will be getting his white coat and starting pharmacy school in August.

Hayley Cheatham

Hayley won Diamond Days Queen and was elected President of the UM chapter of Teachers of Tomorrow. She will serve as a recruitment counselor this fall.

Logan Coney

Logan got onto the Dean's Honor Roll and joined the Writing Center staff.

Matthew Fernandez

Matthew founded and organized the Identity Across the Curriculum conference, which was supported by the Center for Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement.

Khadijah Fortenberry

Khadijah served as service director for Omega Phi Alpha.

Whitney Greer

Whitney presented a paper on the purity myth at the Sarah Isom Student Gender Conference, gave a guest lecture for a gender studies course, and was a writer for the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies student blog. In addition, she is a member of Omnicron Delta Kappa, a member

STAFF PRIDE

of the Chancellor's Honor Roll, and was a student participant in the SMB Honors College Partnership with the UM School of Law. She attended the SWCA conference in Nashville, and she created and conducted workshops for the Writing Center.

Jamie Jones

Jamie is double-majoring in Psychology and Chemistry, with minors in English and Mathematics. In addition to helping the Writing Center move to its current location, she presented in-class workshops on Reflective Writing, Thesis Statements, and Citations, attended the SWCA conference in Nashville, and expanded her writing repertoire to include creative non-fiction and poetry. She will be taking the MCAT and applying to medical school this summer.

Serenity Jones

Serenity is earning her BFA in Acting, and she played Second God for Ghostlight Repertory Theater. She is a core group leader in Chi Alpha and the drama/dance director for All State Gospel Choir, and she will serve as a community assistant this coming year.

Nakea Keglar

Nakea is double-majoring in Nursing and Criminal Justice, and plans to enter the forensic field of nursing.

Our team is always working! Check out what our consultants and consultation coordinators have accomplished this year.

Rose Kinney

Rose led a Writing Center workshop on thesis statements, wrote and directed a short film, and participated in and devised a theatre project with guest artists. In addition, she served as dramaturg for *Oedipus Rex*.

Mallory (Simerville) Lehenbauer

Mallory is pursuing a graduate degree in Integrated Marketing Communications to earn a Masters in Journalism. She works for three professors, doing research and helping with classes. In September, she married a math teacher at Lafayette High School. She also works with the Daily Mississippian, and has been published several times this year. She has volunteered for Young Life at Lafayette High School for the past 5 years.

Keri Maher

Keri held a workshop on resume writing and participated in a panel at the MSWCA conference. She interviewed with Youth Villages in Memphis, and hopes to secure a position as a behavioral youth counselor.

Cecily Pompa

Cecily presented a paper on crossover novels at the PCA/ACA National Pop Culture conference in New Orleans. She also volunteers at Oxford Intermediate School, where she teaches

a book club for gifted/talented students on the novel *A Wrinkle in Time*.

Alyssa Radtke

Alyssa recently joined Phi Beta Kappa, and is a Taylor medal awardee for the School of Liberal Arts. She will begin her MFA in poetry this fall at the University of Memphis.

Ty Ringo

Ty was recognized as one of the residents in the Resident College with the most community service hours. She was also on the Dean's List for the fourth time this semester. She will be graduating with a Bachelors in Political Science this May.

Ja'kle Robinson

This year, Ja'kle was a member of the Chancellor's leadership class and a volunteer for the Humane Society. She contributed to the Wounded Warrior Project, and was inducted into the Lambda Sigma and Gamma Beta Honor Societies.

Kendra Scott

Kendra volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and Relay for Life. She also joined Delta Sigma Theta. Kendra is graduating this spring, and plans to attend graduate school in the Northeastern United States.

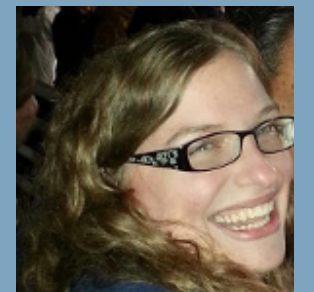
Christine Sim

Christine was inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha, and has spent the spring semester studying French at an international school in Cannes, France. When she returns to the University of Mississippi, she will be taking over as the President of the Golden Key Honor Society.

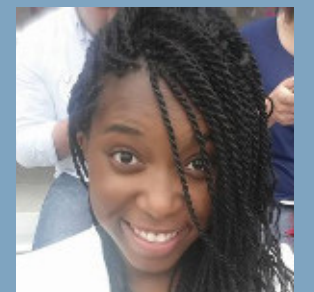
Congratulations, Class of 2015!
Not pictured: Kendra Scott



KERI MAHER



ALYSSA RADTKE



TY RINGO

A Busy Year for Our Writing Directors

In addition to managing the day-to-day activities in the Writing Center and teaching two courses per semester, director Brad Campbell presented at four conferences, including the Mississippi Writing Centers Association Conference, the Southeastern Writing Centers Association Conference, the International Writing Centers Association Conference, and the Transitioning to College Writing Symposium. He reached out to Michael

Cherry, Area Coordinator for Kincannon, Pittman, Minor, and Burns Halls, and established a Mobile Writing Center at Pittman Hall. This location has been very successful, thanks in large part to the leadership of writing consultant Sam Breite. Brad also served as a mentor to writing instructor Jessica Brown from Holmes Community College as she started a new center. In order to explore ways to support multimodal composition in

the Writing Center, Brad was awarded a Faculty Research Travel Grant, and he hopes to implement new ideas about writing consultant training and enhance technology in the center this fall. Brad will travel to Kansas City, MO, this summer to serve as a reader for the AP English Language and Composition exam.

Assistant director Kate Sparks served as managing editor of the literary journal *Yalobusha Review* and co-host of the MFA reading series Broken English this year.

She was awarded the Elvis Meets Einstein award for poetry and the Bondurant Prize for fiction, was a featured reader on the Thacker Mountain Radio Show, and presented a non-fiction piece on sexuality at the Sarah Isom Gender Conference. She won first place in the seventh annual South-Central Japanese Speech Contest's third year division, and she will be spending the summer in Hikone, Japan, as part of the State Department's Critical Language Scholarship Program.

Looking Forward

WRIT 301 Students Prepare to Join the Team

Writing Center consultants are required to undergo extensive training before being allowed to work, and additional training once hired. Every year, the Writing Center receives numerous requests for employment, but only a select few have what it takes to make the cut.

The training process begins with a work-intensive 3 credit hour course, WRIT 301 (Writing Center Peer Tutoring). Students must complete the course, which counts toward the Professional Writing certificate, with a high grade before being invited to continue the application process. If hired, new consultants begin a certification process through the College Reading & Learning Association (CRLA).

The Writing Center is pleased to announce that the spring 2015 WRIT 301 class contains several students who will be invited to join the Writing



The spring 2015 WRIT 301 class. From left: Ashley Johnson, Kenzie Tran, Adria Johnson, Hannah Harkey, and Alicia Dickson. Not pictured: Taylor Lewis and John Angle.

Center team this fall. These men and women have demonstrated impressive work ethics, strong team-building skills, and commitments to Writing Center pedagogical excellence, and they'll be great additions to the friendly faces you already know at our Center.

Due to high demand, director Brad

Campbell will also be teaching WRIT 301 online this summer, opening up the way for additional would-be consultants to receive the training they need to be eligible for the position. Come by this fall to meet our new recruits!

Interested in joining us? Email mbcampbe@olemiss.edu to learn more about enrolling in WRIT 301.