This September, the Writing Center unveiled its new Online Writing Lab (OWL) to the Lewis community. This great resource, which can be found at lewisuwritingcenter.wordpress.com, is a place for students to go for guidance on all aspects of the writing process.

Including dozens of handouts designed and written by the Writing Center tutors, the OWL provides valuable information on topics ranging from the writing process, English Language Learner (ELL) resources, and writing mechanics to citation reference guides. All the handouts are available as PDF documents on the website, allowing for easy access as well as the ability to save and print the documents for future use.

Having handouts created by the writing tutors not only contributes to the collaborative effort of the project but also was important in addressing the needs of the Lewis community. Lewis writing tutor Dominique Dusek, explains the process well, stating, “When coming up with the list of resources we wanted to create, we discussed what concerns we felt were most common and what issues arose most often during tutoring.” Through this effort, there are resources available for every kind of writer and a variety of writing concerns. The “APA Reference Guide” is a great source for proper APA citation format and the “Common Errors in the English Language” handout is helpful for ELL students.

Providing an interactive, online resource tailored specifically for Lewis was something that Writing Center Director, Dr. Jennifer Consilio, championed from the beginning. Now that it is available, she is elated by the outcome of the OWL and celebrates the dedication shown by all tutors during the project. “I am so proud of the work all the tutors have put into our amazing, collaborative resource for Lewis writers,” said Consilio.

Writing Center tutors also benefit greatly from the new OWL website. Often, tutors will pull up this resource during a writing session to further assist students. Tutor Delia Ercoli really likes this flexibility. “It’s nice to have not only the Purdue OWL, which is previously established, but also another source from Lewis that synthesizes information from multiple print and online writing sources,” said Ercoli. With the option to print out resources, tutors can provide students with handouts to take with them, a new option that is invaluable for Lewis writers. Tutors can also send PDF attachments to writers who use our Online Email Response appointments, giving further guidance on issues that they are struggling with.

Lewis writers have the most to gain from the new OWL and have found the website to be helpful when working on assignments. Stefanie Brockway, a senior psychology major, has taken advantage of the handouts on resumes and cover letters, which can be found under the “Job Resources” tab. “They are easy to understand with the step-by-step processes, and anyone can easily understand them with how they explained the different concepts in each handout,” said Brockway of her experience using the resources. She likes going to one convenient place for credible online sources.

(Continued on Page 3)
Letters to Soldiers

The Week on Writing kicked off on Monday, October 20th with the “Letters to Soldiers” event. The Writing Center paired up with the Office of Veterans Affairs and Recruitment in order to host the event. With a booth outside Charlie’s Place, writing tutors invited members of the Lewis community to share their gratitude to our troops by writing thank you letters. Participants were enthusiastic to contribute heart-felt messages and kinds words of appreciation in their letters. Dozens of letters were collected throughout the day and sent to soldiers in all branches of the military. With the holidays fast approaching, writing a letter to a soldier who might not be home with his or her family is a small way to give back to those who protect us. Thank you to all who participated in this great event!

Journal Scavenger Hunt

Wednesday featured our “Journal Scavenger Hunt” event in which writing journals were hidden around the school for members of the Lewis community to find. Clues were posted on the Writing Center’s Facebook page to point to hidden locations, and students who found a journal were encouraged to post where they found it and what they were going to use it for. Natalie Garcia posted, “I found Journal #9 in the Comp Sci area! I plan to use it by organizing my busy life! Thank you.”

All 12 of the hidden journals were found by the end of the day as students scrambled to be the first to find them. The Writing Center staff was pleased to read the comments shared by students who discovered them. Ian Miller posted, “I found Journal #4 by the microwave in Charlie’s earlier today. I’m going to keep all of my motivational snippets of inspiration in it.” Lexi Austring also found a journal in the Art Gallery, sharing that she was going to use it “as a diary, for personal reflections and thoughts.”

The “Scavenger Hunt” was also fun for the tutors who came up with clues and took turns guessing the locations. Plenty of thought was put into crafting these hints as tutors played with language to make them as catchy as possible.

Can You Guess Where the Journal Is?

| Journal #12 lies among flyers and brochures for academic degrees. | Journal #3 went out bowling and hasn’t been found! Retrace his steps and you might just find him where the video games sound. |

Why I Write Event

The Writing Center concluded the Week on Writing with the 4th Annual “Why I Write” event, featuring presentations by Lewis writers. Each presenter shared what inspired them to write and read aloud a short piece of original writing or a piece published by a known author. Writers shared pieces from many writing genres including: poems, short stories, and excerpts from novels.

Writing tutor Bianca Apato presented at the event, sharing that her own life inspires her to write. “I often write about events in my life that brought laughter and enjoyment, as well as those that brought pain and anger. Writing helps me escape the moments I wish to forget, and also helps to remind me of the moments that made me the person I am today.”

Apato used the inspiration of her own life when choosing an original, creative non-fiction piece to read aloud. “It was the first creative writing piece that I was assigned here at Lewis. I wrote it about a breakup that happened my freshman year of college. Writing that piece helped me to discover who I am and how I needed to let go of everything that was holding me back,” Apato shared. Hearing her reflections in vivid detail allowed the audience to connect with Apato, a unique opportunity that writing provides.

Caitlin Slattery, writing tutor and presenter at the event, particularly enjoyed this connection. “I really liked the opportunity to ‘get into the heads’ of other writers so to speak by listening to the other presenters. I love to see what motivates other people to write and the different authors that inspire them,” Slattery said. The success of the “Why I Write” event ended the Week on Writing on a high note. Thank you to all who presented and made this event special!

Presenters included: Bianca Apato, Kelly Lyons, Dominique Dusek, David DeSchepper, Delia Ercoli, Christopher Hueg, Caitlin Slattery, Stephanie Hernandez, Brittany Bishop, Stephanie Lipinski, Victoria Vega, Symone McCoy, Leonard Lundh, Ashley Castillo, and Jessie Pudelek.

Cards for Kids

The Writing Center continued to celebrate the Week on Writing with the Cards for Kids event. Writing tutors set up a booth outside Charlie’s Place with construction paper, colored markers, and stickers, inviting the Lewis community to make a card that sent words of encouragement to children in the hospital. These cards were sent to the non-profit organization, “Cards for Hospitalized Kids” who distributes the cards to children at Ronald McDonald house, St. Jude’s, and other children’s hospitals in the country. Lewis students were eager to contribute to this great cause and over 50 cards were designed throughout the day. With their bright colors and cheerful messages, the Lewis community was able to use writing as a means to help a child in need. Thank you to all who participated in this wonderful event!
On November 20th, the Jet Fuel Review (JFR) launched its eighth issue in the good company of the Lewis community in De la Salle 250. JFR is a student-run online literary journal with an international readership that accepts art, poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction prose from authors all across the globe. The journal is run by students and alumni and is under the supervision of Dr. Simone Muench and Dr. Jackie White.

Managing Editor Jessica Jordan invited the Lewis community to join the editorial staff in reading selected poems from the journal. The eighth issue of JFR features published work from Lewis University writers and artists, including photography from Alison Rios, poetry from Caitlin Connelly, as well as poetry by nationally recognized writer David Hernandez. The cover art of the issue, “Isolation,” by Lewis student Larissa Barnat, was projected at the launch along with other artworks published in the issue.

Special guest Pablo Otovalo wowed the crowd by reading his poem, “The Hunt,” which was published in the eighth issue. Other highlights included a spirited reading of Alicja Zapalska’s “Of Wakefulness” by University Provost Dr. Stephany Schlacter. Additionally, Dr. Christopher Palmi of the Education Department entertained the attendees with his reading of another published poem, “The First Surfer.” Other faculty readers included Dr. Michael Cunningham, Director of Arts and Ideas, Dr. Leslie Colonna of the Art Department, and Dr. Harold McCoy of the Theatre Department, among others.

Catching up with Sigma Tau Delta

by Bianca Apato and Delia Ercoli

As the Fall 2014 semester ends, Sigma Tau Delta celebrates all their accomplishments this year. Sigma Tau Delta, Lewis’s English Honors Society, is composed of English majors and minors working towards undergraduate degrees in literature, language, or writing; however, this year, Lewis’s chapter of Sigma Tau Delta has inducted new members from other majors and also graduate students studying English. Delia Ercoli, co-president of Sigma Tau Delta and Writing Center tutor, stated, “Bringing in members from other majors and areas of the English Department has allowed the society to grow both physically and academically.

With a variety of different opinions and ideas, we work with one another to promote literacy and English studies within the Lewis community.” With the addition of new members, Sigma Tau Delta has been able to host a variety of events. This Fall, Sigma Tau Delta held two events, the “Literary Salon” and the “Halloween Meet and Treat.” For the past two years, the “Literary Salon” has been part of Lewis’s Arts and Ideas program, and has encouraged all majors within the Lewis Community to learn about various authors from both the past and the present. The annual “Meet and Treat” event is a department event that allows English majors and minors to collaborate while listening to spooky stories and enjoying ghoulishly good treats. When asked about what he enjoyed about these events, Chris Hueg, graduate student of English and secondary education and Writing Center tutor, stated, “It’s nice to have events in which English is the focus and camaraderie is the product!” Stay tuned for Sigma Tau Delta’s Spring events!

(Continued from page 1)

Brockway wholeheartedly recommends the OWL to others, “Everyone Googles items they are confused about, especially in terms of writing. The OWL is a great resource to avoid have to Google things.”

The OWL is a continual work-in-progress; tutors create resources each semester, providing new ideas and helpful resources. The main categories of resources include: Checklists, Reference Guides, Writing Process, Writing Mechanics, ELL Resources, and Job Resources. From all of us at the Writing Center, we extend our warmest invitation for you to check out the OWL today!
Join the Writing Center in welcoming our new Graduate Assistant, Ashley Castillo! Ashley is starting her MBA at Lewis with a focus in marketing. She also earned her BA in English Professional and Creative Writing from Lewis this past spring.

Ashley is joining us as a graduate assistant after being an excellent undergraduate writing tutor for two years. “What I love most about the Writing Center is the interactions with the writers and the tutors,” Ashley shared. “It is not uncommon for us to learn new things from our writers. That is a plus of being able to work here.”

Ashley fits perfectly into her role as a graduate assistant because she loves everything about writing. “It would be easier to ask me what I hate about writing. In that case, it would be when it is combined with mathematics!” Many different kinds of writing interest Ashley, including poems, short stories, and essays.

As the layout editor for the Jet Fuel Review literary journal, Ashley also has ample knowledge of design principles, which is invaluable when working on projects for the Center. She is also a member of the English Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta, and worked as the layout editor for their literary magazine, Voices.

Ashley loves world languages and the cultures that are attached to them. She actually thinks in three languages: English, Spanish, and French. She wishes to be fluent in all three but often her thoughts are affected by words and sounds from these languages. As a member of the Writing Center, a love of languages is only natural!

The entire Writing Center staff is grateful to have Ashley as part of our team. She has already contributed so much to the Center with her creative ideas and strong work ethic — we look forward to continue working with her.

Tutor Talk

Who is your favorite literary character and why?

- **Alex Cross** — from the series by James Patterson. His mental toughness and family values inspire me to be a better person.
  ~ Lauren K.

- **Sherlock Holmes**—he is the perfect combination of genius and sociopath
  ~ Caitlin S.

What is your favorite thing about working at the Writing Center?

- Being surrounded by people whose writing styles differ from my own. It helps me to see writing from a whole new perspective!
  ~ Brittany Y.

- I get the chance to read the work of so many amazing Lewis writers — I always leave inspired!
  ~ Caitlin S.

New GA Jessie Joins the WC Team

by Ashley Castillo

The Writing Center is happy to introduce new Graduate Assistant, Jessica “Jessie” Pudelek. Jessie earned her Bachelors in Computer Science from Lewis University this past May and is currently enrolled in Lewis’ Masters in Information Security (MSIS) program.

While she has much expertise in Computer Science, she also enjoys writing and reading. Jessie has been writing since childhood — constructing stories of faraway lands and people she would never meet.

“What I love about writing is the ability to create imaginary worlds that can only exist in my mind. Through writing, I have the power to make anything happen,” Jessie shared.

Jessie joined the Writing Center in August and is now helping other writers use its power to create papers that successfully get their message across. “It is so rewarding to give back to the Lewis community and help people with their writing. I would say that what I love most about this experience is when a writer leaves an appointment and they have a new confidence in their writing. It’s one thing to write for myself, but another when I can truly help others find their own voice.”

Jessie is not all about Computer Science and writing — during her free time she enjoys watching movies and reading. “I love everything vintage, watching comic book movies, hanging out with my grandma, and writing epic fantasy stories about princesses locked in towers. I always cry at the end of Lord of the Rings when Sam carries Frodo up the slopes of Mt. Doom, I can’t go a day without coffee, and I still play the Nancy Drew computer games. The list of my nerdy qualities can go on forever, but remember that if you corner me in the hallway to talk about last night’s episode of Supernatural, you’ll probably miss class.”

The Writing Center is glad to have such an energetic, positive, and skilled Graduate Assistant! If you’d like to work with Jessie, she can help you with your writing needs — from brainstorming to organizing to your graduate level writing needs.

New GA Ashley to Support WC

Ashley Castillo

The entire Writing Center staff is grateful to have Ashley as part of our team. She has already contributed so much to the Center with her creative ideas and strong work ethic — we look forward to continue working with her.

Tutor Farewell

The Writing Center says goodbye to Toni Focosi, one of our senior writing tutors. As an education major, Toni will be student teaching at Reed Elementary in Homer Glen. Toni is ecstatic to be spending her time in a third-grade classroom, where she hopes to teach in the future.

Toni has been with the Writing Center since Fall 2013 and says she “will miss working with the writers, especially those I have tutor more than once. It’s rewarding to see their skills as a writer improve and know that you impacted their development.”

Toni’s passion for writing led her to the Writing Center, and her experiences have given her tools to take into the future as a teacher. “All writers possess different skills and I have learned a variety of techniques to help them,” Toni shared. “I have also learned how to teach the writing process and different strategies writers can use!”

The entire staff thanks Toni for her contributions—we wish her the best of luck as she takes the next step in her academic career!
Writing Prompt Boards

During the week, the Writing Center had Writing Prompt Boards posted in the Science building, De La Salle, Benilde Hall, and the library. These boards encouraged the Lewis community to respond to questions, such as Why Do You Write? or Who is Your Favorite Literary Character and Why?

Members of the Lewis community enthusiastically responded to these questions. On the animal board, individuals shared that they would be a “swan because they are graceful,” a “sloth because I like sleep,” and “a penguin because they are cute when they waddle!”

Others responded to the literary character boards and wrote that they liked, “Sofi La Madre from Ana Castillo’s So Far from God, because she had spunk,” “Holden from Catcher and the Rye,” and “Ron Weasley – red heads unite!” All responses to these questions showcased a variety of personalities at Lewis.

New Facebook Content Fosters Connections with Lewis Community

This semester, the Writing Center has had a more active presence on our Facebook page – Lewis University Writing Center – in effort to more effectively connect with the Lewis community. Through incorporating new daily events, prompts, and writing tips, Facebook viewership has greatly increased. New events, such as This or That Thursday, Book Club Monday, and Tutor Tuesday have provided an opportunity for the Lewis community to engage in a dialogue with other students, faculty, and the writing tutors. Book Club Monday shares book recommendations from writing tutors and Tutor Tuesday introduces our tutors in a fun, personal way. This or That Thursday asks Lewis a direct question: Would you rather this or that? Often these questions are simple but thoughtful, which makes answering them appealing for Lewis writers on the go.

Writing tutor Lauren Kill, author of this event, shared, “I like doing This or That Thursday because it’s a unique way to engage people at Lewis with the Writing Center page. Some that I make are fun and silly to break the ice, but I focus mainly on questions about literature and writing. One particular post asked whether or not you’d rather live in a historical fiction or sci-fi story. I thought this was not only fun, but also got people thinking about the qualities of different writing genres. It’s also a great way to interest other students from different majors.”

The Lewis community has responded with enthusiasm to these posts. When asked whether they would rather be a character in Pride and Prejudice or The Great Gatsby, Ally Castro wrote, “P & P for sure!” Carolyn Jones commented, “Gatsby...for the fashion!” and Delia Ercoli posted, “Totally Pride and Prejudice. Pemberley could use a shake up.” All feedback from Lewis writers and faculty is welcomed by the Writing Center and is a great way to continue broadening our social media outreach.

Other daily events include Writer Wednesday, in which a new author is introduced to the Lewis community, reflecting on their lives’, famous works, and their significance. One particular Writer Wednesday featured J.R.R. Tolkien and shared that the inspiration for Lord of the Rings came from his time on the Western Front in World War I. This post challenged writers to rework that into a new kind of story the way Tolkien did.

In addition to the daily events, writing tutors continue to post witty writing pictures, writing tips, inspirational quotes, and information regarding Writing Center services throughout the day. With these added contributions to the page, Facebook is updated approximately every hour. The constant activity has increased the distribution from only a handful of subscribers to over 150 people on a single post! With these numbers, the Writing Center is able to stay in contact with both Lewis writers and the Lewis community. The Writing Center encourages you to like us on Facebook and start sharing with us today!
Students Benefit From Collaborating With Tutors and Research Librarians

The Writing Center and the Library launched a new pilot program this semester, featuring a writing tutor and a research librarian collaborating in one session! These appointments provide the best of both worlds: students get the benefit of writing help from a writing tutor and research support from a research librarian.

We are excited to introduce this new service to the Lewis community as we continue to bring innovative writing solutions to writers across all disciplines. The collaborative appointment joins the ranks of our other unique tutoring services, such as our real time online appointments, email responses, Writing Center hotline, and Facebook messaging for quick writing questions.

This semester, students set up appointments through the Writing Center with Graduate Writing Specialist, Br. Chris Ford on Thursdays between 6 pm and 9 pm. Students specified that they wished to also work with research librarian, Kelley Plass. With her strong research knowledge and willingness to help all students, she has been invaluable in the effort to get this new program up and running.

During the appointment, both Br. Chris and Kelley Plass would sit down with the writer and discuss the writing side and the research side of the paper. “The best part about these appointments is that students receive the complete picture,” Plass said. “As the research librarian, I can give students a different perspective by focusing on the research aspect. As the writing tutor, Br. Chris can help with understanding the assignment and helping the student go through the actual writing process. With information from both of us, the student walks away with the whole perspective on how to complete their assignment.”

Plass also observed that students who have taken advantage of the collaborative sessions have enjoyed and benefitted from the assistance on both aspects of writing a formal academic paper. “The students we’ve worked with have gotten a lot out of these appointments. The opportunity to apply the research to their assignment right away is something that the students have really appreciated,” Plass shared. This new type of session is a one-stop shop to get all questions answered at once.

If you would like to get double the work done in half the time, do not hesitate to make a collaborative appointment with a writing tutor and a research librarian!

Quick Research Tips

Curtesy of Kelley Plass, Research Librarian

1. When researching in databases, start broad and narrow your topic down as you go.
2. If the search terms you’re currently using aren’t working, think of something else. For example, try using synonyms as another option.
3. If you’re stuck, do not wait to ask a research librarian for help, who are located at the North End of the library on the first floor. Students can call, email, chat, text us, or just stop by. No appointment necessary!

Windows Accepting Submissions

Students, alumni, staff, and faculty are welcomed to submit their work for the upcoming Spring issue of Windows. Windows is Lewis University’s fine art magazine and is published annually. The magazine takes open submissions on any subject matter with the special category for this Spring’s issue being “Violent Times.”

You can submit for three categories: writing (poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, research essay), visual art (paintings, sculptures, photography, computer graphics, printmaking, drawings), and musical compositions. First place in each category receives $100 and publication in the magazine. All other winners receive publication.

The deadline for submissions is January 25, 2015. Submission guidelines and entry forms can be picked up in the Lewis University Library in FA-105 and FA-215, as well as in the Writing Center. Writers can also submit online at lewisu.edu/windowsmag. Each entrant may submit three entries in both the open submission and the special category. Only original, unpublished works from students, alumni, staff, and faculty will be considered for publication.

For more information, contact Professor Therese Jones, Co-Editor and Coordinator of Windows, at jonesth@lewisu.edu.

Tutoring by the Numbers

(Based on the Fall 2014 Semester)

2548 One-on-One and Real Time Online Response Appointments
483+ Online Response by Email Appointments
600 Different students have visited the Writing Center

For Information on Services:

Dr. Jennifer Consilio
Writing Center Director
(815) 836-5727
consilje@lewisu.edu

Newsletter composed by Jessie Pudelek