At the end of fall 2017, Dr. Jen Consilio, Writing Center Director, Michael Bulfin, Writing Center Coordinator, and Jasmine Castillo, ESL Coordinator, attended the International Writing Center Association Conference where they learned how other writing centers have expanded their approaches to public relations through social media. The Lewis Writing Center currently implements a variety of marketing tools including brief Writing Center presentations, social media applications, an electronic reminder service, a biannual newsletter, targeted emails, and a variety of flyers. Learning more about how other centers connect with their communities using social media inspired the Lewis WC team to expand their approach to social media PR and create a marketing committee. The staff founded this committee with the goals of increasing the WC’s online presence and promoting engagement with writers.

The Marketing Committee, chaired by Social Media Specialist Bree Scott and Graduate Assistant Dominique Dusek consists of Sam Gennett, Sam Moffett, Noah Slowik, Ashley McCann and Liz Yolich, all of whom help manage the Center’s social media outlets, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat. The team of tutors also focuses on creating engaging content to reach the Lewis Writing community through GIFs and writing memes. These tutors regularly update social media with fun, relevant content, reaching hundreds of viewers with their most popular posts.

The Committee also manages several regularly occurring post series like Book Club Monday, Tutor Tip Tuesday, Word of the Week Wednesday, and Freewrite Friday, so that followers can expect weekly installments of their favorite writing-themed content. For example, Sam M.’s Book Club Monday, where she recommends a book a week, has garnered significant attention from the Lewis Community, including the Lewis Library Page, which frequently shares Sam’s posts. Some of her most popular suggested reads have included Chuck Palahniuk’s Fight Club, Alison Bechdel’s Fun Home, and Stephen King’s On Writing.

“We started the Marketing Committee this semester in an effort to encourage student engagement in a fun and imaginative way, while at the same time making students aware of how the Writing Center is a useful resource for writers. Social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram are very popular right now, so most of the Marketing Committee has utilized those platforms specifically. As a result, we’ve seen a dramatic increase in engagement,” Marketing Committee Co-chair Bree Scott shares.

The WC’s increased presence on social media has also helped them to make connections with other professional organizations such as the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), The Bishop Noll Writing Center, the Joliet Junior College Writing Center, and many others.
The WC Expands Graduate Support for Students
By Jessica LaLonde

In the fall of 2017, the Writing Center expanded its space and services, by adding Writing Center: Graduate Writing Services (GWS) on the main campus to offer Lewis graduate students more writing support. The Center began with only a few Graduate Writing Specialists, but due to the success of the Center and the high demand for graduate writing support, Dr. Consilio, WC Director, added more Graduate Writing Specialists to the team. GWS now has seven Graduate Writing Specialists including Michael Bulfin, Ashley Castillo, Jasmine Castillo, Dr. Rich Foss, Mike Kyburz, Joseph Laraia, and Darette Ly. The Graduate Writing Specialists come from a variety of academic backgrounds and can help students in both undergraduate and graduate programs. Although Graduate Writing Specialists can provide support with any type of writing, they particularly have expertise assisting students with course-related writing, research writing, job/professional documents, law/grad school applications, and much more, in all WC locations. Graduate Writing Specialists are also able to provide support for ELL/ESL writers.

Due to the high volume of requests for nursing writing support, Dr. Consilio hired two Graduate Writing Specialists, Ashley Castillo and Darette Ly, who specialize in working with nursing students. Ashley C. has been working with the WC, and her experience as a WC Graduate Assistant, Ashley C. has now become efficient and qualified in working with nursing papers, research, and APA format.

Darette L., another new Graduate Writing Specialist, is a medical-surgical nurse and is working toward her Master’s of Science in Nursing, as well as the Adult Geriatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program. She has had many experiences with nursing, both academically and in the field. Darette very much enjoys working with not only nursing students, but all types of writers. Darette states, "I have seen students become more confident and grow as writers. I am so glad to be able to encourage others and help them really develop their writing voices. Not only have the students I’ve worked with grown, but I feel as if I have grown as a writer myself."

Writing Center: Graduate Writing Services is located on the main campus in LRC 336, though the Specialists are also available in the main Writing Center and at Oak Brook.

Jet Fuel Celebrates 15th Issue Launch
By Sam Gennett

Lewis’ in-house literary journal Jet Fuel Review launched its 15th issue on Thursday, April 26th in AS-158. The editors and guest faculty readers took turns reading their favorite selections from the journal in front of a packed room. The event was well-attended by the Lewis community. In addition to Dr. Jason Keleher’s (Chemistry) and Dr. Chuck Crowder’s (Physics) traditional reading at the JFR launch, this semester’s faculty readers included Dr. Pramod Mishra (English Studies Chair), Dr. Arsalan Memon (Philosophy), Tracy Hemmingway (Communications), Keith White (Theatre), Dr. Thomas Brignall (Sociology), and Dr. John Greenwood (Psychology). Along with faculty, other guest readers included Dr. Joshua Ruland (Education), English Studies major Patricia Damocles, and Writing Center Grad Assistant Dominique Dusek. Writing Center tutors and JFR editors Bree Scott, Sam Gennett, and Noah Slowik, along with several other Lewis students, worked hard throughout the semester to curate another exciting issue of poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and artwork. After receiving almost 600 submissions from writers and artists, the JFR editors selected writing and art that was most emblematic of their mission to create a writers’ community, and publish quality and diversified writing and artwork. Faculty advisors Drs. Simone Muench and Jackie White oversee the journal while working to teach the student-editors about contemporary literature and professionalism in the process of producing a high-quality journal each semester.

Additionally, the editors were pleased to publish members of the Lewis community in Issue 15. Lennart Lundh’s poetry and Mervyn John’s artwork are featured in the journal, and Angela Morris’ artwork was published on the Jet Fuel Review Blog.

You can check out Jet Fuel Review’s 15th issue at jetfuelreview.com. If you are interested in submitting work, you can follow their link embedded on their website; if you are interested in joining the staff you can contact Dr. Simone Muench at muenchsi@lewisu.edu.
First Year Writing Showcase

By Jasmine Castillo

On Tuesday, April 24th, the English Department’s First-Year Writing (FYW) Program hosted its biannual FYW Showcase featuring strong writing from FYW students. Each semester, FYW instructors nominate work from their best writers and a faculty panel makes the final selections to be featured in the Showcase. The purpose of this event is to support, celebrate, share, and enjoy student writing from the Program’s newest students. FYW Director, Dr. Sheila Kennedy stated that featured works “reflect one or more criteria: writing proficiency, writing excellence, creative risk-taking, and growth from students’ engaged writing practices.”

Eight students shared their work with members of the Lewis community who attended the event to support the writers’ efforts and accomplishments. The featured works, including both traditional essays as well as digital and multi-modal projects, came from College Writing 1 and 2 courses. The featured writers included Madison Aggio, Margaret Capalbo, Alvi Renzyl Cortes, Alexander Davidson, Emil Guske, Thomas Shanahan, Amanda Walsh, and Kelly Womack. The student participants were proud to be selected and many of them invited their parents and family members to celebrate their writing accomplishments.

Congratulations to all of the FYW students who shared their great work!

Remembering Steve Seum

By Bree Scott

The Writing Center experienced a tremendous loss this past December with the unexpected passing of former tutor and recent Lewis graduate, Steven Seum. Steve was a friend, a father, and a writer. He had a great passion for writing because it helped him convey his thoughts, his feelings, and infuse his cynical humor onto the page. In fact, Steve was very excited to return to college to study creative and professional writing, always eager to learn all he could to strengthen his writing. Steve’s family said they had never seen a bigger smile on his face than when he walked across the stage on Dec. 17th and finally earned the degree he had worked so hard for, a Bachelor’s in English. Steve passed just 12 days later at the young age of 39, leaving behind a wife and two young daughters.

During his time at Lewis, Steve made many positive connections with his professors and peers. “Steve was one of the first people I connected with when I came to Lewis,” said Ashley Zizich, English major, “Being at similar points in our lives, it was easy to talk and share stories. He was a brilliant writer, and the way he was able to express himself was admirable. Steve was always willing to help peers and classmates, whether it be editing papers, taking on additional tasks in group work, or just lending an ear. He had a certain presence about him, and it was often infectious in that you could find yourself talking to him about any subject.” Many of Steve’s peers echoed Ashley’s sentiment, reflecting on Steve’s friendly and talkative nature.

Steve was Fearlessly outspoken and honest, in person and in his writing. In his piece, “The Chronic Appeal,” he wrote about the physical and emotional ramifications of his health conditions. “As I keep clawing my way out of this pit of despair and dysfunction, seeking some hint of light from above, my fingers cut and bleeding and fighting for a bright future just out of reach, all I can do is keep climbing.” Steve has been celebrated multiple times for his writing, including the annual Lewis This I Believe event and Celebration of Scholarship.

As a conscientious and kind tutor, Steve took his tutoring sessions in the Writing Center very seriously, making sure that he was helping students become the best writers he knew they could be. Steve had a knack for taking the pressure off students with his funny and friendly nature, sharing his own struggles and experiences with writing to establish comfortable, judgement-free tutoring sessions. Steve will be missed by his Writing Center family.

Congrats, Windows Winners!

Professor Therese Jones—Coordinator and Editor for Windows Fine Arts Magazine—announced the winners for the 2018 Windows Fine Art’s Contest.

A forum for creativity, Windows magazine highlights the accomplishments of faculty, students, and alums in a number of categories including visual art, poetry, fiction, research, and creative nonfiction.

This semester’s issue features work by a number of students including first place winners and Writing Center tutors Ashley McCann (“The Absent Father is Plath and Wilson,” Research Writing), Liz Yolich (“Darlene,” Creative Nonfiction), and Sam Gennett (“Education,” Poetry).

Creative nonfiction category winner Liz Yolich attests to the magazine’s value to the Lewis community. “This is my second time placing for Windows and I’m honored to be a part of the magazine again,” she shares. “Windows is a great opportunity for students because it offers an outlet for them to share their creative work—whether it be poetry, fiction, photography, or even artwork.”
The Writing Center Bids Farewell to Graduating Tutors!

Sam G.

By Jessica LaLonde

After several years of service with the Lewis Writing Center, saying goodbye to Graduate Assistant and Graduate Writing Specialist, Dominique Dusek, is bittersweet for the WC staff. She will be leaving the Center as she begins student teaching this upcoming fall and graduating in December 2018 with her Master’s in Secondary Education. Not only has Dom worked as a WC Graduate Assistant for the past year and a half, but she also worked as a WC tutor while pursuing her Bachelor’s in Creative and Professional Writing.

Having worked with the Writing Center since 2013, Dom has accomplished much within that time. She has worked with students on improving their writing skills, assisted with tutor training, worked with the Writing Fellows pilot, and given numerous presentations on topics such as WC services, APA, citing sources ethically, argumentative writing, and organizing ideas. Specifically, her services have been requested countless times by faculty and writers because of the excellent support that she provides. In addition to the work she has done for writers and professors, she also serves as co-chair for the WC Marketing Committee because of her strong skills and experience in design. Throughout her time in the Writing Center, Dom has created several WC Newsletters, promotional flyers, and has helped organize and create social media posts. The WC team is thankful for all of Dom’s contributions.

Dom is also grateful for the time she has spent at the Writing Center. Dom shared, "I love applying my professional writing skills to create PR materials for the WC and promote our services. It's incredibly rewarding to engage with writers from our Lewis community and to inform students, faculty, and staff about how they can utilize this beneficial resource." In addition, Dom has also been extremely helpful to the other tutors. Tutor Taylor French shared, "Dom has helped me to grow as both a tutor and a writer. She is always patient and willing to help when tutors are struggling to assist another student, or are struggling with their own writing."

Not only has Dom been recognized for her work at the WC, but she has also been acknowledged by Lewis publications for her exceptional writing skills. Dom’s writing has been published in Windows, Voices, and Jet Fuel Review. Moving forward, Dom would like to continue working on her own creative writing. After graduation, Dom intends on becoming a high school English teacher, and hopes to work at a school that has a literary journal or a school newspaper, so that she can continue to work with writers and use her design expertise. Congratulations on student teaching and your graduation, Dom!

Sam G.

WC staff congratulates tutor Sam G. on her upcoming graduation. In May, she will graduate with her Bachelor’s in English with an emphasis in Professional and Creative Writing. Since fall 2016, Sam has worked as a tutor in the Writing Center, helping students to develop into more confident, more creative writers. She has also participated in the WC’s Marketing Committee where she assisted with creating content for social media, including her regularly featured Word of the Week Wednesday Facebook posts.

In addition to her role as tutor, Sam also has served as the Managing Editor of Jet Fuel Review, a student-run international literary journal, publishing creative works by a diverse array of writers and artists. Earlier this year, Sam celebrated her own creative writing success, the publication of her first chapbook, Schadenfreude, with Dancing Girl Press.

After graduation, Sam plans to continue working at her current job at Whole Foods but would like to return to graduate school after a year or two. During her time as a tutor, Sam had the opportunity to work with a variety of writers and tutors and to build strong friendships. “My favorite thing about the Writing Center was the sense of community between the tutors and how everyone I worked with was always so approachable and caring.” Sam reflects.

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation, Sam!

Bree S.

WC staff bids farewell to Bree S., as she prepares to graduate in May with her Bachelor’s in English with an emphasis in Professional and Creative Writing and a minor in social media.

During her time at the WC, Bree has served as Social Media Specialist and Co-chair of the Marketing Committee, helping manage the WC Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat accounts and playing an instrumental role helping to expand the Center’s public relations plan.

“I really love what I did-- promoting the WC any way that I could. I feel that it’s such an amazing resource for students to use that I wanted everyone to know about the incredible services and staff it has,” Bree shares. In addition to managing social media for the WC, Bree also has worked as the Media and Communications Editor, Poetry Editor, Special Sections Editor, and Copy Editor for Jet Fuel Review. After graduation, Bree hopes to pursue a career in writing. She also plans to focus more time on her creative work and submitting her poetry for publication. As Bree prepares for graduation, she reflects on her time in the WC: “I will sincerely miss my Writing Center family the most; I have made close friends here and it was always a joy to come into work to those lovely faces.”

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation, Bree!
On February 8th, representatives from the up and coming Bishop Noll Institute Writing Center from Hammond, Indiana visited the Lewis Writing Center. Some of the faculty and staff from this Catholic high school wanted to learn about how Writing Center Director, Dr. Jen Consilio, has been so successful with the growth and development of the writing support and services available to the students here at Lewis.

Four high school writing tutors-in-training accompanied two members of the English department faculty from BNI, Ms. Rose Mullaney and Mrs. Mariann Laird. Mrs. Laird graduated with a B.A. in English Literature from Lewis in 2009. During their visit, Dr. Consilio offered introductory remarks about our faculty and student services, and then grad and undergrad tutors alike from the Lewis WC shared strategies they implement into their tutoring sessions.

In addition, members of the Lewis WC Marketing Committee offered advice to the visitors from BNI on how to build their presence on social media through Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat in order to increase community visibility. The faculty and staff of the Lewis WC also shared information about the special services they offer such as in-class tutoring, tutors who focus on working with English Language Learners (ELLs), free writing workshops, and the development of their Online Writing Lab (OWL). “We are so excited to host Bishop Noll’s Writing Center’s staff and students and to offer support to them as they open their new Center,” said Dr. Consilio. “Rose, Mariann, and their new tutors are clearly dedicated to providing writing services to their student body to help them strengthen their writing and writing process.”

This was a great opportunity for the staff and new tutors from BNI to gain of knowledge on how to help students with writing. “We’re so happy that we were able to meet with you all today and gain such valuable experience,” said Mrs. Laird. “Our tutors learned a lot and enjoyed the field trip.” The faculty and staff of the Lewis WC was delighted to share information about their services, so the meeting was beneficial for all parties.

Last summer, representatives from Joliet Junior College Writing Center also visited the Lewis Writing Center. Additionally, two faculty members from Elmhurst College’s Learning Center visited the Lewis WC in March seeking information about the services and infrastructure implemented here, which has led to our phenomenal growth and achievement. Local schools and universities are taking note that Lewis is a fantastic resource that offers much student support.

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**Lewis Community Members Celebrate “This I Believe”**

On Monday, April 30, faculty, staff, and students met in DL250 to celebrate the Writing Center’s annual This I Believe event – an event where writers across numerous disciplines come together to share personal essays that reflect their core beliefs.

Highlights from the event include writing tutor Noah Slowik’s piece, “The Pursuit of Happiness,” which was a revised version of a piece Slowik originally wrote during his first year of college. His essay served as a comedic and heartfelt reflection on his college experience and also served as a call to action for change in the world. This call for change was also appreciated by presenter Dr. Rich Foss, who identified the need for kindness and praised those around the world who advocate for social justice. Other speakers, such as Liz Yolich and Dr. Christie Billups, shared insightful experiences from their childhood and the ways those experiences helped shape their lives.

WC Tutor, Taylor French reflected, “The event was inspiring. I really enjoyed listening to a variety of perspectives, and I appreciated having the opportunity to get to know my peers and professors.”

The This I Believe event, in complement to last semester’s Why I Write event, works to encourage community among those who attend Lewis University. By coming together and reflecting on their core beliefs, those in attendance are able to connect and engage more with their fellow Flyers.

At Lewis, these events help bring the community together in a way that reinforces the interconnectivity between people and also highlights the power of language and speech. While the stories shared speak to the uniqueness and diversity of those who attend Lewis University, those stories also emphasize the commonalities of the human experience.
At the beginning of this semester, the Writing Center staff piloted a Writing Fellows program to provide tailored in-class tutoring support for students.

For the Writing Center Fellows program, tutors attend a specific course throughout the semester and provide course-related writing support for students on a one-to-one basis, much like tutors would in the Writing Center; tutors also attend key instructional days throughout the semester, so they are familiar with content-related writing and course expectations, and can assist students to craft effective writing projects within their specific disciplines. Because tutors often provide support during drafting and workshopping days, students have multiple opportunities to receive writing help and ask questions.

To plan this semester’s Writing Fellows pilot, Writing Center Director, Dr. Jen Consilio reached out to Professor Carl Roach to discuss his Writing for Law Enforcement class projects, instructor expectations, and the kinds of support writers most needed. Together, Dr. Consilio and Professor Roach created a tailored plan for best meeting the needs of the students in his class.

Professor Roach shared, “The Fellows were very approachable, friendly, and knowledgeable. My students felt comfortable asking for feedback and help with their many writing projects, and they also appreciated the additional resources that were provided from the Writing Center. The result was that student grades were higher than they’ve ever been in my course, and students have an even stronger grasp of the writing process and writing for law enforcement.”

Additionally, Dr. Consilio also piloted Writing Fellows in her Writing Digital Media class with Fellow Bree Scott, who provided feedback and design assistance to students as they created digital media projects. As a part of Writing Digital Media, students design a CD project targeted at a specific audience, create professional public relations materials for local non-profit organizations, and redesign effective websites for these organizations. Bree worked collaboratively with students offering support with learning new programs like Photoshop and Adobe Muse, providing feedback related to course outcomes such as how students could incorporate design principles into their projects.

Writing Digital Media student Ashley McCann shared her perspective on working with the Fellows: “Having a more knowledgeable peer in the classroom was especially beneficial for us, as many of the students in this course did not have experience with Adobe programs such as Photoshop.”

For more information about the Writing Fellows program, please contact Dr. Jen Consilio at consilje@lewisu.edu or (815) 836-5727.

“The result was that student grades were higher than they’ve ever been in my course, and students have an even stronger grasp of the writing process and writing for law enforcement.”

—Prof. Roach

As a requirement for this course, students must complete several writing assignments related to their discipline including resumes and cover letters, police reports, and a final research project. G.A. Dominique Dusek and Fellow Adrianna Polit are the Writing Fellows for Writing for Law Enforcement and have participated in drafting and workshop days throughout the semester for the class, working collaboratively with writers to provide feedback and answer questions. The tutors also attended classes on report writing to learn more about writing for law enforcement and its genre-specific expectations.