



On Writing

Visit the Writing Center. Talk about Writing.

New Pilot Program: Joint Writing Center and Research Librarian Appointments

by Ashley Castillo

The Writing Center and the Library have come together in a collaborative effort to offer students another form of support for their writing. In the semester of Fall 2014, the Writing Center and the Research Librarians launched a pilot program that enables students to make an appointment at the Center to work with both a tutor and a research librarian. This collaborative effort joins the list of appointment types already offered by the Writing Center, which include Face-to-Face, Real Time Online and Email Online Response.

During this hour-long appointment, the writer brings in a writing assignment, rubric, and any draft or outline. The writing tutor and research librarians Andrew Lenaghan or Kelley Plass will use these materials as stepping stones for providing feedback for the writer. The tutor and writer will discuss the writing of the piece, while the research librarian may point out places that need more evidence and where that evidence might be found. During the appointment, the writer will have a discussion not just about the writing, but also about the credibility of the sources and how effectively they are supporting the writer's claims. In addition, if the writer is struggling to find research articles to use as evidence, the research librarian can help the writer search the library's databases.

Writing Center tutor Kelly Lyons has experienced the positive effects of this type of appointment. "The writers seem to get a lot out of this type of appointment. We not only talked about the writing itself and how to expand ideas, but also how to effectively use research and evidence to support the ideas," Lyons said. She also added that this collaborative effort offers



Pictured Left to Right: Research Librarian, Kelley Plass; Writing Center Tutor, Kelly Lyons; Research Librarian, Andrew Lenaghan

Created by Jessie Pudelek,
Graduate Assistant

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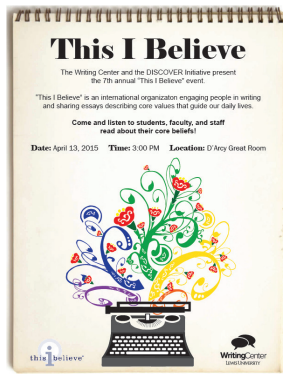
students the possibility of learning more about the many databases Lewis University provides for its students. "During the appointment I worked alongside Andrew and he was able to provide great tips for searching for articles that would help expand the writer's piece. Not only was the writer able to learn about the databases, but he was able to take notes for future reference," Lyons mentioned.

In the future, this program will be expanded to include students trained as peer reference librarians, further establishing peer-to-peer tutoring services.

Students can make this hour-long Writing Center & Research Librarian appointment by going to lewisu.edu/appointment or by calling the Writing Center at 815-836-5427.

"We not only talked about the writing itself and how to expand ideas, but also how to effectively use research and evidence to support the ideas." ~ Kelly Lyons

“This I Believe” Event



The Writing Center and the University’s DISCOVER Initiative celebrated the 7th Annual “This I Believe” event on Monday, April 13, in the D’Arcy Great Room. Students, faculty, and staff shared original pieces with the Lewis community about their core values and beliefs, fostering a sense of Association, one of the core principles of Lewis’ Lasallian mission.

Lauren Kill, a Writing Center tutor, shared her piece, “I Believe in Being Yourself.” Relating the topic to events in her own life, Kill

appreciated being able to give individuals positive reinforcement if they are doubting themselves. “I really enjoyed the event because I was able to talk about something that was important to me. Presenting gave me the opportunity to share my experiences and hopefully I was able to help others who are afraid to be themselves,” Kill said.

Another presenter, Dr. Sheila Kennedy, stated, “‘This I Believe’ is one of my favorite events. The writers enjoy the challenge of creatively conveying something important about who they are, and the audience enjoys connecting with their experiences.”

Other beliefs included the importance of finding your way home, not letting fear guide your life, and using compassion to fight apathy. All the topics covered were insightful, helping the audience to gain new perspectives on life and the things that are important in it.

Presenters: Rachel Steele, Christopher Hueg, Michael P. Bulfin, Lauren Kill, Jessie Pudelek, Ashley Castillo, Dr. Sheila M. Kennedy

Poetry Readings

by Kelly Lyons

This semester, the English Department reached out to a variety of diverse poets to read their work to Lewis students. The English Department Reading Series Showcase presented Native American poets, mentors of English Department faculty, and Chicago-based poets. The readings, which all occurred in the Art Gallery of the Phillip Lynch Theatre, allowed for students to learn about and appreciate a variety of different types of poets and their work.

The series began on January 22 with Anishinaabe poets Kim Blaeser and Meg Noonan. Prior to reading, Blaeser briefly discussed the history of the Ojibwe people, who speak the Anishinaabe language. Blaeser stressed the importance of keeping the language alive since there are so few people left who speak it fluently. Blaeser and Noonan met through their shared culture and love of poetry, and often work together to translate poems. The poets read several selections of their work, many of which highlighted nature and other important Ojibwe ideals.

The next event in the series was the Masters and Mentors Poets’ Reading, on February 26, featuring Michael Anania and Reginald Gibbons. This reading was especially exciting, as Anania and Gibbons mentored Lewis’ own Drs. Simone Muench and Jackie White. Anania is a Professor Emeritus of Poetry and Prose at UIC, while Gibbons currently teaches English, Classics, Spanish, and Portuguese at Northwestern University. The poets read a variety of different pieces, and shared insight on their writing preferences and inspirations.

Chicago-based poets Jacob Saenz and Kyle Churney closed the series on March 26. Poet and editor Saenz earned a BA in creative writing from Columbia College in Chicago, and is a Canto Mundo fellow. Churney’s poetry has appeared in a variety of publications, and his poem “Desert Ghazal” received a 2014 Literary Award from the Illinois Arts Council.

All of the poets shed light on what it’s like to be a working writer. The series was a success, each reading attended by students of a variety of different majors.

Celebration of Scholarship

by Nicole Krage & Ashley Castillo

Thursday, April 16, marked the fourth annual Celebration of Scholarship at Lewis University. Celebration of Scholarship is a university-wide event open to undergraduate and graduate students, and faculty. The substantial and spirited event is an opportunity for students to showcase their scholarly work with other members of the Lewis community.

Students submitted work to three categories: performance, concurrent session, or poster. A performance event consists of spoken word or visual arts. These include reciting poetry or presenting an art piece. A concurrent session is a formal presentation where students showcase their knowledge – a lecture followed by a brief Q&A session. The poster category consists of displaying information on a professional poster that includes compelling visuals. These posters were presented in the Academic and Science buildings, where students explained their posters for community members interested in their topic.

The Celebration of Scholarship event is an important opportunity for students to not only showcase their scholarly work, but also to gain experience in presenting and explaining their findings. Students interested in applying for Celebration of Scholarship for the Spring 2016 semester can log on to lewisu.edu/celebration-of-scholarship for more information.

WC Tutors Say Farewell in May

At the end of the spring semester, the Writing Center will say goodbye to our senior tutors. As members of the staff, the tutors have generously dedicated their time and talent to helping Lewis students improve their writing for course assignments and their writing skills as a whole.

Following graduation, several tutors will be moving toward the future with brand-new degrees in English, Education, Art, Psychology, Mass Communications, and Biology. In addition, other tutors will be pursuing opportunities such as student-teaching and athletics. The Writing Center, along with the greater Lewis Community, wish them the best of luck in their endeavors and starting their careers.

Tutor Nicole Krage, who has been with the Writing Center for three years, reflected upon her experience, stating, “Working at the Writing Center has been a great experience, and I’m glad I had the opportunity to be a tutor for so long. Over my time here, I have improved both as a tutor and as a writer. It’s great to see students truly care about improving their writing, and I’m glad that I’ve been able to help so many students and make a difference.”

The Writing Center thanks all tutors for their service to the Lewis community.

Tutors Top to Bottom, Left to Right: Kelly Lyons, Brittany Bishop, Bianca Apato, Nicole Krage, Lauren Kill, Jessica Tennant, Dominique Dusek, Delia Ercoli, Brittany Yacko

Not Pictured: Amber Schaar, Sammi Toomey



Tutor Tips

Some tips and tricks from Writing Center tutors!

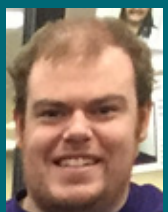
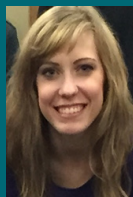


My favorite brainstorming technique is discussing my ideas aloud. This technique allows me to receive feedback from my audience, as well as hear if the idea itself is plausible.

~ Brittany Y.

When I’m having trouble moving forward in my writing, I step away from it for a while to clear my head. When I come back to it, I usually then have a fresh mind and new ideas to continue with.

~ Nicole K.



I think your writing environment is very important. I like to have plenty of light around me to read my resources, but keep the rest of the room dark. I also have a woodwick candle burning and “The Best of Broadway” Spotify channel playing.

~Chris H.



When writing a topic sentence, think of it as a mini thesis statement. This sentence will be highlighting what point you are covering in the paragraph. I use this technique all the time when coming up with topic sentences.

~ Lauren K.

If I feel that a paper is too broad, I try to come up with a brief one- or two-sentence summary of what it’s about. If I can’t communicate the topic succinctly, I know that I need to narrow it down a little more.

~ Kelly L.



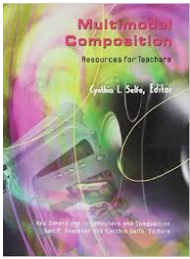
When working on an assignment, the most important thing to do is to answer the question that is posed and know where to find objective primary and secondary sources. The Writing Center can help with brainstorming!

~Michael B.

For more tutor tips, please see our Facebook page for Tutor Tip Tuesday at Lewis University Writing Center.

Writing Resources for Students and Faculty

Books on Writing



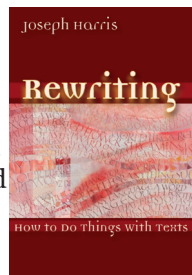
Multimodal Composition by Cynthia L. Selfe

This theoretical and practical text helps faculty and students explore ways to incorporate video, images, and sound into writing assignments.

Rewriting

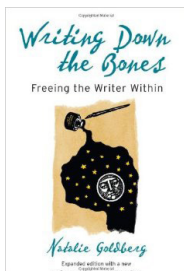
by Joseph Harris

This textbook for undergraduate writers introduces a more dynamic understanding of college writing. It describes writing as an adapted and social activity, and offers a set of strategies for effectively revising.



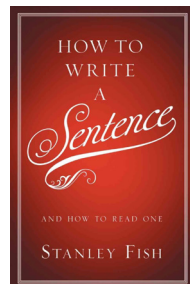
Writing Down the Bones by Natalie Goldberg

This modern classic brings together the ideas of Zen meditation and writing by presenting the idea of “writing practice.” It provides numerous prompts to support a life-long writing practice.



How to Write a Sentence by Stanley Fish

This unique book looks at the characteristics of well-crafted sentences. The book explores authors throughout history and illustrates how a well-structured sentence is the key to creating compelling writing.



Digital Writing Assessment and Evaluation by Andrea Lunsford

This book, immediately available online, offers principles and practices for effectively evaluating digital writing and multimodal composition.

Summaries adapted in part from reviews posted at barnesandnoble.com.

Online Resources

Lewis Online Writing Lab

lewiswritingcenter.wordpress.com/

For students looking for assistance in all aspects of the writing process, including helpful ELL resources.

Purdue Online Writing Lab

owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/

A useful resource for proper citation style, including APA, MLA, or Chicago style.

WritingCommons

writingcommons.org/

A peer-reviewed, open-source website featuring strategies for improving academic writing.

Digital Writing and Research Lab

dwrl.utexas.edu/

From UT-Austin's Department of Rhetoric and Writing, offering practices for using innovative writing technologies.

Written? Kitten!

writtenkitten.net/

Used to end procrastination: reach your writing goal and see what happens!

How to Enjoy the Writing Process

by Lauren Kill

Writing can sometimes seem like a daunting task. You have to think of a subject, then write an outline, have about a million drafts, go through numerous proofreading sessions, and then you finally have the perfect paper. The problem is, because of all the work that goes into writing a paper, along with the desire to have the ‘perfect’ paper, sometimes we forget how to actually relax and just have fun with writing!

Here are some tips and ideas that can help your next writing session be more fun:

-Don't sweat it. It may be hard to not worry over every single aspect of the paper, but in the long run it is okay if it's not ‘perfect’. As long as you put forth your best effort, that's what counts!

-Pick a subject that you are interested in. Sometimes picking a subject to write about is out of your hands, but when you have the choice, pick something you find interesting or are passionate about. That way writing won't seem like a chore!

-Have someone close to you give you feedback. Having a friend or family member giving you feedback on your writing can be a fun way to get creative ideas or suggestions if you are having writer's block.

Jet Fuel Review Launches Its 9th Issue

by Ashley Castillo

On April 23, *Jet Fuel Review*, an online literary journal, launched its 9th issue and hosted a launch event the same day in De La Salle Hall. During this event, the *Jet Fuel* staff and Lewis instructors read and shared some of the newly published pieces with the Lewis community. The presentation highlighted works from a diverse group of authors in a variety of genres to promote literacy and creative writing.

This issue featured works from writers across the globe as well as from our own Lewis students. This ninth issue also includes a high school dossier for the first time, enabling young writers to gain publishing experience.

Jet Fuel's Managing Editor, Jessica Jordan, suggests that “the inclusion of the dossier was our attempt to encourage more students to write and publish their work. I think it is awesome to watch and be a part of *Jet Fuel's* continual experimentation and attempts to push the boundaries of traditional publication.”

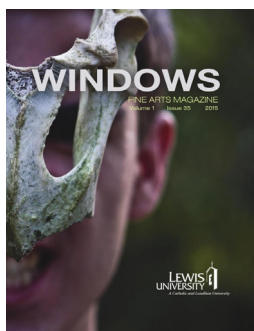
To read the newest issue of *Jet Fuel Review*, visit their page at jewtfuelreview.com. If you would like to become part of the editorial staff, please contact Dr. Simone Muench for more information at muenchsi@lewisu.edu.



Cover image: “Quickening” by Lauren Levato Coyne

Windows Magazine

by Dominique Dusek



Lewis University’s *Windows* Fine Arts Magazine celebrated the publication of its 35th issue this spring, showcasing art and writing by members of the Lewis community.

A forum for creativity, *Windows* magazine highlights the accomplishments of faculty, students, staff, and alumni publishing visual art, poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction.

This semester’s issue features work by

a number of students including first place winners Symone McCoy (Special Category Poetry and Fiction), Larissa Barnat (Photography), and Delia Ercoli (Academic Essay) as well as contributions by faculty members, including Br. Paul Joslin, FSC (Foreign Language & Ministry), Dr. Pramod Mishra (English), and Dr. George Miller (Philosophy).

According to Coordinator and Editor, Professor Therese Jones, this semester’s installment of the magazine was especially successful. “Overall, there were more first place winners awarded than any other year, attesting to the high quality of the entries,” she said.

Past issues of *Windows* as well as the most current edition of the magazine are available electronically at lewisu.edu/publications/windowsmagazines/. Featured writers and artists interested in obtaining a print copy may visit Professor Jones at her office located in De La Salle 206N.

Professor Jones has opened submissions for the Fall 2015 publication of *Windows*. Those interested in submitting may contact her at jonesth@lewisu.edu.

Voices Literary Journal

by Bianca Apato

Sigma Tau Delta’s Rho Lambda Chapter releases its last print edition of *Voices* Literary Journal this spring. *Voices* is a collection of critical and reflection essays written and reviewed by students. In the past, *Voices* was only open to Sigma Tau Delta members, but this semester submissions were open to all English majors and minors.



Voices Literary Journal
Nigma Iun Debra
Rho Lambda Chapter
Spring 2015

“We wanted more majors and minors to become involved in English Department activities, so we opened up the submission line,” says Theresa Marten, co-editor-in-chief of *Voices* 2015. “This year we had a great turnout. The publications range from freshman English majors all the way to graduating seniors—there is such a wide variety of writers.”

Among those being published are the Writing Center’s very own Delia Ercoli and Christopher Hueg. Ercoli, senior English and Secondary Education major, is publishing a piece from her Native American Literature course, while Hueg, a graduate student pursuing his Masters in Education, is publishing a paper from British Literature.

As digital journals become more popular, *Voices* will move forward as an E-Journal and will continue its new tradition of allowing all English students to participate in the fun and excitement of publication. As stated by Marten: “I’m excited for all the changes we made and I can’t wait to see where it goes!”

Student Testimonials

I would recommend the Writing Center to Lewis students because...

“It can help any student struggling in any part of the writing process.”

“It is a valuable tool that helps students of all majors.”



“Having another set of eyes looking at your writing helps you notice things that you wouldn’t have otherwise.”

“The Writing Center is extremely helpful, especially for international students.”

“It helps when you are unsure of your paper for someone else to take a look at it and give you constructive criticism.”

“It provides you with the fundamentals to really improve your writing skills.”

“The Writing Center helped me feel more confident about my writing.”

“There is always room for improvement and it helps to read and go over the paper with someone else.”

Mobile Tutoring

The Writing Center offers many services to Lewis students; we also offer services for faculty. One of those services is Mobile Tutoring.

Mobile Tutoring is what its title implies – a tutor who is mobile and able to come into the classroom to work with students. The tutor is available for mobile tutoring during a predetermined amount of time, answering any questions the students might have by collaborating and offering feedback on assigned writing projects, just as in a regular tutoring session.

The instructor and tutor work in a collaborative environment for one or more classes throughout the semester so writers can get the attention they need for their writing.

Through Mobile Tutoring, writers will establish and strengthen their writing abilities and knowledge as well as build relationships with Writing Center tutors for future peer-to-peer collaboration.

To request a Mobile Tutoring session, please contact the Writing Center Director at 815-836-5727.

Tutoring by the Numbers

(For Spring 2015 Semester, to date)

1582+ Face-to-Face and Real Time
Online Response Appointments

315+ Online Email Responses

420+ Different students have visited
the Writing Center

For information about services, contact:

Dr. Sheila Kennedy
Interim Director, Spring 2015
(815) 836 - 5727
kennedsh@lewisu.edu

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


WritingCenter
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