MISSION STATEMENT

• We will provide qualified writing consultants who support the academic mission of the University so that you can work confidently in our writing centers.

• We will create an environment at each of our sites (Writer’s Roosts) that is accessible, comfortable, and productive.

• We will help you understand and practice writing-to-learn for writing in all subjects, now and for writing in the future.

• We will help you understand and practice many strategies effective writers use, from brainstorming to editing.

• We will support your growth as a writer and provide the expertise, the resources, and the space and time to work with you on your writing while you are here at the University of Kansas.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

• As a part of the global community, the KU Writing Center fosters diversity in all of its dimensions and supports writers in reaching their personal and professional goals.

• All writers, with their unique life experiences, worldviews, languages, and voices, are respected and welcomed.

• We provide an environment that is conducive to diverse learning styles and forms of expression, and we respect writers’ use of their home languages and world Englishes.

• We also work with others to pursue justice and remedy current and historical inequities in higher education.

• We embrace the humanity of all people, celebrating the contributions each individual makes to the Writing Center, KU, and the wider community.

“THERE’S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR A HUMAN TOUCH”

A YEAR OF PROGRESS: GOALS MET

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT We cooperated with the Office of First-Year Experience by offering workshops for Intro to College classes. Our Writing Fellows collaborated with the Office of Multicultural Affairs’ Hawk Link instructors by tutoring individual students. We also consulted with faculty redesigning their courses around writing and offered workshops through the Center for Teaching Excellence.

REACHING NEW USERS In addition to the 2,117 undergraduate and graduate students with whom we met in individual consultations, we reached 6,976 through in-class workshops and information sessions. We sponsored 186 of these events, 33% more than in 2012-2013.

GRADUATE STUDENT PROGRAMS Research/Write–In events in collaboration with KU Libraries and the Graduate Writing Program involved more than 250 students at the Lawrence and Edwards Campuses. Two graduate student writing groups were created and assisted students in meeting their writing goals.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH As a proud member of the Greater Kansas City Writing Centers Association, we planned and participated in the Annual Tutor Retreat at Johnson County Community College. We offered guidance to three colleagues setting up new writing centers in Kansas colleges and high schools. Locally, we coordinated Saturday Writing Tables at Lawrence Family Promise, a service for homeless families.

“I saw fresh new perspectives on my paper. [My consultant] was incredibly helpful.” — KU undergraduate

“THERE’S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR A HUMAN TOUCH”

GRADUATING WRITING CENTER EMPLOYEES Rear: Brittany Brannon (Graduate student), Alexi Knutsen (Undergraduate student), Lara Law (UG), Maria Canoal Regalier (UG), Kayla Overbey (UG), Brianna Matary (UG), Joyce Balting (UG), and Meaghan Melech (UG). Front: Shayn Guillemette (GR), Phillip Cartlidge (UG), Justin Wilson (UG), Ryan Smith (UG), Wayne Hendrene (UG), Nick Steinaker (UG), and Charlie Barkley (UG).

“The writing consultant did a fantastic job of explaining the concept to me and provided ideas for me to talk about. She was very helpful!” — KU undergraduate
“The visit improved not only my paper, but my overarching writing and organizational style.”

- KU graduate student

LEAD UNDERGRADUATE CONSULTANT PROFILE—JOYCE BOHLING
By Katie Elliott

Joyce joined the Writing Center staff in the fall of her sophomore year. In her three years at KUWC, she impacted countless student writers by leading in-class workshops, facilitating Writing Center events at the Honors College and Haskell Indian Nations University, and working with hundreds of writers in individual sessions. She trained new consultants, led professional development activities, and conducted writing center research. Since graduating in May 2014, Joyce has worked at an educational summer camp and in KU’s Office of Institutional Research and Planning. She is applying to graduate schools for Fall 2015.

LEAD GRADUATE CONSULTANT PROFILE—JUSTIN WILSON
By Amanda Hemmingsen

Justin joined the Writing Center as an undergraduate consultant in Fall 2010. He served as lead consultant during Spring and Fall 2013. Justin insisted we challenge consulting lore; he asked us to step back and truly investigate why we do what we do, and he led the way in sharing his own consulting methods with the group. Challenging accepted wisdom(s) requires an ability to ask the right questions on many fronts. Justin’s light-hearted humor and honesty drew others to him. These are talents befitting a leader. It was an honor & privilege to work with him.

LEAD OFFICE ASSISTANT PROFILE—ASHLEY MEADOWS
By Marie Schmitz

Ashley Meadows served as the Lead Office Assistant in 2013-2014. With four years of KU Writing Center expertise, Ashley assisted veteran and rookie employees in learning how to effectively manage Writers’ Roosts and our office smoothly. She designed our Annual Reports and made many upgrades to our website. Ashley is always finding ways to improve the writing center, and her dedication has shown us the importance of attention to detail and creating cohesive relationships among our employees.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?


Zanice Bond (2012) teaches and researches at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama.

Brian Fallon (2002) directs the Writing Studio at NYC’s Fashion Institute of Technology.

Ariel Tazkargy (2011), J.D., works at the National Women’s Health Network in Washington, DC.

Sergey Novoseltsev (2013), former web programmer, designs software at IBM in Lenexa, Kansas.

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

Send us an e-mail or follow us on Facebook or Twitter!

writing@ku.edu  o  www.facebook.com/kuwritingcenter  o  twitter.com/KUWritingCenter

WHO WE ARE

15TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

“Very helpful and gave me really good resources to look at outside of my appointment.”

- KU undergraduate

A PROUD UNIT OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Undergraduate Studies’ mission is to enable students to build foundational intellectual skills and access academic services that support and challenge them. We walk with students from orientation to graduation, providing them with high quality, data-driven academic and career advising, challenging and empowering first year seminars, and engaging experiential learning. We share with faculty and staff best practices on academic engagement and retention strategies, and assist them as they bring 21st century pedagogy to life in and beyond the classroom.

SUPPORT FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Retention and graduation are KU Bold Aspirations goals for both undergraduate and graduate students. This year’s Graduate Writing Specialist, Claire McMurray, worked with faculty and graduate students to reach those goals. In Fall 2013, she reached out to all departmental Graduate Directors with information about KUWC resources, including thesis/dissertation writing groups, Graduate Research/Write-Ins, and graduate appointments available for face-to-face, videoconference, and e-mail feedback consultations. In Spring 2014, Claire led targeted outreach to graduate students in the School of Social Welfare and in the Departments of Educational Psychology and Research and Communication Studies. Saturday Research/Write-ins on the Lawrence and Edwards Campuses saw a combined attendance of 272 graduate students.

Academic Year Total Users In-Person Sessions Online Sessions Total Sessions
2003-2004 3024 3965 387 4332
2004-2005 2118 (+45) 4107 (+45) 289 (+41) 4966 (+45)
2005-2006 1989 (-35) 3416 (+77) 345 (+63) 3775 (+63)
2006-2007 2054 (+35) 4019 (+65) 550 (-285) 4279 (+135)
2007-2008 1909 (-65) 4099 (+183) 351 (+393) 4550 (+393)
2008-2009 1910 (+20) 5918 (+385) 633 (+455) 6271 (+455)
2009-2010 2054 (+45) 5845 (+45) 804 (+25) 6649 (+165)
2010-2011 2281 (+105) 6481 (+465) 958 (+37) 7499 (+115)
2011-2012 2457 (+178) 6696 (+883) 1204 (+353) 7990 (+115)
2012-2013 2388 (+75) 6424 (+65) 1408 (+143) 7732 (30)
2013-2014 2177 (-95) 6504 (+65) 1994 (+155) 7248 (155)
“I wanted to make sure that the organization and flow of my thesis were on the right track and that I was conveying information well. [My consultant] said that she understood my draft very well, which is exciting to me because I was worried about making my thoughts understandable to people from non-science backgrounds. Thank you!”

~ KU graduate student

COLLABORATIONS WITH KU PARTNERS AND BEYOND

KUWC supported orientation programs sponsored by the Office of Admissions, New Student Orientation, International Student Services, and Edwards Campus, among others.

To support instruction, KUWC participated in Center for Teaching Excellence programs such as the Teaching Summit, new GTA training, C21, and Ambassadors, and worked with individual faculty members on assignment design.

In Fall 2014, KUWC moved its Writing Fellows program to the Office of Multicultural Affairs, where six WFs supported student writing in PRe 101 (Intro to College) sections specially designed for students in the HawkLink program.

KUWC staff collaborated with the Spencer Art Museum, First Year Experience, the Honors Program, the School of Education, Undergraduate Research, and Haskell Indian Nations University in offering innovative programming for students.

VISITING SCHOLAR

In August 2013, Writing Center welcomed Yan (Leanne) Li from the Foreign Languages Teaching Center, Zhejiang University of Media and Communications, in Hangzhou, China. Leanne spent six months researching English writing pedagogy, participating in the ENGL 400 class (Teaching & Tutoring Writing), attending and contributing to staff meetings, and tutoring KU students in writing.

In her final report, Leanne wrote: “KUWC amazed me with its efficiency in organizing its daily routines and running a program to serve a large campus population...I have been fascinated by its youthful climate of energy, democracy, equality, animation, and potential.”

Since returning to Hangzhou, Leanne has given two presentations to faculty colleagues university-wide. She has also established twice-yearly Zhejiang Write-Ins for students, modeled on KUWC’s Graduate Research/Write-Ins, and an annual writing contest to prepare English students for the provincial writing event.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

KU Writing Center is a founding member of the Greater Kansas City Writing Centers Project. For the third year, we participated in the Annual Tutor Retreat, held on August 25, 2013 at Johnson County Community College. Writing consultants Maria Carvajal-Regidor, Amanda Hemmingsen, Kristin Lockridge, Justin Wilson, and Associate Director Kate Elliott presented workshops. KUWC also supported GKCWCP colleagues in creating writing centers at their institutions.

In monthly practica, consultants devoted time to research on specific topics of interest and presented their work at the Spring All-Staff Meeting. We were also well represented at the Fall Midwest Writing Centers Conference, where writing consultants Amanda Hemmingsen, Shayn Guillemette, Justin Wilson, Ashley Ortiz, Rachel McMurray, Maria Carvajal-Regidor, former Assistant Director Martha Jerrim, and Director Terese Thonus presented their research.

WHERE WE’RE GOING

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

The KU Writing Center serves all KU constituencies: students, staff, faculty, and community. KU Writing Center’s Endowment fund supports our consultant education program and events for student staff, as well as their travel to professional conferences. Here’s what we can do with even more donations from YOU:

$250 FUNDS...

Consultant education in specialized writing tutoring for creative writers, international scholars, or students with disabilities.

$500 FUNDS...

Materials, refreshments, and student wages for twice-yearly All-Staff meetings.

$1,000 FUNDS...

Travel, lodging and per diem expenses for a writing consultant presenting a workshop at a national conference.

“I learned more about setting [my research paper] up and had some questions answered so that I could move on with my writing process. I plan to come back!”

~ KU undergraduate student

“This has been my best visit to the Writing Center. [My consultant] helped me get back on track with what I wanted my paper to be about and clarify my ideas. She may not hold my hand while doing it, but she makes one think critically — the purpose of school.”

~ KU undergraduate student

OUR INITIATIVES FOR 2014-2015

CONTRIBUTE TO RETENTION & GRADUATION

Our participation in Bold Aspirations as a co-curricular participant in First-Year Experience and the KU Core and as partners in course and assignment (re)design will support students’ progress towards graduation and prepare them to be lifelong learners.

EDUCATE THE EDUCATORS

Faculty are the prime motivators of student success in writing. We will increase the number and variety of in-class workshops, which faculty can request as interventions with their students at the point of need. We will continue to offer workshops through the Center for Teaching Excellence, and we will pilot faculty writing groups.

REACH NEW USERS

Our marketing campaign, “Get Your Paper Off the Ground,” will get the message out that writers can meet with a consultant face-to-face or online at any point in the writing process. We will implement writing groups and events for both undergraduate and graduate students.

USE TECHNOLOGY WISELY

Continual improvement of our website and appointment system will make KUWC services even more accessible to users. We will implement software such as Microsoft Lync (for messaging and videoconference consultations) and My Community (for staff collaboration).

WHERE WE’RE GOING