The KU Writing Center is a writing support resource for KU students, faculty, and staff. Since June 2007, we have worked one-on-one with 12,635 individuals in 46,574 sessions and many thousand more during class visits, workshops, writing groups and events.

In the 2015-2016 academic year the KU Writing Center continued to serve graduate students across the KU campus in a variety of ways, through one-on-one graduate consultations, writing groups, graduate/research writers, and in-class and campus-wide graduate writing workshops. KU Writing Center staff facilitated 21 writing groups for 101 graduate students and successfully piloted groups specifically for multilingual graduate students. The Graduate Writing Specialist, Claire McMurray, implemented a new training program and support network for all consultants working as graduate writing group facilitators. In addition, nine graduate/research writers were held at the Lawrence and Edwards campuses for 194 graduate student participants.

Dr. McMurray also created new workshops focusing on effective Power Point presentations and publishing journal articles, which she presented in collaboration with Graduate Studies.

A unit of KU Undergraduate Studies, the Writing Center shares its goals of enabling students to build foundational intellectual skills and access academic services that support and challenge them. In particular, we aimed to contribute to retention and graduation. For the second year, we collaborated with First-Year Experience by presenting UNIV 101 workshops and with the Office of Multicultural Affairs by embedding Writing Fellows in HawkLink sections. From an assessment done by the Office of Institutional Research and Planning, we learned that 50% of first-time freshmen visited the Writing Center between 2006-2013. During the same period, the GPAs of ENGL 101 students who used KUWC services averaged 2.9, compared to 2.5 among non-users. The gap was more pronounced among males. In 2016-2017, in collaboration with the Department of Student Housing, we plan to inaugurate undergraduate writing groups with ENGL 101 students to provide ongoing support across each semester.

Funded by a generous Educational Opportunity Fund grant from the Student Senate, undergraduate writing fellows (WFs) offered course embedded writing tutoring for 16 classes ranging from REES 110 (Understanding Russia and Eastern Europe) to GEOG 965 (From DNA to Dinos) to HA 601 (Introduction to Modern Art). The total number of undergraduate students supported was 983. Our undergraduate WFs this year were Ellen Bertels, Megan Dennis, Brittany Heppler, Colin Karr, Joy Mosier-Dubinsky, and Amy Putman.

The Graduate Writing Fellows Program at the KU Edwards Campus employed WF Adam Miller, who supported student writing in graduate courses in Communication Studies, Social Welfare, Educational Technology, and Public Management/Engineering Management. The total number of graduate students supported was 55.

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EVENTS AND OUTREACH

WRITERS OF KU

This academic year, we invested time and resources into educating the KU community about our many services led by our newly formed marketing team: Associate Director Katie Elliott, Marketing Coordinator Chelsea Murdock, Graduate Intern Aron Muci, and Lead Undergraduate Consultant Mikey Shaw. The team updated our social media presence on Facebook and Twitter, created a KUWC YouTube channel, and changed the look of our webpage, writing.ku.edu. They also created events such as Late Night at the Roost and fun giveaways with our logo, including Frisbees and coffee mugs. One Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram campaign was “Writers of KU,” a series featuring KU students, faculty, and staff.

OUTREACH

Chelsea Murdock served as our Marketing Coordinator, creating a “brand” for KUWC through artwork, templates, advertising, and social media messaging through Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Thanks to her hard work and that of Annie Wildgen, her office assistant, followers have reached more than 1,000 in each medium.

Giselle Scott served as our Workshops Coordinator. She and her office assistant, Rute Muniz, oversaw the planning and delivery of 108 workshops during Fall 2015 and Spring 2016. Workshop leaders, both graduate and undergraduate consultants supported writing projects in classes enrolling more than 1,800 students.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The theme of in-service consultant development in Fall 2015 was “What is Success?” Consultants, meeting in small groups, read key articles and considered three “pillars” for building successful relationships with writers and desired outcomes from writing consultations. Office assistants also considered this topic in their monthly meetings. In Spring 2016, the staff development theme shifted to “Diversity in Action.” Beginning in the January All-Staff meeting with a workshop by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, consultants and office assistants attended to white privilege, equity and equality, and strategies for creating social justice through writing center work.

In service meetings throughout the semester also focused on Title IX regulations and the mandated reporting structure for sexual assault at the University of Kansas. At the May All-Staff meeting, spokespersons for each group reported out.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

In August 2015, Associate Director Katie Elliott collaborated with colleagues from the Greater Kansas City Writing Centers Project to plan the yearly Tutor Retreat. There, she presented a workshop, “Developing Research Questions: Helping Writers Learn to Ask Academic Questions about Their Real-Life Interests.” The majority of newly hired KUWC undergraduate and graduate consultants attended the event. KUWC writing consultants’ presentations were important features of the Retreat.

Adam Miller: “No Shame: Modeling Effective Professional Correspondence with Published Memoir”
Jacob Herrmann: “Tutoring vs. Consulting: Thinking about Power Dynamics and Student Authorship”
Leah Mortensen: “Best Practices for Working with ELLs”
Giselle Scott: “Road Trip! Applying Counseling Techniques to Understand the Movement and Progression of a WC Consultation”

Administrative Intern Aron Muci and graduate consultant Jacob Herrmann attended the Midwest Writing Centers Association Conference in Cedar Rapids, IA in March 2016. They presented a workshop, “Reimagining the Writing Center: Considering Space, Rhetoric, and Marketing.”

In April 2016, Terese Thonus (Director) presented a workshop with Beth Hewett at the IWCA Collaborative ("Follow This PATH") and a paper at the Conference of College Composition and Communication ("The Disciplinarity of Second Language Writing"), both in Houston, TX. Graduate Writing Specialist Claire McMurray presented “Getting Groups to Coalesce: The Evolution of a Graduate Writing Program” at the IWCA Annual Conference in Pittsburg, PA in October 2015. She also presented “Beyond the Consultation: A Multi-Pronged Approach to Supporting Graduate Students,” at the Canadian Writing Centres Association Conference in Calgary, Alberta in May 2016.

Terese published three articles in Spring 2016:

* "Follow This PATH: Conceptual Metaphors in Writing Center Online Consultations." Metaphor and the Social World, 2(5), 52-78. (Co-authored with Beth Hewett)
* "After the Writing Center Dissertation." WLN: A Journal of Writing Center Scholarship, 40 (9-10), 10-18. (Co-authored with Rebecca Babcock and Sheila Carter-Tod)

Her review of Ben Rafaith’s Multilingual Writers and Writing Centers also appeared in the Writing Center Journal.
**FEEDBACK FROM OUR CLIENTS:**

**ON INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATIONS:**

“Thank you very much Alli for your great feedback. I really appreciate your comments and suggestions. Cheers!”

“Ben helped me to improve my writing style and select suitable words, which made my essay much more better.”

“Hannah was really helpful! Her suggestions helped me a lot!”

“I appreciate Brittany’s ability to understand an unusual appointment and help me in a unique way that gave me a good impression of the writing center.”

“Matthew is amazing. He encouraged me to keep writing even if I feel like it doesn’t work or feel disappointed. Golden star for Matthew!”

“Rachael set a positive tone by addressing what I hoped to accomplish in the session and led me through that process.”

**WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

- Undergraduate Consultant Kayla Overbey (B.A., English; B.S., Journalism, 2014) is Production Editor at Sterling Publishing in New York.
- Undergraduate Consultant Casey Cabeo Stafferson (B.A., English, 2007) is Assistant Vice President and Trust Officer at the Bank of Kansas City.
- Graduate Consultant Shyanne Guillermette (M.A., English, 2014) lives in Wichita, KS and teaches Language Arts at Hadley Middle School.
- Graduate Consultant M. Rabbie Najjar (PharmD, 2015) is a Pharmacist at a CVS Pharmacy in Kansas City, Missouri.
- Assistant Director Martha Jerren (2013-2015) lives in Grand Blanc, MI where she is hard at work renovating her home.

**2015-2016 YEAR-END STATS**

**CONSULTATIONS:**

- Individual Writers: 1,487 (7% of KU student body)
- Individual Appointments: 4,229
- Summer 2016: 116 eTutoring & online appointments

**CLASS VISITS AND WORKSHOPS:**

- Fall 2015: 20 class visits, 82 workshops
- Spring 2016: 9 class visits, 26 workshops
- Materials development for workshops and website

**WRITING FELLOWS:**

- 7 Undergraduate Writing Fellows, 1 Graduate Writing Fellow (Edwards Campus)
- Total courses = 20 - Total students = 604 (55 Graduate, 549 Undergraduate)

Where are they now?

Contact us at writing@ku.edu or 785-864-2399 and let us know where life has taken you! You can also reach us out through social media. Tweet @KUWritingCenter and follow us on Instagram @writing.ku. We hope to hear from you soo.
Thank you for your support and hard work!
We wish you success and perseverance on this new journey that lies ahead of you.
It was a pleasure to work, learn, and grow with you.
Rock Chalk!