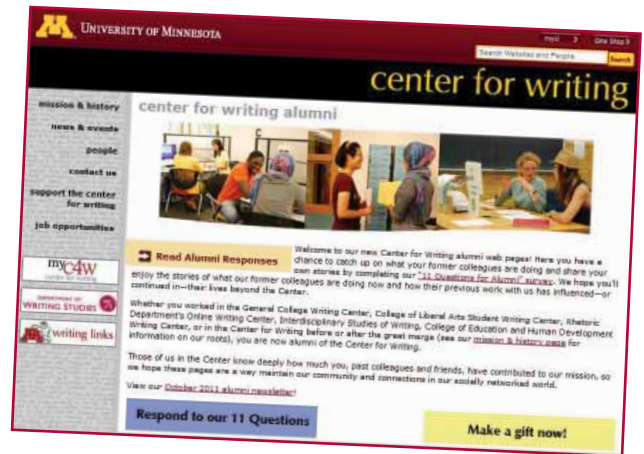




OCTOBER 2012

Welcome to the second annual Center for Writing alumni newsletter. Thanks to your contributions, we now have an alumni presence on our Center website! Please take a peek at [writing.umn.edu/alums](http://writing.umn.edu/alums) to see what others have shared about what they are doing now and to answer our “Eleven Questions for Alumni” survey yourself. Your stories inspire those of us currently working in the Center and remind us of the lasting impact of our work.

In this year’s newsletter, we are delighted to share with you some snapshots of the Center’s support of students, faculty, and staff engaged in the practice, teaching and study of writing this past year—both at home and abroad.



## New Partnership with *Skrivesenteret*, Norway’s National Writing Center

This past year the Center for Writing community expanded to become an international one when the Minnesota Writing Project, the Center’s outreach and public engagement arm, was invited to collaborate with the Norwegian National Center for Writing Education and Research (*Skrivesenteret*) at Sør-Trøndelag University College (HiST) in Trondheim, Norway. With a grant from the Norwegian government, Muriel Thompson, Kirsten Jamsen, and Debra Hartley traveled to Trondheim, Norway, in Fall 2011 to share information about the Center with HiST staff, to

visit local schools, and to plan future collaborations. Since March 2012, nine Norwegian teachers (and in some cases their families) have come to Minnesota to visit MWP teachers’ classrooms, take part in MWP workshops, and participate in the Teaching with Writing five-day workshop. This partnership, building upon the strengths of each institution, will help create successful Norwegian versions of the Center’s programs for K–12 and University teachers, as well as encourage future exchanges.



## Writing-Enriched Curriculum Grows Locally and Gains National Attention

Since its initial \$1 million grant from the Bush Foundation in 2007, Pamela Flash's pioneering Writing-Enriched Curriculum (WEC) project has brought the Center's consultative method into academic departments, engaging faculty in transforming their undergraduate curricula to integrate meaningful writing instruction and practice. As the WEC project has gathered momentum at the University, it has garnered national attention, with noted literacy scholar Kathleen Blake Yancey reporting in 2011, "The WEC program at the University of Minnesota is arguably the most successful program of its type in the country. Focused on enhancing the writing abilities of students, it fosters curricular and pedagogical reform and transformation."

Pamela and faculty liaisons from WEC units have presented widely at national and international conferences, generating strong interest from peer institutions eager to follow the WEC model.

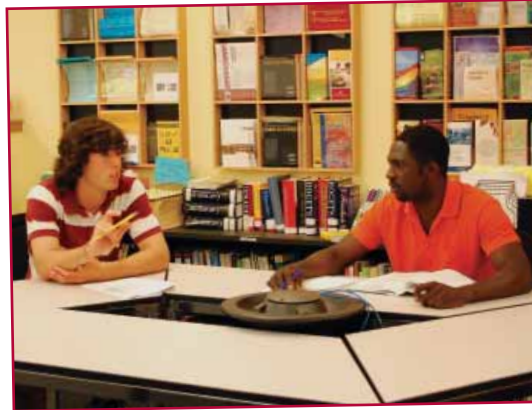
**T**he successes of this past year were bittersweet as we celebrated the graduations of many longtime Center staff, who—like all our alums—will be much missed:

Daniel Balm, Amy Durmaskin, Molly (Kelley) Gage, Yefei Jin, Anna Kraemer, Jeff Marshall, Johanna Mueller, Jennifer Nicklay, Jake Rueter, Betsy Schaefer, Byron Schuldt, Kimberly Spaulding, Liz Swedo, and Jenny Zheng. Two recent alums who had stayed at the University gave us further reason to cheer (and tear up) as they left for exciting new faculty positions: Mitch Ogden to the University of Wisconsin–Stout and Jayashree Kamble to LaGuardia Community College in Queens, NY.

Let us close by thanking the many of you who gave gifts to our Foundation accounts last year ([writing.umn.edu/home/giving.html](http://writing.umn.edu/home/giving.html)). Even small gifts make a strong statement about the value of the Center for Writing, so we hope that you will consider us in your year-end giving this year. We also love hearing from you anytime, and we welcome your ideas about how to strengthen our community of Center for Writing friends and alums!

## Record-Breaking Year in Student Writing Support

At the heart of everything we do in the Center is our one-to-one work with writers. In 2011–12, we worked with more student writers than ever before, providing 10,288 consultations for nearly 6,000 hours of instructional time. Anonymous post-consultation surveys speak to how much students value and appreciate what we do:



"I really enjoyed the opportunity to work with [my consultant] because she gave me excellent feedback during the first reading of my document, and continued to ask me probing questions that helped me to engage with my writing on many levels! She did a great job of explaining

things from the audience's perspective, and looked at my writing with a critical eye, which is a service and benefit that I have not yet been able to find elsewhere at the University. Thank you, Center for Writing, for your continued help and support for me as a writer!"

To manage growing demand from student writers, we implemented a clear, intuitive computer-based sign-in system at our busy walk-in location in Appleby Hall. This new tool enables everyone to keep track of who's next, and it helps provide equitable access for all students.



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