



Reflecting on the busy year in the Center for Writing (where we set a new record of 10,317 one-to-one writing consultations!), we're eager to share the ways your support has helped the Center continue to grow and innovate, while staying true to our mission of supporting students and educators who practice, teach with, and research writing at the University of Minnesota, throughout the state, and around the world. We hope you'll take a look at our newly redesigned website, where you can see photos and brief biographies of the current staff, as well as catch up with our community of alums and friends. We hope you'll update us on what you've been doing by answering our 11 Questions for Alumni survey and read the many interesting and inspiring responses from others.



Visit our updated website at [writing.umn.edu](http://writing.umn.edu)

## Your Gifts at Work: Student Writing Consultants Present at MWCA

With demand for the Center's services at an all-time high, staff professional development is more important than ever. With your gifts, we were able to bring four student writing consultants to the October 2013 Midwest Writing Centers Association (MWCA) conference in Skokie, Illinois, to present research or to co-facilitate workshops.

- Jessie Lieb presented "Individual Authorship: An 'Artifact' of Academia"
- Audrey Manicor presented "Procrastination Station: Examining the Engine Behind Same-Day Consultations"
- Kristen Nichols-Besel co-facilitated "Why Do You Need to Know That?: An Open Conversation About Client Data Collection and Identity Construction"
- Jasmine Kar Tang co-facilitated "Here Comes Trouble!: Students' Right to Their Own Language and Our Willingness to Be Disturbed"



Jasmine Kar Tang (top left), Jessie Lieb (top right), Audrey Manicor (bottom left) and Kristen Nichols-Besel (bottom right) at the MWCA conference

MWCA is a welcoming environment for students attending their first professional conference. After returning home, Audrey reflected, "The environment at the conference was inspired and inclusive, and I enjoyed presenting my own research as a way to both contribute to the dialogue and receive feedback on my project." The diversity of writing centers represented at this conference opens to participants the broader world of writing center work and deepens

their commitment. Jasmine noted, "As someone invested in writing center studies, I appreciated the opportunity to better understand the local and institutional contexts that other writing center professionals work within. I left Skokie feeling motivated and inspired to continue researching and practicing writing consultancy."

As with past conferences, the experience of traveling and bunking together was an intellectual retreat—with participants polishing and practicing their presentations in the hotel room together, attending and discussing sessions led by other writing center practitioners, and reflecting together on the long drive home about how best to bring back these new ideas and energies to our own Center. Reflecting on her experience at MWCA, Kristen stated, "Collegiality and focus on professional development are things I value most about

working at the U of M writing center and participating in writing center conferences."

Student conference registration and travel were made possible thanks to gifts from our alums and friends, so we hope you will consider us in your year-end giving this 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 and its staff and clients.

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## Center Employees, Alums, and Friends Create Virtual Community—now on Facebook!

Current Student Writing Support (SWS) consultant Sam Reid expanded the Center's online presence by creating a closed Facebook group for Center for Writing staff, alumni, and friends in May 2014. We are thrilled to have a new mode to connect and communicate, so we asked Sam about the origins of this grassroots community.



 Join the group! <http://z.umn.edu/c4wfb>

### What inspired/motivated you to create a Center for Writing Facebook group?

Sam: I was really motivated to create this group because I wanted to know what people were doing with their lives and to inspire people to get together with writing center colleagues of the past and present. And it is a great tool for planning get-togethers wherever SWS employees or alumni currently are! I think it is also a great place to share nerdy writing links, writing questions, grammar issues, etc. with other extremely knowledgeable people.

### What has pleased and/or surprised you since the group began?

Sam: I have enjoyed the very diverse posts, and I am glad that the group can be used for numerous things. I was surprised by how quickly the group exploded and by how many people have joined now (currently, it sits at 120 members!!!).

### What hopes do you have for the group as it continues to grow?

Sam: In the future, I hope more people will post in the group, myself included. I want to see that notification tag lit up every time I log into Facebook! Additionally, I hope that it is used more to connect as a group: happy hours, events people are going to (interesting writing/literary/whatever), people back in town and wanting to meet up, etc. Please invite as many alumni as you can, so we can keep our community together and growing. Also, don't be afraid to post or contact others in the group. It was made for connections and sharing ideas, and who better to do that than the wonderful people of SWS?



Kit Hansen and granddaughter

Our C4W alumni family grew even bigger this year with the retirement of longtime Multilingual Learner Specialist Kit Hansen and the graduations and departures of several valued staff members: Tim August, Hillary Champion, Phil Cooper, Tasha Ezell, Tim Gustafson, Josh Katzenmeyer, Bora Lee, Audrey Manicor, Carra Martinez, Justin Miller, Rachel Newman, Tammy Owens, Tom Sarmiento, Scott Seres, Jasmine Kar Tang, Jules Thompson, and Patricia Zanski. We wish them all the best, whether heading off to a new job, a fellowship opportunity, graduate school, or just more time with family and grandchildren!

Thank you, both recent and longtime alums and friends, for your continued support of the Center for Writing, which helps us strengthen our commitment to writers and the use of writing as a tool for critical thinking, learning, and communicating in all fields. Please visit us online or in person to see our work with students via our alumni pages and the new Facebook group.

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