Welcome Makayla Mathews!

*Makayla shares her story*

I would describe myself as a quiet social butterfly. I was born in Augusta, moving to the small, quiet city of Union Point when I was ten. My family and I moved back to Augusta in 2015 where my sister, aunts and uncles all lived. My mother and father are actually alumni of AU (class of '97 and '99). I knew I wanted to work with the amazing faculty and staff of AU since I was in high school.

I moved to Milledgeville, GA to pursue a bachelor’s degree in Creative Writing with a minor in Marketing Communications. During undergrad, I changed my major from Business to Undecided to Mass Communications before finally deciding my true passion was English. I had written short stories and presented them to my class ever since 1st grade. I never stopped writing and sharing my vibrant ideas and worlds. While in school, I realized I wanted to pursue screenplay writing as my creative medium. I dabble in poetry and fiction writing, but screenplays are my main form.

I am looking forward to one day pursuing my master’s degree. I am looking into the Library Media With Instructional Technology Certification (M.Ed) or getting my degree in Master of Library and Information Science (M.L.I.S).

A little about my family: my mother and brother live in Augusta with me now. My mother has been the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity for 14 years: 9 of those years were in Greensboro, GA while the last 5 have been in Augusta. My father currently resides in Peachtree Corners, GA with his husband. My father is an Administrative Manager for Northside Drive Baptist in Atlanta.

*Ms. Makayla Mathews joined the CWE staff as an administrative assistant in April 2022.*

My brother is currently receiving his diploma at Augusta Tech for Automotive Technology. My sister lives in Hephzibah, GA with her children and husband, where she also teaches at their school. Lastly, I have my sweet dog, Pumpkin, who is 8 years old and is as playful as she can be.

I look forward to meeting new people in the Center for Writing Excellence. I have enjoyed my time so far and I love every second being around the consultants and many students that come into the CWE. We will have many more adventures and growth to come!
The CWE is Growing!
Welcome New Professional Staff

Dr. James Garner comes to the Center for Writing Excellence from Fordham University, where he is Assistant Director of the Writing Program and Writing Center. Dr. Garner earned his MA in English from the University of Georgia and his PhD in Rhetoric & Writing from the University of Texas at Austin. He completed his BA in English at Augusta University, where he worked in an earlier incarnation of the CWE. At UT Austin, he studied rhetorical theory, writing pedagogy, and the history of rhetoric, the primary field of inquiry for his dissertation on rhetorics of religious tolerance in early modern England. A seasoned writing instructor with ten years of experience, Dr. Garner has also taught courses in composition and rhetoric, literature, and professional writing.

Dr. Garner’s passion for writing centers continued at UT Austin’s University Writing Center, where he worked as a consultant and later as an administrator. At the UWC, Dr. Garner developed expertise in writing center pedagogy, writing across the curriculum, graduate student writing support, and consultant training. He also served as a managing editor of Praxis: A Writing Center Journal from 2015-17. Dr. Garner is delighted to return to his alma mater and join the CWE team as Associate Director.

Dr. James Garner
Associate Director of the CWE

Dr. Garner will begin at AU in July
Dr. Romana Hinton received her M.A. degree in German language and literature, M.S. degree in teaching English as a Second Language (ESL), and her Ph.D. in Composition and Rhetoric at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She specializes in second language writing, and she has extensive experience working with multilingual writers – graduate and undergraduate.

Her dissertation study dealt with the issue of how multilingual writers use secondary sources in literature review sections of theses and dissertations. She would like to expand on this research and learn more about how graduate and undergraduate students from various disciplines use sources in their writing.

Dr. Hinton has taught composition classes and technical communications classes in various colleges and universities in Tennessee and South Carolina. She especially enjoys working with students in one-on-one sessions, and she is excited to join AU as a professional writing consultant.

In her free time, Dr. Hinton enjoys cooking, travelling and exploring new places to eat and drink coffee.
Ms. Hannah Soblo is a doctoral candidate specializing in sociolinguistics, second-language writing, and writing program administration. She will receive her degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in Fall 2022.

Her dissertation research focuses on the sociolinguistics of tourism, including analyzing heritage tourism sites in the US, how these spaces are constructed linguistically via different digital and physical representations, and the ways these representations construct narratives of belonging and exclusion. Her other research interests include writing pedagogy and administration, particularly for multilingual students.

Ms. Soblo has experience in designing and implementing workshops that support faculty, graduate, and undergraduate writers, focusing in particular on scaffolding writing pedagogy and demystifying university and professional writing genres. In addition to her research, Hannah brings eight years of experience working as a writing consultant with writers of all levels at four different university writing centers, as well as teaching first-year composition and in a tutor training program.
Congratulations!
CWE Staff Awards

Kaylee Klosson
SWCA Best Undergraduate Tutor Award
& Christine Cozzens Research Grant

Alison O'Keefe
Best Honors Thesis (Liberal Arts Category) for "AU STEM Students' Perceptions and Use of the Writing Center"

Undergraduate writing consultant and Psychology major, Kaylee Klosson, was selected to receive the Undergraduate Tutor Award by the Southeastern Writing Center Association. She also received the SWCA's competitive Christine Cozzens Research Grant and Initiative Award, which will allow her to conduct research this summer under the mentorship of the CWE director.

CWE staff alumna, Alison O’Keefe, received the Best Honors Thesis (Liberal Arts Category) award this academic year. O'Keefe worked with CWE director, Dr. Candis Bond, to revise portions of her thesis to submit for publication. She currently has a manuscript under review and is working on a second manuscript to submit this summer. Great work, Alison!
13 CWE staff members presented original research at the annual Southeastern Writing Center Association's annual conference, held virtually in February, 2022.

**Elyse Garret (Psychology):**
Humanizing Scientific Writing

**Alexis Diaz-Infante (English) and Kolbe Dolin (Communication):**
Holistic Approaches to Supporting Writers with Anxiety in the WC

**Lee Beard (Cell and Molecular Biology) and Kaylee Klosson (Psychology):**
Strategies for Reducing Anxiety in Asynchronous Consultations

**Summer Barge (graduate student, Counseling) and Dr. Kevin Lucas (English faculty):**
Exploring the Emotional Dimensions of Consulting with English Language Learners

**Morgan Hillman (English):**
Introversion, Extraversion, and WC Pedagogy

**Ma'at Smith (English) and Christian Osborne (Communication):**
Age and Power in WC Work

**Aaron Hayes (English):**
Supporting Working-Class Students in the WC

**Dean Meyer (Physics/Math):**
Emotional Intelligence Training for WC Staff

**Dr. Candis Bond (director, English faculty):**
Placemaking Strategies of WC Professionals
Seen in the Center
We Love Working with You!
Congratulations to Our Graduating Seniors

Ian Cyr  
BA, Communication  
Writing Consultant 2 years

Christian Osborne  
BA, Communication  
Writing Consultant 2 years

Special Thanks!

Have you been inspired by the CWE's social media? We get compliments on our social all the time, and it's all thanks to Christian Osborne, who has successfully managed our social accounts for two years. We will miss you, Christian! Thank you for all of your work in the CWE.
Our Mission
We're here to help the Augusta University community improve their writing and communication skills through personalized instruction and support.

Our Commitment to Inclusion
The center works to create an environment of inclusivity within which each writer and the literacies they bring to the table are valued and respected.

The CWE changed its name from "Writing Center" to "Center for Writing Excellence" this semester. New name, same commitment to writers.