



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY Writing Center

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Greetings from the Director



Since beginning my position as Director of the Augusta University Writing Center in August of 2016, I've been asked one question again and again from students and faculty alike: what exactly do you do in the Writing Center? In its most simple iteration, what we do is help writers. Our goal, as our mission states, is to help *all* writers improve their written, oral, and multimodal communication skills while prioritizing their sense of agency and ownership over the texts they produce. Writing, unlike many other subjects, is not based in content that can be memorized and then applied; rather, it is a skill that requires flexibility and consistent practice.

At the Center, we help writers identify their strengths and weaknesses, and then we help them flex their muscles a bit through goal-setting, instruction, and constant encouragement. Every appointment at the Center is personalized, and we hope that every writer walks away with more knowledge about what can make writing more manageable—and, ideally—enjoyable, for them.

When I sit down and think more deeply about “what we do in the Center,” however, I realize it is much more than working with writers during one-on-one consultations. The Writing Center is a living, breathing research space as well as a site of learning and instruction. The staff, which is mostly made up of undergraduate peer consultants, is constantly pushing the boundaries of what is possible in order to break new ground in scholarship and pedagogy. Consultants brainstorm new ideas for writing workshops, design and create writing resources, visit classes and campus clubs, go into the community to teach writing skills, and attend and present at international, national, and regional conferences featuring scholarship on writing centers and Rhetoric and Composition.

To showcase the work of the Augusta University Writing Center, I decided to create this biannual newsletter. The newsletter will highlight “what we do in the Writing Center,” including information about our one-on-one work with writers, the workshops and events we host, and our staff's ongoing research in the field of Writing Center Studies. We hope you enjoy learning about us as much as we enjoy getting to know you in the Center.

Cheers!

Candis Bond, PhD

MISSION STATEMENT

The Augusta University Writing Center's mission is to help members of the Augusta University community improve their writing and communication skills through personalized writing instruction and support.

We offer free, one-on-one writing and multimodal composition consultations for all undergraduate students, graduate students, post-docs, residents, faculty, and staff. Writing consultations can take place in person or online. The staff helps writers at any stage in the writing process—brainstorming, drafting, revising, editing—for any discipline.

The Augusta University Writing Center strives to empower writers of all races, socioeconomic statuses, gender identities, sexual orientations, religious affiliations, abilities, and ages. 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. In order to grant writers agency, consultants work collaboratively with students so their voices are heard.

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What's New at the Augusta University Writing Center?

Meet our Graduate Assistants

The Writing Center isn't just for undergraduates! We work with faculty, staff, graduate students, residents, professional students, and post-docs, as well. To better serve these communities, the Center hired its first Graduate Assistants in fall 2017. Ms. Samantha Carr has a BA in English and is currently earning her Master's degree in Secondary English Education at Augusta University. Prior to becoming a GA, she worked in the Augusta U Writing Center as an undergraduate peer consultant for three years. Ms. Kellyn Brooks has a BS in Psychology and is currently earning her Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Prior to her current position, Ms. Brooks worked in the USC-Aiken Writing Center. Ms. Carr and Ms. Brooks are now in their second year as Writing Center GAs. During their tenure, they have worked one-on-one with writers, designed and presented many writing workshops, assisted with administrative duties and new consultant training, and conducted research in the center.



Website Redesign

In fall 2018, the Augusta University Writing Center rolled out a new version of its [website](#). The site features an updated mission and inclusivity statement and streamlined forms for requesting the following services: graduate/faculty asynchronous online appointments, in-class writing workshops, informational class visits, membership in writing groups, and information about becoming a writing consultant. The page also features new writing resources for students, faculty, and staff.

Graduate Student Services Keep Getting Better!

Many of Augusta U's graduate students are distance learners. They cannot make it to face-to-face appointments. Still others have family and work obligations that make synchronous online appointments impossible. To better serve these graduate students, the Writing Center implemented Online Asynchronous Appointments in fall 2018. Over the summer, Graduate Assistants Samantha Carr and Kellyn Brooks worked to develop procedures for submitting assignments asynchronously. Their submission and feedback forms are currently featured on the [Graduate Student Services page](#) of the Augusta University Writing Center website. All graduate students, faculty, and staff are able to submit assignments asynchronously; feedback is sent via email within two business days of receipt. Spread the word!

This has been one of the best experiences in my educational career. I truly appreciate the feedback, especially since it is very thorough and prompt. —Graduate Student's Post-Asynchronous Consultation Survey

So Long, Farewell...



The Writing Center bids farewell to veteran undergraduate peer consultant, Trene Hamilton. Trene worked in the Center for three years while earning her Bachelor's degree. She graduated in December 2018 with her BS in Psychology. She plans to attend graduate school to pursue a career in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing. She will be missed by all.

Writing Center Consultants' Research

International Writing Centers Association Conference in Atlanta, GA—October 2018

The IWCA is the largest scholarly/professional organization for Writing Center Studies, setting the benchmark for writing center scholarship and pedagogy. The organization's competitive, annual conference was held in nearby Atlanta this year and featured research by Augusta U Writing Center staff.



Mr. Logan Eidson, an undergraduate peer consultant majoring in English, presented a roundtable entitled, "What if I Don't Want to Be a Citizen?" His presentation challenged the conference's theme of inclusivity by

interrogating the rhetoric of citizenship used by many centers and the conference CFP. Mr. Eidson was one of the only undergraduates to have his proposal accepted through blind review, and he was also honored by the IWCA by receiving a \$500.00 travel grant.

After presenting, Mr. Eidson revised his work and submitted it to *The Dangling Modifier*, an international, peer-reviewed newsletter for writing tutors produced in association with the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing (NCPTW). He has since received an acceptance pending minor revisions. Congratulations, Logan!



Logan Eidson, Sabrina Nacci, Samantha Carr, and Director, Candis Bond, attend the SWCA-Georgia Symposium at Georgia Tech, Fall 2018

Southeastern Writing Center Association Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC—February 2019

The SWCA is a member of the IWCA and offers Southeastern writing center professionals a community of peers. Every year, SWCA hosts a regional conference featuring research by members of this community. This fall, several Augusta U writing consultants had their research accepted for presentation at the SWCA 2019 conference to be held in Myrtle Beach.

Graduate Assistant Samantha Carr's panel proposal, "Promoting Negotiation and Facilitating Literacy Acquisition during Consultations with English Language Learners," was accepted via blind review, as was her panel proposal submitted with undergraduate peer consultant, Sabrina Nacci, entitled, "Integrating Writing Center Workshops into High School English Language Arts Classrooms." Post-baccalaureate consultant, Barb Card's workshop, entitled "Using Reminiscence Therapy to Improve Writing Ability: An Interactive Workshop," was also accepted. The Center is proud to be so well-represented at this conference! Congratulations, ladies!



Out and About: A Semester of Successful Events

Fall 2018 Open House

Students lined up to grab snacks and meet writing consultants at our Open House in August.

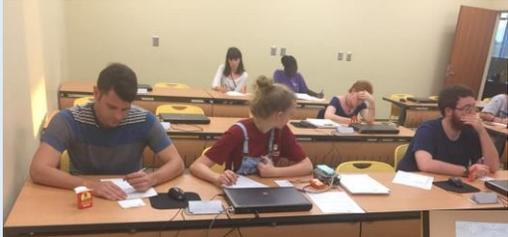


ROAR Camp Workshop

Incoming freshmen learned about note-taking at a Writing Center workshop.



Mindful Writing Workshop at the Augusta-Richmond County Library



Augusta community members and AU students

participated in a workshop combining mindfulness therapy with writing to promote well-being and reduce stress. The workshop was designed by undergraduate consultants, Sabrina Nacci and Logan Eidson, along with faculty consultant, Mr. Simon Grant, a lecturer in English.



Finals Write-In

Students gathered in the Writing Center on Reading Day to destress and work on final projects.

