

# The University of Texas at Austin University Writing Center

HELPING UT AUSTIN STUDENTS WRITE SINCE 1993

The University Writing Center · Department of Rhetoric & Writing · Learning Commons at the PCL

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mag

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> THE UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

# **From the Director**

Welcome back to campus, and hello from the University of Texas' University Writing Center. As always, we're looking forward to working with you, either in individual consultations, workshops, writing groups, unit and community partnerships, or other ways we might dream up this year.

Last year was a busy one as we tried to get our numbers back up to pre-COVID levels:

- We offered 8576 consultations, serving 4061 undergraduate and graduate students.
- We offered offered 88 presentations, serving 1824 undergraduate and graduate students.
- We also offered 55 online graduate writing groups, serving 355 students.

It's our belief that writing centers and good writing instruction more generally help people learn better, graduate quicker, and participate in the world more effectively. We're proud to be part of that.



Jackie Rhodes Director, UWC Kelleher Centennial Professor of Rhetoric and Composition Department of Rhetoric and Writing

### UWC Trivia! How well do you know us?

(Answers on page 6)

1. Hanging above the UWC's sink, this house elf discourages consultants from not doing their own dishes.

2. Normally found in the African savannah, a cutout of this massive mammal can be seen in the above the breakroom cabinets.

3. This handheld, pluck-able instrument — an offshoot of the African Mbira — can be found in the breakroom; it's labeled as part of the 'UWC Wellness Initiative'.

4. As opposed to simple, solid lines, the "UWC" behind the front desk is this type of image.

5. Not to be confused with breakfast, this internet illustrator is famous for his sarcastic takes on grammar and current events. Some of his work is on display in the breakroom.

# What's Happening Fall 2023?



### Tommy Barker: "The Ready Writing Contest: Struggling and Overcoming" October 4 • 4 p.m. • PCL Learning Labs 1 and 2

The Ready Writing Contest aims to support, through education and competition, the notion of an engaged citizen. But how does being ready to write help a person play a role in civic life?

### UWC Open House October 5, 4-5:30 p.m. • UWC

Pop by our annual open house!. You'll be able to talk to current consultants about their work and learn about RHE368C, the course where students learn effective consulting techniques. Pizza will be provided.

### Tips for Neurodiverse Writers with Longhorn TIES Late October • Location TBD

Neurodiverse staff from the UWC will present writing strategies geared toward neurodiverse writers.

UWC Game Night November 2 • UWC

Snacks, games, and camaraderie!

#### Ask Us Anything (About Academic Writing)! TBA • UWC

We invite first-generation students to a panel-style Q&A session with UWC staff in a low-pressure environment.

#### **Open Mic Night (Date and Time TBD)**

UWC folks and friends can share their work, perform, and enjoy themselves among their peers.

#### UWC Dead Week Event (TBD)

Snacks, games, and camaraderie! Location to be announced!

# **From Our Consultants**

*Where are they now?* What happens after our consultants graduate and leave the UWC? Below are some examples of what our past consultants are doing now! Click the link below for even more stories of success from past UWC employees: <u>(click here!)</u>

**Gareen Simone Puglia** was an undergraduate writing consultant at the UWC. She just graduated from UC Berkeley with a Master's in Information Management and Systems with a certificate in New Media Studies. She also works as a National Security Innovation Network Fellow. Green says that working at the UWC was vital to her path, and that she is constantly referencing her work as a UWC consultant. Her training at the UWC helped bring her strong communication skills to new spaces.





**Sydney Stewart** was a consultant and data team member at the UWC, and now does editing, writing, and graphic design for a magazine based in Colorado Springs.

**Matthew J Kroschewsky** was a consultant at The UWC, and now writes novels (he just published his first novel *The Summer Play*). Matthew says that his favorite part of working at the UWC was helping students move forward in the writing process. He always enjoyed listening to their needs, and creating a plan to move forward. He says it was a great feeling seeing their essay or personal statement improve.





## **Get Involved!**



### **Praxis** Call for Reviewers

<u>Praxis: A Writing Center Journal</u> (published by the UWC) is looking for book reviewers for our Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 issues. If you're interested in writing center scholarship and/or practice, this is a good opportunity to publish, particularly if you're a graduate student. While we welcome suggestions for books to review, we also have a list of suggestions from which to choose if you're not sure. For more information about the journal and the book review publication process <u>check us out</u>.

If you're interested in publishing a review or have questions, please contact Praxis Managing Editors, Emma Conatser and Tristan Hanson, at <u>praxisuwc@gmail.com</u>. We look forward to hearing from you!

### **UWC Alumni Listserv**

Alums of the UWC: Are you interested in mentoring current consultants? Sign up for the listserv below! We'll contact you with information regarding professionalization panels and other UWC-related events. **And thank you!** uwcalumni@utlists.utexas.edu

# Last Thoughts

### **Quick Writing Tips**

"Remember the one cardinal rule: you can't edit nothing. Even if you write a page — or just a paragraph — of total gibberish, it brings you one step closer to what you want to write. -- *Austin Culver* 

"Color code your drafts! It can help you keep track of changes in your writing." --Diana Arriaga

"Eliminate the unnecessary. A sentence should have no extra words like a painting has no extra lines." -- *Lynn Wills* 

"Try to start each paragraph in a paper with a different word to avoid repetition." -- Michael Vaclav



#### **TRIVIA ANSWERS**

1. Dobby; 2. Elephant; 3. Kalimba; 4. Calligram; 5. The Oatmeal

#### THE CANDY GOAT

Did you spot the candy goat? Every newsletter will include a hidden candy goat for readers to find, with the hidden location revealed on the last page. This issue, the goat was sitting on the couch on page 4!