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Director’s Corner

This semester the Writers Workshop has continued to collaborate with other units on campus in a variety of ways. Samuel Byndom presented a workshop on Writing a Science Research Paper which was later taped by the Chemistry Department to share with their students. Yu-Kyung Kang spoke to the European Union Masters students about managing their thesis projects. Vanessa Rouillon made two presentations: to a costume history class and to the African-American Studies Senior Thesis class about writing their semester projects. Continuing our coordination with other units to support international students, Yu-Kyung Kang participated in Working with ESL Students Writers in Your Classes: a Writing-across-the-Curriculum Workshop for faculty presented by the Center for Writing Studies. She also held another writing group for ESL undergraduates and Lisa Chason led one for graduate students. Three of our undergraduate consultants spoke to English majors about the Workshop, and ten of them presented their research projects at the Undergraduate Research Symposium. Read on for more details about our programs and about our many graduates.

--Libbie Morley
Student was nominated for the Employee of the Year Award

Sarah Langer was nominated for Student Employee of the Year for the University by the Writers Workshop. She attended a nice reception for all the nominees and received a certificate. Sarah works as both a consultant and a desk worker in the Workshop. In her nomination letter, Libbie Morley wrote: “Sarah’s writers give her rave reviews for her skill and professionalism. They cite her knowledge of both larger and more specific writing issues, from understanding an assignment to improving paragraph structure to editing for verb tense. Writers appreciate that she teaches them to become better writers rather than simply fixing their errors. For the desk worker position Sarah answers inquiries by phone and in person, maintains our quirky scheduling software program, and ensures the smooth running of the Writers Workshop. She handles all these responsibilities calmly and efficiently.” We’ll miss Sarah when she graduates this month.

Rebecca Bilbro
March 25

Rebecca Bilbro, a past writers workshop consultant, visited UIUC on Monday, March 25th. Bilbro received her PhD in Writing Studies and has been working as a Presidential Management Fellow, and Senior Writer-Editor at the U.S. Department of Labor. She spoke to consultants about ways to translate their consulting experiences to professions outside academia.
Undergraduate ESL Writing Group
February 7-28
Yuki Kang

In response to the sharp increase in the international student population at the university of Illinois, the Writers Workshop has been providing group workshops for ESL student writers since Fall 2010. This semester, Yuki facilitated the second round of single-language writing groups for Korean undergraduate students. As in the previous writing groups, the series of 4 writing group sessions (1.5 hours each) this semester addressed major writing issues by engaging in group-discussions with participants and by examining a variety of writing resources, some specifically targeted to L2 writers. The particular topics the group addressed depended on the participants’ concerns. This semester topics included email writing; writing processes and genres; audience, purpose, and context; and concise sentence structure. The first half of the session was more structured with lecture-type instructions and controlled practice tasks and the second half was designed to apply what was covered in the first half of the sessions to their own papers/writing. The writing group sessions reaped many benefits for the writers. One of the more unexpected benefits, however, was that at one point or another the writing group seemed like therapy sessions. It was a space for students to share their concerns, reveal anxieties, and also devise strategies to cope with their literacy realities.

The Writers Workshop Celebrated Poem in Your Pocket Day
April 18
Grace Rosean

Poem in Your Pocket Day was celebrated on Thursday, April 18th. It was meant to promote poetic literature and poets in a fun way. Grace Rosean collected some of the consultants’ favorite poems and put them on a poster board outside the Writers Workshop. She also sent out a notice to the school that anyone who brought in a poem in their pocket (or on their phone) could get a free piece of candy. Additionally, she offered mini poems (that would fit in your pocket) for students to pick up at the Workshop. Rosean commented that, “It was a ton of fun”!
Consultants Graduate!

**Stephanie Hill** joined the workshop in 2011, and has since enjoyed working with students from various disciplines and seeing her students grow and learn more about their writing and themselves. Her experience at the workshop has also improved her own writing immensely, helping her to incorporate different and often unfamiliar elements of writing into her craft. After graduation, Stephanie will be interning as an editor at Tyndale House Publishers, and then, in the fall, will either continue in an editorial career or teach English abroad. She hopes to eventually go to graduate school for a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, and, if all goes well, become a published writer.

**Sarah Langer** has an internship at Entertainment Cruises and is still in the interviewing process for a job with Avenir Publishing.

**Vanessa Rouillon** is graduating with a Ph.D. in English (Writing Studies) She will be moving to Harrisonburg, VA this summer where she’ll be working as an assistant professor at James Madison University, in the School of Writing, Rhetoric, and Technical Communication (WRTC). She’ll be teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in Rhetoric and hopes to join their writing center staff in teaching how to tutor. She started working at the Writers Workshop when she was completing her Master’s in 2007. Rouillon commented on her time at the workshop, “It has been the job I’ve held the longest where I’ve felt at home and the most gratifying experience of my professional life. I’ll miss Libbie, Kathy, and the consultants terribly, and I’ll miss my writers very much too.”

**Anna Majeski** has applied to multiple internships in the publishing industry in Chicago and is going through the interview process. She spent one academic year in the Writer’s Workshop. When asked about her time in the workshop she said, “I’ve gained many valuable skills including interpersonal communication when working with English language learners as well as honed my own writing skills through the process of tutoring. These are invaluable elements of my experience because these skills will definitely prove useful in the working world I am soon venturing into!”

**Kyle Lundin** will be attending the Syracuse University College of Law.

**Alexandra Loh** is waiting to hear back from potential employers. She reflected on her work as a writing consultant, “I really loved working at the Writers’ Workshop! The people were great (both staff and the student writers) and I feel like I learned a lot. I developed a good critical eye, better listening skills, and probably better writing skills too! I’m going to miss working with all these lovely people, and I’m going to miss working with these awesome students. I’ve never seen such a wide variety of papers, and it was really cool to get a taste of what is happening on campus in other departments.”
Campus Locations

The Writers Workshop has five locations on campus: Our main location at the Undergraduate Library (Room 251);

- a satellite location at the Ikenberry Commons (Rooms 1010D & 1010E);

- a satellite location on the Engineering Quad at the Grainger Library (Room 402);

- a satellite location at Burrill Hall (Room 101).

- a satellite location at PAR (Pennsylvania Avenue Residence Halls)

Appointments for consultation sessions at any location can be made in person at 251 UGL or by calling 217.333.8796.

Midnight Madness

May 2

The Writers Workshop held its second “Midnight Madness” event on May 2nd. The event offered students extra support for their end of the semester projects. Students attended shorter sessions during extended hours that lasted until 12AM. Samuel Byndom organized the first successful Midnight Madness during the Fall 2012 semester. Workshop consultants are excited to contribute to the event’s future success.