

The Margins

, a TUWC Alumni Newsletter

Spring 25

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TO STAY ACTIVE IN THE TUWC
COMMUNITY, PLEASE CONTACT
SWHIDDON@TRANSY.EDU EMAIL TO
SHARE FOND MEMORIES,
PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS,
AND HOW THE TUWC HAS GIVEN YOU
THE TOOLS TO WRITE YOUR LIFE
POST-GRADUATION. FOLLOW THE
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GET UPDATES AND NEW POSTS
REGULARLY.

whAts
NExT?

GRADUATION, SATURDAY,
MAY 24TH

CHECK OUT SENIOR SHOUTOUTS
VIA OUR INSTAGRAM!

Welcome to Volume 1/Issue 2 of
The Margins -- A TUWC
newsletter. For this issue, we
wanted to spotlight some alums,
current staffers, and faculty allies
who help make this place special.
We'd love to hear from alums --
what you're doing, writing/making,
and more. We hope you enjoy this
new issue!

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Eileen Bunch

From the ‘Writing Kitchen’ to Community Care: Eileen Bunch’s Blueprint for Collaborative Impact

Eileen Bunch, a WRC major and Classics & Religion minor, took on multifaceted roles in the TUWC and the Theatre Guild. These roles forged her path in working as the Administrative Coordinator at the University College of Medicine and serving as a Board Member for Glean Kentucky. Although Bunch’s time as a Writing Center Staffer was split between in-person and virtual sessions, due to pandemic concerns,

she found ways to connect her interests to TUWC efforts. During that first year, she worked on an alumni research project, TU-Peer Writing Tutor Alumni Research Project, surveying alumni on their experience and feedback. She learned that writing is not a solitary effort but improved by collaboration- a second pair of eyes, a listening ear, or simply talking through something.

Living with three other staffers, they would schedule appointments with each other and sit in the kitchen, working on personal statements before they graduated virtually their senior year. Calling it the “Writing Kitchen”. The time away from the WC space showed her how valuable it is to spend time there, to be able to talk and build relationships, and to be surprised by the opportunities that were there.

Bunch is now the Administrative Operations Coordinator for the Office of Community Advancement at the University College of Medicine. Outside of the University of Kentucky, she serves as a Board Member and the Development Committee Chair for Glean Kentucky, a Lexington-based non-profit that recovers excess produce from farms and grocery stores and redistributes it to feeding partners, putting fresh fruits and veggies on the plates of our neighbors in need – often on the very same day that food was gathered.

Even though her work isn't all writing, working in TUWC gave her a better sense of collaboration and getting everyone's ideas involved. Any project becomes "more creative by the variety of approaches and modalities that you work with during your time as a staffer". Said Bunch, "making you think outside the box and approach any situation with a variety of solutions", which is especially important since she juggles administrative operations, managerial tasks, meetings, emails, and purchases, managing budgets, implementing programs, etc. The team effort, experience, and feedback she received during her time as a WC staffer has helped influence her career and written work.



Staffers from the '19 and '20 cohort

Language That Up Lifts: Thomas Hatton's Move from TUWC Discussions to Refugee Care Leadership

After joining the Writing Center cohort in 2009 during his sophomore year, Spanish major Thomas Hatton can still feel what it means to be a WC staffer. Hatton got to know Scott Whiddon and the WC through an FYRS course on writing about music and culture. When two classes of discussions a week only brought more questions, Hatton often found himself sitting in Whiddon's office. Without knowing it, Hatton had already begun practicing many skills he would use while working at the TWUC. He recognized writing and its processes as inherently social, seeking out conversations and simply talking concepts through can drastically improve something.



Former WRC Staffer Thomas Hatton

Hatton is now the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Lead for the Seeds of Hope Program at Applied Intellect, overseeing monitoring, evaluation, and learning for their Home Study/Post Release Services (HS/PRS) grant funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Assisting minors seeking asylum in the U.S. by conducting home studies to ensure they have safe sponsors and providing post-release services like school enrollment and legal assistance as they wait for their immigration court dates. His role involves policy development, supervising evaluation activities, and leading quality assurance initiatives.

The TUWC exposes staffers to a constant variety of styles and rhetorical practices across disciplines, which Hatton found refined his processes and adaptability during sessions. He frequently uses his skills, whether through policy, guidance, a training manual, or a letter of recommendation. The Writing Center prioritizes transferable skills essential in any role while being a space on campus that directly builds community by thriving on the unique talents and skills we can offer to benefit others.



WRC Professor and TUWC Director Scott Whiddon with the 2009 Cohort

Framing Collaboration: Eve Brunell's Senior Seminar Films Spotlight the Writing Center



WRC Senior Eve Brunell standing outside of the J. Douglas Gay Jr./Frances Carrick Thomas Library

Many of the disciplines at Transylvania University require students to take a Senior Seminar and Research course to fulfill graduation requirements. Within the course, students dive deeper into theoretical and methodological considerations of a topic of their choice. Their progress throughout the semester culminates in a project, which may ask them to present and defend to staff and peers across campus, and experts in their field of study.

In the Writing, Rhetoric, and Communication major, the project can be completed through traditional modalities like research essays, or visual and auditory avenues- video essays, personal accounts, podcasts, etc. The variety of options gives students the autonomy to commemorate their academic studies through an avenue that works best for their specific goals and chosen subjects. Giving students time to work on and think about a project can even extend into graduation and entering the job market post-grad.



Senior Eve Brunell did not realize the Writing Center's impact on her academic career until she collaborated with this year's Winter 25 instructor, Kerri Hauman, on where to take her project. During their chat, the two discussed Brunell's experience at Transylvania, the Writing Center market a large span of it. The final project features three promotional videos for the Writing Center website- offering a collection of perspectives from faculty and staff on writing, collaboration, and the usefulness of the WC.

Having taken a video course in her junior year, Brunell discovered a passion for filming and creating videos. Knowing she wanted to create an unconventional and multimodal project- Brunell reflected on when she was intimidated by programs like Premiere Pro and learned to edit videos in that course, and knew this would include multiple aspects of her time at Transylvania. This offered opportunities for herself and her peers to take these classes,

which could open their eyes to a passion or skill they didn't know they had. rk has on their community. Videos will also be used in first-year classes to help demystify the work of peer writing support. Inspired by her work as a staffer, writing partner, Course Embedded Consultant, and the opportunity to learn from others that the WC provides. Even though she centered her Senior Seminar project on her time at the Writing Center, she explores it through visual media rather than the strictly written project one may expect.

These videos showcase current TUWC programming as well as some comments as to how TU faculty define creativity. We've included these links in the email that brought this issue of The Margins to you.



**TO CHECK OUT THOSE VIDEOS,
GO OVER TO THE EMAIL THAT
BROUGHT YOU THIS ISSUE AND
CLICK THE LINK!**

Leading with Vision: Dr. Kerri Hauman's Contributions to Writing, Digital Literacy, and Inclusion at Transy

Since her hiring in 2013, Dr Kerri Hauman has become a valued ally for not only TUWC but also our larger culture of writing at Transy. Hauman has helped enhance TUWC programming, developed outreach work that speaks to diversity/inclusion, and helped TU community members better understand how digital work plays into composing ideas. The Writing Center houses two writing programs focused on building partnerships between staffers and students.



WRC Professor Dr. Kerri Hauman

Writing Partnerships are an optional resource for roughly 50 students in First-Year Seminar who choose to be paired with a Writing Center staffer and have a semester-long part. These regularly scheduled meetings start late in the third week and go until the end of the semester. The consistent appointments demystify the role of a staffer, breaking stigmas regarding the visit and calming nerves for those showing up to a peer-based resource for the first time. Utilizing the writing center's capabilities and student interest to overcome some of the initial barriers of college-style writing, Writing Partnerships provide a built-in program.

The program uses "Directed self-placement", facilitated through a survey given through First-Engagements (a pre-semester course co-taught by a student and faculty member, where accepted students come onto campus to adapt to the Transylvanian campus and larger Lexington culture).



The survey asks students to read a piece selected from successful student papers and assignments and were asked if they have done similar work, if they feel confident in their writing, if they have experience in revision etc. The final question asked if students are interested in having a writing partner for the term; about ⅓ of incoming first years noted the benefits of such programming. From the overwhelmingly positive response, WC coordinators and WRC faculty selected those who self-selected or expressed the most need to work with a staffer.

First-years saw the value of a system of choice, as did Kerri Hauman when she was hired as an assistant professor in WRC, helping to establish a more robust digital foundation for the major in the Fall of 2013. Keeping the foundation of the program while adding digital literacy and multimodal technologies to its core. Through these additions came WRC special topics classes like feminist rhetoric. Dr. Hauman Co-directed the Digital Liberal Arts Initiative from 2017-2019, which showcased how digital technologies are affecting them currently and how they will in the future.

The formal initiative invited faculty across disciplines to use digital tools. Developing faculty learning communities through faculty development and establishing relationships with others who do this work in Kentucky. Hauman utilized this initiative across campus and in collaboration with other Kentucky institutions was through the 2016 Liberal Arts + Feminism: Wikipedia edit-a-thon, which took place on March 1st for its eighth year in a row. In collaboration with the Faulkner-Morgan Archive, editors adjust and check information, make edits, and create Wikipedia pages on subjects related to gender and feminism in the liberal arts. At this year's edit-a-thon, Writing Center staffers Caroline Host and Savannah Kinster worked alongside editors to facilitate conversations and offer adjustments, edits, or simply a set of fresh eyes. This past year, the initiative has been consumed by the Brigham Young Center and is now run by Dr. JJ Wallace. Dr. Kerri Hauman became the FIRST Director in January 2020-23 and is now the Program Director for the WRC department.





Assistant Professor of Art, Grace Ramsey

Art and Allyship at Transylvania

As past and present staff members, we recognize the immense value of the arts on our campus - not only as a form of communication but also of meaning-making and connection. We're thrilled that Prof. Grace Ramsey is a new addition to TU's creative community. Ramsey is a North Florida native and has spent the past ten years in Kentucky, drawn in by its rich history of traditional folk music.

Before coming to Lexington and Transylvania, Grace attended college at Stetson University, where professors encouraged her to recognize art as more than representational drawings and paintings. She attended Tulane University in New Orleans, achieving a Master of Fine Arts in Drawing and Painting, then went on to teach at Florida Gulf Coast University.

The work in the Writing Center focuses on the partnership between staffers and patrons. This sense of connection is where Grace finds purpose in making art, providing a pathway to connection unlike anything else, especially when attempting to communicate the ineffable. Simply the act of making and engaging within your creative spirit provides a way to cope with and navigate being a human, living and experiencing the world. When students regularly work in the art building on projects, side by side, when no professors are present, this creates a specific kind of energy that is creative and generative, which inspires her work.

During the Fall 2024 semester, Grace completed two paintings and finished a sculpture for the show: Out of Order! Let Me Down, which was showcased in January at the University of Central Florida. One of those paintings was featured in a group show called Marginal Labor at Morlan Gallery last November. While you can not find any of Grace's pieces on campus currently, by the end of the Winter 25 semester, there will be a stable studio in the Morlan Art building that students, faculty, and visitors can check out. Where students can watch the processes and art practices as she stretches, designs, and constructs future pieces.

