Writing Center moves to new location

Crammed and tight quarters are no longer an issue in the Lewis University Writing Center. Over the summer, the Writing Center moved to their new home in the Lewis University Library. “We are incredibly excited about the new space for writers, tutors, and the Lewis University community,” Writing Center Director, Dr. Jennifer Consilio said.

Located on the first floor in the Learning Resource Center, the new location is three times the size compared to the previous location in Benilde Hall. Featuring private cubicles and eight workstations, writers now have the option to collaborate with a tutor using desktop computers or the Writing Center’s laptops. The new Center also allows writers and tutors to collaborate in a more open environment and also enables students to have easy access to library resources.

Since the move, the Writing Center has seen a great increase in appointments compared to last year. In addition, many students are complimenting on how easy it is to access the Writing Center at this new location. Student Oscar Jamillo-Salgado said, “The location makes it very convenient for students. I am usually in the library when I write my papers, so this just makes it so much easier to meet with someone for writing assistance.”

The Writing Center offers services for both students and faculty. Writers can make face-to-face, real-time online, or email response appointments. Writers can also call the Center’s mobile hotline for quick writing advice. In addition, the Center’s newest service allows fans of the Writing Center’s Facebook page to message tutors for quick writing questions. Faculty can also schedule mobile tutoring appointments in which a writing tutor visits their classroom to work with students. With mobile tutoring, tutors give presentations on writing topics and answer student writing questions on brainstorming and building content. To make an appointment, visit lewisu.edu/appointment or call (815) 836-5427.

The new location is an ideal space to meet the growing needs of Lewis University writers.
At the beginning of the week, the Lewis University community got involved in the fun by participating on the Writing Center’s prompt boards across campus. Outside of the Writing Center (pictured above), writers, tutors, and faculty had fun jotting the reasons why they write. Many said they write to free their mind, write to show how they feel, and write to be a better communicator. In Benilde Hall, outside of the Leckrone Academic Resource Center, writers answered the age-old question, “What did you want to be when you grew up?” Some students wrote they wanted to be a teacher, marine biologist, and pop star. One student wrote his goal was to be rich while another wanted to be an ice cream man. During the week of events, tutors also sported their new Writing Center t-shirts.

**Students Write Letters to Soldiers**

The first official event the Writing Center held started on Monday with letter writing in Charlie’s Place. During the lunch hour, students stopped by the Writing Center’s table to write letters to soldiers. Many students wrote letters and thanked soldiers for their service, along with their bravery and sacrifice. Student Vanessa Basik stopped by the table to write a letter because of a personal connection with the military. “A majority of the men in my family have been in the military and I know getting letters from people made them happy. I just wanted them to know how much I appreciate them for doing what it is they are doing.” Writing letters to soldiers was a unique way to get students writing, as well as support a great cause.

**Writing Center Hosts Open House**

On Tuesday, the Writing Center invited both students and faculty to visit their new location. Students and faculty stopped by to catch up and discuss improvements that have been made since the Center moved. In addition, those in attendance snacked on treats and picked up giveaways for attending. Student and Writing Center tutor, Kari Krajnak, designed a commemorative Writing Center bookmark for those in attendance to take home. In the spirit of writing and journaling, tutors also hid...
Jet Fuel Launch
by Melissa Carrington

On Thursday, November 21st, the Lewis community gathered in room DL 250 for the launch of Jet Fuel Review’s sixth and latest issue. Jet Fuel Review (JFR) is an international journal run completely by Lewis students and alumni under the supervision of faculty advisors, Dr. Simone Muench and Dr. Jackie White. With their hard work combined with the Jet Fuel Review’s editorial staff, the launch was certainly a success. The managing editor and the event’s emcee, Tim Fitzpatrick, invited both students and faculty members to read poems from the issue. Some of the faculty readers included Dr. Mustafa, Dr. Chura, Jo Slowik, and several others. Also featured were Lewis students Brittany Bishop, Connor McLennan, and Jessica Richey along with Lewis faculty members Mark Swain and Michael Progress for their exquisite artwork. Compared to years past, the Jet Fuel staff was very pleased with the event’s turnout as well as the response from the audience. To engage the listeners, the JFR staff passed out raffle tickets at the entrance, and those with winning numbers were given a free Jet Fuel Review t-shirt. The energy in the room was exactly what the staff had hoped for. In fact, Dr. Crowder shared with the team that, “Jet Fuel gets better every year.” With a response like that, JFR staff remains motivated to continue their hard work and especially look forward to their next issue in the of Spring 2014.

Open Mic Night Showcases Students Talents
by Stephanie Raga

Jet Fuel Review, Lewis University’s international literary journal, brought together faculty, families, and students for their semi-annual Open Mic Night on Friday, November 15. Anyone who wanted to share their poetry, fiction, and nonfiction was invited to perform their pieces for the Lewis community.

Not only was there an open stage, but there was also face painting, food, and a musical performance given by Connor McLennan, whose art is featured on the cover of Jet Fuel’s sixth issue.

Mark Jacobs, a senior at Lewis, commented on the attendance of the event, stating, “It was good to see students, staff, and alumni come together and share their writing and musical talents.”

On top of McLennan’s acoustic performance, Jacobs, former Jet Fuel Review managing editor, also performed his own piano piece for the crowd.

Overall, Jet Fuel hosted a fantastic event that promoted literature and creativity. The editors and faculty advisor, Dr. Simone Muench, put together a fun event to give students an opportunity to present their creative works to a diverse audience. Everyone was able to show their love for literature.

Editors are already working on personal pieces and looking forward to planning the next Open Mic Night in the Spring.

Alum receives Prestigious Pushcart Prize

Congratulations to Lewis University Creative and Professional Writing graduate and Jet Fuel contributor, Susan Slaviero, for receiving a prestigious Pushcart Prize this past Fall!

Published every year since 1976, the Pushcart Prize is the most honored literary project in America. Hundreds of presses and thousands of writers of short stories, poetry, and essays have been represented in the pages of this annual collection. Writers such as Richard Carver, Tim O’Brien, Charles Baxter, Susan Minot, Mona Simpson, and John Irving were first noticed after receiving this award.
Shakespeare makes appearance at Literary Salon
by Dr. Dawn Walts
Assistant Professor of Medieval and Early Modern Literature
Sigma Tau Delta, Faculty Advisor

At the beginning of the semester, members of Sigma Tau Delta and faculty from the English Studies Department hosted a “Literary Salon” for the Arts & Ideas program. A Literary Salon is a gathering of people for the purpose of engaging in intellectually stimulating conversations about literature, art, and ideas. Held in the University Art Gallery, the event featured a variety of life-sized cut-outs of famous authors along with a Sigma Tau Delta member or English professor presenting information about the author’s life and works. Guests at the Salon deepened their knowledge of literature as they “mingled” with the likenesses of William Shakespeare, Walt Whitman, the Bronte sisters, and J.R.R. Tolkien.

Math and Computer Science major Ian Ziarko was impressed with the quality of the presentations at the Salon. Ziarko said, “I could tell that each and every person thoroughly enjoyed the topic, as each presenter spoke with excitement and engaged those who were listening. The fact that all the presenters were passionate about the subject made the experience worthwhile.” Students left the event inspired to read more about the authors they “met” at the Salon. Student Ann Favia left intrigued by Sabrina Hill’s presentation on H.G. Wells. Favia said, “I left inspired to read his novel The Invisible Man based on Sabrina’s sheer excitement.”

The Literary Salon provided an opportunity for students to learn about literature and expand their knowledge of well-known authors. The Salon provided students with new, interesting information and in-person contact with professors who teach in the Department of English Studies. Sigma Tau Delta will be hosting another Salon on January 29. Check the Arts & Ideas calendar for details!

English Honors Society Hosts Meet and Treat
by Bianca Apato

In the spirit of the Halloween, Sigma Tau Delta members, English faculty, and students gathered to celebrate with costumes, frightful readings, and personal pieces. Kyle Kotas, Deirdre McCormick, Linda Stahl, and Sabrina Hill read poems to represent their holiday spirit. Dr. Jamil Mustafa, English Department Chair, also got in on the fun by reading “The Raven” by Edgar Allan Poe.

After the readings, attendees devoured treats and participated in “The Walking Dead” Penny Wars where participants had to choose which character they would save or be the next victim. The party gave invitees a chance to dress to the nines in their favorite costume. Bianca Apato and Ryan Arciero came as Daisy Buchanan and Jay Gatsby from The Great Gatsby and took home first place in the costume contest. In second place, there was a three-way tie between Deidre McCormick, a splicer from Bioshock; Roslyn Summerville, who came as a Minion from Despicable Me; and Theresa Marten, who came as a green M&M. Stephanie Raga, member of Sigma Tau Delta said her favorite part was seeing all of her friends in costume. “I really enjoyed being able to see my friends’ creativity shine!”

Sigma Tau Delta Accepts Used Books

If you are looking to get your spring cleaning started earlier this year, Sigma Tau Delta is accepting gently used books that can be donated to the Better World Books.

Better World Books is an organization that focuses on reusing and recycling with all profits going to literacy efforts as well as the building of more libraries.

Students and faculty members are encouraged to drop off books they no longer want. They only ask the books not have water damage, have their binding, and no pages missing.

Over six boxes of books have been collected throughout the Fall semester. Sigma Tau Delta Events Coordinator and Communication Specialist, Bianca Apato said, “These books are given the opportunity to visit new homes.”

Those who are interested in donating can drop off books outside of Charlie’s Place or in St. Charles’ Borromeo Pastoral Center.
Dr. Consilio, Writing Center Director, poses with Why I Write participants.

One hundred was the lucky number in the middle of the week’s activities at the Writing Center. Partnering with the Psychology Club during lunch hour, tutors and club members sat outside Charlie’s Place to present hope and find help for people struggling with depression, addiction, self-injury, and suicide. Tutors and club members held a bake sale and raised over 100 dollars to support the nonprofit organization, To Write Love on Her Arms. Tutors and members also wrote the word “Love” on over 100 student’s arms to show their support. This event used writing to prevent illness and improve awareness of a serious issue that occurs across college campuses.

Lewis Writers Discuss Why They Write

To end the week, over thirty people filled the Big Red Room to listen to Lewis Writers share what inspires them to write, as well as pieces of their original writing or writing that inspires them at the Writing Center’s annual Why I Write event.

Stephanie Raga, Writing Center tutor, read the Shel Silverstein poem titled, Forgotten Language. Raga chose Silverstein’s poem because it was one of her favorites when she was a little girl. Raga said, “The poem reflects my progression as a writer. I believe Shel Silverstein has made me the author I am today.” Junior Toni Focosi presented a piece she wrote for her Writing Reviews workshop. Focosi said, “I wrote about my place of employment because I felt I could connect more with the audience, but I really enjoyed listening to why others write in a non-academic setting. Those who participated in the event were: Donna Lordi, Mark Jacobs, Stephanie Raga, Ryan Arciero, Delia Ercoli, Tim Fitzpatrick, Melissa Carrington, Brittany Bishop, Caitlyn Slattery, Toni Focosi, and H.K. Wilson.

Do you know where these journals were hidden?

1. “You won’t see me unless you try. Above the playground, you’ll find me kiddy cornered between a chair and one very special locker.”

2. “Nestled near the wall, between the relish and mayo, you can find me while eating a foreign cuisine.”

3. “There is a great view of McNamara Hall from my hiding spot! If you see a wooden art display, I’m nearby.”

Before the journals were sent out, tutors added a commemorative bookmark and special note to writers.
Writing Center Graduate Assistant Published on ThisIBelieve.org

The Writing Center would like to congratulate graduate assistant, Donna Lordi on the recent publication of her This I Believe essay. Lordi presented her essay entitled “Compassion” at the Writing Center’s annual This I Believe event this past April. Lordi is one of a select few from Lewis University chosen for this honor. “It is a deeply humbling experience to have my essay published,” she said. “I am excited to see that other people can read my essay and find my experience of value.”

In order to be published on ThisBelieve.org, writers must submit their personal essay that tells a story how their beliefs are shaped. Writers are encouraged to be personal, positive, and discuss how their story ties to the essence of their daily life philosophy and the shaping of their beliefs. “Writing my thoughts on compassion reminded me of how connected we are with each other,” Lordi said. “We are not successful on our own, but we all need help at one time or another.”

This I Believe is an international organization engaging people in writing and sharing essays describing the core values that guide their daily lives. Over 100,000 essays are archived on ThisBelieve.org, heard on public radio, chronicled through books, and featured in weekly podcasts. To read Donna Lordi’s essay, visit http://thisibelieve.org/essay/139266/.

Windows Accepting Submissions

All students, staff, faculty, and alumni are invited to submit their work to the upcoming Spring publication of Lewis University’s fine arts magazine, Windows. Entries are being accepted through open submission on any subject matter with the special category being, “A Celebration of the Humanities.”

Windows Fine Arts Magazine features three categories: writing (such as poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, hypertext and research reports), visual art (painting, drawing, crafts, printmaking, sculpture, photography, and computer graphics), and music (composition). First place in each category receives $100 cash prize and publication in the magazine. All other winners receive publication.

The deadline for submission is January 25. Submission guidelines and entry forms can be picked up in the Lewis University library in FA-105 and in FA-215. Writers can also apply online at lewisu.edu/windowsmag. Each entrant may submit three entries in both open submissions. Only original, unpublished works from students, faculty, staff, and alumni are eligible for this competition. For more information, contact Professor Therese Jones, Co-Editor, Coordinator, and Designer at jonesth@lewisu.edu.

Testimonials from Writers

“I really enjoyed my session. I feel more confident turning in my paper.”

“My session was very helpful. I was able to improve my paper overall, learn about citing, and organizing a paper.”

“My tutor gave me tips on how I can be a better writer.”

“There is always room for improvement in writing and the Writing Center is a great resource for improvement!”

“I learned and adapted to different styles of writing in my session.”

“Visiting the Writing Center gave me the security and confidence I needed to turn in my paper.”

Tutoring by the Numbers

(Based on the Fall 2013 semester)

2270 One-on-One and Real Time Online Response Appointments

410+ Online Response by Email Appointments

600 Different students have visited the Writing Center