The Mid-Atlantic Writing Centers Association Conference took place on March 6-7, 2020, at Towson University in Maryland. This year’s theme was, “Decolonizing Writing Center Practice: A New Vision for a New Decade.”

Shippensburg University proudly led four presentations at the conference. Graduate Assistant Alexandra Jones presented a roundtable titled, “Writing Fellows as Agents of Change.” Her argument was that in order to change the writing center paradigm, writing centers must acknowledge Writing Fellows as agents of change at the level of the classroom, institution, and the community at large.

Writing Fellow John Ograh presented an individual panel titled, “Effecting Change in African American Students’ Learning Engagement.” John argued that as a fellow, he needed to become culturally immersed before he could help his writers succeed in their writing.

Writing Specialist Crystal Conzo and Graduate Assistant Tristin Milazzo who presented a roundtable titled, “Room for Improvement? Readings of Our Writing Center Space.” Their findings indicate that a student’s experience with the Learning Center begins at the reception desk; therefore, we must place a greater emphasis on training the receptionists.

Director Dr. Karen Johnson presented with Dr. Ted Roggenbuck from Bloomsburg University. Their presentation titled, “Writing Centers Facing PASSHE Redesign” discussed survey results from the PASSHE writing center directors, shared ideas for assessment, and discussed opportunities for future collaborations.

The research work of the Writing Studio staff has contributed to their understanding of their daily work and improving students’ experiences.
A new approach to writing

By: Vanessa Grzyboski

Writing Specialist Crystal Conzo is eager to help and motivate student writers towards success. As a Writing Specialist, Crystal is responsible for empowering students' development as a writer and providing supportive and individualized instruction. She can also help writers comprehend class readings and writing assignments and engage students in the writing process.

Students who are looking for feedback on a draft should meet with a writing tutor. Students whose first language is not English, concerned about their writing for a class, having trouble meeting the requirements for their writing assignments, or who feel overwhelmed, lost, or anxious when completing writing assignments, should reach out to Crystal at cjconzo@ship.edu.

Spring Graduates

Thomas Fisher

Major: Political Science and Psychology
After graduation: Thomas will pursue a PhD in clinical psychology at Western Michigan University.

Katlyn Michaels

Master: Social Work
After graduation: Katlyn will start her career as an outpatient therapist at Pennsylvania Counseling Services in June.

Abigail Smith

Major: English
After graduation: Abigail will begin her career in a technical writing position in Harrisburg.

John Ograh

Master: Counseling and College Student Personnel
After graduation: John hopes to pursue his PhD in Developmental Psychology at the University of Toronto, Canada.

Vanessa Grzyboski

Major: Communication/Journalism with a concentration in Public Relations
After graduation: Vanessa plans to work within the governmental sector of PR and focus on campaigns.

Alexandra Jones

Master: Social Work
After graduation: Alexandra will serve as the Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition’s Summer Learning Program Director for the summer of 2020.

Virtual Tutoring

Undergraduate Writing Studio
For Spring 2020, the Undergraduate Writing Studio is offering virtual writing tutoring through ZOOM. Students can schedule through the Student Success Collaborative in MyShip.
For instructions, visit the Writing Studio web page or email Crystal Conzo at cjconzo@ship.edu with questions.

Graduate Writing Studio
Graduate writers can choose between a synchronous tutoring session where they can discuss their paper with a Graduate Writing Consultant through ZOOM, or they can work with a consultant asynchronously through email communication.
Appointments are easy to schedule on the Graduate Writing Studio webpage. For more detailed information, contact Dr. Karen Johnson at kgjohnson@ship.edu.

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