The KU Writing Center grew out of a faculty resource center begun in the 1980s. The current Writing Center was founded on October 12, 1998 as a peer writing support resource for KU students. For the past 15 years, consultants have conferenced with thousands of writers. Our staff has presented writing workshops and consulted with faculty and staff on written communication and assignment design.

**Mission Statement**

- We will provide qualified writing consultants who support the academic mission of the University so that you can work confidently in our writing centers.
- We will create an environment, at each of our sites (Writer’s Roosts), that is accessible, comfortable, and productive.
- We will help you understand and practice writing-to-learn for writing in all subjects now and for writing in the future.
- We will help you understand and practice many strategies effective writers use, from brainstorming to editing.
- We will support your growth as a writer and provide the expertise, the resources, and the space and time to work with you on your writing while you are here at the University of Kansas.

**Diversity Statement**

As a part of the global community, the KU Writing Center fosters diversity in all of its dimensions and supports writers in reaching their personal and professional goals. All writers, with their unique life experiences, worldviews, languages and voices, are respected and welcomed. We provide an environment that is conducive to diverse learning styles and forms of expression, and we respect writers’ use of their home languages and world Englishes. We also work with others to pursue justice and remedy current and historical inequities in higher education. Our Center embraces the humanity of all people, celebrating the contributions each individual makes to the Writing Center, KU, and the wider community.

**What KU students say about us:**

- "The writing center provided me with helpful assistance throughout the writing process. As a non-traditional student who juggles family life with a vigorous academic schedule, these sessions were invaluable to me."
- "After reading the Writing Guide which specifically refers to research papers, my working plan for the semester definitely changed. The Guide offered a lot of good advice, and did so in a simple way."
- "Throughout the past month, I have called upon your expertise and guidance while authoring multiple essays for scholarships and leadership opportunities. The services extended to me by your writing consultants were phenomenally helpful...and meant a great deal to me."

**Inaugural Year Student Employees:**

- Donna Binns
- Jason Capps
- Jeremy Engels
- Emily Forsyth
- Kristen Garrison
- Janet Holliday
- Erika Jacobson
- Kristin Knight
- Sue Lee
- Suki Ranieri
- Kristin Rogers
- Amy White

**These administrators have supervised Writing Center Directors over the years:**

- Jim Carruthers
- Kathleen McCluskey-Fawcett
- Frank DeSalvo
- Lori Reesor
- Tamara Durham
- Kathryn Nemeth Tuttle
- Lucy Sankey Russell

**OUR PAST 1998 ♦ 1999**

The First Writer’s Roost was a small office on the 4th floor of Wescoe Hall.
On September 12, 2001, the KU Writing Center moved to a larger space in Wescoe Hall 4017. Celebrating our 15th Anniversary, OA Emmy Levens greets writers.

Jim Carruthers, Michele Eodice, and Kathleen McClahey-Fawcett at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, with KUWC employees and guests.

2000–2001 saw an explosion of Writers’ Roosts across campus. KUWC began consulting with writers in the Templin and GSP-Corbin Academic Resource Centers. That same semester, consultants began staffing the Watson Library Roost five nights per week in a new space funded by Student Senate.

The first KU Writing Center T-shirt to feature our logo, fondly known as “Jayhawk on a pencil.”

Office Manager Rhonda Sharp with Consultant Brian Fallon celebrate their new workspace. Brian now directs the writing center at New York’s Fashion Institute of Technology.

Jim Hartman, Professor of English, with Jim Carruthers at the Wescoe Hall opening. Jim Hartman was Director of the University of Kansas Writing Center as a faculty resource and has been a supporter of KUWC since its inception.

OA Emmy Levens greets writers.

On September 12, 2001, the KU Writing Center moved to a larger space in Wescoe Hall 4017.

KU Writing Center hosted the joint National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing / Midwest Writing Centers Association Conference in Lawrence in Fall 2002. Conference Chair Michele Eodice reported that “hosting over 300 writing center folks in my own town offered more fun than hassle. The conference went along relatively glitch free” (MWCA Newsletter, 22.1, December 2002).

In Summer 2002, KU Writing Center began offering online consultations to KU Edwards students.

Fall 2002 consultants
Back row:
Middle row:
Ashlea Woodard Campbell, Tiffany DeJaynes Ng, Elizabeth Gray, Joe Sommerva, Moira O’Nias.
Front row:
Anna Carlton Thompson, Stephanie Wilkinson.
Moira Ozias, long-time graduate consultant, became Assistant Director in 2004.

Office Assistant Lynn Hamilton “rules” the Wescoe Roost.

International Writing Centers Association
Summer Institute 2005

The KU Writing Center staff hosted the IWCA event for writing center professionals in Lawrence.

One attendee, Marcia Toms of North Carolina State University, summed up her experience at the Institute: “Before attending the institute, I knew there was a writing center community “out there,” but this week helped me see myself as part of this community” (Southern Discourse, vol. 9(2), p. 4).

Office Assistant Megan McGinley wearing the 2006 bright gold KU Writing Center T-shirt. To our knowledge, that was the only year we featured this color; all other T-shirts have been white, blue, or

In 2006-2007, Moira Ozias served as Acting Director. Terese Thonus joined KUWC as Director in July 2007.

Consultants, Fall 2007
Middle row: Emily Hensley, Sasha Graybosch, Zanice Bond de Pérez, Lauren Holt, Paula Rose
Front row: Jenny Hartz, Kim Gianakon, Terese Thomas, Shannon McNeal, Huma Khan.

Staff Retreats and Consultant Practicum

Ongoing education has been an important part of student employees’ professionalization. At the beginning of each semester, full-staff retreats are held. Consultants meet once a month for a two-hour education session, and office assistants meet several times a month as well. Getting together has always been an occasion for learning, community-building, and having a good time!

Cyndi Hurst, KU Writing Center office manager.

Sample Retreat Programs from 2006 and 2012

International Writing Centers Association

www.writingcenters.org

KU Writing Center Annual Report 2012-2013

KU Writing Center Annual Report 2012-2013
IN FALL 2011, KUWC LEFT ITS WESCOE LOCATION AND JOINED THE LEARNING STUDIO AT ANSCHUTZ LIBRARY, FIRST ON THE 3RD FLOOR AND THEN ON THE 4TH.

UNDERGRADUATE CONSULTANTS, SPRING 2013. BACK ROW: BRENDAN LIGHT, MATTHEW O’NEILL, MIDDLE ROW: BRYAN SMITH, JAYCE RHAINING, SARAH LARSEN, MARGOT MELCH, ALEX YATES, JEN COOK, JUSTIN RENNELL. FRONT ROW: LARA LAW, KAYLA OVERBEY, MARIA CAVAGGI REGIDOR, KEVIN BRENZON, AUSTIN SCHAUER (LEAD), CHARLES BARLEY.

GRADUATE CONSULTANTS, SPRING 2013. BACK ROW: BLAYZE HEMBREE, JUSTIN WILSON (LEAD), JAYCE RHAINING, DEREK KAPLAN, ASHLEY GUTTA, JULIE PETRINO. MIDDLE ROW: KRISTIN LOCKRIDGE, LAURIE PARKER, JENNIFER COLASTO, UN SO DIENER, ARIC TOLER. FRONT ROW: RACHEL BLOOM, ANNA SCHMIDT, SHAYN GUILLEMETTE.

OFFICE ASSISTANTS, SPRING 2013. ANGELA GOETZ, COURTNEY SCHUPP, KELLY WOODS, ELLEN KEGGEN, IDA KITCHEN-GREENWELL, DYLAN SANDERS, AMBER NORRIS, ASHLEY MOWDOW, BRINDA DOAN (LEAD), MARY SCHMITZ.

KUWC NOW HAS 16 UNDERGRADUATE AND 16 GRADUATE CONSULTANTS, AND 10 OAS “RULE THE ROOSTS” AT ANSCHUTZ AND WATSON LIBRARIES.

CELEBRATING OUR 15TH ANNIVERSARY

WITT·ING·CENTER (WITH·ING·SEN·TAT·IN·G) N.
1. A procrastinator’s paradise. 2. An environment where trained consultants help one brainstorm, draft, and edit writing. 3. A sounding board, where one writes collaboratively. 4. An engaging experience contributing to student success.

Over the years, KUWC professional and student staff have engaged in writing center inquiry, presented at conferences, and published their research in newsletters and academic journals. Writer Outsider: Student Narratives and the Search for Social Justice, a 2009 project conducted by Moira O’zias and Janice Bond de Pérez, made an important contribution not only to further education of our staff in diversity and anti-racism issues but also to the entire writing center community via International Writing Centers Association grant funding. KUWC has received three IWCA grants since 2007.
After a year of reorganization and transition, the Writing Center joined Undergraduate Studies.

KUWC’s literary magazine, edited in 2012 by Sarah Worrel and in 2013 by Ryan Smith.

"I can’t thank you enough for all of your help with my work...I have produced two chapters, an article, and an abstract that led to conference presentations! I tell everyone about the Writing Center and what you all have to offer."

— KU graduate student

Katie Elliott joined the Writing Center staff as Assistant Director on July 15. And Claire McMurray has served as our new Graduate Writing Specialist since August 1. We’re fully staffed again!


Announcing the 2013 Graduate Research/Write-In for all KU Graduate Students

Goals for 2013-2014:

Instructional Support
As a unit of Undergraduate Studies, KUWC will support first-year student initiatives and cooperate with the Office of First-Year Experience, the Office of Multicultural Affairs’ HawkLink, and Learning Communities. KUWC will maintain a strong presence in Anschutz Library’s Learning Studio. The KUWC Director serves as a Center for Teaching Excellence Ambassador and will increase outreach to faculty across the disciplines as a member of course redesign teams associated with the KU Core.

Community Outreach
KUWC is a proud member of the Greater Kansas City Writing Centers Project. We will participate in the Annual Tutor Retreat at Johnson County Community College on August 24 and continue to collaborate with high school and college writing center directors. We will continue our Saturday writing tables at Lawrence Family Promise and have been invited to do the same at Lawrence Community Shelter. Our collaboration with Haskell Indian Nations University will include workshops for Student Support Services and the American Indian Studies program.

Graduate Student Programs
Approximately 33% of KUWC users in 2012-2013 were graduate students. KUWC will continue its tradition of Graduate Research/Write-Ins on the Lawrence and Edwards campuses, in collaboration with KU Libraries and the Graduate Writing Program. We also plan to increase the number and variety of writing groups and to participate in M.A. and PhD program orientations and workshops, as well as offering individual sessions for graduate students seeking assistance with their writing.