

The WRITE Education

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

SUMMER 2013

The WRITE Studio is for Students!

The WRITE Studio **By Maeghan Bradshaw**

When I was an undergraduate student at Tennessee State University, my favorite place to study was always the WRITE Studio. It wasn't just a place where the Justice League of English Majors met to discuss the daily battles concerning all things literature, plays, grammar, and writing. It was a place that anyone could walk into and feel at ease.

As a student I wouldn't have survived the daily hustle and bustle of studying for class after class if it weren't for the WRITE Studio. It was the perfect place for my peers and me to meet and discuss work. Here we were encouraged to share ideas and challenge one another. The many computers, printers, and tables made for a functional environment that helped us.

Every student that walked through the door was always welcomed with a warm smile. These people truly care about the students at TSU and help them with anything that they may need. If it weren't for these folks and the WRITE Studio,

then I can honestly say that I wouldn't have walked across that stage and earned my diploma.

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Maeghan Bradshaw and Rachel Faulk, TSU Spring Commencement, 11 May 2013. Photo courtesy of Rachel Faulk.

How the WRITE Studio **Got Me Through** **By Rachel Faulk**

I have to admit that I love to write. I have a specialty in writing poems and short stories. However, I didn't have the best of luck in writing papers for my classes. The WRITE Studio helped me gain the skills to become a better writer.

I was able to get help with my homework in the Studio. I was able to learn new things I can do in my paper and improve my paper at the same time. I was

able to have a meeting place

with fellow students, and we were able to help one another with material we did not understand on our own. I owe the WRITE Studio for helping me through my undergraduate career. I have become a better writer. The support I received helped me achieve my goals. The WRITE Studio is the best thing for students at Tennessee State. You are encouraged to think harder and ask the difficult questions. That is what turns you from a student into a professional. I can say I am just that.

History Awards!



Fall 2012 first-place winner Joseph Kirk Taylor received his award from Dr. Erik Schmeller, Professor of History and Dept. Head for History, Political Science, Geography, and Africana Studies. Picture courtesy of Erik Schmeller.

Beginning in spring 2012, the History Program opted to recognize the quality writing from top students in the sophomore survey courses who completed the ePortfolio requirement in support of WRITE. For fall 2012, faculty members Michael Bertrand, Sheri Browne, Joel Dark, Adebayo Oyejade, and Learotha Williams evaluated nominated essays. Joseph Kirk Taylor won the first place \$100 prize and Brandon Bartee earned the

second place \$50 prize (both winners were the students of Michael Bertrand and wrote on the Scottsboro case). Mr. Taylor is a history major who participated in the Interdisciplinary Panel Discussions on the Emancipation Proclamation presented at the University, Nashville State Community College, and Volunteer State Community College.

For spring 2013, the first place award went to Lakesha Smith and second place Jonathan Platt.

Each recipient earned the monetary award (added to their University account) and a certificate of recognition in honor of their quality scholarship in history.

WRITE appreciates the History Program's commitment to and support of their students' excellence in writing.

TSU Students Take Their Research to a Regional Stage by Erik Schmeller

"Ten students at Tennessee State University in the spring of 2012 worked cooperatively on a research project investigating the conspiracies surrounding the origin of AIDS as part of a pilot course in the role of conspiracy in history."

Ten students at Tennessee State University in the spring of 2012 worked cooperatively on a research project investigating the conspiracies surrounding the origin of AIDS as part of a pilot course in the role of conspiracy in history. The course was created to appeal to students from a wide range of majors, equip them to more critically evaluate infor-

mation, and to develop skills in cooperative learning. Following some background readings and lectures on common conspiracies, students developed their own research proposals for the group to investigate. The AIDS conspiracy was selected by the group. Cooperatively researching, discussing, and writing on AIDS conspiracy

theories resulted in most students re-evaluating how they look at source materials, while some retained the position that African Americans remain a targeted population.

In spring 2013, the roundtable discussion at the Southwestern Social Science Association Conference held in New Orleans featured three students and the course instructor discussing how this problem-based learning course was developed and its learning objectives, student responses to selected sources on conspiracy, the research proposal process, and the collaborative process of research. Unexpected complications, such as the prevalence of conspiracy theories in the African-American community, as well as a general mistrust of authoritative sources, prevented a clear class consensus. The WRITE Program was pleased to support these students as they did research in the spring 2012 course that led to this presentation.



From right to left: Student Presenters Parris Malone, Dale Kern, and Maximilian Cole. Photo courtesy of Erik Schmeller.

Why I Work as a WRITE Associate by Jill Anderson

I spent a total of 23 years as a student, all the way from kindergarten to the end of my PhD program. One of the most



Jill Anderson, Asst. Prof. & WRITE Associate. Photo courtesy of Jill Anderson.

important things I discovered during those years is that learning and writing take place within a community. You can only learn so much by shutting yourself away with a pile of books. Seeking support, advice, feedback, criticism, or just a conversation with another human being is an essential part of the learning process. I encourage my own students to share their work with others—friends, roommates, relatives, other students, and professors—because the more

viewpoints they have contributing to their vision and their work, the stronger that work becomes.

Jill E. Anderson is an Assistant Professor of English, teaching American literature and composition courses with either a food or environmental studies focus. Her research interests include queer ecocriticism, Cold War American literature, the Beats, and Native American literature. She will be returning in fall 2014 for her second year as a WRITE Associate.

Bridging the Gap by Nia Cantey

As a WRITE Associate, I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience working with undergraduate students. I emphasize “undergraduate” as an Associate Professor who primarily teaches graduate students. Subsequently, the WRITE Program has complemented and assisted me with filling the gaps between undergraduate social work students and those seeking to become graduate social work students. This opportuni-

ty offers me a chance to assist undergraduate students with developing and honing the skills expected of students entering graduate programs, in addition to addressing their immediate writing needs. The WRITE Studio is a serene space that provides both the student and the WRITE Associate with an opportunity to discuss, explore, and exchange ideas in a one-on-one basis.



Nia Cantey, Assoc. Prof. & WRITE Associate. Photo courtesy of Nia Cantey.

N. I. Cantey, Ph.D., MSW, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Urban Professions. She also directs the Center for Aging. She will return in fall 2014 for her second year as a WRITE Associate.

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A Resource for History Majors by Robert Pickard

I have enjoyed working for the WRITE Studio. It is important for history students to have a resource for writing; the ability to write is essential to the study of history. A history faculty member who can assist students is a very important resource.



Robert Pickard, Instructor & WRITE Associate. Photo courtesy of Robert Pickard.

Robert Pickard teaches US and world history. He spent many years living and travelling in Asia and Africa, and has worked with, taught, and supervised people of all backgrounds. His research interests include foreign policy, international relations, civil and human rights, and popular culture. He tries to stay in touch with his field, and others, with books, film, television, and the internet. He will return for his third year as a WRITE Associate this fall.

At the WRITE Studio by Heidi Williams

I feel my position at the WRITE studio is to spend one-on-one time with students to help them reach a new level in their creative potential, to challenge their common thinking, and to help them manipulate language. I highly endorse one-on-one tutoring because it allows for a more intimate setting of conversation and inquiry about writing. I have studied the concepts and theo-

ries of writing for over a decade and have been tutoring student writers for just as long, yet I still seek out a writing mentor because I truly believe writing happens within a community. I work as an Associate in the WRITE Studio to simply build that community.

Heidi Williams teaches in the Department of Languages, Literature, and Philosophy. She attended Southern Illinois Uni-

versity Carbondale for her doctorate in Rhetoric & Composition, and Murray State University for her Master's and undergraduate in English Education and Literature. She will return for her second year as an Associate this fall.



Heidi Williams, Asst. Prof. & WRITE Associate. Photo courtesy of Heidi Williams.



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The WRITE Program is TSU's writing in the disciplines initiative. The WRITE Studio is located in 220 Jackson Hall.



ECI/STEM summer pre-college students (left to right, Kourtney Daniels, TN; Marissa Morgan, GA; Dr. Morgan-Curtis, TSU; & Hailey Scruggs, AL) & WRITE Director at Destination TSU Support Services Fair, June 2013. Photo courtesy of Samantha Morgan-Curtis.

This newsletter is published by the WRITE Program at Tennessee State University.

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Publication #: TSU-14-0005(A)-12b-17540
Tennessee State University is an AA/EEO employer.

What Can WRITE Do For You?

For fall 2014 WRITE will continue offering and sponsoring workshops for faculty and students!

Faculty, if you are in a WRITE-participating program (Electrical Engineering, English, History, Human Performance and Sport Sciences, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work, and Sociology) and would like to request a workshop or presentation for your class, just e-mail write@tnstate.edu. APA Documentation? The Writing Process? How can we help?

Students, WRITE will be working with the TSU Career Development Center to present workshops open to all on Résumé Writing and Creating Effec-

tive Personal Statements.

The Résumé Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10th, 4-5:30 p.m. in 302 Floyd Payne Campus Center.

Damaree Perez, an attendee at last fall's Personal Statement workshop wrote to WRITE recently: "We met in December and in January to review my goal statement. We spoke on Friday and I was accepted into the program. I really appreciate all of your help." WRITE can make no guarantees that all such work will result in the perfect outcome, but we are here to work with you!

The Personal Statement Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18th, 3 p.m. Location to be determined. Check back on the WRITE page (www.tnstate.edu/

write) and the Career Development Center's page.

Also, WRITE uses both digital and standard bulletin boards to share information with students. Visit the WRITE Studio to work, receive assistance with your writing, and check all of our announcements regarding workshops, internships, and graduate programs.

WRITE will also continue to provide eLearn and ePortfolio training and support for faculty with other workshops on grading, rubrics, and academic integrity planned.

We are here to help students and faculty along the WRITE path! Stay tuned for more specifics. Also, contact us with questions, suggestions, or concerns so that we can help serve you better: write@tnstate.edu.