Writing Center Bios

Ariel Ashline-Winters

Majors: Anthropology & Psychology

Ariel is one year away from graduating with a bachelor’s degree in both anthropology and psychology. During her senior year, she plans to continue her research driven by her love for primates with Dr. Liu on nut-cracking in wild capuchin monkeys. This research has and will be presented at Quest and other national conferences. In addition, she is president of the anthropology club and is a teaching assistant for Dr. Lei in cultural anthropology. Ariel will also remain a member of peer mentor where she has been able to help children complete their homework while at the same time serving as a positive role model. Last year, she was awarded the Dean’s Writing Award in Psychology for her paper, “Do Orangutan Innovations Reflect Traditions?” Ariel has been passionate about reading and writing since the day she opened a book. Drastically changing to hobbies and values, Ariel is exceptionally responsible, organized, and punctual. She enjoys water skiing, working out, all animals (especially primates), and children.

Julia Brennan

Majors: English & Creative Writing

Minor: Philosophy

Julia grew up in Phoenix, a small town just south of Oswego. She spends much of her time reading and writing, and she hopes to attend graduate school in the fall of 2017 to pursue a career as an English teacher. She was a seminar leader for HON 150, an Honors Program intro course that discusses argumentation. This was her first experience guiding students through the writing process, and she hopes that continuing to work with her fellow students as a tutor will help to further develop the communication skills necessary for teaching. She has also been published in the screenwriting section and has served as an editor for the fiction section of the Great Lake Review. Aside from reading and writing, she thoroughly enjoys Twenty One Pilots, ice cream, running, and poorly playing the ukulele.

Alicia Britton

Majors: Public Justice and English

Minor: Forensic Science

Alicia is from a small town near Niagara Falls, NY and is entering her junior year at SUNY Oswego. She is a part of the Mentor Scholar Program where she serves as a Team Leader. In her free time, she enjoys singing, playing her guitar, and being adventurous. Although she is unsure of what she wants to do post graduation, she is leaning toward a career in the criminal justice system. Her goals as a writing tutor include making people feel comfortable with her and confident in their writing ability as it improves. She is excited to help her peers expand their writing skills and work to their full potential!

Shaleena Campbell

Major: Business Administration

Shaleena is a sophomore and from New York City. Although she is from a fast-paced city she is a relaxed person and wants to create a calm environment for students to work in. She was an avid reader throughout high school and owes her strength in essay writing to the knowledge she has gained from it. She hopes to use her skills to assist students in strengthening and developing their assignments.
Zina Campbell

Major: Business Administration

Zina is from New York City, more specifically Manhattan. After spending many summers at the New York Public library, Zina’s love for reading flourished and helped strengthen her writing skills. She enjoys reading amateur written books on an app called Wattpad and then mentally correcting the authors’ grammatical mistakes. Right now, Zina’s major is business administration. However, she is in her sophomore year and hopes to narrow down to a more specific major or pick a minor. She thinks that any student looking for help at the Writing Center should not be apprehensive. Even though she is a writing tutor, she still visits the Center for feedback on her writing assignments.

Haley Filippone

Major: Public Relations with Concentration in Journalism
Minor: Business Leadership

Haley grew up in Buffalo, New York and found her passion for writing at a young age. She is currently vice president of the Oswego State cheerleading team and a media intern for Vote Oswego, where she is responsible for all published material for these organizations. She has an eye for detail and considers grammar and AP Style to be her strengths. Haley hopes to make students feel comfortable and confident in their writing, and wants to help students create work greater than their expectations.

Julia Graham

Majors: Linguistics

Julia is a senior from Syracuse, NY. After receiving her degree, she hopes to travel the world and teach English abroad. While Julia is able to assist any student in need of tutoring, she especially enjoys working with international students. She is a grammar enthusiast and hopes to help her fellow students strengthen and feel confident in their writing.

Keith Jacobsen

Major: Childhood Education with Concentration in English

Keith is from Long Island, New York and has always loved writing. He grew up in a home where creativity was encouraged, which is why he is drawn toward working in English education. He is the Secretary of the Education Honor Society and a member of the English Honor Society. He has taken two creative writing classes and over a dozen English classes here at SUNY Oswego. In addition, he took a few film and literature courses while studying abroad in Prague, Czech Republic. While abroad, he worked with high school students on their English and communication skills. He has also worked in 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grade classrooms where he was able to help other students develop their reading and writing skills. He hopes to get a master's degree in literacy education after college and continue to teach and help others.
Ashley Kirkland

Major: Adolescent Education with a Concentration in English

Ashley was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY (Bedford Stuyvesant to be exact). She loves to read and write and dreams of becoming an established poet and English teacher. As a writing tutor, she wants to guide tutees to tap into their highest writing capabilities. She wants to allow their creative potentials to be the forefront of their writing while staying on the given task. Ultimately, Ashley wants to create a tutoring atmosphere that is safe, comfortable, and judgment free.

Lyn Mezier

Major: Anthropology

Minors: Forensic Science & Biology

Lyn was born in the small island of Haiti and came to the United States when she was 3 years old. She currently lives in Long Island and hopes to one day work for the FBI. She enjoys writing, bike riding, cooking, therapeutic art, and learning about different cultures. English is her second language and she understands the difficulties English language learners face. Throughout her academic career, she has gotten guidance from others to become and maintain her role as a successful scholar and wishes to share that knowledge with other students so they may do the same.

Marissa Michon

Major: History

Marissa is an avid reader and writer and is currently a junior studying history at SUNY Oswego. She has hopes to travel the world when she graduates to learn more about the way the world we live in truly works. When Marissa is not tutoring, she loves to nap, watch Game of Thrones, The Office, and anything trending on Netflix at the time. Her hopes for tutoring are that she can create a positive and relaxed environment that makes her tutees feel at ease when she is helping them with papers and other writing projects.

Jennifer Ofodile

Major: Biochemistry

Two years ago, Jennifer moved with her father and sister from her home in Lagos, Nigeria, to Brooklyn, New York. Currently, she is a freshman whose passion for chemistry was ignited by her family and love of science. Jennifer’s life goal is to become a biochemist/pharmacist. She believes that working as a writing tutor will enhance her knowledge of and confidence with the English language both in writing and communicating. Jennifer also wishes to help other students who are in the process of learning English become better writers and be less intimidated by the English language.
Sarah Pasquarelli

Major: Communication/Social Interaction

Minors: Gender Studies & Creative Writing

Sarah is a senior. She is from a small town near Utica, New York. Sarah is a peer educator at the LifeStyles Center and a Resident Assistant in Seneca Hall. She had an internship with the Oswego Children’s Project last year and spent this past summer interning at the Refugee Center in Utica. Sarah often finds herself getting carried away while writing and has always had a love for it. She is an avid coffee drinker and sunset chaser. She also loves cozy blankets, good conversations, and meeting new people. She is not completely sure what she wants to do “when she grows up,” but she knows that she wants to help people. As of now, she plans on working at a non-profit agency after graduating in May. As a tutor, she hopes to restore the passion for learning in students who need it and offer a safe, welcoming place to those who want more academic support.

Geoffrey Peterson

Graduate Student MS in Chemistry

Geoffrey is from Syracuse, NY. He received a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry at Oswego and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in chemistry. He worked as a research assistant over the summer as well as a quality control chemist at Novelis. After he graduates, he hopes to continue his education and earn a PhD in analytical chemistry. He is a teaching assistant for general chemistry as well as instrumental analysis (he can help with writing lab reports!). He also enjoys playing basketball, reading, and skiing.

Kristina Rovison

Majors: English & Creative Writing

Kristina (Kristi) is a current junior, studying English literature and creative writing. Born and raised in Buffalo, New York, she has a creative nature and intense passion for both fiction and historical works. She works as a freelance fiction editor in Buffalo, editing and assisting in publishing multiple novels and anthologies through independent publishing houses in the Western New York area. She has personally published two full-length fiction novels under her own name, distributed in twenty-seven different countries and making the number one spot on the Amazon Best Seller list in their genres. She is well versed in research based writing pieces, citation proofreading, and structural soundness of the material. She loves meeting new people and wants to help her peers write to the absolute best of their ability! She is looking to see dedication and passion in the individuals she encounters.

Courtney Schlesinger

Majors: TESOL & English Minor: Linguistics

Born and raised on Long Island, Courtney graduated from Massapequa High School where she tutored writing. Along with working in the Writing Center, Courtney tutors in linguistics and grammar. She has been working for the Writing Center since fall 2014. She loves everything about writing and one day hopes to become either a high school teacher in an English or ESL classroom or a publisher. Courtney hopes that her tutoring will help others realize how enjoyable and stress-relieving writing can be.
Emily Shaben

Majors: Creative Writing & Journalism

Emily resides in Jamesville, a small town located just outside the borders of the city of Syracuse. Emily hopes to inspire young writers to take great leaps in all their work. Growing up, she had always had a soft spot for books; her room at home has many shelves that are lined with them. One day, Emily plans to have her own collection of books, perhaps one will be a memoir. She encourages tutees to feel comfortable coming in with questions of all kinds, whether they be questions about grammar, details, or just how to get started on a paper.

Steven Smith

Steven Smith is a writing specialist at SUNY Oswego. He has been employed at SUNY Oswego since 1986. He teaches composition classes, helps coordinate the Writing Center, and tutors writing. He received his BA in English/Writing Arts from SUNY Oswego in 1982 and his MA in English/Creative Writing from Binghamton University in 1984. He enjoys reading and writing poetry. Other interests include writing humor, watching historical documentaries, and exercising. He knows strong writing skills are essential to communicate in today's workplace. He finds genuine reward when he has helped students through any challenges or stages of the writing process.

Katelyn Wainman

Major: Public Relations

Minor: Business Administration

Katelyn (Katie) is a senior here at SUNY Oswego. She was born and raised on the border of Pennsylvania in the small town of Hancock, NY. She discovered her passion for helping other students progress their educations when she became a teaching assistant for MGT 26. Katie wishes to take what she has learned from her TA experiences and apply them to her position as a writing tutor. She believes that being a fluent writer is a skill that needs to be practiced and that no student should ever be too intimidated to come to the Writing Center for help.

Abby West

Majors: Adolescent Education 7-12 & English

Abby is a junior from Marathon, NY, and she hopes to become a high school English teacher after graduation. She loves working with others to help cultivate their writing, creativity, and communication skills. Abby is also the Practical English Grammar tutor in the Learning Center and is experienced with the use of proper grammar. She believes that every student has the ability to be a talented and effective writer.