

Writing Tutor Bios

Kelsey Brockner

Major: Public Accounting/ MBA 5-Year Program

Kelsey is beginning her final year at SUNY Oswego. She is from a rural town in New York called Callicoon. She enjoys several activities including camping, fishing, reading, and horseback riding. Kelsey is currently in the MBA program for Public Accounting. Following graduation, she hopes to complete the CPA examination and pursue a career as an accountant. As a new addition to the Writing Center, she hopes to help students feel more confident in their writing abilities.

Shaleena Campbell

Major: Business Administration

Shaleena is 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 is an avid reader and owes her strength in essay writing to the knowledge she has gained from reading. She hopes to use her skills to assist students in strengthening and developing their assignments. During fall 2017, she participated in the SUNY Oswego London program.

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. She knows that any student looking for help at the Writing Center should not be apprehensive. Even though she is a writing tutor, she knows how helpful constructive feedback is and visits the Center for feedback on her own writing assignments. During fall 2017, she participated in the SUNY Oswego London program.

Sally Familia

Major: Creative Writing

Minor: Women and Gender Studies

Sally is a Dominican writer working through her last year as an undergraduate. She has a couple of small poetry publications that can be found in the *Great Lake Review* here on campus, the anthology *New York's Best Emerging Poets*, and *Genre: Urban Arts* literary magazine. Sally specializes in creative writing but can easily finesse a research essay. She is fluent in Spanish. Sally hopes to continue her education and obtain her master's degree in publishing and music business.

Emily Gordon

Major: Psychology

Minor: Gerontology

Emily is from Ithaca, New York. She is a junior. She loves creative writing, but most of her writing is for psychology classes that require all assignments to be completed in APA format. She hopes to help other struggling social science students learn to be more comfortable with their APA skills. Emily also works as a PSY 280 tutor and a Peer Advisor for the Psychology and Human Development departments.

Kate Gordon

Majors: Cognitive Science & Computer Science

Kate is from Carmel, NY, a town about an hour north of NYC. She is entering her junior year at SUNY Oswego. In her spare time, she enjoys rock climbing, hiking, horseback riding, and just about anything outdoors, including serving as Gear Manager for the Oswego Outdoor Club. Having benefited greatly from a writing center in high school, Kate is excited to be part of this wonderful student resource. Thanks to the interdisciplinary nature of her studies, she has experience with written work for a variety of classes in both STEM and the liberal arts (including linguistics, which she knows can have a challenging format). As a tutor, Kate hopes to help others develop their ability to craft well-structured papers and to express themselves more clearly and articulately in writing.

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.

Nellie Owens

Graduate Program: Master of Science in Teaching Adolescent Education in English

Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations & English

Starting her degree at SUNY Oswego, Nellie was a public relations major with a minor in business administration. She took a variety of journalism, communication, and marketing classes and developed strong skills in writing and analyzation. At the end of her junior year, Nellie studied abroad in Kråkstad, Norway, where she completed both a marketing and communication internship, as well as a public relations co-op, for an international nonprofit. Though she gained useful experience in her field, she decided upon her return to the States that she wanted to focus her attention and energies less on the corporate and business world and more on helping others. Nellie dropped her business minor her senior year and added an English major to her public relations degree. Today, she strives to help others develop skills in writing and confidence in their abilities to organize and complete various writing assignments. Nellie is currently enrolled in the MST program at SUNY Oswego and plans to become an English teacher after graduation.

Sarah Pasquarelli

Graduate Program: Master of Arts in Strategic Communication

Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Social Interaction

Minors: Gender Studies & Creative Writing

Sarah is a graduate student studying Communication. She is from a small town near Utica, New York. Sarah is the Assistant Hall Director of Johnson Hall. As an undergraduate student, she was a Peer Educator at the LifeStyles Center and an RA in Seneca Hall. She had an internship with the Oswego Children's Project and spent summers interning at the Refugee Center in Utica. Sarah was a tutor at the writing center during the 16-17 school year and has developed a passion for it. She loves writing and being a resource for students who want to develop their own writing skills.

Christina Prunesti

Major: English

Christina Prunesti is a senior from New Rochelle, New York. She has made Dean's list for the past two semesters and is eager to learn. In her spare time, she likes to watch documentaries, read, and cook. She also loves to spend her time hanging out with friends and is always looking for a new adventure! Christina loves to travel and has recently been to Mexico and Colorado. Additionally, she has traveled with the university to Austria and Germany. She has also taken German here at Oswego for the past three years. She is eager to tutor and assist her peers with their writing assignments.

Cate Seaman

Major: Creative Writing

Cate is from Little Falls, New York, and he is senior. She studies creative writing, focusing on poetry and fiction, and hopes to work with animals. Her interests include industrial music, video games, and her two cats. Cate has been involved in student organizations, particularly the Storytellers' Guild, where she was secretary for a year. This is Cate's first year as a tutor, and she is excited to help others and learn. One of her goals as a tutor is to help writers find and understand their voice.

Steven Smith, Writing Center Director

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.

Abby West

Majors: Adolescent Education & English

Abby is 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.

Jessica Wickham

Major: Journalism

Minor: Creative Writing

Jessica is from Syracuse, NY, and is entering her senior year at SUNY Oswego. She currently works at the *Oswegonian* as chief copy editor and on-staff reporter. After graduation, she hopes to obtain a full-time position as a newspaper copy editor in central New York. In her free time, she enjoys reading coming-of-age novels and biking through nature. Jessica enjoys helping others improve their writing capabilities, as she believes anyone has the capacity to strengthen their skills. She especially focuses on research essays and creative writing pieces, but she also has experience with many forms of writing, including journalism. She tutored at her previous college, Onondaga Community College, in writing and chemistry.

Kelsey Winter

Major: Adolescent Education with a Concentration in English

Kelsey grew up in Warrensburg, New York. This small town is known as the Gateway to the Adirondacks. She transferred to SUNY Oswego aspiring to become more involved with her peers and community. Kelsey participated in the Mentor Scholar Program where she found a passion for helping others. She also became a member of the International Honor Society in Education, known as Kappa Delta Pi. Her goal as a writing tutor is to remind students to always keep a growth mindset, whether they are writing a paper or applying for a job. She has learned that perseverance is the key to life. She enjoys country music, running, and socializing with friends. She hopes to finish her graduate degree at SUNY Oswego and become a high school English teacher in Syracuse City School District.