

CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY



WRITING CENTER NEWSLETTER, SPRING 2011

Writing Center Mission Statement

The Writing Center promotes literacy at America's oldest Historically Black Institution of Higher Learning by providing support for student writing across all classes and disciplines. Writing assistants offer one-on-one consultations at all stages of the writing process from focusing topics through drafting, revising, and editing. The Writing Center at Cheyney University provides a friendly, quiet environment for reading, writing, and collaboration.

Students are welcome to schedule an appointment or to bring papers to the Writing Center on a walk-in basis during hours of operation. Writing assistants offer guidance and feedback, but students remain responsible for their own writing. Students can build their confidence and improve their writing skills at all levels by visiting the Writing Center often and getting feedback on all of their drafts.

WELCOME



Just three months ago, Baily 211, the home of the new Cheyney University Writing Center, was a spacious, empty room with a great set of

windows. In our first week in February, the W.C. staff set out to make the space as welcoming and warm as possible. We reorganized furniture, rearranged plants, decorated with found art and occasionally supplied baked snacks and tea. We wanted our students to know that our space was their space – a room they could use for reading, writing, self-reflection and, of course, direct access to Writing Assistants.

In the months that have followed the staff has seen students for all kinds of writing on a variety of topics, from 5-paragraph essays to personal statements for scholarship and graduate school applications. As the graphs and testimonies in this issue of the C.U.W.C. Newsletter show, we are growing, reaching more and more students as the

weeks go by. For this we have the CU community to thank, for sending students to Baily 211 for help, recommending our services to friends and classmates, and trusting us with your writing. Without the support of faculty, staff and (perhaps most importantly) students, the C.U.W.C. could not exist.

We hope that the C.U.W.C. has become an important part of your or your students' academic experience, and we encourage you to stop by for a consultation or just to say hello.



Our success and presence on campus is heavily influenced by the CU community's support, and we want to be sure we remain a reliable, accessible

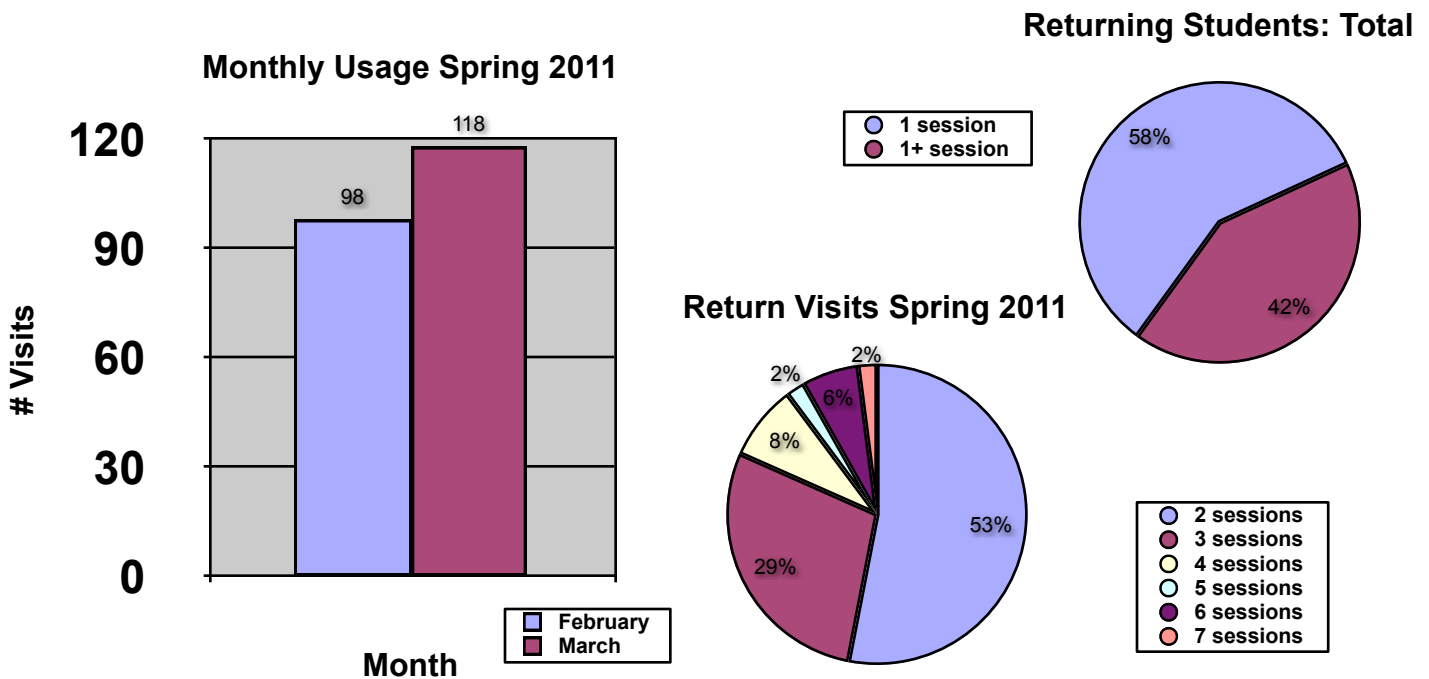
and friendly resource for many years to come.

Thank you, and we will see you in the fall!

Your CU Writing Center Staff,

Professor Taylor, Michael, Nicole, and Rachel

Student Usage Graphs



Student Shout-Outs

The Writing Center helped me in many ways I never thought it would. It helped me recognize that I am a better writer than I thought I was.
~Victor

I like how they make sure your paper is making sense and how they help with corrections.
~Aerie

The Writing Center can help with any kind of paper. They help to proofread, give suggestions, and give a second opinion. Every paper that I have brought to the Writing Center, I have received an 'A' on.
~Alexis

They are available at all different times that fit everybody's schedule, and they are there when most teachers are not around; they are a great addition to Cheyney University.
~Desiree

The Writing Center is a good place to have my paper read so I can fix any grammar errors.
~Zeparina

Writing Assistants read your paper out loud as if it was their own. While they are checking your paper, they make sure that you understand the reason for what you missed, from a missing period to a run-on sentence.
~Chelsie

I like the time and effort that the Writing Assistants spend with us students.
~Basil

The Writing Center gives the students a chance to get help on papers, projects, and ideas to talk about in their next paper. If the Writing Center weren't here, I think I would end up getting 'Fs' on papers I know I can do better on.
~Vonia

I was able to find many errors in my work that I would not have noticed, and the Writing Assistants were able to explain my strong and weak points of writing.
~Richona

I enjoy the atmosphere of the Writing Center as well as the positive and helpful attitudes of the Writing Assistants.
~Alexa

The Writing Center is the reason why I received good grades on all of my papers.
~Tameka

The many times I attended, the Writing Center has helped me by showing me different ways I can strengthen my paper. I think the Writing Center is great and a lot more people should use their help.
~LaVonna



CU Faculty Recommend New Writing Center

"I'm very happy that we have a Writing Center," says Jeffrey Sapiro, English professor here at Cheyney U. of PA (CU). According to him, the support provided by the Writing Center in Baily 211 helps students to understand that "they aren't completely on their own" and that "they are able to do their assignments independently."

"Students' papers are on a much higher level especially in terms of format and organization," observes Stuart Richman, an English Instructor from the Department of Humanities and Communication Arts at CU. He is glad to have "three times as many passing students as [he] did last semester."

The one-on-one feedback in a "non-threatening" and "collaborative" atmosphere, plus the "well-focused questions of the writing assistants very much help students to view their own writing in a new way," says Richman.

Sapiro confirms that the Writing Center is the place to ask "questions about how to make the transition to some unfamiliar academic practices [especially writing]." Students, he says, are empowered as they start to see themselves as "writers" and "researchers."

EVENTS

Each month, the C.U.W.C. works to host a writing or literacy-focused event. Our past events include:

February 1, 2011 – The Cheyney University Writing Center officially opens

February 11, 2011 – The Writing Center launches Facebook page, Cheyney-University Writing-Center

February 16, 2011 – African American Read-In hosted in Baily 211

March 22, 2011 – Resume Writing Workshop co-hosted by Career Services

April 13, 2011 – APA Style Workshop

FRIEND US ON FACEBOOK!
Cheyney-University-Writing-Center

Writing Center Tips:

- Bring copies of your assignment, rubric or syllabus, and any texts relevant to the assignment along with your outline, notes, or draft.
- Plan to spend 30 to 45 minutes in consultation and to be an active participant. The writing assistant needs to know your understanding of the assignment and your purpose in order to provide meaningful feedback.
- If possible, bring a typed draft. You or your assistant will be reading the draft aloud, and that is easier to do if you have a typed draft.
- Allow time to revise and edit your paper after your visit. Don't bring a paper to the Writing Center 30 minutes before it is due and expect to make significant improvements.
- Don't expect to drop off your paper or have writing assistants proofread your paper. They are trained to work with you from the perspective of critical readers and to provide feedback that will help you produce your best work.
- Come to the Writing Center when you first get a writing assignment to brainstorm about your topic and come back with drafts and revisions. Consulting throughout the process of writing a paper will help you improve skills at all levels.
- You are welcome to drop in with papers when the Writing Center is open, but you can schedule an appointment if you don't want to wait or if you want to keep working with the same writing assistant.
- Come to the Writing Center when you just want to read or write in a quiet, learning-focused space. Writing assistants will be there to answer questions or listen to your ideas as you work.

A Note from the Director:

Recently I attended the Mid-Atlantic Writing Centers Association (MAWCA) Conference at West Chester University and had the privilege of meeting and talking with directors and writing consultants from schools all around the region. It's reassuring to know that our Writing Center has many of the same issues, struggles and successes as other centers, and we have some significant advantages.

Many writing center directors have to compete for space and often are forced to settle for less than ideal situations. USP's writing center is located next to a firing range! We are blessed

with a large, quiet space in Baily 211 with a beautiful view of crabapple trees in blossom. We are also assured of funding for another year, so we will be back in the fall.



I would like to thank Rachel, Michael, and Nicole for their hard work this semester both reaching out to the community to bring in students and working with those students on a wide variety of papers and assignments.

Thanks also to faculty who worked with our writing assistants and encouraged (and prodded) their students to visit the Writing Center. We are looking forward to even more activities and visits in the Writing Center this fall.

Linda Taylor, Writing Center Director

Meet Your Writing Assistants:



Michael Diezmos

Originally from the Philippines, Michael grew up in Philadelphia, PA. He attended Seton Hill University, where he received his BA in English with an emphasis in Creative Writing, and he attained his MA in American Studies at Utah State University. Michael has 3 years experience both teaching college composition, and working at writing centers. He is a writer and a visual artist, who someday hopes to get his PhD in Rhetoric or Literature.



Nicole Katze

Nicole received her BA in English from Wittenberg University where she learned that she wanted to pursue a career in writing and teaching writing by working at the Wittenberg University Writing Center. She received her MA in Writing Studies from Saint Joseph's University where she worked in the Office of University Communications in public relations. Nicole plays kickball and is an amateur ceramicist.



Rachel Hansen

Rachel received her BA in English with a minor in journalism from Millersville University and is currently finishing her MA in English from West Chester University. She has 2 years' experience as a writing tutor and looks forward to continuing to learn and grow as a tutor and writer. While identifying as a life-long student and hoping to eventually earn a PhD in Composition/Rhetoric, she does, however, enjoy free time with her dogs, horses, and jewelry-making supplies.