NEWS & DEVELOPMENTS

In January 2022, Duncan Griffin joined the Jacobson Center staff as Learning Specialist & Tutorial Services Coordinator. Duncan coordinates the peer tutors in the non-quantitative disciplines, conducts college success workshops, and meets individually with students. He also teaches IDP 136, Applied Learning Strategies.

Jaime Green has joined the Jacobson Center as the instructor for two courses: ENG 118, Colloquia in Writing, and ENG 135, Introduction to Writing Creative Nonfiction. Among her other achievements, Jaime is the series editor for Best American Science and Nature Writing. Her book, The Possibility of Life, will be published by Hanover Square Press in the US and Duckworth Books in the UK in April of 2023.

Allie Itzi and Dāshaun Washington have joined the Jacobson Center as on-site writing instructors. Both talented teachers and writers, they’ll mostly be meeting individually with students, and offering strong support to our thesis writers.

Magda Zapędowska and Miranda McCarvel will be hosting their own Teaching Circles starting this fall. Magda’s is focused on the philosophy and practice of ungrading, while Miranda’s is focused on the sharing of teaching tips. All are welcome.

The 10 returning Peer Writing Tutors have gathered to welcome 10 new Tutors, who began training and holding their shifts in the Jacobson Center and in Neilson Library Learning Commons on September 12th. With the new hires, the Peer Writing program now boasts readers in 19 different majors and numerous sub-specialties. These details, along with their photos, will soon be posted to the Jacobson Center website, and they will begin visiting Writing Intensive classes to describe their services to first-year writers.

SPOTLIGHT

After much discussion and planning, the Journalism Concentration is finally up and running. Grounded in the Jacobson Center, it will soon be accepting its first batch of applicants. The gateway course, The Journalistic Impulse, taught by Julio Alves and Naila Moreira, is underway with 35 students. Naila is directing the concentration.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Liberal Arts Luncheon 10/13
Beyond the Op-Ed
Naila Moreira

Liberal Arts Luncheon 11/17
Futurist Geographies of Abundance in Early African American Print
Magdalena Zapędowska

Teaching Arts Luncheon 11/18
Teaching with Writing in Larger Courses
Magdalena Zapędowska
I joined the Jacobson Center in the fall of 2021 as a peer tutor. Since then, when asked about my job, I have been lucky to be able to say I love everything about it. From improving my own writing, to working with my peers, to broadening my understanding of the liberal arts and the diverse academic disciplines studied at Smith--it has truly been a joy.

Every day when I walk into the Center I am greeted by the warm smile of Cora Lee and in the Neilson Learning Commons I get to catch up with my fellow peer tutors before other students come in.

It’s an interesting position to be in, that of a peer tutor. This is a topic of conversation that was often discussed in our training course. To me, however, it is a meaningful way for every student to share a little sliver of the unique perspective we all offer. It is an exchange of information, trust, and curiosity. Any tutor’s experience represents only a drop of all the knowledge in the world (and at Smith for that matter). But, if I am able to help a student brainstorm, edit for clarity, share an aha moment, or come away with more writing confidence than they came in with--then I can end the day feeling good about the work I do and the Center where I work. I hope you’ll stop in and visit us soon!