

# By Our WTS



The Writing Tutorial Services Newsletter - Issue 15/1 - May 2022  
Edited by Matthew Pollock

## Our Fourth Annual Tutor Retreat

by John Paul Kanwit

On Friday, April 8, WTS hosted our fourth spring retreat. We met in the lovely Hazelbaker Hall in the Wells Library from 3-7 pm. Topics for the retreat included tutoring multilingual writers (Megan Connolly, Lecturer, IUB Department of Second Language Studies), how to write a proposal for a writing studies conference (Katie Levin, Associate Director, University of Minnesota Writing Center and former WTS

tutor), and mental health support for students (Jennifer Yeoward-Dodson,

**“Topics included tutoring multi-lingual writers, drafting proposal for writing studies conferences, and mental health support for students.”**

Counselor and Researcher at IUB’s Counseling and Psychological Services). Tutors had the opportunity to mingle over coffee, tea, and snacks upon arrival and to have dinner together at the end of the retreat. The catering for the retreat was funded through the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL) Writing Program and Writing Tutorial Services Fund. We appreciate our generous donors!





# Panel on Grammar

by Mary Helen Truglia

On Friday April 1st (though not for a joke!), Matthew Pollock and Sean Sidky, WTS grad tutors, Mary Helen Truglia, WTS Director, and Jennifer Juskiewicz (Writing & Tutoring Center Director at St. Mary's College) presented a panel entitled "Closing

the Door on Grammar as a Gatekeeping Device" at the 2022 East Central Writing Centers Association Conference.

The focus of the panel was the myth that at writing centers, and WTS especially, "We don't do grammar." The panelists argued

that, rather than asking whether we should be tutoring grammar, we should be finding tools of language to best help writers convey their thoughts, stories, and arguments. They enjoyed a fruitful discussion of next steps in writing centers with an engaged audience!

# Getting the word out about WTS

by Matthew Pollock

Over the last two semesters, a group of tutors has been doing some great work to get the word out about the services that we offer here at Writing Tutorial Services. This new Social Media Committee (or SMC), composed of five to six graduate and undergraduates, has been working since early in the 2021-2022 school year to help WTS reach out on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. That's right, we have a TikTok!

Tutors involved with the SMC over the last two semesters have included

Sammi Bilitz, Ellie Clark, Betty Fall, Sarah Fischer, Millie Hizer, Brianna Kischel, Maggie McLaughlin, Matthew Pollock, and Mary Helen Truglia.

The main goal of the SMC is to convey information about our services, from the hours we're open to the way to find your way to



one of those out-of-the-way ASCs or Culture Centers. However, we also have had the chance to get some exciting content talking about writing tips and showing off the great tutors we have here at WTS. On Instagram, we've spotlighted several of our awesome tutors, on Twitter and Facebook we've spread the word about WTS events, and on TikTok, we've seen just how to make a paragraph sandwich. Find us on Twitter (@IUB\_WTS), Facebook (@IUBWTS), Instagram (@iu\_wts), and TikTok (@IU\_WTS).

# Farewells

## 9WTS Tutors Graduate, Move On



### Ellie Clark



Ellie Clark is graduating with a BSPA in Policy Analysis with minors in Education Policy and Communication and Public

Advocacy. Despite the challenges of a global pandemic, she will fondly remember her undergraduate experience at IU and her involvement at WTS. In July, Ellie will be moving to Chicago to start her career as an Advisory Associate at KPMG in the Health & Government Solutions service line.

### Karen Nguyen



Karen Nguyen is a PhD candidate in Literacy, Culture, and Language Education. She began her time with WTS in the spring

of 2020 as a graduate tutor and also served as an Associate Instructor for both first-year composition courses and education courses. While finishing up her dissertation, Karen will continue her work in higher education by serving as an academic advisor at IU.

### Jessica Morris



Jessica Morris is graduating from with majors in International Studies, Linguistics, and Spanish and a minor in Educational

Studies. In the fall, she will move to Madison, Wisconsin to work as a Technical Solutions Engineer at Epic, a healthcare software company. During her time working for WTS, Jessica really enjoyed talking to and meeting with trainees as they prepared to work as peer-tutors.

### Daniel Theus



Daniel Theus is graduating with a BA in African Studies. He will be living in Bloomington after graduation, and he hopes

to become a social worker or a teacher. Working at WTS helped him realize his gift and passion for supporting students and solving social problems, and he's really grateful for his time at WTS.



## Sean Sidky



Sean Sidky is graduating with a dual major PhD in Comparative Literature and Religious Studies, where he worked on Yiddish-

language Holocaust poetry. While at IU, he has worked to create resources and to build communities of support for graduate students, which led him eventually to WTS. He has written and published about American Jewish literature and Holocaust literature. After spending the summer writing, we're happy to announce that he'll be coming back to WTS in the fall to take on a position as Programming Coordinator!

### Also moving on:

#### Ben Bird

Ben Bird is a candidate for the Doctor of Music degree in Voice in the Jacobs School of Music. He has also served as the Assistant Manager for the IU Musical Arts Center Ticket Office.

#### Chance Gompert

Chance Gompert graduated this Spring with a Bachelor of Music in Trombone Performance, and will be heading to the New England Conservatory in Boston this Fall for a Masters degree in Trombone Performance. His favorite memory at WTS is getting to have a nice chat during a tutorial observation with former director Jo Ann Vogt just a few weeks before her retirement, and getting to hear her excitement and pure joy for all of the great

things she has planned.

#### Robert Robinson

Robert Robinson majored in philosophy with minors in mathematics and history. He's going to be taking a gap year to work and study for the LSAT, and then he'll be attending law school. He had a hard time picking a favorite WTS memory, but he decided on that look of recognition a tutee gets when something finally clicks in their head. That is something that Robert will remember.

#### Sarah Schmitt

Sarah Schmitt says, "I am so grateful for my time at WTS; it was a joy to work with such wonderful students, fellow tutors, and mentors. Writing is always a collaborative process, and the awesome people at WTS are the best collaborators I could imagine. As I continue along the PhD journey, I will bring everything I learned from WTS with me!"

#### Anita Shields

After working at Indiana University for thirty years, our office manager Anita Shields retired at the end of the spring semester.

# New Faces

## 7 Students Join WTS Staff After Spring Training



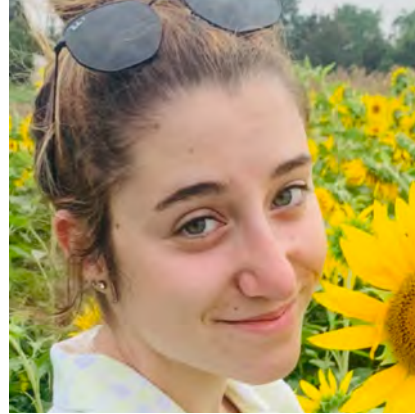
### Megan Bankowski



Megan Bankowski is a sophomore from Ann Arbor, Michigan, studying public management and urban

planning at the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Megan is involved with IU Student Government and is thrilled to continue her time with WTS. She plans to work in the advocacy or legislative space after graduation and recently completed a congressional internship with Representative Debbie Dingell (MI-12), in Washington, DC.

### Madi La Forest



Madi La Forest is from Plymouth, Michigan. She's in the School of Education studying Secondary Education

with a focus in English. She loves traveling, reading, writing poetry, and listening to music. She plans on using her degree to teach high school English, and would eventually like to get her Ph.D. in order to become a professor. She looks forward to helping her fellow peers become more confident writers at WTS.

### Elizabeth Barber



Elizabeth Barber is an English major and Psychology minor from Florence, Alabama. She is a rising junior and is interested

in pursuing a master's degree in Victorian literature. Her interests include psychology, lifewriting, and running, and her favorite book is *The Great Gatsby*. She considers the act of writing to be an important avenue of self-expression and is excited to help others express themselves in their own writing.

### Sarah Waters



Sarah Waters is a rising junior double majoring in Hispanic Literature and Environmental and Sustainability Studies. She is passionate

about language learning and literacy and hopes to eventually teach Spanish at the college level. When she's not working, you can find her reading, knitting, or trying her hand (unsuccessfully) at backyard composting. She is very excited to help her fellow students gain confidence in their abilities as writers!

## Noor Qureshi



Noor Qureshi is from New Albany, Indiana. At IU, she is majoring in International law, Spanish, and Philosophy. One thing

that she is really looking forward to about working at WTS is offering support to those who want to improve their writing.

## Georgia Pollard

Georgia Pollard is a current freshman at IU from New York City. She is an Anthropology major and an International Studies and Chinese minor. She is most excited to see and tutor all different forms of writing! She thinks that in a lot of ways, while she is helping other people with their writing, they will be helping her strengthen and fine-tune her writing as well!

## Ashley Kieffer

Ashley Kieffer is a junior from New Palestine, Indiana, majoring in biology and minoring in psychology. She plans to go to graduate school for genetic counseling. She's looking forward to being a tutor for WTS and getting the chance to help her peers with writing.