



# THE WRITE STUFF

## USC's Writing Center looks to help instruct students outside English department

By MARIA CHARLES  
FOR THE GAMECOCK

The Writing Center isn't just for English students.

In an effort to expand its services, the Writing Center is reaching out to students in different disciplines.

"The Writing Center is involved in a lot of outreach activities to let people outside of English know we are available. We can help you if you are writing an English paper, or we can help you if you are working on something else," Writing Center Director Elisabeth Alford said.

Last fall, 46 percent of the Writing Center's clients were from the College of Liberal Arts, but Alford said she hopes with more encouragement that students from other colleges will frequent the Writing Center as well.

In order to promote the Writing Center, the staff of English graduate students put posters in the computer labs in residence halls and created an advertisement for the campus cable channel.

"We are looking at every avenue to encourage more people to use our services," Alford said.

Recently, staff members attended Biology 102 lab sessions, helping students use peer feedback about papers they wrote about evolution.

While the consultations weren't mandatory, at least half the students opted to stay, demonstrating the need for improved writing doesn't just apply to English students.

Other measures of outreach include a survey. Students in a graduate education course are conducting research to find out if faculty in other colleges besides the College of Arts and Sciences are aware of what the Writing Center offers.

Located on the ground floor of the Welsh Humanities Classroom building, the Writing Center advises students through one-on-one consultations.

"The Writing Center method is collaboration. Simply by talking about your writing to an informed listener, you get a better understanding of what your topic is," Alford said.



NICK ESARES/THE GAMECOCK

Bevin Roue, left, a Writing Center instructor, goes over a paper with Ryan Khandan-Barani, a first-year nursing student. The Writing Center offers feedback in addition to finding errors.

Students set the agenda by indicating what they would like to work on. Students are asked to read their papers aloud, while a consultant looks on and asks questions.

"It's a conversation about your writing," Alford said.

The 50-minute consultations start with the big picture and assess whether the draft clearly addresses the assigned topic. The consultant points out errors and suggests tips and strategies for proofreading.

Alford said the consultants are not critical. "We are empathetic because we've been there and know (writing) is hard work," Alford said.

Students are encouraged to bring their work in at any stage of the writing process, whether it is brainstorming, organizing or revising a draft.

While walk-ins are welcome, students are asked to make an appointment by calling the main office at 777-2078 to ensure a consultation time.

For students who can't get to the Writing Center, there are also satellite locations in four residence halls: Sims, Bates, the Towers and Columbia Hall, all providing the same services.

The Writing Center is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday. The satellite locations are open 4-7 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Students can also call the Writing

Center's Writer's Hotline at 777-7020 or e-mail the Writing Center at [grammar@sc.edu](mailto:grammar@sc.edu) to get quick feedback about a specific concern.

Alford said she hopes by next fall the Writing Center will provide online consultation as well. The format has not been decided, but Alford is exploring different options and said that it would start on a pilot basis.

Christina Clodfelter, a second-year political science student, has taken her political science and English papers to the Writing Center.

"The people they have working there are really knowledgeable. It's more than a spell check. They pay attention to the things that are going to help you move up a letter grade," Clodfelter said.

The consultants don't even have to know about the topic of the paper to help.

"Whether or not they were familiar with what I was writing about surprisingly didn't make a difference," Clodfelter said.

The 10 times Clodfelter has gone for help proved beneficial.

"Going to the Writing Center made a significant difference in my papers," Clodfelter said.

Comments on this story? E-mail [gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu)

## Sibling inspires student to help autistic children

By JULIA SELLERS  
FOR THE GAMECOCK

After seeing her brother live with a diagnosed disability for four years, Jennifer Logan, a first-year psychology student, has decided to turn a learning experience into her career.

Logan's bother, Andrew, was diagnosed with autism at the age of 3.

"He was actually kind of older (when he was diagnosed)," Logan said. "They like to get it diagnosed at 1 or 2."

Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life. The result of a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain, autism impacts the normal development of the brain in the areas of social interaction and communication skills.

Children and adults with autism typically have difficulties in verbal and non-verbal communication, social interactions, and leisure or

play activities, according to the Autism Society of America's Web site, [www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org).

"(Andrew) had chronic ear infections and my mom noticed that his speech was really delayed and lagging, so she took him to different doctors and specialists. They kept saying, 'His speech will come, his speech will come,' but it never did," Logan said.

When Andrew was 3, Logan's mom took him to be evaluated. Andrew saw neurologists and other specialists. Andrew was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD), a category of neurological disorders characterized by "severe and pervasive impairment in several areas of development, including social interaction and communications skills." Andrew was said to be severely autistic.

Logan said Andrew's diagnosis of being severely autistic meant he would probably be four years behind his peers socially and in some cognitive learning skills.

"When my mom first found out,

like most autistic families, my mom went through a month or two of mourning his disease," Logan said. "She was thinking, 'He is not like other kids. He won't go to prom, he won't tie his shoe.' What she had to realize is she can't fix all her problems, but she can definitely work towards a better goal."

Logan's family enrolled Andrew in a program with the South Carolina Early Autism Project in Charleston. SCEAP is a privately owned home-based business that provides one-on-one therapy with patients. Because Logan's family is located in Cheraw, SCEAP comes to their house to work with Andrew.

In Logan's home, SCEAP set up a therapy room where the therapists and family members could work with Andrew.

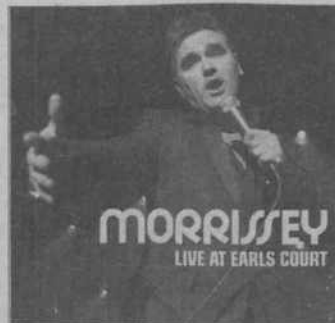
SCEAP Director Ann Eldridge sets up workshops for families and therapists.

"They are four hour-long workshops, and you have to go to two or three. I ended up doing it,"

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## CD REVIEW

### Morrissey delivers carefree panache



"Live at Earl's Court"  
Morrissey  
★★★ out of ☆☆☆☆

By JENNIFER FREEMAN  
THE MIX EDITOR

The intriguing, sexually ambiguous Morrissey is still at it. The lead singer of The Smiths has released a live album with a formula reminiscent of The Smith's style — a mish-mash of singles and other favorites.

"Live at Earl's Court" was recorded at the tail end of the tour promoting his latest album in front of an audience of 17,183 last December. This album includes never performed b-sides and rarely performed Smiths tunes along

with the popular singles from his latest album and Smiths' favorites like "How Soon is Now?" and "Shoplifters of the World Unite."

Known to his fans as Moz, this melancholy crooner just can't let go, and with good reason. His last studio album, "You Are The Quarry," turned out to be his most successful album to date — with The Smiths or solo.

Four singles reached the top 10 in the UK, his homeland, and U.S. radio stations granted him major airtime. Seven of the songs on "Live at Earl's Court" were first releases on "You Are The Quarry." Moz doesn't disappoint with his new material. He still writes the same brutally honest lyrics, sung with tongue-in-cheek humor reflected in his voice.

Morrissey introduces one of his more controversial songs by telling the audience, "I know it isn't mutual, but 'I Have Forgiven Jesus.'" The sins which Moz has forgiven Jesus are, "for all the desire he placed in me / When there's nothing I can do with this desire."

Later in the song, he recites the week's humiliations from his diary. This song is classic

Morrissey — comedic and painfully moving at the same time.

With all old songs, the lure of this album is Moz. He is being himself and sharing that with his audience. That is why Morrissey has lasted the test of time through the popular '80s Brit-pop band onward to his solo work. He sings his life honestly, in his own words, and his audience relates to that.

Another newer Morrissey song, released only on "You Are The Quarry" is "Irish Blood, English Heart." This hard-hitting track aims a blow right at "The Man" on the other side of the pond. The two-and-a-half minute song manages to scorn every politician out there from Oliver Cromwell to the Labour and Tory parties. While insulting politics, he still makes clear that he is proud of his country saying, "Irish blood, English heart / This I'm made of / There is no one on earth / I'm afraid of," while he is "dreaming of a time when / To be English / Is not to be baneful."

Fans of The Smiths and Morrissey would no doubt enjoy

◆ Please see **MORRISSEY**, page 11