

# Alumni *Annotations*

A NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE  
PURDUE WRITING LAB

## Message from the Associate Director

I'm always sad when we approach the end of an academic year because it means saying goodbye to tutors and staff who are moving on for various reasons—graduation, new teaching opportunities, new internships. However, the end of the year gives us a chance to reflect on all our accomplishments, and as usual, all the tutors and staff in the Writing Lab have done an outstanding job of working with students, generating research, improving Writing Lab and OWL services, and developing their own professional work and identities. I feel lucky to know you and to have worked with you.

I wish everyone a fun, relaxing, and safe summer. To all our friends who are leaving us, best wishes. You'll always be part of the Writing Lab, and we hope you'll keep in touch.

Take care,  
Tammy Conard-Salvo

## A Very Good Year for Tutors

Undergraduate and graduate tutors from the Writing Lab received an impressive number of academic and service awards from the Department of English as well as Purdue University.

**One Brick Higher Award**  
Gretchen Steele

**Outstanding Seniors**  
Melissa Grider  
Kristofer Whited



*President Martin Jischke and Gretchen Steele*

## 2007 Literary Award Recipients

### **Hugh McKee Memorial Award**

Winner: Melissa Grider  
Honorable Mention: Kristofer Whited

### **Kneale Awards (Undergraduate)**

Shakespeare Second Prize: Hadley Moore

### **Kneale Awards (Graduate)**

Pedagogy First Prize: Allen Brizee  
Poetry Honorable Mention: Dana Bisignani

### **Helen Bass Williams Award**

Honorable Mention: Andrea Lemieux

### **Tom Andrews Clapping Award**

Winner: Gretchen Steele  
Honorable Mention: Dana Bisignani

### **Follett's College Stores Award**

Winner: Gretchen Steele

### **Barriss and Iola Mills Award**

Honorable Mention: Gretchen Steele

### **Leonard Neufeldt Award**

Honorable Mention: Dana Bisignani

### **Budd & Betty Knoll Award for**

**Best of Contest**  
Gretchen Steele

## A Visitor's Perspective

When Hsiao-Ming told me I'm the first visiting scholar in the Writing Lab, I felt greatly honored. I came from Beijing University of Posts and Telecoms, China. I'd been teaching my Chinese students English writing for four years before I came here, and the Purdue OWL material proved to be a great resource for me and my students as well. When I got the chance to join this government sponsored exchange program, my first choice was, of course, the Purdue Writing Lab. I was very curious to meet the people behind the screen, to learn how the Writing Lab works, hoping to set up something similar for my students back home.

My two-semester stay at Purdue has been pleasant and rewarding. The inviting space and friendly people here make things so easily accessible for me. The inspiring tutoring sessions, the endless resources in the ESL corner, on the bookshelf, and in OWL make me feel like a kid in a candy store. I pulled up material as much as I can, dreading that I cannot move the whole Lab back home with me. But I'm confident to start my little practice, and I know I'm going to bug Tammy or Dana for more information along the way.

I know I'm going to miss peaceful Indiana when I go back to my hectic city life, and the memories of the Writing Lab will stay with me longer than I know: unlimited animal crackers, writings on the wall, comfy couch and big screen TV in the conversation group corner, Richard's patience when he shows me how OWL mail works, Kristine's pretty skirt, Dana typing with her burned fingers...

It's a pity that I cannot bring all you wonderful people back with me. Just so you know, there's a big demand in China of qualified English teachers, and each one of you here will surely meet the requirements. Should you ever consider enriching your experience with an international view, China is a good choice, and you know whom to contact there.

- Yuqing Luo, Visiting Scholar



**Yuqing Luo**  
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## Online Tutoring & OWL Updates

Since summer 2007, the Writing Lab and OWL staffs have been laying the groundwork for a new, customized online tutoring system called Virtual Consultant at Purdue or VCaP. This asynchronous tutoring system would allow any Purdue student to submit any piece of writing for an electronic consultation. The Professional Writing program will assist with formal usability testing of the system during the fall 2008 semester.

Additional changes have been made to the OWL Family of Sites based on recent and previous usability testing. A new, user-centered design has been applied to the Writing Lab and Purdue OWL News sections, with a new design for the OWL to be unveiled by the end of the spring 2008 semester.



**Scott J. Peters, 2005**

Summer Residential Coordinator  
PR and Communications Coordinator  
Gifted Education Resource Institute  
Purdue University

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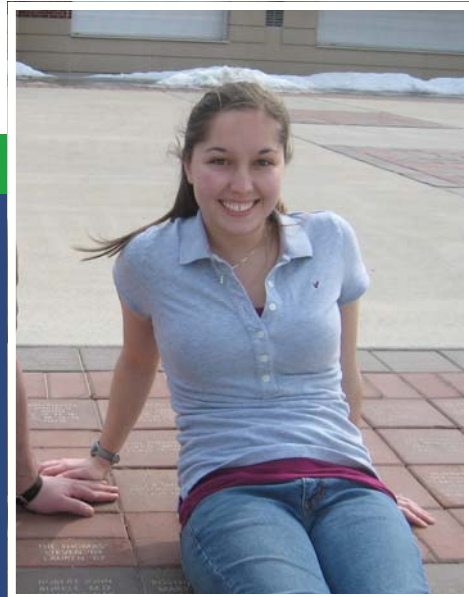
## Continuing at Purdue

My tenure as an Undergraduate Teaching Assistant and Coordinator in the Purdue Writing Lab ended in the winter of 2005 as I prepared to enter my student teaching. At about the same time I was applying for teaching positions and PhD programs in Educational Psychology. That fall semester was also the first to see a satellite location developed by the UTA staff to better meet the needs of undergraduate students in the first-year composition program. In the summer of 2006, the day after graduation, I entered Purdue's Educational Psychology PhD program with an emphasis in Gifted and Talented Education and a secondary in Measurement and Evaluation. After a year in the program, I am now also planning on pursuing a concurrent MsED in English Education. I just can't seem to get enough of Purdue. My work at Purdue now centers around the Gifted Education Resource Institute where I coordinate the student programs. In June and July you can find me running around campus trying to coordinate 300 students from around the world as they come to Purdue to take courses. Professionally, my research interests involve qualitative student experiences in gifted programs as well as measurement and assessment of student outcomes.

I credit much of my meager success to the Purdue Writing Lab and its Directors, Linda Bergmann and Tammy Conard-Salvo. I wrote and submitted my first paper to receive any kind of recognition under Dr. Bergmann as well as completed my first major research project under her. I also co-authored one of my first scholarly articles with Tammy and Dr. Janet Alsup. Whether working with instructors or students in our programs, or other professionals, the two years I spent in the Lab definitely influenced my ability to write and communicate.

In the future I hope to work in research in the field of education as well as health as it relates to education. My degree lends itself to either working for a larger research university or for a private testing/research company. While I've enjoyed my time in the Midwest, I hope to move to the northwest.

- Scott Peters, Former UTA  
2004-2005



*Lauren Davis, BWC*

## Alumni Class of 2007

The Writing Lab said goodbye to six graduating seniors.

**Lauren Davis, Business Writing Consultant**

Major: Professional Writing

**Melissa Grider, Business Writing Consultant**

Major: Professional Writing

**Kyle Hanrahan, Business Writing Consultant**

Major: Management

**Erin Houser, Student Receptionist**

Major: Interior Design

**Hadley Moore, Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**

Major: English/Classics

**Mike Waling, Student Receptionist**

Major: Management

# New Lab Tutors Fall 2007

Allen Brizee, OWL Coordinator & Graduate Tutor  
Danielle Cordaro, Graduate Tutor  
Morgan Reitmeyer, Graduate Tutor  
Tony Russell, Graduate Tutor  
Brady Spangenberg, Graduate Tutor  
Lars Soderlund, Graduate Tutor  
Tori Talsma, Undergraduate Teaching Assistant



## Coordinators

Business Writing Coordinator: Ryan Weber  
ESL Conversation Coordinator: Richard Severe  
OWL Mail Coordinator: Jo Doran  
Workshop Coordinator: Jaci Wells  
UTA Coordinator: Aimee Kappes  
BWC Publicity: Julie Jansen

## Crouse Intern

Michelle Keesling, Professional Writing

## Steven Lee, UTA

Walking through the streets of Harbin, China, my “buddy” explained to me his life story. Ray grew up in Southeast China near Beijing, but had never ventured to the capitol before. Before studying at the Harbin Institute of Technology, he was educated in Hong Kong where all of his classes were in English. Now in his last year at HIT, he faced the very same question as me: what next? As a mechanical engineering major, Ray could only dream of attending an American school to pursue his doctorate degree. He and his friends continually asked me questions about American culture, movies, social gatherings, sports, music, and more. Ray loved his country, but was in search of a better life full of opportunities. During my two-week stay in China, I enjoyed the conversations with Ray and other students alike the most. I shared my dreams and the American culture with them, but more importantly, I gained a newfound respect for the humility, generosity, maturity, and holistic views of my Chinese counterparts.

Soon after returning from China, I found myself walking in the campus of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. I was there to solve biomedical problems, make friendships, and discover the needs of our society in medicine. Dr. Mark Knepper, my adviser, became a genuine friend who was always interested in helping me reach my goals. Mark gave me a project to design and implement software that would evaluate the quality of data produced from a biological instrument. I took this challenge to heart and was determined to develop a novel and useful solution. While the project is not yet complete, I manifested a better understanding of the biomedical research society and myself. Inherently, I thrive in a dynamic environment with multiple tasks, problems, and great people. With this in mind, I have decided to pursue a dual degree, MD/PhD, upon graduation.





Lindsey Pavlovick, UTA  
MySpace Coordinator



Hadley Moore, UTA 2007

Hadley Moore has been accepted into the Teach for America program. She will be teaching high school English in a charter school in Camden, NJ.

## Tapping into Undergrad Culture

by Lindsey Pavlovick and Lisa Stalbaum

The Writing Lab MySpace page was created at the beginning of the spring semester with the hope of reaching a larger audience of undergraduate students. The page has blog entries that detail what a student can expect on a typical visit to the Writing Lab, as well as the Top 10 Reasons why students should visit the lab. The page is still under production, but will soon have pictures of students during a tutorial, and a video-taped tour of the lab. Writing Lab tutors also created a Facebook group, and anyone with a Facebook account is encouraged to join.

[www.myspace.com/puwritinglab](http://www.myspace.com/puwritinglab)



Dana Bisigani and Richard Severe at ECWCA Conference in Bowling Green, OH

The Writing Lab is pleased to have Dana Bisigani continuing as a graduate tutor for 2007-2008. Dana received her MFA in Poetry this May and will continue her academic career at Purdue as she pursues a Ph.D. in Literature.

## Keep in touch

Alumni Annotations  
Writing Lab at Purdue  
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