

Writing Center Staff



**Ann Russell** is the Writing Center Director and the Writing Program Director for Madonna University. She is new at Madonna, having started in Aug. 2006. Ann has taught writing at various Michigan colleges, but most of her experience was in the University of Michigan system where she also directed a writing center and a writing assessment program. She left teaching for a while and worked as a journalist, ending as the editor of two community newspapers. She has also been a freelance writer, and has published more than 35 "genre" short stories.

Ann has an A.B. in English and German from the University of Michigan-Flint, an A.M. in English Education from the University of Michigan, and a Ph.D. in English (Rhetoric and Composition) from Michigan State University. Her dissertation topic was a history and case study of Michigan's oldest writing center that Ann directed for several years. Ann lives in East Lansing with her family.



**Scream**, a blow-up figure inspired by Edvard Munch's renowned painting of the same name, is the Writing Center's official mascot. He is on long-term loan from Tom Ward, Frances FitzGerald's husband. Scream represents the way many students feel when they initially receive writing assignments. Fortunately, the gifted Writing Center tutors understand this, and can help students with writing-related anxiety by helping them improve their writing skills and confidence.



**Frances E. FitzGerald**, coordinator of the Writing Center, has also taught composition and journalism classes at Madonna University. She helped launch the Madonna Pen, the campus writing group, and MU Voices, Madonna's online literary publication. Frances earned her tutor certification through the College of Reading and Language Arts and is a member of the Michigan Tutoring Association. She has a B.S. in psychology from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, MI, and an M.A. in English from the University of Illinois, Chicago. Frances and her husband Tom live in Farmington.

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**Oolette Jackson** is a graduate student in the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) program at Madonna University. She received her B.A. in English Literature from Michigan State University and left with a passion for learning languages and cultures. During her spare time, she can usually be found with her nose in a sappy romance novel or scribbling her own works of art. Her past tutoring experience includes international students, refugees, and undergraduates, and she is thrilled to be a part of the staff at the Writing Center.



**Marian Woyciehowicz Gonsior** is currently an adjunct assistant professor in the ESL Program at Madonna University. In addition, she has taught ESL at Oakland Community College and the University of Detroit Mercy. At UDM she also served as the assistant coordinator of the American Language and Culture Program. She holds an M.A. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from Madonna and an M.A. in Spanish from New York University. Writing is her first love, so some of her favorite moments are those she spends talking about writing with students and colleagues.



**Susan Ruellan, MA TESOL** taught EFL/ESP in France from 1991 to 1999 in diverse educational settings, including adult education, vocational training, and civil aviation. In the US, she has taught ESL/EAP at the undergraduate level. Susan has written articles about audience, teacher commentary, textual borrowing, and narratives about the challenges L2 learners experience. In 2008, she published her first children's chapter book. At Madonna University, she has supervised ESL tutoring and teaches ESL 4230, the ESL Research Writing Course.

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**Cynthia Burgess** is majoring in Psychology with a focus on Mental Health. Writing has been her hobby for several years. She also has a passion for singing, and was in choir from first grade through high school. She loves horses, but is still learning how to stay on top of them. After graduation, she plans to earn a Psy.D. in psychology (doctorate in psychology).



**Cassie Yarnall** is a sophomore at Madonna University, majoring in Sign Language Studies. She is involved in the Residence Hall Council, Project Earth, Campus Ministry, ADAM, and anywhere else she finds to help out around campus. She is also a member of the Madonna cross country team. When she is not running, working, or doing school-related activities, Cassie loves to spend time with her sisters and friends, practice her signing skills, and dance in the rain. This is Cassie's first year working in the Madonna Writing Center, and she is very excited to see what this year will bring!



**Theresa Gase** is starting her second semester working in the Writing Center. As a sophomore undergraduate at Madonna, she is double majoring in Theology and Math. Her aspiration is to be a high school teacher. While at school she lives on campus, but her home town is Sidney, Ohio. It's a small town about three hours south of Livonia. In her spare time, she especially enjoys reading, running, and baking.

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**Fatima Salemassi** received her B.A. in Spanish and Sociology, and M.A. TESOL from Madonna and is currently an adjunct instructor in Madonna's World Languages Department, Spanish. In addition, she is a state-certified teacher and last summer earned a certification in international studies. Fatima is doing research on the influence of Web-based composition, such as blogs or online discussion boards, on the development of writing skills. Fatima is a former ESL student of Madonna.



**Cecilia Marie Zondlo, OSF** is a Bernardine Franciscan Sister out of Reading, Pa. She has a B.A. degree from Villanova University with a major in English; a B.A. degree in French from Worcester, MASS and a B.A. degree in Religious Studies from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Mich. She taught many different subjects at Divine Child High School in Dearborn, Mich. for 25 years. Among these were English and Yearbook Journalism. She coordinated the publication of the yearbook for 18 years. Currently, she volunteers two days per week at Mercy Education project in Detroit teaching adult women who need their GED language arts. She also tutors Madonna University SWEEP students writing skills.



**Christine Dixon** is a sophomore Music major. She enjoys playing the piano and singing. She also has a habit of scribbling poetry on any piece of paper she comes across. She enjoys chocolate in any form and hopes to change the world.

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**Lynette Mitan** is a graduate student in the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) program, focusing on Adult Education. After receiving a B.S., *magna cum laude*, in Human Resource Development with a Major in Instructional Training and Design from Oakland University, she authored a popular meditation CD, recognized by Rose Cancer Center (Dr. Chas. Main) and Fetzer Institute. She then hit the public speaking circuit in and outside of the U.S. Lynette's background includes teaching ESL for Oakland Literacy Council, writing for "Quality Lifestyle Publications" and "The Detroit Native Sun." She is a published author and produced/hosted her cable program "Living Life to the Fullest" for several years in more than 20 cities including the Detroit Educational channel. Presently, she teaches physical fitness to the cloistered Dominican Sisters at the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament and her passions include helping others reach their goals, travel, parasailing, and eating great food!



**Sarah Kosel** is starting her first year at Madonna and is majoring in Sign Language Studies. She has always been a compulsive scribbler of stories and essays, and recently channeled that into the creation of a zine. This is her first semester working at the Writing Center. When not busy with school, various school activities, or writing projects, she spends her time reading and endeavoring to discover intriguing and underappreciated words such as quixotic or zemblanity.



**Brandon Grysko** graduated in 2008 from Churchill High School here in Livonia. In high school, he was an all-state track athlete and maintained a 3.7 GPA. Toward the end of high school, he enrolled in night classes at Schoolcraft College to obtain an EMT license. In October 2008, he received his license. He currently takes Krav Maga, an Israeli martial art, for fighting, fitness, and self defense. He also works as an EMT. His major is Criminal Justice, and sometime soon he hopes to be on a police department and, eventually, a SWAT team.

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**Marius Sidau** was born in Romania in 1978. He came to the U.S. in 2005. Marius went through Madonna's ESL program, benefiting from instructors such as Monika Kimball, Susan Ruellan, Marian Gonsior and Francina Graef, as well as Madonna's Writing Center. Marius earned his B.A. in Sociology in 2010, and he will enter Wayne State University's master's program in fall 2010. Marius's aspirations are to earn a PhD in cultural anthropology, do research in East Asia, and become a college professor. Marius is excited to give back the same kind of help that he received as an ESL student.



**Charity Mullaly** is a graduate student in the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) program at Madonna University. She has a double major in business and French in the International Studies Program at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and expects to complete her B.A. in May. After working in International Materials Management and Environmental Consulting in the automotive industry, she now plans to become a teacher. She spent three years as a proofreader and copy editor for the Association for Operations Management (APICS), Greater Detroit Chapter. She is happy to be an ESL tutor at Madonna's Writing Center.



**Marleigh (Mimi) Whetstone** is a senior at Madonna majoring in Journalism/Public Relations and minoring in Sport Management. She has been writing for the *Madonna Herald* for the past two semesters and will continue to do so during the fall semester. She has also been teaching dance and Pilates to students ranging in age from 21/2 to adult for the past six years, and she has loved every single minute. When Mimi is not at work or school, or doing something for work or school, she's probably sleeping. If she's awake, she's usually having fun in some way or another. She is very excited to be in her senior year and also very excited for the opportunity to spend that year at the Writing Center!

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**Krista Dawkins** is in her second year at Madonna University with a double major in English and Spanish for secondary education. She has wanted to be a teacher for as long as she can remember. Krista loves to read and write. Her favorite authors include Dean Koontz, Stephen King, and Jim Butcher. Krista would love to teach at Madonna one day so she could contribute to giving students as great a college experience as she is having.



**Julia Koprowski** is a freshman at Madonna University. She lives in the dorm and is studying to become a dietician. She likes to sew and work with paper, ink, food and paint. She also loves theater, watching sports, children, and experimental music. She loves working with other people. This could be because she comes from a big family. She is having a great time at Madonna, and she looks forward to working with you in the Writing Center!



**Laura Haldane** is gleefully looking forward to her first year at Madonna. She loves writing, reading, and reviewing papers. She is currently majoring in Environmental Science with a minor in Writing. She hopes to one day write a novel or two and help keep the planet green. Laura greatly enjoys bike riding and musical theater, which she hopes to get involved in at Madonna. This is her first time working in the Writing Center (and her first real job). She looks forward to helping strengthen your writing skills!