Welcome to the Fall Issue!

This month, we asked a few of our staff members about the one vital item on their desks. We had some great responses ranging from a calendar to a monitor setup to more aesthetic items such as a beautiful tea cup and even a library cat! If you’re like me, you’ve started looking around at your desk thinking about what you’d say. I wax poetic about Post-it Notes, so here’s one I hope you’ll make a vital item in your workspace.

“Send us your students!”

Susanna Davidsen
Executive Director

What’s One Vital Item on Your Desk?

“This mug holds over 3.5 cups of coffee, or as I like to call it, Liquid Productivity.” - Brian Timmerman, Director of Writing and Academic Skills

“I keep an inkwell, a cup and saucer, and a tiny Buddha on my desk. These items facilitate a more relaxed pace of work. I tend to write with a fountain pen, drink coffee from a tasteful cup, and breathe deeply. Regardless of the amount of work that I have, I would like to combine efficiency, aesthetics, and peace.” - Tobias Ball, Dissertation Editor

“My vital item is actually a set: The two external monitors that I use to quickly reference and cross-compare different documents and resources. It’s a huge timesaver to be able to look up and quickly see everything side-by-side!” - Basil Considine, Dissertation Editor

Nykol swears that her vital desk item is her cat, George. George acts as a soothing presence for Nykol as she navigates the Library’s hurried term start. Nykol insists that her cat is vital to her success as a librarian, and honestly, what’s a librarian without a cat? - Nykol Eystad, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Librarian

“I rely on my monthly calendar to plan upcoming projects and events. In addition to individual career advising, I develop webinar and video content, implement new technologies, travel to academic residencies, and present at professional conferences. My calendar is a glimpse into the future; it helps me stay focused and accomplish my yearly goals.” - Dina Bergren, Senior Career Services Advisor
Staff Spotlight: Tobias Ball, Writing Center

Please describe your primary role at Walden.

My primary responsibility is as a form and style editor, cooperating with students to prepare their manuscript for final publication in ProQuest. As the coordinator of the developmental editing program, I also work with students whose progress is being impeded specifically because of their writing.

How do you support students at Walden?

The support I provide is in the form of direct edits to a student’s manuscript. I cooperate with students right before their oral defense. At that point, few are interested in learning new things about APA or word economy. Rather than teach something new, I make direct revisions and provide explanations so that the narrative is as clear and precise as possible.

What is your favorite part about your job?

I could not possibly ask for better colleagues. I have never worked for a better manager and have confidence and trust in my colleagues.

What do you do when you’re not working?

I obsess about things. I may take years to work through an idea as simple as a purchase. I purchased my first fedora in 2007. Before making that purchase, I began researching hats in 1998. I tried on multiple hats at different haberdasheries until finally making my selection at a hat store in a small city north of Liverpool, England, nearly in Wales.

If you could offer one helpful tip to Walden faculty, what would it be?

Have students use the templates. There is nothing fancy about them. The margins and pagination are all in place. All one must do is type directly into them and most of the prepublication formatting issues will be resolved.

CSS Publications and Accomplishments

Lisa Cook co-authored an article on Career Services for The SAGE Encyclopedia of Online Education, a new publication edited by Walden faculty member Dr. Steve Danver.

Associate Director of the Academic Skills Center Karen Milheim published her article “Cultural Inclusivity in Online Learning” in Student-teacher interactions in online learning environments.

Career Services Advisor Andrea Obrycki was reelected to the Minnesota Career Development Association Board, where she will continue to co-coordinate the organization’s Mentoring Program. Her colleagues Denise Franke and Nicolle Skalski have both served as program mentors.
Fall Webinars

We have a full schedule of webinars through the end of the year. Our offerings for doctoral students will continue with a new “Curriculum Vita Café” and “Alternative Careers for Your Doctoral Degree.” This webinar will feature several alumni panelists utilizing their doctoral degrees in non-teaching capacities. We will also offer webinars on branding and engaging using LinkedIn as well as careers in industrial/organizational psychology. In December, we will wrap up the year with our annual four-part Job Search Support Series covering self-assessment, researching jobs and career information, networking, and interviewing. See page 5 for a list of our upcoming webinars.

Seeking Walden Success Stories

Have you ever wondered how we are able to feature terrific faculty, alumni, students, and outside experts in our webinars and blog stories? We uncover these talented individuals through networking and advising our learners by phone and at residencies. We often hear great stories of individuals landing jobs, getting published, building their professional reputations and networks, and other successes. Do you have a success story to share with the Walden community? Please e-mail us at careerservices@waldenu.edu.

Library

Fall in the Library

September is off like a shot, and the Library is certainly busy keeping up with all the craziness that accompanies a term start. The Library’s reference team has been busy answering lots of student e-mails and calls, and everyone seems to be doing a good job staying sane! Right, team?

September was also a busy time for a few of the Library’s Subject Liaisons. Emily Adams and Kerry Sullivan hosted two labs for NURS students, and Nykol Eystad hosted a lab for COUN students. Each session was designed for a specific course, and the idea was to give those particular students the library skills necessary to complete their course work. This targeted approach to instruction seems to be working well, and more labs will no doubt be hosted in the future.

Academic Skills Center

Writing Workshop

The Academic Skills Center is pleased to announce the impending launch of its first writing workshop, “Revising and Editing the Proposal.” This 6-week course, beginning November 10 for semester-based students and December 1 for quarter-based students, is unlike anything Walden has offered before in that all instruction is grounded in the students’ existing capstone drafts, in this case their proposals. A course description can be found on the Academic Skills Center’s website. Future workshops, including those focused on the literature review and methodology, are detailed there as well.
Writing Center

Course Visits

Course visits are a new service offered by faculty request. During course visits, a Writing Center staff member will introduce students to the Writing Center’s resources as well as answer writing questions. Faculty will be able to tailor the course visit to best accommodate students’ needs, selecting the week of the course visit, choosing between an asynchronous or synchronous format, and selecting a specific topic the Writing Center representative will address. Visit this page for more information.

New Self-Paced Grammar Modules

The Writing Center is pleased to announce a new, free grammar resource for all Walden students: self-paced grammar modules. These modules cover topics like verb tense, sentence structure, article usage, and modifiers, and they provide students with a diagnostic grammar quiz to identify areas for improvement. Watch this preview to learn more about the modules. If you have any questions, please contact Amber Cook; if your students have questions, direct them to our webinar coordinator, Beth Nastachowski.

Some suggested wording to direct students to the modules:

*The Writing Center has created free, self-paced grammar modules that I encourage you to use. These modules cover topics like verb tense, sentence structure, article usage, and modifiers. Additionally, you can access a diagnostic grammar quiz to help you identify areas for improvement. Preview the grammar modules to find out more!*

Welcome, Ellen!

Ellen Zamarripa joined the Writing Center Instructor team in July. She received her B.A. in English Literature from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and her M.A. in English Studies from Minnesota State University-Mankato. Before coming to Walden, Ellen tutored in multicultural centers and academic skills centers and taught composition for 2 years to first-year college students. Ellen lives in Minneapolis, and the Writing Center is excited to have her as part of the team.

Ellen Zamarripa
Writing Instructor
Webinars

Academic Skills

Get Ready for the Minnesota Teacher Licensure Exam! | Wednesday, October 22 from 6–7 p.m. Eastern Time

Career Services

Alternative Careers for Your Doctoral Degree | Wednesday, October 22 from 5:30–6:30 p.m. Eastern Time
Branding with LinkedIn | Wednesday, October 29 from 6–7 p.m. Eastern Time
Engaging with LinkedIn | Wednesday, November 19 from 5:30–6:30 p.m. Eastern Time
Resume Café | Friday, October 10 from Noon–12:45 p.m. Eastern Time
Interview Café | Wednesday, October 15 from 6–6:45 p.m. Eastern Time

Writing Center (Faculty webinars)

What Students Say Behind Your (Feed)back | Tuesday, October 21 from 11 a.m.–Noon Eastern Time

I Didn’t Sign Up to Teach Writing: Supporting Struggling Writers in Content-Based Courses

- Thursday, October 16 from 3–4 p.m. Eastern Time
- Thursday, November 13 from 3–4 p.m. Eastern Time (check our schedule for updates)

Best-Kept Support Secrets: Practical and Time Saving Resources for Faculty

- Monday, October 20 from 2–3 p.m. Eastern Time
- Wednesday, October 22 from Noon–1 p.m. Eastern Time

Writing Center (Student webinars)

Introduce, Conclude, and Write the Abstract for Your Study | Thursday, October 16 from 3–4 p.m. Eastern Time
Developing a Paper: From Discussion Post to Course Paper | Monday, October 20 from 6–7 p.m. Eastern Time
Mastering the Mechanics Part 1: Simple Sentences | Wednesday, October 29 from Noon–1 p.m. Eastern Time
Writing for Social Change: Exploring Perspectives | Monday, November 3 from 6–7 p.m. Eastern Time

Preparing for the Form and Style: Common Errors and Editor Q&A | Early November; check our schedule for updates
APA Citations Part 2: Nontraditional Sources | Wednesday, November 12 from 5–6 p.m. Eastern Time
Mastering the Mechanics Part 2: Complex and Compound Sentences | Monday, November 17 from 4–6 p.m. Eastern Time