

Writing *at* Miami



MIAMI UNIVERSITY

OXFORD, OH • EST. 1809

A LETTER FROM THE *President*



With the advent of digital and social media, many may think that writing is no longer an essential skill for today's college graduates. However, at Miami University, we believe that one's writing ability is more important than ever. Indeed, one of the hallmarks of a Miami undergraduate education is excellence in written communication skills.

Writing sharpens critical thinking skills, promotes new ideas and creative solutions, and sparks analysis and interpretation of others' thoughts. Writing is the means for generating knowledge and communicating ideas.

Because writing is so critical for lifelong success, writing instruction and writing assignments are embedded in Miami's introductory, intermediate and capstone liberal education courses and courses in the major. From lab reports, scientific articles, and analytical essays to poetry, travel blogs, and business memos and from community grants and newspaper articles to interactive digital games, Miami students are constantly writing inside and outside of the classroom. Writing is a part of many of the 500+ student organizations at Miami. No matter your major or extra-curricular interest, you will find opportunities to develop your writing abilities.

To better ensure stellar writing, faculty and students receive ongoing support for writing and writing instruction through the nationally recognized Howe Center for Writing Excellence and the Howe Writing Initiative.

These extraordinary resources are possible because of the generosity of two Miami alumni, Roger L. and Joyce Lutz Howe, both Class of '57, who have donated more than 12 million dollars to support writing across all departments and divisions at Miami.

This booklet, written and designed by Miami students, will not only demonstrate Miami's abiding commitment to writing, it will highlight the many writing-related resources and opportunities available so that you can reach your full professional and personal potential.

For Love and Honor,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory P. Crawford". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "G" and "C".

Gregory P. Crawford



WHY WRITING *matters*

*"Writing is not something
you do in addition to; it's
part of everything."*

Richard Taylor
Professor, Chemistry

*“Being able to communicate is one of the most important skills people **need to succeed** in business or any other endeavor. You will find that being able to communicate well is a **significant advantage** and will help you grow and take on more and more responsibility, in whatever career you choose.”*

Richard T. Farmer '56
B.S., Economics

*“Writing is a gateway to students’ emerging role in our **nation’s future** as participants and decision makers in a **democratic society**.”*

— National Writing Project

*“Writing is a
top 10 skill
sought by employers.”*

— Job Outlook 2015



WRITING IS *essential* TO YOUR SUCCESS

Writing often and writing well are critical to your success not only at Miami but in the world at large. No matter what you are studying — from anthropology to zoology and everything in between — writing will be central to your Miami experience and an integral part of your career.

Beginning in first-year Global Miami Plan seminars and continuing to courses in the majors and advanced writing courses in the Global Miami Plan, all Miami students have opportunities to learn to write well. Writing is infused throughout the curriculum, and students collaborate with faculty and peers in all stages of the writing process.

The culture of writing weaves throughout many student organizations and many of the outreach projects that Miami students develop. Whether writing scripts for plays, creating websites for community partners, developing a business plan for a corporate client, or sponsoring a writing contest for area teens, Miami students actively and regularly use writing to effect change.

Miami offers unparalleled support for you to practice and perfect your writing. Thanks to the generosity and vision of Roger and Joyce Howe, Miami boasts two nationally recognized and well-endowed writing centers to help students become better writers. A recent study found that the thousands of students who use the free consultation services of the centers have a higher grade point average than those who do not.

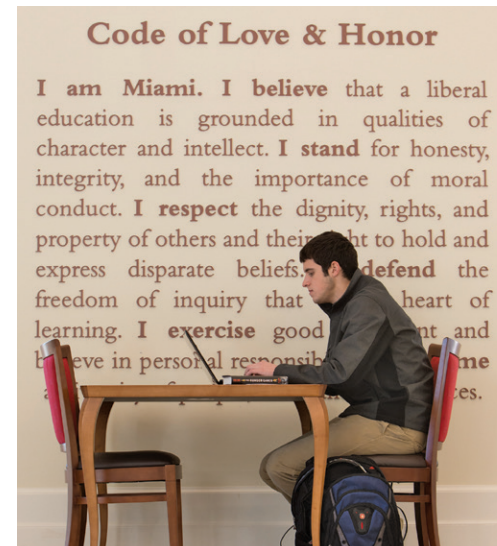
At Miami we engage in a culture of writing, recognizing the essential skill of communication within and beyond the university and building the collaborative learning networks that lead to our graduates' reputations as exceptionally skilled writers.



"I believe your writing is a reflection of you and your work ethic. From everyday email communication to developing formal documents, your writing skills are in front of everyone."

Brooke Cooper, '09

Social Media Specialist at
Victoria's Secret



"Writing with passion and purpose — whether you are an artist or a corporate CEO — is an essential skill for any influential leader; there is power in the pen and the keyboard!"

Elizabeth Mullenix

Dean and Professor of Theatre
College of Creative Arts



WRITING MAKES A *difference*



Wil Haygood, '76

B.A., Urban Studies

Wil Haygood is a journalist who wrote for *The Boston Globe* and *The Washington Post* and is the author of five books. Haygood has earned several prestigious journalism awards and distinctions, was a Pulitzer Prize finalist, and was recognized for his work, *The Butler: A Witness to History*, which was adapted into a movie in 2013. At a recent visit to Miami, Mr. Haygood spent the day talking with students about writing, sharing his passion, and inspiring others about the importance of writing. As he explained, "Writing sharpens the senses, and the world is brought closer together through written literature and storytelling. Writing helps me better understand knotty issues about human nature. It's the one genre that I feel that I can do what an artist does and turn on a light. Writing helps others see in new ways, brings new stories to light. Writing can right a wrong. You can write a wrong into a right." From 2015-2017, Mr. Haygood joined Miami as a visiting Distinguished Professor and Scholar, teaching classes, advising on the Freedom Summer documentary film project, and mentoring students.

*"You can write a wrong
into a right."*

"Writing allows for us to exchange ideas with a larger audience than the person standing right in front of you. I can write something from my living room in Oxford, Ohio, and someone can read it in Sydney, Australia, in a matter of minutes. Writing is the great equalizer, especially with new digital media technologies. Everyone is important, and everyone has a voice."

Allison McGillivray, '13

B.A., Literature and Professional Writing
Recipient of the Goldman Prize



WRITING SHAPES *knowledge*



BEYOND RESEARCH

Dr. Eric Bachmann, professor of computer science and software engineering, often collaborates with students to write programs for virtual reality systems. In this photo, he is working with graduate student Andrew Oberlin (M.S., Mathematics and Computer Science) to write a position tracking system for the devices on his ankles, which track foot movements. According to Dr. Bachmann, “The tracking system is now used to create a locomotion interface for portable immersive virtual environment systems. The portability of the system allows the exploration of virtual worlds through natural walking in unprepared locations. By writing programs for devices such as this, high quality immersive simulations can be made available to anyone for the cost of a typical desktop computer.”

100%
of majors use
WRITING

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Every year more than 2,000 Miami students participate in funded research projects with faculty, coauthoring papers and presenting at conferences around the world. Here, Dr. Heidi McKee, associate professor of English, works with a team to write their report and presentation for the Association of Internet Researchers conference. Team members are Francis Kazungu ('13, B.S., Biochemistry), Hillary Oberpeul ('13, B.A., Creative Writing), and Amy Wilkins ('12, B.A., Psychology).



“As a physician-scientist, hardly a day goes by that I am not writing something. Patient care is dependent on obtaining the story of a patient’s illness and being able to convey that story in a concise, meaningful way.”

Dr. Kenneth McLeish, '69

Professor of Medicine,
University of Louisville
Chief of Nephrology
Robley Rex VA Medical Center
Louisville, Kentucky

STRETCH YOUR *creativity*



HIGHWIRE

Highwire Brand Studio is an interdisciplinary branding practicum led by marketing and graphic design professors. Students work to solve client-driven problems by engaging in a process of research, strategic and creative ideation, development, and solution implementation. In Highwire, diverse teams of students from a wide range of academic backgrounds and career interests collaborate to produce professional presentations to recommend solutions to meet client company needs. Recently, these clients have included Procter & Gamble, Nestlé, Purina, Speedway, and Pepsi.

“While the role of writing in the communications and creative ideation process is always changing, the value of writing for sharpening one’s ideas and thinking is invaluable and timeless.”

Mike McCarthy
Professor of Marketing



INSIDE HOLLYWOOD

Inside Hollywood is a study-away program where students work in Los Angeles for three weeks to learn about the structure and operations of the entertainment industry and how to pursue careers in that field. The program includes presentations, on-site visits to studios, television networks, and post-production facilities, and on-the-job shadowing of media professionals. Recent programs have included tours of “Conan,” Warner Bros. Studio, “Family Guy,” and NBC Universal.



CREATIVE WRITING

Aspiring poets and fiction writers have many venues to develop and share their craft. Miami has a nationally recognized Creative Writing program with award-winning faculty. Through readings, guest speakers, and workshops, students are able to meet and work with renowned authors who help them grow and become successful writers like creative writing alumnus Rajiv Joseph '96, who was a 2010 Pulitzer Prize finalist for *The Bengal Tiger in the Baghdad Zoo* and who released his first feature film, *Draft Day*, in 2014. The Creative Writing program hosts a dozen guest readers each year along with monthly readings where students share their work with the campus community.

WRITING BUILDS *community*

"Writing well has given me the opportunity to conduct research at prestigious scientific research communities. I would not have received these opportunities without the credentials I have attained through publishing research in peer-reviewed journals here at Miami University."

Andy Zhou, '12
B.S., Biochemistry

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Miami students partner with local communities in many ways that involve writing. Pictured here, students participate in the America Reads program, providing one-on-one support and assistance for children in grades K-6 on reading, writing, and mathematics. This is just one of the many ways that Miami students give back to local communities.



OXFORD WRITING FESTIVAL

Students for the Promotion of Writing established the Oxford Writing Festival in 2011 as an annual spring showcase for the work of students, faculty, and community members. This multi-day celebration of writing provides numerous venues for students to share their writing and features workshops and readings by writers from across the country.

WRITE ABOUT YOUR *passions*

THE MIAMI STUDENT

Established in 1826, *The Miami Student* is the oldest university newspaper in the nation. This award-winning paper publishes 8,000 copies twice a week during the academic year. The members of *The Miami Student* also run their own website, which is updated hourly with photos and stories from around campus and the Oxford community. Former Editor-in-Chief Katie Taylor ('15, B.A., Journalism) believes writing matters because "Our lives revolve around communication. Writing gives us a way to express ourselves."



Rita Dove, '73

B.A., English

Rita Dove won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1987 and served as U.S. Poet Laureate from 1993-95. President Clinton honored her with the 1996 National Humanities Medal, and President Obama, in awarding her the 2011 National Medal of Arts, made her the only poet ever granted both presidential medals. Ms. Dove credits her love for poetry in part to her time as an undergraduate at Miami University where professors inspired her. As she explained, "My serious engagement with writing poetry began during my undergraduate years. I went to Miami with no idea of what I wanted to 'become.' During my freshman year I changed my major about 6 or 7 times; luckily, Miami had a core curriculum requirement, which meant I could spread myself around and hedge my bets for a while." Ms. Dove happened to take a course in creative writing, and, as she said, "my journey as a writer began. I took every writing course Miami had to offer, but I also had professors in other disciplines (20th-century British Novels, 19th-century German Literature, Chamber Music, even Math!) who encouraged open inquiry and impassioned imagination."

"By rendering into our language our most private hopes and fears, a poem can make those fears less daunting and our dreams more palpable. Through poetry, we experience empathy — a communication that can transverse centuries and continents."

Dr. Fazeel Khan

Associate Professor, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering

Passionate about writing, Dr. Khan began a writing initiative within his department, teaching students a variety of essential workplace genres. Dr. Khan tells students, "The ability to communicate and write effectively have become increasingly essential for the well-qualified engineering graduate. Engineers must have skills beyond just being able to solve a technical problem."



Abby Pautz, '14

B.A., Strategic Communications and German; Account Coordinator, Brains on Fire

Abby Pautz interned for the Office of University Communications and Marketing where she created a web news source called the Weekly 140, a Twitter feed to consolidate news information for Miami students. Upon graduation, she was appointed to The Governor Bob Orr Indiana Entrepreneurial Fellowship where she was the first digital marketing analyst and content manager for a high-growth company. Abby feels that her writing skills helped land her the position, and she advises all students to explore writing while at Miami and to find their voice. She says, "You might not think you like writing — but that's probably because you haven't found the right kind."

HAVE YOUR NAME
published



MIAMI QUARTERLY

The *Miami Quarterly* is a student-run magazine published four times a year. Its goal is to both inform and entertain by providing Miami students and faculty with articles about such topics as arts, sports, alumni, and opinion. The magazine maintains a staff of 40 students from a variety of majors and backgrounds and seeks contributions from writers, graphic designers, and photographers.

HER CAMPUS

Her Campus is an online magazine for college women with more than 200 student-run chapters at colleges across the United States and internationally. Miami's chapter publishes 10 to 15 articles per week tailored specifically to the interests of Miami students. New members of any major are welcome to join the staff to write and edit articles, produce print and social media publicity, and shoot and edit photographs.



UP FASHION MAGAZINE

Written and published by students, *UP* is the only fashion magazine on campus and publishes in print and on the web. *UP* also hosts fashion shows highlighting clothing created and designed by Miami students. With 40 to 50 students on staff, *UP* fosters collaboration between students of all majors and provides opportunities to write in a wide variety of media.

INKLINGS

Inklings is Miami's literary and art magazine published once a semester. Staffed by undergraduates from a variety of majors, the mission of *Inklings* is "to provide an outlet for the kind of creativity that elicits a lasting emotional satisfaction and intellectual enrichment within writers, artists, and readers alike."

30+
STUDENT
PUBLICATIONS
on campus

WRITING SHARPENS *focus*



"With writing, you're creating an impression of yourself, and your reputation is built through every written communication you send. You want your writing to be as effective as it can be."

Ty Elliott, '81

CEO of Oneida Partners, LLC
B.S., Finance



SEEK OUT MORE WRITING

Miami is dedicated to helping you find and fulfill your passion. If writing is something you just can't get enough of, consider pursuing a writing-related degree, such as Interactive Media Studies, Creative Writing, Journalism, Professional Writing, Comparative Media Studies, Media and Culture, Language Arts Education, and Strategic Communication. In the photo below, students discuss the commemorative book they designed and wrote for the Emery Theater in Cincinnati.



"For teachers, writing is an absolutely critical component to their practice. Teachers are judged largely on the quality of their ideas and their ability to convey these ideas in a coherent fashion. Writing is the medium through which teachers communicate ideas. Whether authoring classroom assignments, providing feedback to students, or corresponding to parents or administrators, writing is an essential part of being a teacher."

Todd Edwards

Professor of Teacher Education



SUPPORT FOR *writing excellence*



A STATEMENT FROM ROGER L. AND JOYCE LUTZ HOWE '57

Over 20 years ago we established an endowed chair at Miami for the purpose of enhancing the writing ability of Farmer School of Business students. That effort is now known as the Howe Writing Initiative. We made the gift in response to a frequent criticism we heard from employers that college graduates, while excellent in most areas, lacked written communication skills. Universally, employers deemed such skills to be of paramount importance for success. Nationally, this criticism continues to exist. In 2007 we supported a greatly expanded university-wide writing effort through the creation of the Howe Center for Writing Excellence.

Our hope and vision is that Miami be known as one of the very best universities in the nation for graduating clear, concise, and persuasive communicators with the written word and that all graduates recognize the writing proficiency they gained at Miami as one of the most important benefits of their education.

Almost without exception, every highly successful person we have known has been an excellent communicator in writing. We strongly believe it is the “common thread” for successful people. We applaud the Miami University faculty and administrative leadership for so actively providing students the opportunity and tools to achieve excellence in this vital competency.

HOWE WRITING INITIATIVE

The Howe Writing Initiative (HWI) is a specialized business writing center serving students and faculty in the Farmer School of Business. This well-endowed center provides consultations on all forms of business communications, helping students at all stages of the process and helping faculty with the teaching of writing. The HWI works with more than 1,500 students per year and offers workshops every month on topics such as resumes and cover letters, writing with numbers, intercultural communication, and presentation design.



“The HWI helped me take my business writing skills to another level.”

Gregory Brown '14

Supply Chain and
Operations Management

“The center is not just a place for grammar and editing — it’s also about trying to improve the writer as a whole. Consultations help writers think and communicate more clearly.”

Ryan McHenry '14

Information Systems and Spanish
P.S. Consultant, Teradata

“No matter where you are with your writing, we are happy to help.”

Rena Andrews '16

Public Administration
HWI Consultant 2013-2016
Human Resource Analyst, KeyBank



RAISE YOUR WRITING TO *new heights*

ROGER AND JOYCE HOWE CENTER FOR WRITING EXCELLENCE

The Howe Center for Writing Excellence helps Miami students excel in writing for college. Students can schedule appointments with consultants for feedback on their writing at any stage of the process, whether brainstorming, revising, or polishing. Consultants work with students on any type of writing, including academic essays, capstone courses, graduate theses, presentations, lab reports, websites and other non-print assignments, resumes, applications, and projects for student organizations. The Howe Center also works with faculty to contribute to dynamic assignment design and the robust teaching of writing. The center is located in King Library with satellite locations in Peabody Hall, B.E.S.T. Library, and the Gross Athletic Development Center, ensuring that students have accessibility no matter where they are on campus.



“All that we do at the HCWE is shaped by our passionate belief that every Miami student can become an excellent writer, possessing the rhetorical dexterity needed to write in multiple styles and genres for a variety of audiences and purposes. We encourage all students to see themselves as writers, to learn by writing, to express themselves through writing, and to change the world through their writing.”

Elizabeth Wardle

Professor of English
Director of the Howe Center for Writing Excellence

37,000+
CONSULTATIONS
since the
Howe Center opening

“The writing center serves as a central place on campus to really help students to practice writing and to get better at that skill.”

Greg Dick '15

Political Science
HWI Consultant



DIVE IN AND *explore*

To learn about Writing at Miami, the programs and organizations mentioned in this brochure, and more, visit:

Academic Divisions:

College of Arts and Science: MiamiOH.edu/cas

College of Creative Arts: MiamiOH.edu/ccca

College of Education, Health, and Society: MiamiOH.edu/ehs

College of Engineering and Computing: MiamiOH.edu/cec

Farmer School of Business: MiamiOH.edu/fsb

Admission: MiamiOH.edu/Admission

Armstrong Institute for Interactive Media Studies: MiamiOH.edu/aims

Department of English: MiamiOH.edu/English

Department of Media, Journalism, and Film: MiamiOH.edu/mjf

Global Miami Plan: MiamiOH.edu/liberal-ed

Highwire: MiamiOH.edu/FSB/focus-areas/experiential-learning/highwire

Howe Center for Writing Excellence: MiamiOH.edu/Howe

Howe Writing Initiative: MiamiOH.edu/hwi

Inklings: Inklings.muohio.edu

Inside Hollywood: MiamiOH.edu/Features/Research/Inside-Hollywood

Miami Quarterly Magazine: MUhub.collegiatelink.net/organization/miamiquarterly

The Miami Student: MiamiStudent.net

Miami University: MiamiOH.edu

Office of the President: MiamiOH.edu/president

Professional Writing: MiamiOH.edu/pw

Study Abroad: StudyAbroad.MiamiOH.edu

Up Fashion Magazine: Upfashionmagazine.org

This brochure was written and originally designed by students in a Professional Writing capstone course taught by Dr. Heidi McKee:

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The designers and writers of this brochure wish to thank the following people for their help:

- » Roger and Joyce Howe for their tremendous support for writing and for Miami.
- » President Emeritus David C. Hodge and President Gregory P. Crawford for their leadership and advocacy of writing.
- » The many Miami students, faculty, and alumni who shared their perceptions and experiences of writing.
- » Tracy Hughes, Tracy Chappelow, Donna Barnet, and all of the staff of University Communications and Marketing for their advice and support.
- » Jeff Sabo, Scott Kissell, and all the university and *The Miami Student* photographers whose photos were included in this brochure.

Photo credits for specific photos:

- » Ben Taylor, Sketched Out photo (top left) on Stretch Your Creativity spread
- » Lauren Olson, HWI students photo (center right) on Support for Writing Excellence spread
- » Fred Viebahn, Rita Dove photo on Write About Your Passions spread
- » Jalen Walker, Pulley Tower photo on Dive In and Explore spread





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