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# Writing *at* Miami

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MIAMI UNIVERSITY

OXFORD, OH • EST. 1809

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## A LETTER FROM THE *President*

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**M**iami's goal is to provide the best undergraduate experience in the nation by promoting a vibrant learning and discovery environment that produces extraordinary graduates. A central part of that environment and of student success is learning to write and to write well.

Excellent written communication skills are essential to success in all areas of our lives. Writing helps to sharpen critical thinking skills, to explore and communicate new ideas, to expose problems and analyze solutions, and to rally others to action. Good writing articulates, encourages, motivates, informs, and persuades. It effects change, promotes ideas, and creates unity. With the adoption of the new

Global Miami Plan, Miami becomes one of the few universities in the country to require an upper division writing experience, a symbol of our commitment to placing writing at the center of the learning and discovery process.

In this brochure, which was written and designed by Miami students, you will hear the voices of faculty, students, and alumni reflecting on why writing matters and how Miami has helped them become lifelong writers. You will see photos and read descriptions of some of the ways that writing is central to the Miami experience. From first-year seminars to study abroad, senior capstones, and co-curricular activities, writing happens at Miami in diverse, complementary, and exciting ways.

Miami's passion for writing has been supported and inspired by the generosity of two of our alumni: Roger L. and Joyce Lutz Howe, both Class of '57, who have donated more than 12 million dollars to support writing across campus. They founded and endowed a professorship and two campus writing centers—the Howe Writing Initiative and the Howe Center for Writing Excellence—whose combined mission is to ensure that all Miami students have the opportunity to be excellent writers. As you will read in these pages, the Howes' commitment to Miami is making a huge impact on students' success.

Within these pages you will find evidence for writing's value in your academic, professional, and personal experiences. I hope you'll use the many resources available at Miami to learn to write well and that you will use that ability throughout your life to advance your career, your organizations, and your community.

For Love and Honor,

David C. Hodge





# 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.



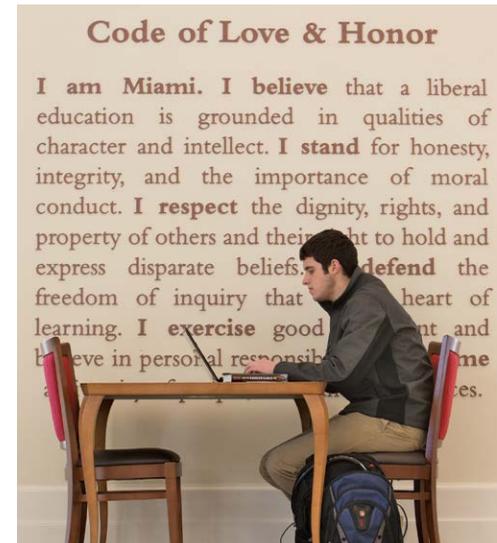
*"I believe your writing is a reflection of you and your work ethic. From everyday email communication to developing formal documents, your writing skills are in front of everyone."*

**Brooke Cooper, '09**

Senior Social Media Marketing Coordinator at Victoria's Secret

## Code of Love & Honor

**I am Miami. I believe** that a liberal education is grounded in qualities of character and intellect. **I stand** for honesty, integrity, and the importance of moral conduct. **I respect** the dignity, rights, and property of others and their right to hold and express disparate beliefs. **I defend** the freedom of inquiry that is the heart of learning. **I exercise** good judgment and believe in personal responsibility.



*"In any professional setting, if you can't write with clarity and craft, you will not make a positive impression.*

*This is essential."*

**Peg Faimon, '82**

Chair, Department of Art



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WRITING MAKES A  
*difference*

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## 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 will join 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, co-authoring 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, Renal Section  
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, 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.

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WRITING BUILDS  
*community*

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### 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.



*"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



### 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. 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

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 will be 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.

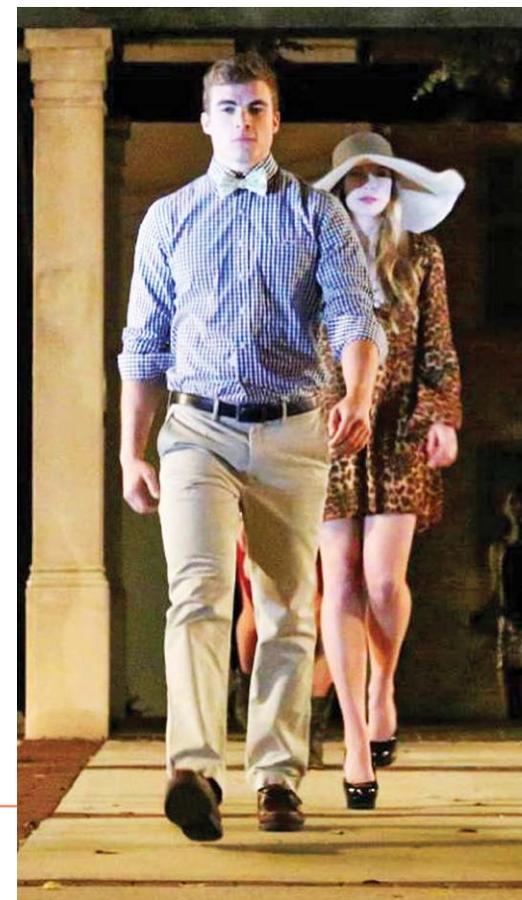


## UP FASHION MAGAZINE

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 Armstrong Interactive Media Studies, Creative Writing, Journalism, Professional Writing, 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**

Associate Professor,  
Teacher Education



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SUPPORT FOR

# *writing excellence*

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## 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 over 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  
HWI Consultant

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

**Rena Andrews '16**

Public Administration  
HWI Consultant



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RAISE YOUR WRITING TO  
*new heights*

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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 Center, ensuring that students have accessibility no matter where they are on campus.



*“Writing remains essential to academic preparation and success, and I have never known a university to enact that principle more rigorously and enthusiastically than Miami. The impact of the Howe endowment is a campus-wide culture that emphasizes writing as a signature experience for students, extending far beyond their time in our classrooms.”*

**Kate Ronald**

Professor, Department of English  
Director, Howe Center for Writing Excellence

**25,000+**  
CONSULTATIONS  
*since its 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



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# DIVE IN AND *explore*

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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](http://MiamiOH.edu/cas)

College of Creative Arts: [MiamiOH.edu/cca](http://MiamiOH.edu/cca)

College of Education, Health, and Society: [MiamiOH.edu/ehs](http://MiamiOH.edu/ehs)

College of Engineering and Computing: [MiamiOH.edu/cec](http://MiamiOH.edu/cec)

Farmer School of Business: [MiamiOH.edu/fsb](http://MiamiOH.edu/fsb)

**Admission:** [MiamiOH.edu/Admission](http://MiamiOH.edu/Admission)

**Armstrong Institute for Interactive Media Studies:** [MiamiOH.edu/aims](http://MiamiOH.edu/aims)

**Department of English:** [MiamiOH.edu/English](http://MiamiOH.edu/English)

**Department of Media, Journalism, and Film:** [MiamiOH.edu/mjf](http://MiamiOH.edu/mjf)

**Global Miami Plan:** [MiamiOH.edu/liberal-ed](http://MiamiOH.edu/liberal-ed)

**Her Campus:** [Facebook.com/HerCampusMUOhio](https://www.facebook.com/HerCampusMUOhio)

**Highwire:** [FSB.MiamiOH.edu/Programs/Highwire](http://FSB.MiamiOH.edu/Programs/Highwire)

**Howe Center for Writing Excellence:** [MiamiOH.edu/WritingCenter](http://MiamiOH.edu/WritingCenter)

**Howe Writing Initiative:** [MiamiOH.edu/HWI](http://MiamiOH.edu/HWI)

**Inklings:** [Inklings.MiamiOH.edu](http://Inklings.MiamiOH.edu)

**Inside Hollywood:** [MiamiOH.edu/Features/Research/Inside-Hollywood/index.html](http://MiamiOH.edu/Features/Research/Inside-Hollywood/index.html)

**Miami Quarterly Magazine:** [MUhub.collegiatelink.net/organization/miamiquarterly](http://MUhub.collegiatelink.net/organization/miamiquarterly)

**The Miami Student:** [MiamiStudent.net](http://MiamiStudent.net)

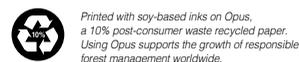
**Miami University:** [MiamiOH.edu](http://MiamiOH.edu)

**Office of the President:** [MiamiOH.edu/president](http://MiamiOH.edu/president)

**Professional Writing:** [MiamiOH.edu/pw](http://MiamiOH.edu/pw)

**Study Abroad:** [StudyAbroad.MiamiOH.edu](http://StudyAbroad.MiamiOH.edu)

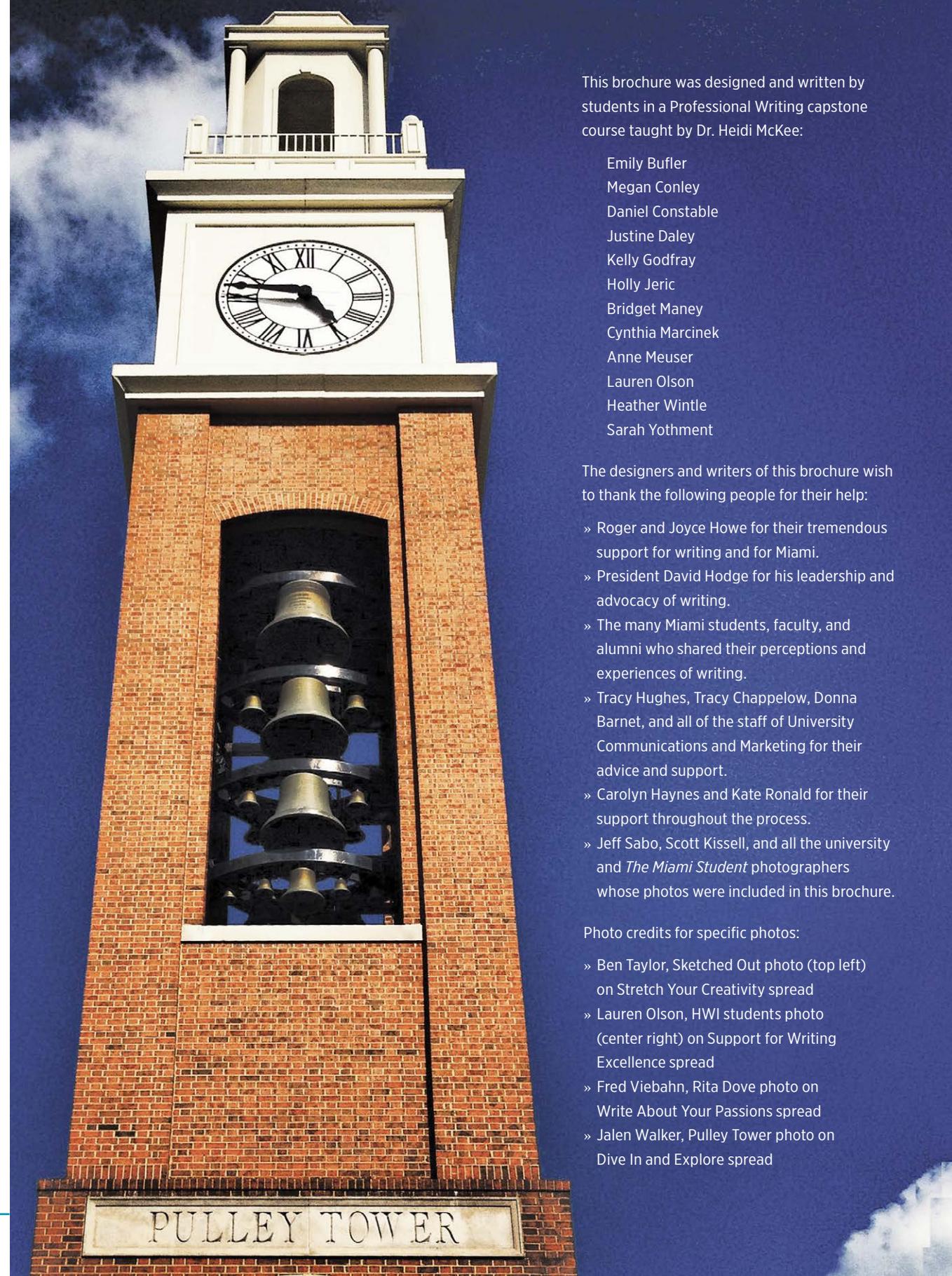
**Up Fashion Magazine:** [Upfashionmagazine.org](http://Upfashionmagazine.org)



Printed with soy-based inks on Opus,  
a 10% post-consumer waste recycled paper.  
Using Opus supports the growth of responsible  
forest management worldwide.

Miami University: Equal opportunity in education and employment.

20K/07/14



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

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Heather Wintle  
Sarah Yothment

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 David Hodge for his 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.
- » Carolyn Haynes and Kate Ronald for their support throughout the process.
- » 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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U.S. POSTAGE  
**P A I D**  
MIAMI UNIVERSITY