Meet The Writing Center@PVCC Staff, Spring 2020

Aleena graduated from Charlottesville High School in 2018, and upon graduation she started PVCC. During her time at PVCC, she’s involved with Phi Theta Kappa, which is a community-oriented based organization that specifically run-in the community colleges. Her hope is to transfer to UVA in the spring semester majoring in Foreign Affairs with a minor in Gender Studies. She enjoys writing poems, photography, and learning Spanish. By being a writing tutor, she hopes to alleviate the fear of writing process from students as well as sharing her knowledge and tips of writing with the students.

Bret grew up in Houston, TX and moved to Charlottesville due to his love of humid summers. He attended UVA and studied English before beginning courses at PVCC in Fall 2018. He enjoys collaborating with other students as a tutor and classmate, and has contributed to multiple student publications as a writer, editor and designer. Bret believes that everyone is a writer and his favorite part of being a tutor is assisting students in developing their individual voice. In his personal time, Bret loves live music, Tex-Mex and video games.
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Daniel started at Piedmont in the fall of 2018, and is excited to launch into the new academic year. A Charlottesville-Albemarle native, he loves to explore the outdoors, spend time with his dog, and learn from others by hearing their stories. He has a passion for baseball and a weakness for homemade desserts. The starry night sky and mysteries of the universe have always fascinated him, and he intends to study astronomy after transferring from Piedmont. Daniel is looking forward to meeting more of his peers, and is eager to help further their writing skills.

Emily has been a writing tutor at PVCC for one year. Before that, she attended school at Haverford College in Pennsylvania, where she studied sociology and also worked as a writing tutor. Within sociology, Emily’s primary interest is race and whiteness studies. She is from Charlottesville and loves this community dearly. Outside of the writing center, Emily is involved in local organizing, primarily with the Charlottesville chapter of Showing Up For Racial Justice. Emily enjoys watching tv, drinking tea, and spending time with family and friends. She loves talking to other people about their writing and ideas and is so excited to continue learning with and from everyone who comes to the PVCC Writing Center.
Francesca graduated from University of Virginia as an English major with a focus in poetry. She worked as a cook in local restaurants after graduation where she learned the importance of community involvement and hard work. Poetry has always been an important part of Francesca’s life, and she periodically takes classes and volunteers at Writer House. She came to PVCC for continuing education through such classes as journalism. Her plans for the future include pursuing a graduate degree in creative writing education, publishing her poetry, and, most importantly, adopting as many pets as possible!

Jenny Koster has taught writing for almost 20 years, first as a high school English teacher and then at Virginia Commonwealth University before coming to PVCC, where she is an English professor and the coordinator of the Writing Center@PVCC. She has experience working as a writer/editor/ad salesperson at a magazine, a hostess/waitress at a fine dining restaurant, a marketing associate at an architecture firm, a freelance journalist/editor, and a “spy trainer” at a kid’s summer camp. She loves bringing all of these skill sets together to empower students to articulate their ideas about the issues that matter to them.
Kaili began studying at PVCC during her sophomore year of high school, in 2017. Since then, she has studied both English and Spanish and hopes to continue her language education abroad after her senior year next fall. She has been volunteering at TJACE teaching ESL for three years and has also spent time in Belize organizing and teaching English classes to local children. In addition to being an enthusiastic member of the Writing Center staff, she works with The Amazon Aid Foundation running the Environmental Youth Warriors program. She is also currently the Dance Club president at PVCC. She is most passionate about language, social justice, and environmental activism. She is looking forward to working with her fellow students on developing their English skills this semester.

Kyle graduated from PVCC in May 2019 with a General Studies degree, and is now working towards getting a certificate in Graphic Design. He moved to Charlottesville from his home state of Connecticut in 2016 and is enjoying the milder winters. While this is his first semester working as a writing tutor, he has worked in the PVCC IT Department for almost two years. In his (little) free time, he enjoys reading history and fantasy books, cooking, traveling, and trying new restaurants around Charlottesville. When he's not working, Kyle can probably be found at Foods of All Nations or Trader Joe's, looking for inspiration for new recipes to try. Kyle hopes to use his passion for creativity to help students develop and expand their writing skills.
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**Monica** is Mexican and a native Spanish speaker. She lived in Mexico for 45 years, where she worked as an English teacher. She moved to the United States in 2011 and has been tutoring Spanish in the Charlottesville area since then. Monica has earned certificates in Tutoring, Academic Coaching, Community Interpreting, Communicative Activities for the Language Classroom, Developing Materials and Activities for the Communicative Classroom and Encouraging Learner’s Independence. She really loves teaching and enjoys working with students of all ages. She likes to help others to learn her native language and to share her culture and traditions. She tutors in Spanish 1, 2, 3 and 4, Study Skills and Organization. She is also happy to receive students that simply want to practice Spanish conversation or learn more about Hispanic culture. She is married, has 2 grown kids, and a cute little dog. She loves living surrounded by nature, outdoor activities, bird watching, swimming, and gardening. She dedicates her free time to creating art (painting, drawing, sculpting and writing).

**Ruth** began her higher education at PVCC and then transferred to UVA where she majored in English. She has been a writing tutor for seven years and leads The Writing Center’s English Conversation Circle for non-native English speakers. She loves exploring ideas and helping others express themselves through writing. She enjoys reading and writing fiction, gardening, and hiking.