

2023/2024

Annual Report

Student Writer- in-Residence



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and Writing Studies**
Western University

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OVERVIEW

The 2023/24 year was exceptional for the Student Writer-in-Residence program. Throughout the year, I had the privilege of engaging with Western's vibrant writing community through a variety of enriching experiences: from successful office hour visits, where I provided mentorship and guidance to students, to the electric atmosphere of the Poetry Live! open mic held at Weldon Library, where diverse voices converged to celebrate the art of storytelling. Embracing mentorship, I visited first-year writing classes, educating students on the SWiR program and the myriad of ways to get involved in the creative writing community on campus. A highlight of my year was my joint performance with esteemed Writer-in-Residence Téa Mutjoni for the "Write Now! Writers on Writing" lecture series, which provided me with the opportunity to share some of my work and process with the campus community. As I reflect on the achievements of the past year and prepare to pass the mantle to the next Student Writer-in-Residence, I anticipate with excitement the continued growth and impact of the program in fostering a dynamic and inclusive literary ecosystem at Western.



BY THE NUMBERS

42

Office Hour
Visits

29

Unique
Students seen
in Office Hours

9

Classrooms
Visited

5

Invited
Performances

2

Community
Events

1

Poetry
Contest
Judged

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Poetry Live

In September, I collaborated with Joshua Lambier, Western's Public Arts Coordinator, to organize Poetry Live!: Western Edition, open mic event held at Weldon Library. The event was co-sponsored by Wordsfest and Penned by Western and boasted an attendance of 50+ people from our campus and London communities. Twenty-nine people took the mic for two hours of funny, touching, and sometimes heartbreaking poetry.



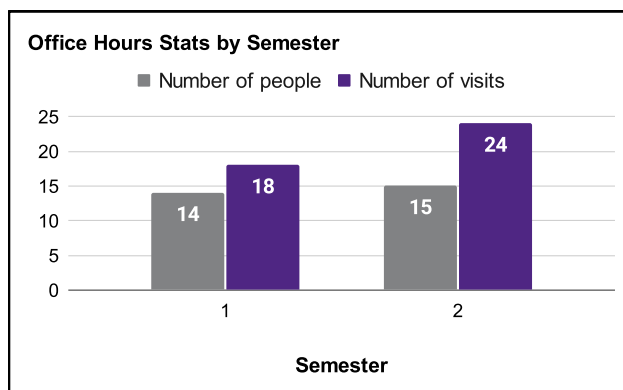
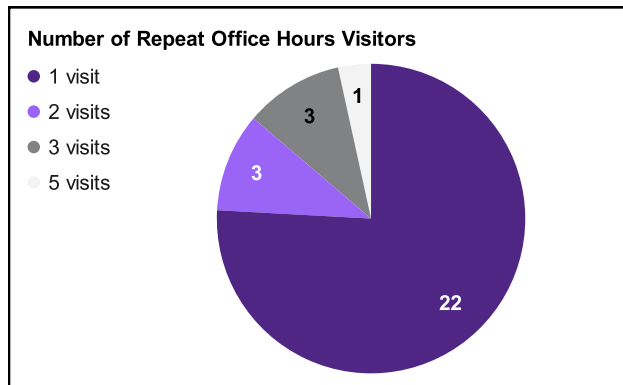
Authors Showcase

In March, I collaborated with Writer-in-Residence Téa Mutjoni to bring together a group of extraordinary students and community members to share some of their work at our Author's showcase. The event was held at the TAP Centre for Creativity and featured performances by some of the brightest writers Tea and I had had the pleasure of working with. My performers included Katherine Barbour, Claudia Kindrachuk, and Darija Silic, who presented their unique poetry and prose, including a visceral poem about gutting fish, a phantasmagoria of decadence and Greek mythological influence, and the touching story of a creature making its way through a post-apocalyptic world by itself. The event was highlighted in the Western Gazette, which you can [read here!](#)



OFFICE HOURS RECAP

During my tenure as the Student Writer-in-Residence, I dedicated one two-hour session each week to holding office hours. Throughout these sessions, I had the pleasure of interacting with 29 unique students, totalling 42 visits overall. On average, I welcomed 1.75 visitors per session, indicating a consistent engagement and utilization of the office hours. Moreover, to ensure inclusivity and accessibility, I conducted meetings over video chat for some students outside of the scheduled hours. This personalized approach underscored my commitment to supporting students in their writing endeavours and fostering a culture of academic excellence on campus.



SNAPS POETRY CONTEST

As the Student Writer-in-Residence, judging the SNAPS poetry contest was both thrilling and meaningful. Reading through numerous poems, I was struck by the raw emotions woven into each verse. It was essential to approach each piece with fairness and empathy, understanding the bravery it takes to share personal thoughts. Through this collaboration with The Coterie, we aimed to highlight the power of words in connecting our community through shared experiences and emotions.



CONCLUSION

The 2023/24 academic year for the Student Writer-in-Residence program at Western University was marked by vibrant collaboration and impactful events. Engaging in Write Now! alongside esteemed Writer-in-Residence Téa Mutjoni highlighted the power of storytelling and mentorship. Events like the Author's Showcase and Poetry Live!: Western Edition showcased diverse voices and promoted inclusivity, while virtual office hours ensured accessibility and support for students. Judging the SNAPS poetry contest underscored the possibilities for collaboration between the SWiR and the campus community. As I pass the mantle to the next Student Writer-in-Residence, I'm excited for the continued growth and legacy of creativity, collaboration, and inclusivity at Western.

