

# By Our WTS

Issue 9.2, July 2015



THE IU WRITING TUTORIAL SERVICES ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



## My plans for 'BOW'

BY NICOLE KRASEAN

Hello all! I'm Nicole Krasean. I will be taking over as managing editor of *By Our WTS* in the fall.

I am very excited about working with my fellow peer tutors and the rest of the staff at WTS to put together a newsletter that will make us all even prouder to be a part of WTS than we already are.

My visions for *BOW* in the upcoming semesters include a shift to a more visual newsletter with more photos and graphics to accompany the writing we have.

WTS is a place where writing

takes precedence, but I think the *BOW* newsletter can be stronger than ever with more images to accompany the fantastic stories by our tutors.

I also hope to take stories we have written about in the past and re-vamp them. I want everyone who receives a copy of *BOW* to be amazed with how much our program is advancing and improving as the years go by.

I hope to make you all proud as your managing editor. Have a great summer!



## Saying goodbye to 'By Our WTS'

**Dana Koglin**

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I have been the Managing Editor of *By Our WTS* the past three years, but I am excited to see how *By Our WTS* evolves under Nicole. I know it will be amazing!

Since graduating with a degree in journalism, a second major in religious studies and a minor in math, I began part-time jobs with the Research and Education Networking - Information Sharing and Analysis Center, and Petco—my hope is to get into dog training.

And thanks to Vincent Bailey, I may also end up as a math tutor at the Academic Support Centers.

As far as being a peer tutor for WTS, it has been amazing experience. I don't think one experience has ever taught me so much about writing and how the human mind works than WTS has.

Tutoring has also reinforced my love for educating others, which I had forgotten about.

I also have WTS to thank for the many friends and professional contacts I've made. Thank you, WTS!

# Is the new space working out?

BY DANA KOGLIN

As with most big changes, there are pros and cons. WTS new spring 2015 space is no different, but we were able to discover more pros as time went on!

Because of the narrow spaces between the glass walls (as pictured right), communication between the bullpen and Big Jake computers was no problem--and lots of fun!

Though it took most of the semester, WTS finally got some signage, which it dutifully used to inform students that they were, indeed, at Writing Tutorial Services, and that arriving 20 minutes late never has been and never will be acceptable.

Powwows around the front desk were easily accomplished because of the desk's size and the availability of wheeled chairs, and checking in



The little crack in the glass always made tutoring and working at the desk an interesting experience.

Photo courtesy of Dana Koglin

students could always be a multi-person task when needed.

Though there are several problems with the open space, such as

regular invasions and high noise levels, WTS tutors can always be trusted to take advantage of the pros of any space!

## Interact with WTS!



WTS Alumni



@IUB\_WTS\_Help



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**By Our WTS is produced for the peer tutor alumni of Writing Tutorial Services, Indiana University's writing center.**

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### By Our WTS Staff

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Dana Koglin  
Writers and researchers  
Decker Cavoise and Dana Koglin

Please read, think and write back to us. Any comments on this issue or updates you wish to be included in upcoming issues may be directed to:  
[byourwts@indiana.edu](mailto:byourwts@indiana.edu)

# 10 tutors move on, one remains



**Ian Goldsbrough**  
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In the fall I'll begin my graduate studies at Marquette University in their Clinical Mental Health Counseling master's program.

After two years, I hope to graduate and begin working full time as a counselor, specializing in depression, anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and trauma.

I would like to have my own private practice eventually. I still hope to move out West, in order to continue hiking and sailing. The past year at WTS has been a wonderful experience. I've enjoyed

talking to students both about their papers and their life experiences in general.

I found that many of the international students had perspectives that were quite different from my own, and these interactions have made me more interested in multicultural counseling, something Marquette is highly regarded for.

My time as a peer tutor at WTS has been beneficial, and I believe my experiences here will make me a more helpful and empathetic counselor.



**Decker Cavosie**  
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I'm so grateful to have been hired at WTS my freshman year. This is one of the best jobs ever, and WTS played such a huge role in shaping my undergraduate career at IU.

I'd like to thank Jo Ann, Anita, and Laura for everything they've done to make this experience so

wonderful, as well as my fellow tutors.

Everyone at WTS takes the "friendly and helpful" motto to heart, and I'll always be grateful for that. I still don't know what I want to do when I grow up, so I'll be around the Bloomington/Indianapolis area until that gets sorted out.

I'll probably go to graduate school for literature or something, but for now I just want to do cool stuff with my friends.



**Emily McKnight**  
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This summer, I leave to teach high school English in rural Arkansas with Teach For America.

It's intimidating to think that I'll be tasked with teaching—actually teaching—kids in a few months. I can say with full

conviction that I would not be where I am without WTS.

Over the last four years, I've struggled with my English major because I often find our discussions too theoretical.

But when I work with students, I realize that theory and silly writing all go toward making a stronger thinker and, in turn, a stronger person.

So, thanks WTS.



### Vincent Bailey

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Since graduation I've been seeking employment in the tech/software industry.

I will be spending my summer traveling to places like Albuquerque, New Mexico and Pole Bridge, Montana.

I think the best part about working in the environment of WTS was the quality of the people around me.

During my time at WTS, I met many people whom I have grown close to and come to respect.

It was a place that I came to to not only help tutees become better writers but also learn from my peers.

Perhaps most importantly, my time at WTS gave me more confidence in my own applied writing skills, which has aided my job search.

I can honestly say that working at WTS has been the most rewarding job I've ever had.

### Ann McCallum

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I will graduate with a B.A. in journalism, specialization in public relations, and a minor in English.

After graduating, I will be moving to Chicago to work as a Digital and Social Media Account Assistant for a public relations agency.

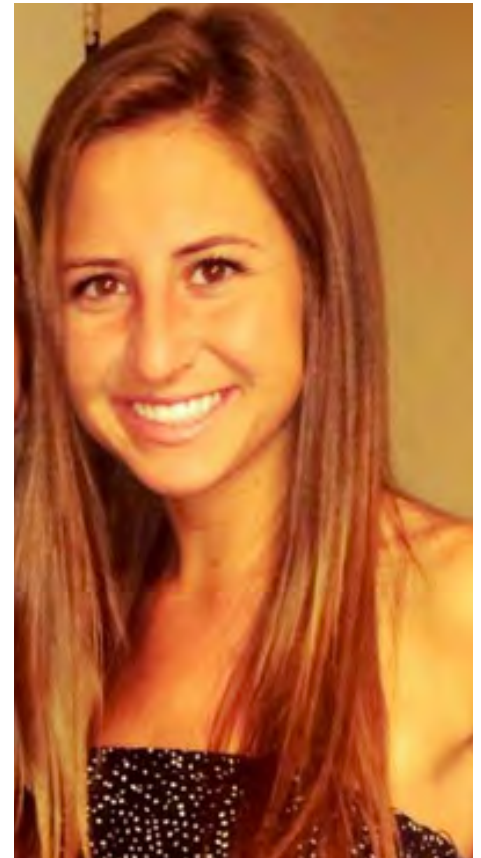
I have always had a passion for language and communication, which is why I chose to pursue a career in public relations. It is also why I chose to become a tutor for WTS.

Although I anticipated that working for WTS would be a positive experience, I never expected to learn and grow as much as I did.

My experience at WTS improved my interpersonal skills, making me more patient and empathic.

It sparked my interest in working with non-native English speakers, leading me to develop strategies for navigating cultural and linguistic barriers.

As a whole, working at WTS has been an extremely rewarding



experience, and I am so grateful to have been a part of such an influential organization.

Lastly, thank you to Laura Plummer and Jo Ann Vogt for giving me the opportunity to participate in the 2015 East Central Writing Centers Association conference.



### Tori Fater

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After graduation, I am going to the *Elkhart Truth* to write full-time as the public safety reporter.

Tutoring at WTS has sharpened my skills, so I can write and edit my own work faster, which is great for working on breaking news.



**Allison Hendrickson**  
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Although I was a tutor for only two semesters, my experience at WTS was one of the most valuable of my four years as an undergrad.

I learned a great deal during my time here, but, for me, the most important thing I learned is the importance of different perspectives.

I think this lesson not only applies to writing in particular, such as recognizing different writing styles and utilizing various critical lenses, but also to the larger context of being open to learning and understanding the different perspectives of people around the world.

I will take this knowledge and everything else I gained from WTS with me as I continue my education here in Bloomington at the Maurer School of Law.

I will be forever grateful to the people I met through WTS—tutees, coworkers, and supervisors—for making this past year a truly enjoyable and rewarding opportunity.



**Megan Foley**  
I'll be somewhere along the sea!  
I'm not sure yet which coast.  
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In giving me the tools to help other students achieve clarity and force in their writing, WTS prepared me more than any of my coursework to enter the professional world.

My years here have been invaluable to me. The friends I've made are life-long, and they have consistently challenged my thinking in the most surprising ways.

WTS as a community was something I never could have expected. I must have had some of the most important conversations of my life with friends and peers here.

With their help, I've managed to lunge (I hope) into adulthood. I won't forget where I started!



**Jordan Goodman**  
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I am a recent graduate of Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music with a B.S. in voice and an outside field in English.

Even before becoming a peer tutor at WTS in 2014, my long-term goal was to become an English teacher.

I have always been interested in the way words convey meaning in all sorts of mediums—from songs to essays on paper.

Talking with students at WTS about their writing compositions and ideas has solidified my desire to teach, and has given me a penchant toward individual writing help that I hope to bring to my classroom of many students.

In June 2015, I will begin a masters and secondary teacher-licensure program at IU's School of Education, and will stay on at WTS as a graduate tutor.

I plan to continue singing and writing children's books about my dog.

# What's better than free pizza?

*Alumnus tutor looks back on four years of Tutor Jamborees and lessons learned*

BY DECKER CAVOSIE

After months of training with my peer tutor class, I was nervous when the famous Tutor Jamboree, in all its free-pizza glory, came in the spring semester of my freshman year.

I had never tutored. I'm not even sure I had been tutored yet. I think I wore khakis and a button up shirt to look professional for my soon-to-be coworkers.

So I didn't know what to expect from my first encounter with WTS staff, both grad tutors and peer tutors.

Of course, my nerves were quickly eased amid the comical banter bouncing around the room, which, as we know, is pretty indicative of how WTS staff socialize with each other.

Since that spring, I've attended the Tutor Jamboree three times, now on the other side of the table as an official tutor, making me four for four in Tutor Jamborees.

Through these years attending Jamborees, I realized many things stay the same—the questions, the banter, the friendliness—but these commonalities acted as a way to gauge my growth as a tutor.

Everyone always anticipates, even relishes, the “worst tutor session ever” question, which invariably evokes laughs, nods of empathy, and wincing of pain, sometimes all at once.

As a baby tutor, I laughed at the anecdotes while hiding some

anxieties that if I were put into these situations, I wouldn't know what to do.

Due to numerous circumstances, I have at least a couple “worst session” tales I could rattle off, but I could also explain what I did to make the best out of these situations, something that comes second nature after Jo Ann's wonderful training program.

The further away I got from the baby tutors' side of the table, the more confident I became in my abilities to deal with these situations, which I imagine is a common experience for everyone.

I'll admit, I thought tutors were putting up some sort of façade at my first Tutor Jamboree—the constant head bobbing, the unanimous answers—everyone's responses seemed too uniform to be authentic.

However, now I realize we tutors really do go through the same experiences, and frequently reach the same conclusions.

We've all dealt with the insecure student, the defensive student, the well-written paper answering the wrong question, the problematic or insensitive language, the grammar-obsessed student.

Methods may vary, but the tutor instinct is powerful and universal among WTS staff. By my last Jamboree, I had at least two stories in mind to support each

tutor's answer. So all the head bobbing was sincere.

The largest commonality between my four Jamborees was the quality of each peer class. Actually, the classes are getting better.

My peer training class was diverse and smart, with many schools and departments represented.

Yet this past class blew mine out of the water, so much so that the Jamboree seemed unnecessary. Of course that's an exaggeration, but those kids are smart.

As a freshman, I was confused by the tutors' calm demeanor in the face of my serious nerves at the prospect of finally tutoring students.

But they were totally right; I've donned the same attitude.

The baby tutors always have great questions, and the staff always provides great answers.

But I can't help but think that, after however many weeks of training, Jo Ann's class spawns these brilliant, self-sufficient tutors who are often nervous but never short of excellence.

Four years from now, many of those tutors will be in the same position as I, years of WTS experience under their belts, undoubtedly better students and better people for it, lamenting the end of their WTS career, the Jamboree, and all that free pizza.

# Our WTS Alumni Directory

*Updated July 6, 2015*

Tutors listed by training year

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Melissa House

Over the years, we've lost contact with many of our friends from WTS as jobs have changed and moves have been made. If you know of a former tutor who's fallen out of touch, please forward this newsletter and have the alum email us at [byourwts@indiana.edu](mailto:byourwts@indiana.edu).

Thanks!



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## SUPPORT WTS!

Have you ever wished you could do more  
for Writing Tutorial Services even after  
leaving IU?

Writing Tutorial Services is an affinity group, just like a greek house or Little 500 team. As tutors, we come together with a common interest and shared pride in our school. (After all, we help our fellow students succeed!)

You can now directly support WTS with a contribution to the IU Foundation. Check out the link on the WTS homepage: [www.indiana.edu/~wts](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts)

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

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