

# NEWSLETTER

After a cozy winter break, the Learning Commons began its second semester! We were able to accomplish so much this semester, much of which will be outlined in this newsletter!

Throughout these pages, you'll hear about our new STEM-writing program, the King Creativity Mural project, our annual Long Night Against Procrastination event, and more!



(King Creativity Mural)

# THE STEM-WRITING PROGRAM

This Spring, we introduced two specialized writing schedules to our DEWC offerings, including the re-introduction of our STEM-Writing program! We first piloted this program back in 2021 with the help of a few knowledgeable consultants from STEM backgrounds. We saw great success with it! However, once these consultants graduated, the program took a more passive role.



**ATTENTION STEM WRITERS**

The DEWC now has a STEM-focused writing schedule! These consultants can help you with the specific conventions of writing in a variety of STEM disciplines!

 Jessie (Bio & Chem)

 Ashten (Psych)

 Chandha (Bio & Chem)

 Allie (Bio)

 Eliana (All STEM)

As we shifted to centralized tutoring, we knew now would be the perfect time to reignite this program for students struggling with STEM-writing. We identified five talented consultants from various disciplines eager to share their knowledge and help the student body! These students can help with lab reports, research papers, literature reviews, research applications, table/figure formatting, and more.

Like our generalist consultants, these STEM-writers are not here to give answers or correct research results but rather help students understand this style of writing and ensure they follow their professors' guidelines. Another fun feature of this program is the inclusion of class visits! Upon request, our STEM-consultants began visiting classrooms and giving lessons on the many facets of STEM-writing.



Written by Figs Figueroa



# THE KING CREATIVITY MURAL

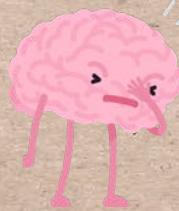
Last fall, a group of Learning Commons tutors and writing consultants began working on a King Creativity project. The King Creativity Fund is an annual opportunity for SU students to pursue innovative and multi-faceted projects. For their project, Kendyl Feuerbacher, Figs Figueroa, Eliana Solis, and Ashten Wheeler, proposed a mural to be displayed in the Tutoring Center. They were inspired to create this mural to help establish a warm, welcoming environment, and provide a sense of identity to the new space. First, the team brainstormed the design, then linework was drawn. Next, four versions of color palettes were created, so that students, staff, and faculty could vote on which color scheme they wanted in the art. Then, the winning color palette was added to the mural. Once the mural was finished in the Spring, it was installed in the Tutoring Center.



The team presented their project at the King Creativity Symposium in March, then at the Research & Creative Works Symposium in April. Those who went to the symposiums were able to learn about the creative process of creating the mural.



The mural depicts our mascots, AP Whiskers and AP Woof, in a cozy room studying together. These fuzzy friends are surrounded by ambient lighting, soothing colors, and academic decor inspired by the atmosphere of the Writing Center. There are even hidden details of items found throughout the Learning Commons within the mural. All of the elements of the mural are meant to create a fun, interactive visual experience for students and express the identity of the Learning Commons through art. Today, visitors can enjoy the mural whether they're in a session, studying, or just stopping by. We hope that you can come and see it too.



Written by Figs Figueroa

April 6th-11th, 2025

# CAPSTONE CRASHOUT



In April, we hosted Capstone Crashout. Capstone Crashout is a week-long writing event encouraging Capstone students to visit the DEWC and work on their papers or presentations. By engaging with our services, students could earn raffle tickets towards our Capstone Survival Kit. Students could earn raffle tickets either by making an appointment with the DEWC, attending a workshop, working in our Accommodations Annex, presenting their Capstone to a consultant, or meeting with a PRC or PAM.

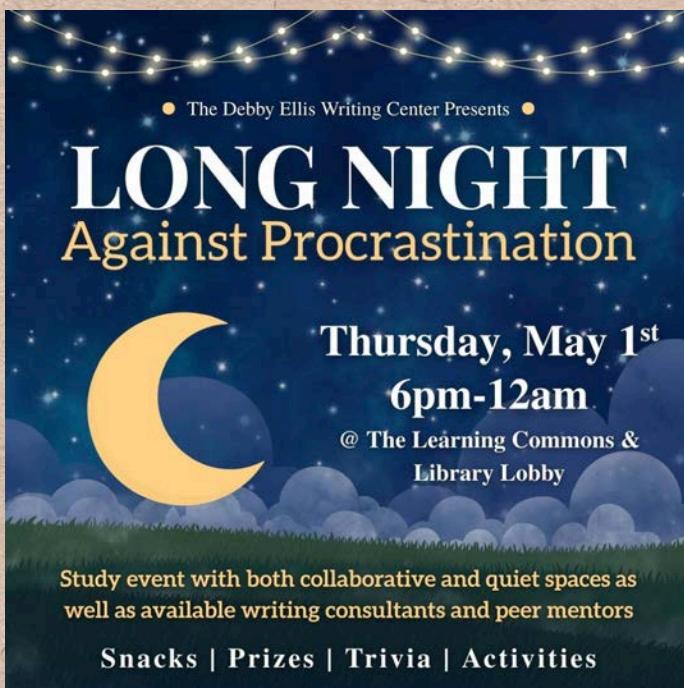
Three consultants hosted workshops to equip students with the skills to succeed in their Capstone. Mack Nixon-Hoxie presented a workshop for music capstones on creating an inclusive repertoire for a jury performance. Alex Murray led a workshop on creating effective capstone presentations, including writing scripts, crafting slideshows, and implementing effective practice strategies. Lastly, Figs Figueroa presented the process of writing scientific literature reviews.



In the end, the winner of our Capstone Survival Kit raffle was Isabella Fernandez! This kit included snacks, an inspirational poster, fidget toys, and other goodies to motivate students during their work. We hope to continue the event for Capstone students each semester and grow as we do!

# LONG NIGHT AGAINST PROCRASTINATION

On May 1st, we hosted our annual Long Night Against Procrastination (LNAP) event. LNAP is a global writing center tradition that first began in 2010 at the European University Viadrina in Germany, to aid students during the turbulent time of finals. LNAP was once an annual event at SU but was halted in 2021, following the pandemic. In 2024, we successfully revived this tradition, seeing 72 students stop by throughout the night. Following this success, we were eager to make this event even better.



Unlike previous year, we were able to host LNAP in house. We designated spaces for specific purposes to benefit student productivity. We hosted trivia and provided snacks in the writing center to help stressed students decompress, offered writing and subject-based support in the Tutoring Center, and maintained a quiet area in the classroom for students to focus on individual tasks.

Despite the multiple specialized areas, this event quickly overflowed our available space with students seeking academic support.



Writing Consultants, Subject Tutors, Peer Academic Mentors, and Peer Research Consultants were available for questions throughout the 6-hour event. We also prompted students to set a goal that they could achieve while enjoying LNAP. We rewarded students for meeting with any academic aids present or achieving their set goal, with a raffle ticket that went towards any of our three prizes. In the end, we had 80 participants! We can't wait to see how LNAP continues to grow at SU.

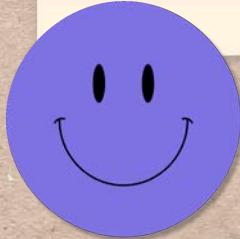
# STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

AMAZING

"Very few people can articulate improvements in such an encouraging and inspiring manner. I have never felt so safe sharing my writing, and I will absolutely return when I need help!"

YOU CAN  
do it!

"I enjoyed that Ashten took the time to hear how I learn, study, and take tests. She used that information to develop various study and test-taking techniques that fit my learning style so I may feel more confident in my knowledge of the learned material. She also provided examples on dry-erase boards to illustrate and demonstrate these new techniques, so I could have a better understanding of how to perform them."



LEARN  
AS YOU  
GROW

Seize  
THE  
Day

"I am so thrilled to feel like I really learned something that I will continue to use in my writing at SU and beyond- I can rewrite my thesis! It was super helpful to read the paper out loud with Emma and have the opportunity to rework the sticky bits. I am leaving feeling much more confident in the paper. Thank you Writing Center!"



"HE EXPLAINED THINGS IN A WAY THAT MADE A LOT MORE SENSE THAN THE PROFESSOR DID SINCE HE UNDERSTOOD AND MORE CLOSELY RELATED TO MY THOUGHT PROCESSES. HE ALSO PROVIDED TIPS FOR NAVIGATING GROUP PROJECT ISSUES I AM HAVING AND GAVE SOME HELPFUL NOTE-TAKING/STUDY TECHNIQUES."

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

*A Milestone Inaugural Year for the Learning Commons*



This past academic year marked a transformative chapter for our university: the official launch of the Professor John Score II Learning Commons as a centralized hub for academic support. While the Debby Ellis Writing Center has long been a cornerstone of student success, the consolidation of tutoring services across campus under the Learning Commons umbrella was a major institutional achievement. This move allowed us to standardize training, streamline operations, and ensure consistent, high-quality support for students in writing and across 17 various academic subjects. In our inaugural year, we welcomed 20 subject tutors to join our seasoned team of writing consultants. Building a cohesive, service-oriented community from the ground up was no small feat. Still, the camaraderie, professionalism, and shared dedication of our student staff made it a joyful and energizing process. Their commitment to helping peers succeed has already made a lasting impact.

Every program, partnership, and interaction this year has been rooted in our mission to provide early, consistent, and accessible academic support. From writing consultations and gateway-course tutoring to study skills workshops, our services are designed not just to respond to challenges, but to proactively scaffold student learning from day one. We emphasize student independence, guiding learners to develop their own techniques and strategies rather than doing the work for them.

With nearly one-third of first-year students engaging with tutoring and over two-thirds accessing writing support, we're proud to be a foundational resource for academic success, and excited for what comes next. I couldn't be prouder of the progress we've made this first year. The Learning Commons is more than a place; it's a growing community of dedicated staff, engaged students, and strategic partners working together to ensure every learner has the tools and confidence to thrive.

***Maurice Wilson  
Director***

