



TRINE UNIVERSITY

TAYLOR HALL TIMES

Department of Humanities & Communication

Remembering Amy Nicholls

HAC to celebrate life of beloved dean with new Writing Center



This October was a time of mourning for Trine University and especially for HAC. On Oct. 11, Jannen School Dean and HAC faculty member Amy Salyer-Nicholls succumbed to cancer.

A 1997 Tri-State English education alumna, Nicholls worked for 15 years as an educator before returning to Taylor Hall. Once there, she quickly rose to department chair, and, in 2016, was promoted to dean of the Jannen School of Arts and Sciences.

“Amy once said that teaching was more than what she did, it was part of who she was. The tremendous impact she has had on the lives of so many Trine

University students bears witness to her passion for higher education,” said Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., Trine University president.

HAC alumna Margaret Delmont seconded this sentiment, saying, “I’m a better person for knowing Amy. She changed my life far more than she knows. It was a privilege to learn from her and to be her friend.”

To celebrate Nicholls’ legacy, Trine University’s Writing Center will be renamed and renovated in her honor. The new center will open in Fall 2019.

HAC colleague and former Writing Center director Sarah Franzen said, “The Writing Center perfectly captures Amy’s passions: It’s about teaching, which honors her connection to the Franks School of Education. It’s about English, which she loved and dedicated her academic career to, but perhaps most importantly, it’s there for every single student across campus, as Amy was every single day she spent at Trine. I can’t think of a more fitting way to remember her.”

Already, approximately \$7,000 has been donated to HAC to fund the project. For more on how you can help us reach our goal of \$15,000, see “Writing the Next Chapter” on Page 2.

SPRING 2019

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 7-9: *The House at Pooh Corner*, presented by the Drama Club, T. Furth Center for Performing Arts, times vary
- April 9: Spring Humanities Symposia, Michelle Blank, 3:30 p.m.
- April 16: HAC Department Awards, 3:30 p.m.
- April 17: HAC Book Night, 5-9 p.m., University Center Mall
- April 27: Earth Fest at Briali Vineyards
- May 4: Commencement, 10 a.m.

For updates, visit trine.edu/hac.

Writing the Next Chapter: Be Part of the Writing Center Project

You remember the Writing Center. Whether you visited it in Taylor, the LINK, or Shambaugh Hall, the Writing Center was the place to go when you needed a little help getting a paper started, hammering out a conclusion, or making it through that last round of proofreading.

For decades, trained peer tutors at the WC have worked to empower student writers and prepare graduates with the communication skills employers need. As the Center enters its next chapter as a living memorial to the legacy of Amy Nicholls, Director Christine Olding has a clear vision of what it can become.

welcome,” said former WC director and HAC colleague Sarah Franzen. “Dr. Olding’s vision of a Center that’s a comfortable place for students to hang out and work collaboratively really resonates with me. It honors Amy’s memory and who she was as a person and educator.”

“Amy Nicholls loved her students and was constantly trying to find ways to give them new opportunities,” said another former WC director, Dr. Alison Witte. “Christine’s idea to honor outstanding tutors with a cash award and to create funds for tutors to attend conferences is something I know Amy would’ve supported.”

“A successful Writing Center is one in which all who come in feel welcome and leave with a higher sense of self-confidence in their ability to communicate effectively.”

“To me, a successful Writing Center is one in which all who come in feel welcome and leave with a higher sense of self-confidence in their ability to communicate effectively,” said Olding. “I didn’t get to know Amy as well as I would have liked, but in the short time I did know her, I got a really good idea of what a Writing Center honoring her legacy should be.”

Those wishing to contribute to the Writing Center can indicate “Writing Center” on their check, or in the “Other” line of their online gift. Mail gifts to Office of Alumni and Development, Trine University, One University, Angola IN 46703, or give online by following the link at trine.edu/gift.

Olding plans to use money raised for the project on three major areas: renovating the space to make it more collaborative and welcoming to students, providing opportunities for student tutors to develop as professionals, and investing in resources that will move the center into the 21st century.

“One of the greatest things about Amy was her ability to make everyone feel

Finally, Olding wants to ensure that the WC has a library of resources students and tutors can access during tutorials.

“In the short time I knew Amy, she always provided me with a helping hand and guidance. She provided me with the resources that I needed to be the best new faculty member possible, and I want to do the same thing for the Trine community,” said Olding.



Vifa McBride, Rebecca Mann and Alaina Sallee wrap books during the Writing Center’s recent Blind Date with a Book event.

COM...Plus?

Communication program gets a major makeover

This semester, the communication faculty have been hard at work on a major overhaul of the COM curriculum. The new program will keep core courses in new media and public relations, but do some arithmetic— a little addition, or “plus,” if you will. The new program, called COM+, will provide every student with a 15-credit hour specialization in a professional area.

Said HAC chair Jeanette Goddard, “After extensive consultation with Trine’s offices of Admission and Marketing and Communication, it was agreed that the COM+ foci will distinguish the communication program from others in the area, giving it a professionally-focused edge that is in keeping with Trine’s mission and appealing to the prospective students we reach.”

The first three + tracks were approved this fall and are below, but many more are in the planning stages. We are also always looking for suggestions and input from our alums about how to make COM better. Have an idea for a + track? Email Dr. Goddard or any of your former HAC faculty and let us know!

COM + Criminal Justice

This COM+ track is of particular interest to students who want to do PR work for law enforcement or who are interested in doing journalism related to the court and legal proceedings. Students who complete this coursework will earn an official Criminal Justice minor.

COM + Sports and Recreation

This COM+ track is of particular interest to students who want to do public relations work for sports and recreation organizations or who are interested in maintaining contact with sports and recreation while pursuing other communication career objectives.

COM + Environment

This interdisciplinary COM+ track draws on biology and civil engineering and should appeal to students who have a passion for conservation and sustainability. State and national parks need communication experts, as do nonprofit conservancy organizations, and the government entities that work to protect our environment. COM+ Environment prepares communication experts for these fields.



HAC Media Team

As alums know, HAC prides itself on providing real-world opportunities for students. This year, the HAC media team has taken that to the next level. Led by HAC minor Lacie Piekarski, the team this year has completely rebuilt the Trine HAC website, so it can be housed under the university’s main site. To get a look at the re-design, meet members of the team, and get all the latest HAC updates, check out trine.edu/hac.

New Kids in the Hall: Meet the New HAC Hires!

Andy Brown will join the HAC faculty in the communication program in fall 2019 and join the Trine Broadcasting Network as the new voice of football and basketball. Andy has been a high school football coach and English teacher for past 22 years and taught part-time at Jackson College and Hillsdale College for the past 10 years. He has been the radio voice of Hillsdale College football and men's and women's basketball for the past 20 years.

Andy is excited for his new role: "I am so happy to be part of what is happening at Trine. The HAC faculty is outstanding, and I look forward to joining them as part of a department on the rise. I am also thrilled to be calling Trine sports starting in the fall. Trine students interested in broadcasting have access to state-of-the-art equipment and a full slate of live events to cover, both on- and off camera. I look forward to working with these students most of all."

When Andy isn't working he loves reading, attending concerts and watching his kids play sports. Andy lives in Hillsdale with his wife Carie and their three sons.



Jennifer Royston signed on with HAC in the English program in fall 2018. Like Andy Brown, Royston originally taught high school, but left to pursue a master's degree in Shakespearean literature and then decided to work toward a doctorate in Renaissance literature. Throughout, Royston never lost her love for teaching.

"I love interacting with students, and I am consistently energized by teaching. Every student is

unique and knows more about certain topics than the rest of us; we can all learn from each other and I find that exciting," she said.

"I also feel very fortunate to be surrounded by such interesting, talented and intelligent people in my home Department of Humanities and Communication. The Trine community as a whole is wonderful to work with."

Outside of teaching, Royston enjoys international travel and interior design, and (perhaps most of all) hanging out with her dog, Bonnie. Bonnie has yet to make her first visit to Taylor Hall, but HAC chair Jeanette Goddard assures us it will happen soon!

Christine Olding: Dr. Olding's passion for writing and teaching is fueled by her love of music. "Since I began teaching at the college level in 2012, I have made it my mission to intertwine my love of writing and music in the classroom," Olding said.

Before obtaining her master's in creative writing, Olding did a year of national service with City Year, a branch of AmeriCorps.

"My passion for national service was sparked during my undergraduate career, when I participated in a summer AmeriCorps program by teaching at a literacy center in the Dayton area. As a native Daytonian, I realized how much I enjoyed giving back to my community, and have made it an aspect of my life mission to continue to give back through service," she said.

Olding is finishing her doctorate in literacy, rhetoric and social practice from Kent State University. Her dissertation focuses on sound studies and the composing processes of musicians. When she's not dissertating, you can find her hanging out with her guinea pig, Iggy, and poodle, Einstein.

