

# Jill & Julie

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

writing, center, msu, patti, remember, people, students, laughter, brody, conference, jill, classes, sharon, graduate student, graduate, conversations, beginning, offices, appointments, moved

## SPEAKERS

Grace Pregent, Julie Bevins, Nicholas Buonanni, Colton Wansitler, Jill Reglin

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- G

**Grace Pregent** 00:03  
Okay, great. Thank you so much for being here. This is February 28, 2020. And I'm Grace Pregent. I'm the Associate Director in the Writing Center at MSU.
- J

**Julie Bevins** 00:17  
I'm Julie Bevins. I coordinate the Writing Center at Aquinas College.
- J

**Jill Reglin** 00:21  
And I'm Jill Reglin. I'm the lead faculty for the Writing Studio at Lansing Community College.
- N

**Nicholas Buonanni** 00:26  
I am Nicholas Buonanni, and I am a graduate coordinator at the Michigan State Writing Center.
- C

**Colton Wansitler** 00:33  
And I'm Colton, and I am also a graduate coordinator at Michigan State University.
- G

**Grace Pregent** 00:40  
I know we're not going to keep this air of formality for the whole time.
- J

**Jill Reglin** 00:43  
.....

And I was hoping you'd say your name because I always-

**C** Colton Wansitler 00:45  
Wansitler

**J** Jill Reglin 00:47  
Wansitler. Just how it looks. Okay.

**G** Grace Pregent 00:50  
Well, great. Thank you two for being our first in a series of many interviews. We don't have to touch upon all of these questions, but we'll work through them and spend a little time with the ones that make most sense for us. Ee tried to have a very, like, comprehensive range of questions considering the people we're going to be talking to and are bringing to the table. But, let's begin at the beginning. Tell us about when you worked at the center.


**J** Jill Reglin 01:14  
A very good place to start. I know, I go back and look at my CV to remind myself. Because I've been at LCC for 23 years now, and I was at Mott before. I mean, this is like ancient history, but it feels like it was yesterday. But um, I started there in 1992, before we had a writing center. There was no budget or physical space for it when I was hired, but there magically was a few weeks later. And I worked there for five- from '92 to '97.


**G** Grace Pregent 01:44  
Okay.


**J** Jill Reglin 01:45  
And yes...


**G** Grace Pregent 01:46  
So you started before there was a center?


**J** Jill Reglin 01:48  
Yeah, I mean, just before. Yeah. Yeah.


 Julie Bevins 01:52  
What did they even call that space? Because I came in in '93.


 Jill Reglin 01:55  
Mm hmm.


 Julie Bevins 01:56  
And my understanding is, I was the first Writing- officially Writing Center assistants, we were calling them graduate assistants at the time.


 Jill Reglin 02:05  
We were in Brody Hall.


 Julie Bevins 02:07  
Yup, like, the basement.


 Jill Reglin 02:10  
Yeah, we were kind of spread out. Remember? And our offices were all the way around the other side of the horseshoe upstairs?


 Julie Bevins 02:15  
Right, I remember like coming down this dark hallway. But there were windows!


 Grace Pregent 02:19  
Did it start in Brody? I heard a whisper that it started in a building...


 Jill Reglin 02:22  
Yep. In Brody Hall.


 Grace Pregent 02:24  
In another building.


 Nicholas Buonanni 02:25  
Now, this was pre-renovation.


 Jill Reglin 02:26  
Yes. Totally different.


 Julie Bevins 02:27  
Oh, yeah.


 Jill Reglin 02:28  
Yeah. And the Writing Center. I mean, the area where we work with students was in a large classroom, and then the Writing Center offices were kind of, like, across the hall and down the way and then graduate student offices were like, in a remote part of the building upstairs. I don't think I ever even went there.


 Jill Reglin 02:45  
Did you ever have an office up there?


 Julie Bevins 02:45  
I don't think I ever-


 Julie Bevins 02:47  
We just hung out in the major- Ah, maybe I went there every once in a while. But we worked in a major area.


 Jill Reglin 02:52  
Yeah.


 Julie Bevins 02:53  
When I think of working there, with us, I think of moving chairs like this, and just like sliding around the room.


 Grace Pregent 02:59  
That's what we still do half the time.


 Jill Reglin 03:01  
Yeah, chair walking.


 Grace Pregent 03:04  
I heard a rumor that started in the building that is now torn down... the writing center. Maybe they mean- Maybe they referred to renovations of Brody that have just transformed the state.


 Jill Reglin 03:14  
Maybe. Yeah. Okay. It looks nothing like it did then.


 Julie Bevins 03:18  
Because it was really- Before there was a writing center at Brody, and then you and me and the Writing Center. It was called the Writing Center in Brody. I think the next year we moved.

 Jill Reglin 03:28  
Yeah, we weren't there.

 Grace Pregent 03:29  
For Bessie?

 Julie Bevins 03:30  
Yeah.

 Grace Pregent 03:30  
Okay. Okay.

 Julie Bevins 03:31  
And it's the same space that I visited the other day.

**G** Grace Pregent 03:34  
It was so great to see Julie, like, back in the space. And having them, yeah, return.

**J** Julie Bevins 03:38  
Have you been over there?

**C** Colton Wansitler 03:39  
Yeah.

**J** Julie Bevins 03:40  
Oh, yeah.

**J** Jill Reglin 03:40  
So it looks a lot different.

**J** Julie Bevins 03:42  
Yes.

**C** Colton Wansitler 03:43  
But it's been that same room since after the first year. So yeah.

**J** Jill Reglin 03:46  
Yup, since we moved out of Brody Hall, it's been in that 300 Bessey. The same, the same place.

**G** Grace Pregent 03:50  
Were you in the conversations about starting the Center?

**J** Jill Reglin 03:53  
Yeah, I mean, yes, I have- My first encounter with any of it was I- I was moving into my apartment in East Lansing, and I needed a job. And I- and I had been a writing tutor at Alma College where I went as an undergraduate, and I thought, "I wonder if the English department has a writing tutor." And I went over

undergraduate and I thought, "I wonder if the English department hires writing tutors." And I went over there, and they were super excited like, "Oh my gosh, there's two people down the hall right now talking about this," and they're, "You have Writing Center experience?" and "They're going to open a writing center in a few weeks." And so like I was- I had, like, cobwebs in my hair and nasty looking, like middle of moving, and they walked me down the hall and were like, "Okay, here are the two people," and it was Sherry Thomas and Patty Stock. And they were getting ready to open the Writing Center in a few weeks, and they hired me on the spot because I had done writing tutoring before and done some reading about it. But yeah, we- I don't know what your first encounter was, but we assembled that that initial core team of people and we really just, we rolled up our sleeves and did a lot of reading and talking and, you know...

J

Julie Bevins 05:02

I came in after it had just begun, so you would have started the conversation. And I graduate from the University of Toledo with my master's and applied for a Ph. D. program at MSU and made a phone call and asked about graduate assistance, assistantships and said I was interested in composition studies. I didn't even know what I was talking about.

G

Grace Pregent 05:22

We never do.

J

Julie Bevins 05:24

Sharon Thomas called me back and said, "Would you be interested in interviewing for a position in the Writing Center?" I'm like, I have no idea what a writing center is, but yes! So I traveled to MSU and met Patti and Sharon, and it was- it was wonderful. We just- they were still forming. And then we hit the ground running. They were, let's read "The Idea of a Writing Center." That's where we started and, really, they were still developing the philosophy and the mission and the practices. There was a- I remember us working at it. There wasn't one defined but we certainly revised it.

G

Grace Pregent 06:02

That's so fun. It's so weird to be in on, likem the first- the groundwork. Right?

J

Jill Reglin 06:07

Yeah.

G


Grace Pregent 06:07


Like, forming a writing center now- it's so weird to do that. So I'm very excited to hear your story.


J

Jill Reglin 06:11


And the funny thing is, I didn't realize really until years later what a big deal Patty Stock was.

 Julie Bevins 06:17  
Oh, yeah.


 Jill Reglin 06:17  
I mean, she was just Patty to us. And, you know, I mean, she was there all the time, and we chat every morning, you know, and- And it was like, a few years later that I realized what a- what a big deal she was in the world of comp studies, and she became the president of NCTE. And I was like, wow. You know? I didn't realize I was working with greatness all this time, but she just treated us like we were her- her equals and her partners and...


 Julie Bevins 06:42  
It was really amazing, she was a mentor, and she treated us like colleagues. And kind of like a mom, too. She was really good to us.

 Jill Reglin 06:49  
Yeah, yeah. And Sherry as well. For sure. Yeah

 Julie Bevins 06:53  
And then after that, not too long after that: Laura Julier and Janet Swenson.

 Grace Pregent 06:58  
Janet Swenson is familiar. That name, Laura, I've heard.

 Julie Bevins 07:03  
Four key people over in Bessey.

 Jill Reglin 07:05  
Janet was a graduate assistant like we were but then she quickly moved up into the ranks of- I think she's a full time administrator now at LCC- or, at MSU. What-

 Julie Bevins 07:16

'Cause wasn't she English ed? Because I talked to her a lot about the portfolio project and- Laura was teaching and-

J Jill Reglin 07:17  
She might be like a dean now.

J Julie Bevins 07:30  
Yeah, I think she is.

J Jill Reglin 07:31  
Yeah Laura retired-

J Julie Bevins 07:33  
Laura is retired, though, I think.

J Jill Reglin 07:34  
Yeah, I think she just retired.

G Grace Pregent 07:36  
You mentioned where the locations- Locations, location.

J Julie Bevins 07:39  
Sorry, we're getting off.

G Grace Pregent 07:40  
No, no, you're great. This is great. This is very good. I'm just trying to respect everybody's time but this is great. What services did you start with when you first opened?

J Julie Bevins 07:50  
Walk-ins. Just walk-ins.



Jill Reglin 07:51

One-on-one appointments, mostly. I did a few workshops that we would take to classrooms.



Julie Bevins 07:58

Because at the beginning a lot of it was like, "Hi, we're in your classroom to tell you, "This is the writing center. This is what we do. This is why we're here. Come see us."



Jill Reglin 08:06

Yeah. And then I don't think it was right at the beginning, but we did a classroom workshop on peer response writing groups, and one on reading complicated texts.



Julie Bevins 08:16

Yeah, oh that's right.



Jill Reglin 08:18

I think those were our two, like-



Julie Bevins 08:19

I completely forgot about that one!



Jill Reglin 08:21

And we would go to different classrooms in different buildings on campus. Yeah.



Julie Bevins 08:26

And then we did a fishbowl, which is where I fell in love with ink shedding. And I've never stopped using it never. It's one of the best "get at it," thematizing...



Jill Reglin 08:38

Yeah, yeah. But it was mostly- I don't know, did we even do appointments? It was mostly was walk-in.



Julie Bevins 08:42

It was walk-in, and it was hard copy feedback forms, like paper.



Nicholas Buonanni 08:46

Yeah. I was gonna say, I mean there was probably no internet advertising because that was the beginning of the internet. I remember getting my first computer in, like, '96.



Jill Reglin 08:58

Yup. Yeah.



Nicholas Buonanni 08:59

And so I was going to say, it was probably all just posters or going to classrooms and stuff.



Julie Bevins 09:04

And you were living in East Lansing, but I was living in Grand Rapids. And I remember that we would communicate with each other via email, but it was the modem where you had to, like, plug in your phone and it made this kkkkkkk. We write, like collaboratively write, side by side when we were in the center and then continue it via email. It was a time lag.



Jill Reglin 09:28

Yeah.



Julie Bevins 09:29

The impatience I have now. Oh, my god



Jill Reglin 09:31

Oh I know, yeah. Yeah.



Julie Bevins 09:34

It's so much better than it used to be.



Grace Pregent 09:36

Google Docs has changed how we work

J Jill Reglin 09:38  
Oh, yes. Yeah.

J Julie Bevins 09:39  
I just remember, looking at who was on the leadership team, I cannot remember exactly the association. But there were a couple of other grad students who slid in and out, like some guy named Michael.

J Jill Reglin 09:48  
Hmm.

J Julie Bevins 09:49  
Remember him? He might have just been doing a study for a project.

J Jill Reglin 09:54  
I remember- I think there were, like, maybe six or eight of us graduate students. Bill McCall.


N Nicholas Buonanni 10:00  
Oh, right. Oh, and then Chris Service, who died? Yes.


J Jill Reglin 10:04  
Yes. And then the really tall-


J Julie Bevins 10:07  
She did. She had- Oh my goodness. The really tall guy.


J Jill Reglin 10:11  
Tom?


J Julie Bevins 10:12  
Tom! That was Tom something. Tom Tall.


 Grace Pregent 10:14  
You two are great. Did you seem them blend together? And then they would do this. Yes. Perfect. Perfect.


 Jill Reglin 10:20  
Yeah. Yeah. Well, yeah. And I'm looking around the room. There was another woman. This woman-

 Julie Bevins 10:27  
This is Brody, we're thinking still.


 Jill Reglin 10:29  
Way back in the year one.


 Julie Bevins 10:31  
Bill McCall, where is that guy?

 Jill Reglin 10:33  
He then started the Writing Center- Well, he did- he laid all the groundwork for starting the writing center here.

 Julie Bevins 10:38  
Right.

 Jill Reglin 10:38  
And then he went to Lincoln Land Community College in Illinois.

 Julie Bevins 10:42  
Lincoln Land?

 Jill Reglin 10:42  
And I think he's still there. I don't know, I lost track of him a long time ago.



Julie Bevins 10:46

I remember having some brainstorming sessions with him. He was a good thinker.



Jill Reglin 10:50

Bill McCall. M C C A L L. Yup, yeah.



Nicholas Buonanni 10:53

Do you remember, like, how frequently you all were open, or what types of hours that were held, or...?



Jill Reglin 11:01

It seems like we're open from, like- We had evening hours like maybe 9 to 8pm or something.



Julie Bevins 11:08

Yeah, yeah.



Jill Reglin 11:09

Four days a week. Did we have Saturday off?



Julie Bevins 11:11

Because we- Not at first, not over in Brody, but we did have evening hours. Because that was helpful to me. So I was there like three days a week, like all day.



Jill Reglin 11:22

Yeah.




Grace Pregent 11:23


Right from the beginning, we had evening hours?





Nicholas Buonanni 11:26

But they were all held in Bessey.


 Grace Pregent 11:28  
In Brody.


 Julie Bevins 11:29  
Brody.


 Jill Reglin 11:31  
One- One spot.


 Nicholas Buonanni 11:33  
But then it's continued in Bessey.


 Julie Bevins 11:35  
Right.

 Jill Reglin 11:35  
Yeah.

 Julie Bevins 11:36  
I was there for a year and I think you had started before I got there. So I'm thinking two years in Brody.

 Jill Reglin 11:41  
Two years in Brody. Yeah. It wasn't very long.

 Julie Bevins 11:44  
And by the time we moved over to Bessey, we were collecting a cohort of undergrads.

 Colton Wansitler 11:48  
Yes. Yup.

J Julie Bevins 11:50  
But I don't-

G Grace Pregent 11:51  
Was it all graduate students originally? (pause) Wait, it started in the English department with graduate-

J Jill Reglin 11:58  
Yeah, and then- Did we have- There were students in some kind of higher level English ed courses: 313 and 408?

J Julie Bevins 12:06  
Yes. And Patti is going to be really helpful to you in this because she had a vision. I remember talking about it. From the beginning, she was like, it's going to be undergrad. It's going to be cross-disciplinary. But I don't think we had 'em yet. She was still forming how to make it professional.

J Jill Reglin 12:20  
Yeah. Yeah.

G Grace Pregent 12:20  
I knew that was always the vision. When you think of the Writing Center at MSU's history, what comes to mind?

J Jill Reglin 12:31  
Other than that we're old. (Laughter)

G Grace Pregent 12:38  
It's a young history.

J Jill Reglin 12:40  
I mean, I guess now like-

J

J Julie Bevins 12:42  
Experience.

J Jill Reglin 12:42  
Yeah. There you go. Looking back now, I just think about what a great honor it was to be involved in getting that up and running, like, on the ground floor of things and what a, you know, what a well-recognized, well-respected, writing center it's become, like any international writing centers seem. And little did we know at the time what we were having a hand in creating, you know. And I think even now, even though it was 100 years ago that I- that we worked there, I mean, we still have close connections with you all at the MSU Writing Center. I'm still in constant contact with, you know, Trixie and Diana before that, and trading ideas and collaborating. And when we can say here at LCC, you know, we talked to the folks at MSU about this, there's some respect attached to that. Still, you know- And it's, you know, being able to say, "Well, I was I was one of those people back at the very beginning," is kind of like almost a badge of honor for me now, I think, you know.


J Julie Bevins 13:40  
Yeah. When you asked, "What do I think of when I think of the history of the writing center? Collaboration is the first word that comes to mind. And praxis? It's-


J Jill Reglin 13:48  
YWe had a publication called that.


J Julie Bevins 13:50  
Yes. And it was always that: the intersection of theory and praxis, practice. And wow! The vision that Patti and Sharon had, it's never died. It's just taken on new life. I got from the beginning the idea that we were building something and that we were always going to be building it. And I certainly have taken that with me and, from everything I've seen and heard from you, same with you. So have you. It's um, very collaborative, not static. So as- And really you can see what has happened at MSU, and what has happened at LCC and what's happened at Aquinas. We've borrowed that. So it's this constant living intersection of theory and practice. And we're open to whatever parties come into play.


G Grace Pregent 13:52  
You're gonna write the time right now, right?

N Nicholas Buonanni 14:17  
That's what I was doing.

 Grace Pregent 14:34  
We're gonna get this clip.

 Nicholas Buonanni 14:44  
That's what I was gonna do. I was-


 Grace Pregent 14:45  
I know- I was looking at the time-


 Nicholas Buonanni 14:47  
Oh, this was all so good.


 Julie Bevins 14:51  
Was I just accidentally awesome there? (laughter)

 Julie Bevins 15:01  
That's why conversations happen in our writing.

 Jill Reglin 15:03  
That was a mic drop moment.

 Grace Pregent 15:05  
We should do all the interviews in series of pairs, seriously.


 Jill Reglin 15:09  
You know, are you going to interview Sharon Thomas as well?

 Grace Pregent 15:13  
Well, one of the questions later is, is there anyone else we should be speaking with?

 .... - .. - - - -

 Jill Reglin 15:17


Definitely her.

 Grace Pregent 15:18

I was gonna ask you and also, if you think of anyone at the time on campus or even clients or anyone who can think of, if you think we should try to- So that's definitely a conversation we're happy to have with you, to get recommendations.

 Jill Reglin 15:30

She is in Las Cruces, New Mexico now.

 Grace Pregent 15:32


Yes, that's right.

 Jill Reglin 15:33

But you should lobby for-

 Julie Bevins 15:36

Flying out there. Yeah. Oh, yes.

 Grace Pregent 15:39

Or Zoom. We can always-

 Julie Bevins 15:40


I don't think you could do this without Sharon and Patti. No, no.


 Jill Reglin 15:43

Oh, yeah. I'll tell you something interesting when we get done with the microphones later, too.


 Grace Pregent 15:47


Side note! Remind Jill!

 Jill Reglin 15:51  
My real favorite story!

 Julie Bevins 15:54  
What happens at the conference, stays in the-.


 Jill Reglin 15:58  
Or least doesn't get recorded.

 Grace Pregent 16:00  
I'm looking through. Okay, yeah. Significant achievements from- in the center, or outreach programs that were significant from the beginning... a favorite story you might have that you can tell while we're recording, Jill.

 Julie Bevins 16:16  
I don't know if it's my favorite or like specifically an outreach, but because I just said the word conferences: I was amazed from the beginning - and I've also learned to carry this forward - at how invested Patti and Sharon were in getting their forming consultants out. So like, International Writing Center Association Conference, and- That was the big one.

 Jill Reglin 16:37  
So we predated the International Writing Centers Association. Yeah.

 Julie Bevins 16:41  
What was-

 Jill Reglin 16:41  
It was the NWCA.

 Julie Bevins 16:41  
Was it four C's?

G Grace Pregent 16:42  
I didn't-

J Julie Bevins 16:43  
NWCA, that's it.

G Grace Pregent 16:44  
It's 40 years old. I did not-

J Jill Reglin 16:45  
NWCA.

G Grace Pregent 16:46  
Yeah, I think. Yeah, I think.

J Jill Reglin 16:48  
It was the National Writing Centers Association that we went to. So that conference in New Orleans-

J Julie Bevins 16:53  
Hey. (laughter)

J Jill Reglin 16:53  
Right.

J Julie Bevins 16:56  
That's right. And then we took undergrads to- I know we had to pass through Atlanta because one of our consultants you asked, "Were there things-" There's a later question about stuff that was happening in history at the time. I cannot remember her name. But she was terrified to stop to get gas on the way to the conference, because it was in Atlanta. And she was, she was African American. And she was very concerned about- that would be something that happened to her physically. And the rest of the car. Were all like, wow. We, I mean - on fumes - passed through to get it somewhere else. It was really an incredible conversational moment. And I don't know. It was- she was terrified. So um, but the thing about that is, we,

grad students, took these students cross-country to the conference. Hmm. And I remember Laura- But do you remember? It used to be triptychs. Okay. There was no inner view. Do you guys know what triptychs are?

**J** Jill Reglin 17:57

They're little strips of map that you flip through like every 17 miles that you drive or something. It's like having a Google Map in paper form.

**J** Julie Bevins 18:05

Like we did the whole thing. We got students to commit to go to the conference, we helped them write a proposal, we presented, and we got some students to present. What, we had, like, we were super organized, and we're like, "Okay, now we're gonna go," and we're like, "Here's the day and the time we're gonna meet." Everything was paid for, you know? And Laura's, like, "How are you getting there?" And I'm like, "A map?" She goes, "Ah! you're taking children!" So she made us call AAA, which- It hadn't occurred to me.

**J** Jill Reglin 18:13

And get a triptych.

**J** Julie Bevins 18:35

You know, so that we knew where- Because there's no GPS, there was no- I don't know what we thought we were-

**N** Nicholas Buonanni 18:39

We always had an atlas in the back of the car, and that was your job if you were-

**G** Grace Pregent 18:42

You had a highlighter and you would-

**J** Jill Reglin 18:44

Yeah, I think we- I know we went to a conference in Birmingham, Alabama. Right? And did we go to one in Pittsburgh? Or was that, like,

**J** Julie Bevins 18:55

Uh, you went to the one in Pittsburgh.

J Jill Reglin 18:56  
Yeah.

J Julie Bevins 18:56  
I don't think I-

J Jill Reglin 18:57  
And I don't even think I was working at-

J Julie Bevins 19:00  
It's hard to remember. It all starts to blur now. I do remember New Orleans. It was just you and me the first night.

J Jill Reglin 19:05  
That was one of the funniest stories that comes to mind.

J Julie Bevins 19:09  
No, no. This is my "Patty is a mom."

J Jill Reglin 19:12  
Yeah, Julie and I, I think Sherry and/or Patty were supposed to go to this conference originally, but something happened because the two of us ended up going to the very first National Writing Centers Association conference in New Orleans. And they- they unintentionally put us up in kind of a seedy hotel and sort of, you know, kind of a scary part of town. And we got there the first night, and we were scared. We were literally-

J Jill Reglin 19:33  
-scared to leave our room and there was like- We ended up moving the furniture up against the door because there was somebody like beating on our door and we were just like, scared all night. We woke up the next morning and we called someone in the Writing Center were like, "We got to get out of here." And so they moved us to the conference hotel, but I just remember that first night there, just like being afraid to leave.



Julie Bevins 19:33

We were scared to leave our room.



Julie Bevins 19:35

Which, and I don't know how they did it. Actually, it would be- Now that I'm older, it's entirely possible - I have no idea we should ask Patti, I should ask them - maybe they paid for it. Because you know, it had already been fund- I have no idea how the money-



Grace Pregent 20:07

Yes.



Jill Reglin 20:07

Yeah.



Julie Bevins 20:07

I remember we just walked over there with our baggage. Really nice hotel.



Jill Reglin 20:11

Yeah. And that was like- We met, you know, a lot of people at that conference who are now still, you know, big, big names, all the people whose stuff we had been reading with Patti Stock in this little room and discussing Writing Center theory were at this conference. And we were kind of like, Whoa, you know. I don't think Steven North was there, but...



Julie Bevins 20:28

I do remember being very odd, though.




Jill Reglin 20:30


Yeah. Yeah.





Julie Bevins 20:31


Almost wide-eyed, like, kinda-


 Jill Reglin 20:34  
Yeah, yeah.


 Julie Bevins 20:37  
I took so many notes, which I was like, I'm not even really listening. I'm just awe and starstruck.


 Jill Reglin 20:44  
The other I think really significant thing that we did- It started that first year, because I remember doing it in Brody Hall, was we started the Michigan Writing Centers Association. Like, the very first year that that the MSU Writing Center opened, Patti and Shari were really big on, "Go find out what other people are doing." And we were interested in, "Well, I wonder how many other writing centers there are in the state, and what do they do, and what do they look like, and what institutions are they in?" So we, as graduate students, came up with this idea. And they were like, "Yeah, yeah, go do that." There was a whole- there was a lot of like, just trust and like, you'll find stuff and so, um-


 Julie Bevins 21:20  
Jill was very humble. We did have a lot of conversations about it, but Jill made it happen. There is a Michigan Writing Center Association Conference, because of you.

 Jill Reglin 21:29  
But there was another graduate student, Emily, remember her last name? She and I were the ones who kind of got that at the ball.

 Julie Bevins 21:37  
What is Emily's last name?

 Jill Reglin 21:39  
I don't remember.

 Julie Bevins 21:39  
I can see her face.

 Jill Reglin 21:40  
Right.



Julie Bevins 21:41

And Jen Dawson came in there somewhere. She's now faculty at Aquinas.



Jill Reglin 21:46

Oh, yeah, I remember that name.



Julie Bevins 21:48

She's in Ireland now. Otherwise, I would have dragged her with me. Although, she was several years into the Writing Center. Okay, yeah, um, she was a grad assistant.



Grace Pregent 21:57

Well, this question is my- is my favorite one. Not to be biased, but, during your time at the Center did any significant world, political, or university events occur? And can you remember the Center's approach or response? I'm trying to think of that time there. '92 to '97, '93 to '97.



Jill Reglin 22:18

Geez.



Julie Bevins 22:23

I had my first child. (Laughter) Everything else sort of paled in comparison...



Grace Pregent 22:31

You had all of your children right here, right? In grad school?



Julie Bevins 22:35

Yup. Pretty much. Except for the baby-



Jill Reglin 22:36

In fact, she was born in the courtyard in Bessey Hall. (laughter)

**G** Grace Pregent 22:40  
This is how myths start. This lore, right here.

**J** Julie Bevins 22:43  
I do remember that Patti knew, because I was early pregnant, and I would literally fall asleep. This is not what you want to talk about. But I would be falling asleep in that little clapped off area that was the grad offices. And then I pulled Patti aside. She was also my dissertation director. And I'm like, "I need to tell you something." She goes, "You're pregnant." I love you, Patti! Yes, yes, I am. Was it the drool? I can't think of the world-

**J** Jill Reglin 23:12  
I know.

**G** Grace Pregent 23:13  
If you can't, that's fine. We just want to make sure that we're trying to situate the Center, right? In the larger-

**J** Jill Reglin 23:16  
Yeah. And this wasn't a university event, but I do remember a significant English department event that didn't directly involve the Writing Center, but a lot of our graduate students. There was a graduate student who committed suicide.

**J** Julie Bevins 23:32  
Oh thats right

**J** Jill Reglin 23:32  
Because they were accused of plagiarizing a dissertation. And I believe that the spouse of that graduate student - they were both graduate students - it came out that they had written, or were involved in there, had written large chunks of it. And so that was just a really- I don't- I never really knew those two people very well. But it was a kind of a dark time in some ways in the English department that sort of trickled over into the Writing Center, just of people being really deeply affected by that, you know.

**J** Julie Bevins 24:08  
How could I forgotten that? That was significant. We had- We did have many conversations in the Writing Center about plagiarism and about addressing, like, the personal aspect of writing and academic integrity. Yeah, that's right. Oh, that was hard, actually. And our grad classes talked about it because you were a

student too. So we were taking-



Jill Reglin 24:36

Yeah, okay. It kind of- Yeah. It came up in a lot of different contexts. Yeah.



Julie Bevins 24:40

But I didn't know either of those people, actually.



Jill Reglin 24:42

I remember their names, but I didn't ever know them. Yeah. Yeah, that's kind of-



Julie Bevins 24:48

We took a lot with that one.



Jill Reglin 24:49

Let's go back to the baby. (laughter)



Julie Bevins 24:53

You- Were you working on a particular project at the time? Because what I think of is what was personal to me, which was the portfolio project, because I spent four years getting to know students from the freshman year to graduation and beyond. And we asked them to collect.



Jill Reglin 25:10

Yes.



Julie Bevins 25:11

And like, as in hard files, collect everything they were writing.



Jill Reglin 25:16

Yup.



J Julie Bevins 25:16

Everything, not just academic papers, but no, sir. We invited them to keep everything. And then we'd invite them in a couple of times a year and record them - not this fancy - discussing their writing.

G Grace Pregent 25:32

Hmm.

J Julie Bevins 25:33

We did that for four years. And then there- we had conference presentations and did some writing about it. It was amazing. And I handed it off when I left to Marian Sherby, who, her dissertation was all about it. And I know Sharon kept working with it because she and I- A lot of really cool things came out of it. Yeah.

J Jill Reglin 25:55

Yeah, you were more deeply involved in that than I was, but I do remember coming to some of those meetings with the students and things. Yeah, that was a really cool project.

J Julie Bevins 26:04

I think - Patti would remember this better - I think it was, if not the first, one of the first longitudinal indepth studies of collegiate writing. It was- it was amazing. Yeah. And then of course, I fell in love with the students.

J Jill Reglin 26:22

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. When you talk to student writers over four years of their experience, yeah.

G Grace Pregent 26:31

In terms of culture, one key value or practice that has been or was a constant at the Center from the beginning?

J Jill Reglin 26:40

I keep coming back to that whole- the collaboration. You know? It never felt like an administrative, top-down, "Here's what we're going to do now, and here's what we need you graduate students to get out there and do." It was- Maybe it was because of the time when we worked there right at the beginning, but it did feel like we were involved in inventing things from the ground up.

J Julie Bevins 27:00

J Julie Bevins 27:00

Inventing, that's good. And conversation. And relationship, which I guess is really tied to collaboration, right? But it's very relational, very conversational. There was always an emphasis on the person.

J Jill Reglin 27:12

Yeah.

J Julie Bevins 27:14

I still talk about this with our consultants now, which is: a writer is a person. (laughter) At the risk of sounding, like, "No duh!" But it really matters. You know, it's easy to get text matters, obviously. We work with text, but this text, if we talk about voice, it's attached to a human. And so it's very relational, which is why what we do in the Writing Center, a consultation requires conversation. And every text represents a conversation. I'm writing with many voices and we're intersecting and then I'm writing to someone, someones. It's just- so the relationship is big. I was really glad that Patty was always about face-to-face. And that's not to like say there's no place for an online consultations and all- that kind of thing. But I- this is me, I think if we lose this, like the physical presence, we- that we- That's just a huge loss. I can't even articulate it.

G Grace Pregent 28:18

Even online is still synchronous, you know? There is no asynchronous consulting-

J Jill Reglin 28:22

Yes, yes.

G Grace Pregent 28:23

at this Writing Center, which could be kind of a connection to that same spirit.

J Jill Reglin 28:27

And there was a recognition- I mean, yeah, it was the whole Stephen North, like, you know, you're working with not just the writing, but the writer, and there was a recognition that- that those conversations took a significant period of time. I remember, right from the beginning, we went with like, 50 minute appointments, I think, and I think that was really significant. Because the idea was, as it is now, to get to know the writer and where the writing came from and what the goals were and, you know, never just kind of, "Oh, let me see your your paper here."

J Julie Bevins 28:56

Actually, I forgot that we talked a lot about time. How long are your consultations at MSU now?



Grace Pregent 29:01

It depends on the location.



Nicholas Buonanni 29:03

50 minutes is, like, the main-



Colton Wansitler 29:04

Thirty, fifty...



Grace Pregent 29:05

There are some two hours.



Colton Wansitler 29:06

...hour and 50...



Jill Reglin 29:07

Oh, an hour and fifty. Okay. Oh, okay.



Julie Bevins 29:09

You could schedule and select 30 or 50 or an hour?



Grace Pregent 29:12

Depending upon location.



Nicholas Buonanni 29:12

Yeah. So some online are only 50 minute option.



Nicholas Buonanni 29:17

And then I think the main locations, it's hour. Satellites, you can do half hour or hour. And then at Bessey only you can do two hour. Yeah.

J Jill Reglin 29:18  
Okay.

N Nicholas Buonanni 29:22  
Are those two hour appointments available just to certain types of students or...?

N Nicholas Buonanni 29:35  
Just to the space, so anybody who's coming to Bessey, they can have two hour appointments. And actually we have just started a new pilot program where we're allowing people to choose whether or not they want it to happen in person or online, just on the schedule, which is allowing them to have a two hour online option.

J Jill Reglin 29:53  
Wow.

J Julie Bevins 29:54  
So one-on-one, a consultant and a writer for two hours.

C Colton Wansitler 29:57  
Yep.

G Grace Pregent 29:58  
It's primarily- I would say it's primarily graduate students...

C Colton Wansitler 30:01  
Yeah, it's mostly dissertations.

G Grace Pregent 30:02  
...mostly large projects. You know, they build relationships. They've been meeting every week for a year.

**N** Nicholas Buonanni 30:08  
I've had some people schedule them, and they don't realize that they don't necessarily need two hours and you're like, you know, "Next time, we could probably get this done within a hour. But then there's other people that you're like, you know, "There's two hour options."

**J** Jill Reglin 30:20  
Yeah.

**N** Nicholas Buonanni 30:20  
Because you have a lot of writing.

**J** Julie Bevins 30:26  
That's incredible. It's kind of mind-blowing to me. And it also reminds me of some of our earliest conversations about being open and flexible.

**J** Jill Reglin 30:34  
Mm hmm.

**J** Julie Bevins 30:34  
Because that is blowing my mind right now. It's very different from what we used to do.

**G** Grace Pregent 30:39  
Students with disabilities, right, the two-hour consideration gives you more time. For them to take breaks as well, as needed.

**J** Julie Bevins 30:46  
Yeah. Or English isn't your first language because that already really...

**G** Grace Pregent 30:51  
Yes.

**J** Julie Bevins 30:52

...asks for more time.

**C** Colton Wansitler 30:55

I think we also find people who are scheduling those two hours who like- They're using the Writing Center to facilitate writing.

**G** Grace Pregent 31:03

Right.

**C** Colton Wansitler 31:04

So that's like their writing time. So they'll come in and they'll write a little bit. And then they'll pop over to us and ask us, like, "How can I facilitate this better? How can I work this out? Is this clear?" And then they'll go back to write for 10 minutes.

**G** Grace Pregent 31:16

Workshopping.

**J** Jill Reglin 31:17

I kinda like that. And the work that we're trying to... Yeah.

**J** Julie Bevins 31:21

So you have, like, a writing space. And then floating-

**C** Colton Wansitler 31:25

We do writing groups, as well.


**C** Colton Wansitler 31:26


Well, we kind of like- Yeah.


**J** Jill Reglin 31:28


Oh, I remember having graduate student writing groups way back when we-


 Julie Bevins 31:31  
Oh.


 Jill Reglin 31:32  
Yeah.


 Grace Pregent 31:33  
How would you describe the quality or the spirit of the center?

 Julie Bevins 31:43  
It was cheerful. Lots of ideas going all the time. I remember having team meetings that were workshoping sessions. I learned how to lead and teach from watching Sharon and Patty guide those meetings.


 Jill Reglin 31:57  
Yeah. I think that had more of an impact on what I went on and did as a classroom teacher than anything else, probably any class that I took or, you know, just kind of watching how things were done in those in those settings. But yeah, it felt like we were really a pretty, pretty tight-knit, close group of people. And I remember it being really exciting to work there and fun to come to work. And, you know, I mean, the- Especially the two of us, we would literally sit down and like write things together and take turns like typing and talking, and just got to that point where we could just create. We created a lot, a lot of stuff. (laughter)


 Julie Bevins 32:39  
Documents... And you have a question here about a manual. I don't remember there being a manual. But, but I do remember conference proposals and suggestions and lists and-


 Jill Reglin 32:52  
Emails about things we thought we should do, Feedback forms and...

 Julie Bevins 32:59  
I honestly have never written, written with someone like I wrote with Jill.


 Jill Reglin 33:05


 Jill Reglin 33:03  
Mhmm. Yeah, I don't think I have since really then, either.

 Julie Bevins 33:08  
That's why we had wheels on our chairs. I vividly recall even in Bessey, like, pushing my chair...

 Grace Pregent 33:16  
You two should write something. Sorry, this is my thought. But, 30 years later, time to maybe...


 Jill Reglin 33:22  
I wonder if we could sit down and still do that together.


 Julie Bevins 33:24  
It'd be so fun. Maybe, like, a multi-genre piece, too. (muffled) (laughter) Could you pipe us some music in?

 Grace Pregent 33:37  
So, in terms of these questions of organizational culture, I'm not sure how much they will apply at this point in terms of hiring and recruiting undergraduate and graduate consultants, onboarding, training... I know that has probably been more formalized, right? Since-

 Julie Bevins 33:49  
Did we hire anyone?

 Jill Reglin 33:51  
I don't-

 Julie Bevins 33:52  
I don't remember.

 Jill Reglin 33:53  
I don't believe so. But there was a class that still exists now, that Floyd taught, I think, or he's teaching it now.

**J** Jill Reglin 34:05

I'm trying to remember when that class was created, but I remember co-teaching it with someone my last year there. So, I mean, it was- it was up and running, I would say within our first year or two, because I think there was- Not only were we reading and discussing and immersing ourselves in the early literature about writing centers, but I think there was this recognition that, well, the people who come here and work here should be exposed to at least some of that stuff as well. Yeah, yeah. And I think a lot of the students who took that class were English, English Ed students and English majors, and not all of them then went on to work in the Writing Center. But that- I think that became-

**G** Grace Pregent 34:05

I'm teaching it.

**C** Colton Wansitler 34:07

I'm teaching it.

**J** Julie Bevins 34:09

It's fun isn't it?

**J** Jill Reglin 34:10

Yeah.

**G** Grace Pregent 34:11

It's such a great class.

**J** Julie Bevins 34:22


But it was meant to be a forming ground.


**J** Jill Reglin 34:43


Yeah, from where we would, would we hire people who had taken that class.


**J** Julie Bevins 34:49


And, again, I'm not Patti, because I think it was her idea to upscale the professionalism of...


 Jill Reglin 34:57  
Yeah, yeah.


 Julie Bevins 34:58  
...the Writing Center from the beginning. Like, one does not simply walk into Mordor. One does not simply become a consultant, right? (laughter)


 Jill Reglin 35:04  
Right.

 Nicholas Buonanni 35:07  
I know we don't have it on here, but was it only hourly work in the Writing Center?


 Grace Pregent 35:12  
Your assistantship, you said, was in the Writing Center.


 Nicholas Buonanni 35:15  
It was.


 Jill Reglin 35:15  
Our assistantships were, like, half time, you know. And I remember being told I- There was no graduate student union or anything at the time. And I know- I know, half time now means, what, 20 hours a week or something like that. And I remember explicitly being told, yeah, this is a half time assistantship, but this is probably about 30 hours of work a week and we were like, "Okay."


 Julie Bevins 35:36  
And to be honest, I don't remember what I was told. I remember saying, "These are the days I'm gonna be on campus to be at my classes and I basically lived at the writing center. I actually can't think of the campus very well. I can't remember what buildings I walked in for my classes. Like, I really cannot. I remember walking across a bridge to get subway on occasion, but mostly, I think of the Writing Center as MSU, which is crazy. Because it's a city. Graduate assistantship- I have no idea how many hours it was.


 Jill Reglin 35:06


 Jill Reglin 36:00  
I remember being told, "You might think this is 20, but it's like 30." I really- I think Patty sat us down and told somebody, whoever else was at some point, you know. And it was like, "Okay, that's cool." I probably spent more than 30 hours a week.


 Julie Bevins 36:20  
It paid for my classes. And I got stipend.


 Jill Reglin 36:22  
Yeah.


 Julie Bevins 36:23  
And then they fed us all the time.


 Jill Reglin 36:24  
Yeah.

 Julie Bevins 36:24  
All the time.

 Grace Pregent 36:25  
We still do that. That has not changed. And you said, from the beginning, it was undergrad, grad, across disciplines. Or there was at least an effort to hire across the disciplines.

 Jill Reglin 36:36  
I believe that most of the grad students were...

 Julie Bevins 36:40  
At first were English.

 Jill Reglin 36:41  
Yeah. English, English Ed, Rhet Comp. And I think we were all assistant, grad assistants, but I think the undergraduates work for pay by the hour. Yeah, not sure what their employee classification was.

J Julie Bevins 36:51

That's right, because we had a huge conversation about what to be called. Consultant or tutor or... And there- There weren't ever other names at the time. They weren't coach, mentor...

J Jill Reglin 37:03

Yeah. Yeah. And so we went with undergraduate writing consultants. Is that what they're still called now? UWC?

G Grace Pregent 37:11

Undergraduate. They- That's in Patti's article, right? Why, and the intentionality behind "consultant" and "consultancies." (muffled) Trying to think if there's anything else for organizational culture, who touched on- I did not know the course had been there since almost the beginning. So that was very exciting to hear.

J Julie Bevins 37:32

It was very much English ed students, I think, though. They were free teachers.

J Jill Reglin 37:36

And I, for some reason, these two classes stick in my mind, they were English 313 and English 408. And it seems like, I think one of them was like a practicum class for pre-service teachers.

J Julie Bevins 37:47

That's right.

J Jill Reglin 37:48

And it seemed like we drew a lot of people from those two classes.

J Julie Bevins 37:52

And that's how we got Janet Swenson.

J Jill Reglin 37:54

Yeah

Yeah.

**J** Julie Bevins 37:54

I am pretty sure. That's where she really- And she ended up having an office back there, you know.

**J** Jill Reglin 37:59

Yeah. Yeah, I don't know if she taught those classes or helped to coordinate them, yeah, something. Yeah. Yeah.

**J** Julie Bevins 38:06

Patti's the person to ask about this but- But, even though it was almost entirely English ed people in those classes at first, I am pretty sure her goal was to be cross disciplinary, to have writers and consultants from all over the place. Because I remember when we started trying to attract first year students for the portfolio project, they were definitely across this, reaching into that, introductory composition course, which I can't remember what it was called. But I tried to convince people that we were worth the time for four years.

**J** Jill Reglin 38:41

Yeah.

**J** Julie Bevins 38:42

Pizza, I believe was a major draw.

**J** Jill Reglin 38:45

Probably still. Yeah.

**G** Grace Pregent 38:47

And you said there you don't remember there being a handbook at that time, of any kind.

**J** Julie Bevins 38:53

If there was one, I didn't help write it, to my knowledge, and I never looked at it.

**J** Jill Reglin 38:58

Probably never read it.

**G** Grace Pregent 38:58  
We'll say there wasn't. (laughter)

**G** Grace Pregent 39:01  
You mentioned that clients mainly walked, dropped in. So there wasn't necessarily a scheduling system at that time of any kind.

**J** Jill Reglin 39:08  
I think we had a- some kind of crude appointment book at some point, later on.

**J** Julie Bevins 39:13  
Even in Bessey, people walked in and signed in on a sheet of paper, because I remember writing down the date and the time. It was like a lined sheet of paper. I don't remember when, once we moved over to Bessey.

**J** Jill Reglin 39:27  
Yeah, it seems like it's some point we started taking appointments, but there's some kind of paper record.

**J** Julie Bevins 39:34  
Because you know, you have a front desk there now. Was there a front desk there? Okay. Did we staff it or did we-

**J** Jill Reglin 39:41  
We did have a person at it. Even in Brody, we had a person right inside the front door, that sat at the desk. And I think we would take turns doing it.

**J** Julie Bevins 39:51  
Yeah, that I remember. Because we did. Maybe that's why I can't quite envision it.

**J** Jill Reglin 39:55  
People would, like, sign in or give us some sort of confirmation.



Grace Pregent 39:58

Do you know what was in Bessey before the Writing Center was there?



Jill Reglin 40:02

You know, that area of the building was nothing. Remember? There was like- there's like an area of the building where there were faculty offices, and an area where there were classrooms, and then like a little first floor, like, enclosed hallway that connected the two. And so that area that's there right now, there was nothing there. Like, they built that as a new section of the building.



Grace Pregent 40:23

And that's when writing center moved in.



Jill Reglin 40:24

And the Writing Center moved in. Yeah, they built that for the writing center.



Julie Bevins 40:29

Okay. That I don't know.



Jill Reglin 40:31

I don't think I'm making that up.



Julie Bevins 40:32

I trust Jill. I'm sure you're right.



Jill Reglin 40:34

And then, yeah, I don't remember-



Nicholas Buonanni 40:36

Because it's directly above, when you go in now, it's just that open lobby area-



Jill Reglin 40:40

It's an open lobby and the writing center above it, and I don't know what's above it, storage or something? Or maybe there is no fourth floor. Yeah.



Grace Pregent 40:48

Yeah. That's an interesting clip, because our question- The next question is about who advocated for the initial creation of the Center and the administrative support and allocation of resources and it sounds like - I'm assuming - that there was great administrative support for the Center. I don't know if you remember at the time- As graduate students, right? I don't know if you remember at the time-



Julie Bevins 41:09

I remember that Sharon and Patti were often talking to administration and not just promoting the Writing Center, but explaining it, like our philosophies, our theories, our practices, why we existed, and how it mattered to the whole institution. We were sort of- It's not that we were excluded from this. We were definitely- All conversations came into the Center, but it was a little bit beyond what we were doing. But yeah, but those two, the force...



Julie Bevins 41:09

I remember the phrase often being used, that we were creating a culture of writing at the university. And I know the tier two writing program, I mean, I think that's what created the writing center...



Jill Reglin 41:51

...in the first place. And yeah, so, right.



Julie Bevins 41:51

Right.



Julie Bevins 41:56

It's beautiful that you remember that phrase because I realized the language I use today is the same thing. I sign off on a lot of my faculty innovations, "Thank you for helping us build a culture of writing here." And it is. It's their phrase.



Jill Reglin 42:11

Yup. Comes from...

**G** Grace Pregent 42:14  
So, um, who, um- How or who advocated for the initial creation of the Center? It sounds like we came right out of the English department.

**J** Jill Reglin 42:20  
Yeah, Shari-

**G** Grace Pregent 42:21  
I love your story. So people are talking down the hall...

**J** Julie Bevins 42:23  
I cried on my way home too.

**J** Jill Reglin 42:23  
Yeah. Yeah. And it was crazy because my- my dad had died right before my senior year in college. I finished at Alma college, didn't know what I was going to do. Decided to go to MSU. Had no idea how I was gonna afford it. Neither did my mom. You know. And I remember walking out of the building that day, like literally walking outside and then it hitting me, "Oh my god. They're like waving my tuition." And, you know, and giving me a job and I'm gonna get a stipend on top of that. I remember my mom was waiting for me over in the Union. And I was walking over there and then I started walking fast, and I started running. And I was like, crying by the time I got to her because we had no idea how we were going to afford that. You know, and she remembers that to this day, too.

**J** Jill Reglin 42:30  
Yeah. So, I mean, it was-

**J** Julie Bevins 42:35  
Why are they trusting me?

**J** Jill Reglin 42:42  
Like, yeah, it was like this. It was a huge, like, really, truly life-changing opportunity. And little did I know I was going to end up working in writing centers from that moment on, you know?

**J** Julie Bevins 43:21

Yeah. Yeah, it's not hyperbolic. It was a life-changer.

J Jill Reglin 43:27

Mm hm.

G Grace Pregent 43:29

When the center opened, was service widely celebrated across MSU? Were there any people who were suspect or unconvinced or upset by MSU's funding of the Center as opposed to another endeavor?

J Julie Bevins 43:41

You might be able to- I can talk about after I was there, like, like when you were there at the beginning.

J Jill Reglin 43:46

I mean, I know there were a lot of like, grand opening festivities and things and I- The only other thing I remember Patti and Shari actively seeking out every year, a couple of people who were really suspicious of writing center work and kind of bringing them into the fold and inviting them to come and work with us. And they would look for the most vocally opposing, you know, people who didn't get what we were doing and didn't see the need for it or, yeah, and bring them into the fold. And I remember working with some of those faculty and they would kind of then sort of come around to see the value of things. I don't know if I remember a whole lot more.

J Julie Bevins 44:25

Yeah. It's cool to hear that that was from the beginning. Because, for as long as I was there, I remember that too. And the- Just the gentle hospitality, as opposed to coming at, you know, into head-on conflict with folks, we just invite them to experience the Writing Center.

J Jill Reglin 44:47

Yeah. Yeah.

J Julie Bevins 44:50

What good is it to tell somebody, "We're doing something fruitful for writers." Live it with us for a minute. Sometimes it was hard to get people in. But-

J Jill Reglin 44:59

Sure

safe.

G

Grace Pregent 45:01

Is there anything else that you would like to share about the history? Any stories that come to mind? Any moments that you think would be, you know, important? If we're talking about storying the Center, anything else, things that we should talk about?

J

Julie Bevins 45:21

Just because this word hasn't come up, I just want to say that it's always been a place-in my experience- where voices were valued. So there was this place to experiment. There's a phrase that's become so used that actually annoys me: safe space. But before that had, you know, all the- It was just a great place to try things out with words.

G

Grace Pregent 45:56

Anything else to add Jill?

J

Jill Reglin 45:58

I just thought of somebody else you should reach to maybe. Well, I don't know. Linda Hanson. She was like, one of our first like full-time support staff people. And I saw her a couple years ago. And she, like, recognized my voice. I was waiting to get a prescription at the MSU Clinical Center. And this woman in line a few people in front of me turned around. She was like, "Jill?" And I recognized her immediately. Yeah.

G

Grace Pregent 46:26

She would have a unique perspective.

J

Jill Reglin 46:28

Linda. Yeah, she was- She was our full time like support staff administrative assistant. And she might have a really unique perspective because-

J

Julie Bevins 46:35

She was very hospitable like

J

Jill Reglin 46:37

She was.

J Julie Bevins 46:37  
She was that welcoming-

J Jill Reglin 46:39  
She's still in the area. I would have no idea how to contact her.

G Grace Pregent 46:42  
Apparently we need to go to- Where were you, Meijer?

J Jill Reglin 46:46  
Like, MSU Clinical Center. Yeah. The pharmacy there.

G Grace Pregent 46:49  
Well, so she must be local, I'm assuming.

J Julie Bevins 46:51  
That is a great idea because that- She will have a unique perspective, but also that speaks to what Sharon and Patti were able to create, which is an atmosphere of, "We are all colleagues." I just really- I had a clear sense of leadership and who I could go to, for not just mentoring, but also for help. But it was very- That collaborative environment was legitimate. Everybody's voice did matter. We were all part of creating and building what was happening there. And I didn't have a lot of sense of hierarchy.

J Jill Reglin 47:27  
And I remember her being, rolling up her sleeves and getting in those meetings with everybody else, generating ideas. She had a lot of knowledge about data collection and things like that. She wasn't- She was hired probably, what? After we got over to Bessey Hall. She wasn't, like, right at the beginning, but she had a really significant role, I think.

J Julie Bevins 47:46  
Right? Yeah, I can't remember.

J Jill Reglin 47:48  
And I don't even know how long- She left before I did. She wasn't there a long, long time. She had some

health issues.

**J** Julie Bevins 47:54

She left before I did, too, and I left before Jill did,.

**J** Jill Reglin 47:56

But I remember her being a really, really important voice.

**N** Nicholas Buonanni 48:01

I was gonna ask: In Bessey, what were certain spaces allocated for when it first opened?

**J** Jill Reglin 48:10

You know, like the big, big open room right now, where it seemed like that's where we did all of our work with students. And there was a row of computers along one wall that we could use with students.

**J** Julie Bevins 48:21

Which I think they still are there, right?

**J** Jill Reglin 48:23

Which I think they still are. And then that room when you walked in, like around to the left there was a room with a door? That was like the graduate student office.

**G** Grace Pregent 48:31

I think we've moved the computers into what is now the coordinators' office. It was, when you come in the door, it's right- So if you keep walking, there's a little- There's a little bar, but then there's a little room over here.

**J** Jill Reglin 48:42

That was a conference room.

**J** Julie Bevins 48:44

That's where we had our meetings. Because that's where we used to have our graduate student workshops and our team- Small. brain storming team meetings. Because big team meetings were out in that public

and our team. Uh-huh, brainstorming team meetings? Because big team meetings were out in that public area, where we would have consultations.

**N** Nicholas Buonanni 48:58

And that like kitchenette area, has always been there.

**J** Jill Reglin 49:00

Yeah. The big island was a buffet.

**J** Julie Bevins 49:03

Where you have the offices to the right? That's what- That's where Patti and Sharon and Janet and Laura were.

**N** Nicholas Buonanni 49:11

Because there were four offices.

**J** Julie Bevins 49:12

Yup.

**J** Jill Reglin 49:16

And Linda had an office back there, too, didn't she? But she worked out in the-

**J** Julie Bevins 49:19

She worked out in the front area. Oh man, I would love to see Linda again.


**J** Jill Reglin 49:24


And there was somebody named Bree, too. Do you remember her? She was the was administrative assistant after Linda, I think. Yeah, she like- She introduced me to Famous Taco. That's how I remember her. (laughter) I don't remember her last name, but- Her name was Taco Bree.


**J** Julie Bevins 49:41


You'll notice food comes around-


 Jill Reglin 49:43  
That was an important part of the culture ,for sure.


 Grace Pregent 49:46  
Still is. Well, great. Thank you two very much.


 Jill Reglin 49:50  
It was great.


 Julie Bevins 49:51  
Thank you for making this happen. And I love going down memory lane.


 Jill Reglin 49:53  
Oh, I know. I think we triggered a lot of memories for each other that we wouldn't have remembered, like, individually, if you'd talked to us individually. Yeah.

 Julie Bevins 50:00  
Right.

 Jill Reglin 50:02  
Yeah.

 Julie Bevins 50:03  
Thank you.

 Grace Pregent 50:04  
Thank you.

 Julie Bevins 50:04  
Will you tell these people that you see that we say hi. I mean, I definitely would love them all to know-



Jill Reglin 50:09

I see Shari periodically, but I don't know- I haven't seen Patti in years.



Grace Pregent 50:13

We're gathering alumni of the center- Um, contact information for the conference.



Jill Reglin 50:17

Yeah. Shari's coming here this summer.



Julie Bevins 50:20

She is?



Jill Reglin 50:20

To Michigan. Yeah, they come visit in the summer. So I don't know how long your project goes on, but you might want to make the case that you should get to go to Las Cruces instead. So you might not want to share that piece of information.



Grace Pregent 50:33

Are we still recording?