

Lamiyah

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SPEAKERS

Sharieka Botex, Nicholas Buonanni, Lamiyah Bahrainwala, Colton Wansitler

- C

Colton Wansitler 00:02

Alright, we're all set to go. I'll start with some introductions. My name is Colton Wansitler, and I am currently the interim Assistant Director while Trixie is on sabbatical and summer research leave, and I'm also a graduate coordinator for the center over the summer. Nick?
- N

Nicholas Buonanni 00:26

My name is Nicholas Buonanni, and I am currently a graduate coordinator in the Writing Center at MSU.
- S

Sharieka Botex 00:37

My name is Sharieka Botex. I'm a graduate coordinator and the Writing Center at MSU.
- L

Lamiyah Bahrainwala 00:43

Should I introduce myself again?
- C

Colton Wansitler 00:45

Yes, please.



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 00:46

I'm Lamiyah Bahrainwala. I used to be a consultant and coordinator at ABC Writing Center in 2009 to 2011 and I'm an Assistant Professor of Communication Studies now in Georgetown, Texas.



Colton Wansitler 01:00

Perfect, thank you so much. So the first thing we're going to do is start collecting some context. And we have three questions here. And you did just kind of answer one, but I'm going to re ask it.



Colton Wansitler 01:12

And so the first question is, when did you work at the center and who was the leadership team? So Director, Assistant Director, Fiscal Officer, Office Assistant, anything you can remember.



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 01:24

I started work there in the fall of 2009 to the spring of 2011. The leadership team were Trixie and Diana, Trixie Smith and Diana Baldwin, at the time. I remember some of the other graduate student coordinators as well. It was Marilee Brooks-Gilles, and Travis Webster, Matt Cox. Beth Keller, who was in my cohort. Carrie Chapman and Tiffany...and I don't remember their last name. And those are the kind of the graduate folks that are a member who were in the leadership team.



Colton Wansitler 02:12

Awesome.



Colton Wansitler 02:15

So we're about to our next question. So while you are working, where were center locations on campus, and if you can't remember the spaces, do you want to describe a little bit? That would be awesome.



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 02:28

Do you want me to mention all the ones that I remember not just the ones I worked at?



Colton Wansitler 02:32

Yes.



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 02:33

Okay. How it's feeling like a pop quiz now.



Colton Wansitler 02:38

(laughter)



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 02:39

There was of course, someone in Bessey. Well, that's still there, right?



Colton Wansitler 02:44

Yes.



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 02:44

Okay. Because that is my dominant memory of Michigan State. And then I remember working at the one in the business building or the business writing center. And that's basically was kind of dark very plush. It's exactly what I imagined, you know, business school to look like.



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 03:07

And hmm. I sensed that there was one in the library, but I can't really remember what the library looks like.



Colton Wansitler 03:27

No worries.



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 03:28

Yeah. That's all I remember.



Colton Wansitler 03:33

Okay. Thank you so much. And so our last question for gathering context is what services did the center offer while you were there? So we're looking for like writing groups, workshops, anything like that.



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 03:48

Um, we did workshops, both in the center and in the classroom. And when I say in the center, I mean in the Bessy center. We offered consultations for graduate students. We offered web services. So I remember in the consultations, you could also have the consultant had the right skills like work on uploading your website. So doing straight up digital work. I'm graduate writing groups, I think we had those of the time. The trouble is, I don't remember ever participating in things like that because it's still something that I haven't really participated in. But I have this vague sense that we did do that. And then there were some of the standard services, which I think most progressive centers have, which is, you know, consultations which accommodate different needs, so private consultations and reduce distraction environments, that sort of thing.



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 04:56

We...I think we also had consultants go into writing classes and work in breakout groups. So not the same as kind of a planned workshop presentation, but going into assist the instructor for that specific class on what they're doing for that specific day that the instructor had planned. I seem to remember that because our writing classes had a Friday meeting. So they meet three days a week, I think, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, or Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and then on the Fridays, most instructors set that aside as a workshop day. And I think consultants came in and helped facilitate that.



Colton Wansitler 05:35

Cool. Great, thank you so much.



Colton Wansitler 05:41

So now we're going to start gathering some stories in our next section here. And our first question in this section is when you think of the Writing Center at MSU's history, what comes to mind? For example, what do you think the center's most significant achievements are? Do you recall any outreach program or significant events the center had or created while you work there? Stuff like that.



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 06:07

Okay, can you repeat the first part of the question again?



Colton Wansitler 06:10

Yeah. When you think of the Writing Center at MSU history



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 06:18

and MSU's history



Colton Wansitler 06:20

at MSU. Writing Center at MSU



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 06:24

Okay. Okay, got it, got it got it. Is it okay if I respond based on my own personal history rather than Michigan State's, the Center's history. For me it's hard to separate.



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 06:54

So my first time working in the United States ever or being in any kind of professional setting. So I was a brand new immigrant when I started working at the Michigan State Writing Center. And so for me the center was the place where I transitioned into living and working in white spaces. And, and I suppose for me, because it impacted me so much personally, I really felt that that was the place where I learned kind of US white centered language with which to navigate other academic spaces. And if I hadn't had that, you know, and I remember that I did a lot of things which may which were definitely very jarringly different from US and white centered work ethics. And I don't know that another workplace would have been as forgiving or as accommodating. And so, to me, that's my predominate memory of the Writing Center. I just thank my stars that that was the first place I started working in the United States. And that was the place where I got to cut my teeth and learn how things work in Western academic spaces or in US academic spaces. So yeah.



Colton Wansitler 08:17

Wonderful. Thank you so much. So our next question is, what is your favorite MSU Writing

Center story?



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 08:26

My favorite story. I remember telling you the story the last time when we were interviewing, which is that when I was the presentations coordinator, as I was learning the ropes, we would schedule people for fake presentations just so that I could learn what scheduling was like in the system, and then we'd cancel it. And usually we would tell those people ahead of time and say, Hey, we're scheduling you for fake presentation just so that Lamiyah knows how to use the system. The trouble is, when I scheduled a fake presentation, I did not tell the person I was scheduling them, and I also picked somebody who was not slated to do any presentations. It's a person who'd never done presentations before. And they were very worried. And they spoke to one of the presentations coordinators in, you know, very, very concerned. And the presentation, my co coordinator didn't know that I had even done this. So I had made sure to make things as confusing as possible for everyone involved. So I thought that was really, really fun, really funny.



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 09:27

And then my other favorite story is not a cohesive, specific moment. But I just loved eating snacks during our evening queer theory graduate seminars, which happened in the Writing Center. So we met Wednesday evenings, I think it was Wednesdays from six to nine or seven to 10. I think it was and I remember Trixie in her infinite wisdom, knew that we should bring snacks every week. So I remember that and it was perfect because it was in that space.



Colton Wansitler 10:01

Great, thank you so much. So our last section or our last question in this section before we hand it off to Sharieka is, during your time at the center did any significant world, political, or university events occur? If so, can you describe the center's approach or response?



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 10:25

I can see that the significant event that happened that I recall was that it was the 10 year anniversary of 911. Or it was that year so even though I stopped working at the writing center that fall, I was not there in Fall 2011, I was there in the weeks leading up to it. So I remember that as a world event, I don't recall the center taking any steps for it again, maybe because I wasn't there in the actual day.



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 10:53

Um, and I mentioned when we interviewed earlier, Colton, about how the writing center decided to hold a workshop to teach all consultants suicide prevention training, so that we could detect suicidal tendencies in students writing. And I had recalled it as being the reason for that being that I thought that a student at Michigan State, one or two students, had committed suicide, and it had been taken up as a conversation campus wide. But you remember Trav Webster, who we were talking with last last time said that he thinks that it was because of the, you know, the suicide of Tyler Clementi, you know, which got taken up in national conversations about query reviews. So that may be that may have been the impetus.



Colton Wansitler 11:47

Thank you so much for sharing. That's awesome. So now we're going to pass it on to Sharieka for organizational culture.



Sharieka Botex 11:57

So what was one, the first question is what was one key value or practice that has been or was constant at the Writing Center?



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 12:12

So I think that, well, one constant I saw was a desire to serve not just the Michigan State community but the East Lansing Community. I remember in the mission statement, it says that we are here to serve anybody in this community. So that mentioned undergraduates, graduates, anybody who chose to use the Writing Center, but then instead, it was not just for the Michigan State community, it was for the East Lansing Community. And I remember Trixie really sticking closely to that. You all know, Trixie, right. I shouldn't make assumptions. Okay. So Trixie really insisted on that because we did have one consultee who would come in on a regular basis who was very, very difficult to work with, I remember that they made their way through several consultants who asked not to work with them anymore because of kind of how combative and dismissive they were. And they were not affiliated with Michigan State. As far as I recall, they had come from another university and were living in East Lansing and were using Michigan State resources. I'm a little hazy on the details. But I remember when consultants said, you know, should we even be working with this individual because they're not affiliated Michigan State? And I remember Trixie going back to the vision language. And seeing it says here that we're supposed to be working with the community, and what we can do is make sure that you

don't work with her if you don't want to, but I want to make sure that they do get their needs taken care of otherwise because it's in our vision language. So remember that being a constant, and I use the word constant here because I remember how many consultants declined to work with this person and to for Trixie to then return constantly, and say well, maybe let's work with this person.



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 14:03

I guess the other constant, that brings me to the other constant, which is that it felt like a very consensual environment. So consent seem to be a constant as well. So for instance, we were able to decline if we didn't want to speak with a client. We had a writing center blog, which was mostly for the your writing center class students to use to kind of post to get as credit and assignments done. But I remember we were encouraged to post there as well. So it definitely felt like we had a place to voice concerns about organizational issues or bring up concerns there without necessarily even going to an administrator. So it felt like they were listening to our voices through that blog as well.



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 14:48

Um, and I remember we, I've worked at a writing center in the Middle East before that, and then at the University of Texas after that, and then I'm familiar with the one at Southwestern too, and I've never seen the same kind of freedom of research that I saw at the Michigan State Writing Center. So I saw people doing research all the time. And it felt very fluid, very kind of relaxed research where people were constantly chatting about what they were doing, bouncing ideas off of each other. Where as I remember at the UT Writing Center, they are, it felt a lot more rigid in the way they were doing their research. So you know, if you want to do research, you kind of have to inform the administrators, set up this kind of formal group, you know, set some kind of process in motion. So, yeah, so serving the community, consent seem to be something that our leadership valued a lot. And then research felt really relaxed.



Sharieka Botex 15:50

Cool. It seems like it's nice to know that there are still some continuing points in there that you mentioned, like the service to community and role to community and definitely the idea of consent. That's a good thing.



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 16:02

Yeah.

S

Sharieka Botex 16:03

How would you describe the quality or the spirit of the center when you work there?

L

Lamiyah Bahrainwala 16:11

Um, are you making a distinction, Sharieka, between quality and spirit?

S

Sharieka Botex 16:15

Yeah, I think I think for me is the question asker Grace, Grace generated the question, but as the question asked her, I guess I would be more interested in like, what would you describe is like the spirit or the atmosphere in the environment of working in the Writing Center space? And then if you talk to the quality, um, I feel like you already touched on those points. So maybe more of the spirit of the space.

L

Lamiyah Bahrainwala 16:35

Yeah, this was the most...I actually think that so far, it is the place that in the United States in my 12 years here that it has felt...where I've had the most non white experiences where I felt that we had decentered whiteness the most. It may have been that I was just such a recent immigrant that I had not internalized whiteness at that time. So I was just kind of going on my merry way, and not changing my behavior. So some of it could be that but at the on the other hand, I also did not face any consequences, right, for that behavior. You normally get really disciplined pretty quickly, when you're acting non white in white spaces. It did not get disciplined at the writing center, and I know for a fact I would have at the UT Writing Center, where I worked since for many years. So the spirit felt very non white. I remember Trav, in the last interview, said that it felt very queer. I agree, it did. And so I grew up in, you know, the United Arab Emirates, and the first time I encountered the terms queer and LGBTQ were actually at the Writing Center at Michigan State. I had never encountered those terms before. It was just, it's just, you know, it's just US discourse, so it's not in many other countries, at least not at the time. So I learned about queerness not just as, you know, a sexual orientation, but as also a way of inhabiting spaces and way of being. So the Writing Center has that spirit. And I think it did that by moving between service and research so fluidly and it values that fluidity, so it only makes sense that it would also be, really, it would make sense that it would be a queer space for that reason for that fluidity. And it felt like a really safe space. It was the place I worked for a year before I became an instructor in the classroom. And I'm really grateful I had that first before going into the classroom.

S

Sharieka Botex 18:54

Thank you. Question three is please describe the center's approach to hiring and or onboarding and training. They have some examples here. Like you can describe the recruitment process for graduate and undergraduate consultants. I know you kind of mentioned the blog earlier, you all would do that seemed to be a part of a class or something, but any anything along those lines.

L

Lamiyah Bahrainwala 19:18

So let me speak generally and then what happened to me personally. Generally, my sense is that we tend to recruit from the Writing Center class. And I know that those students get, you know, grounding in writing center theory and administering a theory and practice and then they also have to, you know, do consultations, review, observe, and give them feedback and all that. So the recruitment might be a little bit different for graduate students, and I remember what happened with me was I came in with writing center experience from the American University of Sharjah, which is where I got my undergraduate degree. And so the Writing Center offered me the fellowship straightaway kind of site unseen, which is what enabled me to get my graduate education. And I remember I met with Diana, and then I met with Trixie. And then what they had me do was do like a mock consultation in front of them. But there was no actual paper, I remember that the person I was consulting with didn't actually have a paper, which was odd. And I remember that being kind of the only strange moment I experienced because I didn't really know what to do if the person didn't have a paper, and it was more of a performance than an authentic consultation. But I recall that being part of my recruitment process, and I think, basically, perhaps what, you know, the leadership wanted to do was make sure I knew how to agenda set and begin a consultation and understand that it's author driven and non directive and all those things.

S

Sharieka Botex 20:57

Were there any intentional efforts in place to recruit staff across disciplines at that time?

L

Lamiyah Bahrainwala 21:07

Yes, I remember that...well, we, we definitely...I heard people talking about it a lot. So I know that there was intention. I personally was not privy to the praxis of that intention, to how it played out in policies. But I know that the intention was there, and they were very vocal about it. I also know that while I was there, we did have at least undergraduates from a pretty broad number of disciplines and I remember students or consultees

requesting people from such and such discipline. And I remember one of the folks who because I was the presentations or one of the presentations coordinators, I remember a couple of my...the people in my group of presenters were undergraduate engineering students. I do remember that. But yeah, still I think largely the majority would be rhetoric people.

S

Sharieka Botex 22:05

Right. For for question four it asks, could you share with us about the design and implementation of the undergraduate course to train undergraduate consultants for the center? And again, I think you you've kind of talked on some of us already, but any, any additional insights you might have on that.

L

Lamiyah Bahrainwala 22:30

I recall that it was similar in design to the UT version of the class and be AUS version of the class where they got a lot of theory, occasionally a couple of guest speakers, and then kind of like a scaffolded practice where they first came in and observed a certain number of consultations, and then they co-consulted and then I believe they did a sole consultation with somebody observing. I seem to recall that's how it played out. In all honesty, I may be confusing my memories from UT's Writing Center and Michigan State's. But this is what I think happened with that class the. Is it called the writing internship class?

S

Sharieka Botex 23:14

It's WRAC395. Is that correct? the right course.

L

Lamiyah Bahrainwala 23:18

Okay. Yeah, you know.

S

Sharieka Botex 23:19

Yeah.

L

Lamiyah Bahrainwala 23:22

(laughter)

- S** Sharieka Botex 23:25
So yeah, I think that ends that section of those questions. Thank you so much for answering them. And Nick is going to go into the logistical and practical questions, I think.
- N** Nicholas Buonanni 23:36
All right. So the first one is, when you were working in the Writing Center, how did you organize or work consultations? Which I think are sub question for that, is did clients schedule appointments if so, how?
- L** Lamiyah Bahrainwala 23:57
Okay. So I remember that clients scheduled appointments. They either did that by themselves, or sometimes they'd walk in and you would help them create an account or schedule something for them. Does that answer your question, Nick, or?
- N** Nicholas Buonanni 24:15
Yeah, I mean, basically, like were there...what we were getting at, I think this is a lot about like, the systems in place things like WOnline and stuff like that, or were there paper appointments or to people call to make their appointment
- L** Lamiyah Bahrainwala 24:31
WOnline and it was constantly being worked on. Constantly improving.
- N** Nicholas Buonanni 24:35
And then do you have any remember? Do you have any memories of your online consultations or if they were available, how they were conducted?
- L** Lamiyah Bahrainwala 24:44
I don't think I ever did an online consultation. I remember observing. Have you talked to Scott Chu?
- N** Nicholas Buonanni 24:51
Yes.

L

Lamiyah Bahrainwala 24:52

Okay. I remember observing him doing an online consultation. I'm pretty sure it was him. He might say that he never did an online consultation. Remember observing someone I think it was Scott. I did not do any myself. But I the non traditional consultations that I did were, you know, team consultations or it was me speaking with a group of folks who were all working on a team project. And then, you know, private consultations where I remember working with somebody who was working on a custody letter for kind of in a custody fight for their child. So I remember doing those sorts of consultations where they were removed from the center, they were in the little meeting room. Is that meeting room still there in Bessey? Same place? Yeah. Yeah, so that's my memory of how we would schedule appointments. And I remember helping people make appointments too when I was at the front desk. Oh, we had a pretty um, you know, pretty awful woman who worked the front desk I remember and then I learned later that I think it was somebody who we were assigned to. They would just kind of circulate. And she regularly said racist things to me. And a few of the other consultants, I remember that.

N

Nicholas Buonanni 26:13

And you're saying she was not specifically Writing Center? She she someone in the college?

L

Lamiyah Bahrainwala 26:21

Yes, she was an administrator who was assigned to the writing center. And I believe that they rotated them. But I can't be sure. But yes, I remember because I was thinking sometimes, I remember knowing that we didn't assign anybody to the front desk. So at the UT Writing Center and then at my AUS Writing Center, we had consultants who rotated that job. But over here, I remember that we didn't do that. There was a person who was assigned for at least part of the day. And so yeah, and and that person was so jarringly different from the culture of the Writing Center, it says something about the consensual nature of the Writing Center culture that this person actually stood out as they should in their, you know, problematic behavior. God, I haven't thought about this person in 10 years. Thank you for bringing it up, Nick. (Laughter)

N

Nicholas Buonanni 27:12

(Laughter) Sorry, it wasn't a positive memory, but it's always good to hear.

- L** Lamiyah Bahrainwala 27:18
Isn't it good to remember though, what, how great a culture is though and when people do stand out from that culture? Yeah.
- N** Nicholas Buonanni 27:29
So my next question for you is, do you remember receiving or being directed to a handbook when you're hired?
- L** Lamiyah Bahrainwala 27:42
I'll Say yes, but not definitively. I'm hazy.
- N** Nicholas Buonanni 27:47
Okay. I mean, I'm guessing so do you remember like training materials, but you're not sure if it was specifically..what would be called the handbook or...Do you think you were given something online?
- L** Lamiyah Bahrainwala 28:00
I don't remember training materials if I'm being completely honest.
- N** Nicholas Buonanni 28:03
No, that's fine.
- L** Lamiyah Bahrainwala 28:04
I really, truly in my soul believe that they exist.
- N** Nicholas Buonanni 28:10
That I have a little bit of honesty and you know, seeing through the window, this whole interview process and concept stemmed from a Handbook Committee. Because we were, we were all like trying to find out what kind of training and onboarding had existed before, we decided that this needed to be something that was addressed in the center. And so that's part of the reason that this this question is here is because we wanted to figure out if people were ever receiving handbooks when they were hired.



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 28:46

Oh, my God, that's so ethical. It does something to me. Like before you in state some kind of blanket policy, you want to gather information about how training happened before. That's great.



Nicholas Buonanni 29:00

Yeah, it's been a very, very insightful process learning a lot of things about about the history of the Writing Center and how things are done. And it's, it's amazing to be part of it. Hopefully we'll have a handbook in August that we can have both outward facing and give them to our consultants.



Nicholas Buonanni 29:20

So our next question is, do you know how or who advocated for the initial creation of the center? Obviously, this might not be something that you remember. So I'm going to jump over to..the next question is were there any people who were suspect, unconvinced, or upset by MSU funding? I know that a lot of people have stated that Michigan state's Writing Center is very well funded. Do you remember any discussion about that? Or what were your experiences when it came to that support from the college support from outside of the Writing Center?



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 29:58

As I recall, they're always thinking discussions about financing. I don't recall there being any panic discussions about funding being lost or taken away. And I remember that in order for the center to be able to fund consultants to go to conferences, the caveat was that we had to be presenting at those conferences. And yeah, so in, I think, in a perfect beautiful world, anybody should be able to go to conferences even without presenting. But I remember being so grateful that the Writing Center was able to fund people who were presenting. So those are my recollections of funding. And I should also say that the very first conference I went to in the United States was the writing center...it was the Michigan...it was actually the Michigan Writing Center conference, MWC, MWCA, Michigan Writing Center Association, and we drove up to Sioux Sainte Marie. And yet and it was all funded.



Nicholas Buonanni 31:10

Awesome. Okay, so we have some final and closing questions.



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 31:14

One more thing to add about that the business writing center in the business building had its own pot of gold that the money came from. And I remember I believe that's why the furniture was just so fancy just faux leather everywhere or maybe real leather. Who knows? But I remember that there was a different pot of money for that, I believe. Yeah.



Nicholas Buonanni 31:43

All right. So our final questions are is there anything else that you'd like to share about the history of the center? I mean, anything at all that you can remember or that you want to discuss?



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 32:03

I remember that the Michigan State center was encompassed in many ecosystems. And it was, I felt that it was quite possible to thrive fully at Michigan State just through the Writing Center because that is where graduate seminars took place, it's where your work took place, it's where a lot of workshops where people brought in their students to place, but it's also where I found friends where we had a sushi eating group, where we just go eat sushi every Monday evening. And then it was also the same place where, you know, we got our funding, or we did our research. So I found that it anchored, it can be a place which anchors all parts of your identity. I don't know that I have encountered that at any of the other writing centers I've worked at, which I've perceived more as a place for work and then you leave and go to your other place. So I wanted to share that if there's some way you can, you know, get funding to create like some kind of immortality elixir for Trixie so that she continues to direct the Writing Center, that might be something to look into with your extra funding if you ever get it. But I felt that the leadership was, was really quite remarkable, quite non judgmental, quite queer, quite focused on non whiteness and sort of a consent based environment.



Nicholas Buonanni 33:34

Wonderful. Then our final question is, is there anyone else that worked at the writing center that you think we should reach out to or to include as part of our storytelling project?



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 33:46

Yes. Have you talked to Carrie Chapman yet?



Nicholas Buonanni 33:51

No, C-A-R-R-I-E?



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 33:55

Yes, exactly. And last name Chapman C-H-A-P-M-A-N. Let me, I actually have me Facebook open, so I can maybe even give you their email address. Okay, I feel like you should be able to find them pretty easily.



Nicholas Buonanni 34:16

Yeah, we I have the name now. So it might be easy for me to find.



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 34:19

Have you talked to Ashmita Gupta?



Nicholas Buonanni 34:22

No.



34:24

So A-S-H-M-I-T-A and then last name, G-U-P-T-A.



Nicholas Buonanni 34:31

Sorry, my cursor just jumped everywhere. Could you please spell the first name again?



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 34:36

Yes, A-S-H-M-I-T-A.



Nicholas Buonanni 34:40

And G-U-P-T-A. Awesome.

- L** Lamiyah Bahrainwala 34:44
Then you probably talked to Donnie Sackey? Donnie Johnson Sackey. Have you talked to him yet?
- L** Lamiyah Bahrainwala 34:50
Oh, okay. Um, he, Yes, he worked at the Writing Center. Um, so Donnie, D-O-N-N-I-E, and last name, Sackey, S-A-C-K-E-Y, and he's an assistant professor here at UT now, so he moved down here. And then you spoke to Trav. Did you speak to Matt Cox?
- N** Nicholas Buonanni 35:08
Yes.
- L** Lamiyah Bahrainwala 35:09
Okay. And then Mary, it sounds like you talked to Marilee Brooks. Have you talked to Elena Atkins Garcia?
- N** Nicholas Buonanni 35:15
No, we've reached out to her but we haven't heard back from her or Ben Goodwin yet.
- L** Lamiyah Bahrainwala 35:20
Ben Goodwin, right. And then there's Minh-Tram when. Have you talk to Min-Tram? Let me see if I have her in my Facebook. So Min..Okay. No, actually I don't see them on my Facebook. I'm not sure how to spell their name are not totally sure what their last name is either, but I think that their name was Minh, M-I-N-H , dash, and then either Tram or Tran, T-R-A-M or T-R-A-N.
- N** Nicholas Buonanni 36:15
And I'm guessing that this was probably somebody that Trixie would remember if they were there at the same time. So we could always find out.
- L** Lamiyah Bahrainwala 36:22
Yeah, I think so. And let me see who else, and I think you've probably talked to Beth

Keller...Beth Keller.

L Lamiyah Bahrainwala 36:36
And oh, Ryan Beatty. Can you talk to him? Oh, I'm Ryan. And then last name, B-E-A-T-T-Y.

N Nicholas Buonanni 36:47
Awesome.

L Lamiyah Bahrainwala 36:52
Yeah, is that enough or?

N Nicholas Buonanni 36:54
Oh yeah.

L Lamiyah Bahrainwala 36:55
(laughter)

N Nicholas Buonanni 36:56
That was fantastic.

S Sharieka Botex 36:57
I've been asking some of the participants, and I know Nick told you we already asked our last question, but since you're still working in the field in academia, and I think the Writing Center knowledge we get is going to be applicable no matter where we work or go in life, but is there any advice that you're now self would tell your then self for working in the Writing Center? So what advice would you give to yourself based on what you've currently learned and are currently doing to the person that you were when you were working in the Writing Center then?

L Lamiyah Bahrainwala 37:31
Stay in touch the people at your writing center. Build relationships with any writing centers

you go to in the future, even if you're not planning to do Writing Center work. Do research, do more research at the Writing Center. It's a fertile ground, fertile ground for collecting data. Truly, like autoethnographic stuff, ethnographic stuff, qualitative stuff, quantitative stuff, all of those things. Use all of the networking opportunities it gives you. So you know, go to conferences you will be funded. But then also meet people through the Writing Center listservs and build connections there. Ot gets you into places, which you wouldn't get through in the ordinary channels. Because, you know, are you, you're in rhetoric, right, Sharieka? So, you know, that rhetoric is spread across many different colleges and schools in different universities. So there's an English department in rhetoric, and there's a communication studies rhetoric department, and then there's just rhetoric, and then there's rhetoric in American cultures. So you can find people in many different places and get to know them and have ins in different departments to writing center work. Yeah, maybe that's it. But I'm happy to think more and talk with you, as you know, if I've had more time to, you know, think about that question. So you're more than welcome to reach out to me again.



Sharieka Botex 39:10

That's solid advice. I think a lot of people would benefit from hearing that, but thank you. I definitely will follow up with you.



Lamiyah Bahrainwala 39:18

Yeah. Right. Is there anything else that can help with?



Colton Wansitler 39:24

Nope, I think that's the end of our questions. I'm going to stop Otter now and stop our recording before we have people go.