UWC Open Mic Journal
Editorial Team

The *Open Mic: Creative Writing Journal* was developed to provide students at UWC with an appropriate venue to publish their creative work. The journal was initiated by the UWC Library in collaboration with the UWC Writing Centre. The Journal publishes all the creative work performed at the UWC Open Mic events hosted by the Writing Centre. The journal accepts a range of creative writing such as poetry, prose, short stories, reflective essays and artwork. Students are encouraged to submit their contributions in their first language or mother tongue with an English translation. This journal provides students, especially undergraduate students with a platform to express themselves creatively, tell their own stories and learn more about publishing. Participating authors, with the support from the Library and Writing Center, also perform the roles of editors, peer-reviewers, journal managers and publishers. The journal content largely consists of contributions submitted for performance at the Writing Center's Open Mic events at the UWC library.

To take a look at the first issue of the journal, please visit our website, [Open Mic: A Creative Writing Journal](#)

Contact the Open Mic Editorial Team at **openmicjournal@uwc.ac.za**

Meet the Editors:

Arona Dison
I am currently Coordinator of the Writing Centre and Learning and Teaching Specialist in the Directorate of Learning, Teaching and Student Success at the University of the Western Cape (UWC). I have worked in academic development for over 30 years at the University of Fort Hare, Rhodes University and UWC. My work has spanned academic literacies, student development and professional development of academics in relation to learning and teaching. I am passionate about socially just education which facilitates fulfilling of potential and the building of supportive and caring institutions and learning/working spaces. My research interests include academic literacies, professional development of academics, writing centres, political ethics of care, formative feedback and generative artificial intelligence in relation to academic literacies development.

Phoene Oware has worked at the University of the Western Cape's (UWC) Writing Centre as a tutor for four years, where she facilitates a range of activities such as workshops and consultations that support students to develop academic literacies. She also assists with organizing the Centre's Open Mic events which create a platform for students at UWC to express themselves creatively and build their confidence.

She is a post-doctoral fellow at the UWC School of Public Health. Her research spans multiple interests, including social policy and social protection, gender and gender-transformative approaches to sexual and reproductive health (SRH), as well as trauma informed approaches to research. Phoene holds a BA in International Relations (Gender and Development Studies) from the United States International University (USIU), and an MA and PhD in Development Studies from UWC.

Meet the Editorial Team:

Mische Muller - Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Linguistics.

Mische Muller completed her undergraduate degree at UWC and her Honours in General Linguistics at Stellenbosch University.

Her current research focuses on studying the language diversity within the Afrikaans-speaking-coloured communities in Namakwaland. She is currently working on a multilingual Parts of Speech (POS) project to test automated Natural Language Processing (NLP) libraries across different languages with the University of Melbourne and Reenlab. In addition, she is currently working on an Automated Speech Recognition for African languages with Makerere University (Mak-AI). Although Mische is pursuing her postgraduate studies at Stellenbosch University, she continues to stay connected to the UWC community through attending and arranging a range of workshops for the Linguistics Department.

Nosipho Gxekwa - Art and Humanities Faculty, English Department
Nosipho Gxekwa is an English master's candidate at the University of the Western Cape, having graduated with an honours degree in English from the same institution. She considers herself a historian of expression with her current academic interests centring around the intersections between language, history and identity, particularly how literature allows one to take the emotive pulse of individuals and communities at historically important moments. She believes that this provides a unique perspective on our collective past, aids in reconciling with our present and gives a voice to the voiceless. This belief is foundational to the work that she does beyond academics as a tutor, filmmaker and editor of this journal. After her master's, Nosipho plans to continue with her studies with the hope of completing her PhD and launching her career in academia, fulfilling the dream she has had since she was eleven. If nothing else, she hopes to carve for herself a space where she can acquire some peace, love, strength, serenity and discipline. And the money to support it.

Tando Keke - Arts and Humanities, English Department
Tando Keke is a creative visionary and a scribe at heart. She is a graduate of the University of Cape Town in South Africa majoring in Gender and Transformation. She formerly worked at an international university, a private college, and at a training center as an English educator in Asia. She has served as a senior community development manager in not-for-profit organizations around the world for more than 12 years. Her focus is on local organizations addressing poverty, grassroots social justice, education and creative arts. Especially those that partner with local community stakeholders to support sustainable community transformation in developing countries. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree. in Media, Communication and Culture and a Bachelor of Arts Honours in English from Nelson Mandela University and majored in English literature, communication and contemporary cultural studies. She is currently pursuing her Master of Arts Degree in Creative Writing through University of Western Cape. Tando is an internationally credentialed cultural diversity, equity and inclusion professional life coach and a neuroscience and mindfulness coach practitioner certified through NeuroMindfulness Institute.

Lee-Ann Williams - Arts and Humanities, English Literature Department

Lee-Ann holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and an Honours degree in English Literature from the University of the Western Cape (UWC), as well as a TESOL/TEFL certificate from World TESOL Academy. She is currently pursuing her Masters degree in Creative Writing.

Her primary responsibilities include proofreading and editing submissions, engaging with peer reviewers and managing and monitoring social media engagement.
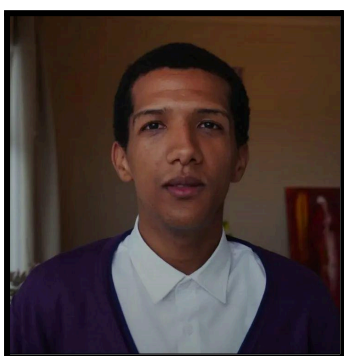
Jerome Coetzee - Arts and Humanities, Afrikaans Department

Jerome Coetzee is a writer, poet, and Artistic Director for the Centre of Excellence Bishop Lavis. His research focus is on Afrofuturism in contemporary Afrikaans Literature. He has previously been published in LitNet, The Wee Sparrow poetry press (2022), is a National Poetry Prize winner (2021) and was on the longlist for the Sol Plaatje European Union Award (2022). He co-wrote a play A pot of Pap at the End of the Rainbow Nation (2024) and a documentary Cooking up Feminism (2025) for Food Agency Cape Town.

Tasneem Ismail is an Administrative Officer in the Writing Centre in the Directorate of

Learning, Teaching & Student Success. Tasneem holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and an Honours degree in Psychology from the University of the Western Cape (UWC), as well as a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) from Cornerstone Institute. Her primary responsibilities include managing and maintaining the online booking system, assisting the Writing Centre coordinator with managing tutors, organisational responsibilities, purchasing and budgetary management, and facilitating student and tutor relations.

Mark Snyders - Manager for Digital Scholarship at the UWC Library. This portfolio includes publishing support as one of its major functions. Publishing support includes the development of new journals, providing guidance for editors as well as author support. Technical support, including hosting, registration of journals and DoIs, and publishing, is provided by the library. This portfolio is also supported by two library assistants. mpsnyders@uwc.ac.za