



## THE WRITING CENTER DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



# Kā Riley | UWC Director

### A Little About Me

Retuning to school as an adult added a certain excitement to my life. Now that I've finished my Master of Liberal Arts, with an emphasis in English, working in the UWC helps to keep me "thinking young." I earned an Associate in Liberal Arts degree (with honors) at Albuquerque's TVI Community College. At that time I was a single mom with four teenagers, working as an overnight deejay, throwing 1500 afternoon newspapers (with my children), and working part-time at Target. I stayed with Target for almost thirteen years, moving up the ladder to an overnight executive position. After leaving Target in 2004, God led me to enroll at DBU. In August of 2006, I completed a BAS degree with concentrations in English and business. It took me almost six more years to complete that MA! I currently have six living grandchildren ranging in age from eleven years old to twenty-one! The seventh little one lived 33 days in a NICU and was called home to God. Almost every break finds me traveling to New Mexico or California to visit children and grandchildren. Israel, and all things related, has become a passion of mine, and I've visited the country twice. It's my dream to someday have an extended stay there, perhaps studying, participating in a dig, or just enjoying the culture. The most fun job I ever held was as a DJ at Kool 102 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. My husband, Michael, works for Heritage Galleries as a researcher and writer; he's currently "Director, Space Operations" and working with the Armstrong brothers to sell a large portion of things once owned and carried into space by Neil Armstrong! Exciting stuff. I enjoy attending Heritage auctions with him. We both like collecting - Mobil "stuff" is my favorite while he prefers old newspapers and Bible pages. We both collect autographs and antiques. Music is another of our shared passions, and we go to lots of concerts together.

### What I Like About Working in the UWC

Working with the diverse student population that visits the UWC is such a treat and blessing! In addition to that, every day is an opportunity to learn something new. It is truly awesome to watch how God works in the UWC. Every semester, He blesses us with a new mix of consultants and receptionists, and then He quickly forms us into a very special family.

### Hobbies

I enjoy reading, researching, *writing*, speaking, movies, concerts, theater, and gardening. I feel especially close to God in my garden where I can clearly see His hand at work, but sadly, my knees prevent me from spending much time there anymore. I also enjoy meeting new people and hearing their stories.

### Aspirations

First and foremost, I desire to ever deepen my walk with the Lord and to hear His voice clearly; beyond that, increasing the number and quality of writing center visits is always my immediate goal. Now that I have completed my Master's degree, it is my intention to continue to learn and grow as the Spirit so leads. Someday, I hope to retire in New Mexico where I anticipate researching, writing, and perhaps tutoring students to improve their writing abilities. This has truly become my passion.

### Favorite Quote

There are so many, do I really have to choose? One of my favorites is by C. S. Lewis: "Don't use words too big for the subject. Don't say 'infinitely' when you mean 'very.' Otherwise you'll have no word left when you want to talk about something really infinite." Another is "People on the outside think there's something magical about writing, that you go up in the attic at midnight and cast the bones and come down in the morning with a story, but it isn't like that. You sit in back of the typewriter and you work, and that's all there is to it" according to Harlan Ellison. Finally, I think Ernest Hemingway was right when he quipped, "There is nothing to writing. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and bleed."

### Favorite Bible Verse

Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through God who strengthens me."

This verse inspires me because it reminds me that God is my strength, and that I am nothing without Him. God is so good. Lately, I've added a second favorite verse to this one that I've claimed for most of my life: "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest" (Exodus 33:14). Kenean Bekele wrote those words on an inner-office communication, and I've grabbed hold of them as I work toward my retirement, which is looming on the horizon.