Alyssa Quinn, who graduated with Honors in 2016 and delivered the USU Valedictorian Address, was published in the November/December 2016 issue of Writing Lab Newsletter: A Journal of Writing Center Scholarship. The article, “Students’ Writing as Sacred Texts: Personal Narratives in the Writing Center,” draws on Quinn’s work as a tutor in the USU Writing Center.

In the article, Quinn argues that it’s seductive for tutors to advocate for a certain interpretation of writers’ personal narratives that may not be authentic. As a tutor, Quinn learned that “Our role should be to help students figure out what they are trying to say—not what they should say.” Quinn was influenced by Professor Jennifer Sinor’s advice to “treat students writing as sacred texts.”

Quinn is currently in the MFA program at Western Washington University.