

# TRITON TRANSFER STORYTELLERS

## YOUR CREATIVE COACHES



As a participant in Triton Transfer Storytellers, we want to set you up for success. Below are creative and writing coaches who have volunteered their time to support you in your design process. As the a goal of the Storytellers contest is to build connection, we will consider your outreach to a coach as a part of the judging process. Reach out to coaches to to share your story, to brainstorm ways to bring it to life within art, to review your design concept, or to receive support as you write your synopsis.



**RON REYES**

HE/HIM  
FORMER TRANSFER!  
Associate Director of Health  
Professions, Career Center  
rreyes@ucsd.edu

**Specialty/Passion:** Classically trained Print Maker (Intaglio, Lithography, Etching, Wood Block, Gel Printing), digital work, traditional painting, and model/sculpture making

*The main purpose of art is to give the artist additional tools to convey their experiences and emotions in a way that is unique, and allows others to feel the experience rather than just listen. I believe that art allows students to communicate more difficult experiences in a way that is both personal but also removed from themselves physically, giving room for growth and healing that otherwise might be more difficult.*



**RACHAEL WELLISCH**

SHE/HER/HERS  
FORMER TRANSFER!  
Student Affairs Manager,  
Computer Science &  
Engineering  
rwellisch@eng.ucsd.edu

**Specialty/Passion:** Scrapbooking, photography, piano/music, poetry/short stories, pottery, painting, and costume/clothing design. I think art is not only a beautiful form of self expression but incredibly therapeutic

*Transfer students are an important part of our campus community. Their stories of resilience are valuable and should be shared and heard. Being able to express those experiences through art may help others relate or better understand the unique and sometimes untraditional journey of transfer students*



**CAITLIN VAN GELDER**

SHE/HER/HERS  
Instructional Services  
Coordinator, Computer  
Science & Engineering  
cvangelder@eng.ucsd.edu

**Specialty/Passion:** Painting, woodworking & DIY projects (i.e. upcycling furniture, home decor, etc.). Ultimately, I love all forms of art, working with my hands and learning new techniques

*I participated as a coach in this initiative last year and was blown away by the creativity our transfer students displayed. Transfer students bring such unique experiences to the table, and I think the whole college community should learn from them and enjoy seeing college life from a transfer perspective!*



**EMILY STEWART**

SHE/HER/HERS  
FORMER TRANSFER!  
International Student  
Advisor, International Center  
emstewart@ucsd.edu

**Specialty/Passion:** I am passionate about all forms of art! My daughter goes to elementary school with a focus on arts integration and I am very supportive of it all!

*As a transfer student myself, I understand the unique and often under-shared stories these students have. And I think what better to share then through our creativity!*



**JENNY KRESSEL**

SHE/HER/HERS  
Student Care &  
Accountability Specialist,  
Eleanor Roosevelt College  
jkressel@ucsd.edu

**Specialty/Passion:** Restorative community building circles, photography, abstract art

*Storytelling is empowering - it creates an opportunity to express our feelings, share our experiences, be heard, build compassion and perspective-taking. My mom is an artist and art therapist - I've grown up learning how to express life experiences and emotion through various forms of art.*



**MAYRA MARQUEZ**

SHE/ELLA  
Assistant Director of Student  
Engagement & Philanthropy,  
Alumni Affairs  
mmr003@ucsd.edu

**Specialty/Passion:** Writing

*I am inspired to be of support in lifting our transfer student's voices to help others better understand the complexity of being a transfer student.*



**TOD OLIVIERE**

HE/HIM/HIS  
FORMER TRANSFER!  
Director of Student  
Employment & Career  
Development, Career Center  
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**Specialty/Passion:** My specialty and passion is music. I studied music in college and worked as a professional musician for over 30 years performing jazz, rock, pop, country, and classical. My primary instruments are drums and percussion. I also worked for a regional theater for 10 years performing musical theater.

*Working as a professional in Career Services and also previously as a private music instructor, I have always been passionate about mentoring and helping students as they pursue their education. There are many things about this initiative that resonated with me and my background seemed to align with the program, so I felt compelled to participate.*



**GRACE BAGUNU**

FORMER TRANSFER!  
Assistant Dean of Student  
Affairs, Revelle College  
gbagunu@ucsd.edu

**Specialty/Passion:** I work with a lot of art mediums, including acrylic and watercolor painting, hand lettering, writing poetry and reflective storytelling, and started textile sewing to upcycle old Comic-con bags. I love all arts and crafts as forms of self-expression and storytelling!

*My word for this year is BECOME and in searching about this history and meaning of this word, I came across an excerpt from Michelle Obama's book BECOMING and I think that her words encapsulate why I chose this word this year and why I support transfer students. "Let's invite one another in. Maybe then we can begin to fear less, to make fewer wrong assumptions, to let go of the biases and stereotypes that unnecessarily divide us. Maybe we can better embrace the ways we are the same. It's not about being perfect. It's not about where you get yourself in the end. There's power in allowing yourself to be known and heard, in owning your unique story, in using your authentic voice. And there's grace in being willing to know and hear others. This, for me, is how we become."*



## YOUR WRITING COACHES

OASIS Language Arts Tutorial Services will provide you with personalized support as you map out your story and work on your synopsis. Reach out to OASIS Humanities Lead, Maggie Thach, to get linked with a writing coach based on where you're at in your process: [mathach@ucsd.edu](mailto:mathach@ucsd.edu)