Savanna Mertz  
Writing Consultant

A little about me:
Until I moved to Dallas for college, I had always lived in the same small, Texas Panhandle town. Aside from being a poster-child introvert, I fit into very few molds. I am a creature of habit and schedule, yet I readily welcome new, cross-cultural experiences. I adore getting to know people and hearing their stories, but, personally, I am extremely reserved and take weeks or even months to fully open up. Once I do open up to someone however, I do it with all of my heart and dedication. I have mixed passions for American history, crime fighting television dramas, Texas Rangers baseball, and American Sign Language.

What I like about working at the UWC:
Writing is a natural love of mine, just as teaching is a natural talent. The joy that comes from helping an individual learn and grow is inexpressible. Working in the Writing Center, teaching and learning happen on a daily basis. Ministry is any opportunity to serve others and glorify God using the resources and opportunities He has graciously given me. Without a doubt, serving alongside fellow writers in the DBU Writing Center is a ministry, and I am blessed to be a part of it.

Hobbies:
Believe it or not, there are people in this world who enjoy running; I know this because I, myself, am a confessed running addict. I also play golf and tennis, and, because I am competitive, I am almost always willing to join in on any game. I can spend hours spectating at any sporting event, but baseball is my primary obsession. To pacify my quieter side, I enjoy reading and cooking. My preference in books varies greatly: history, biography, business, and Christian living are a few of my favorite genres. In the kitchen, my specialty lies somewhere between Italian dishes and coma-inducing desserts.

Aspirations:
Growing up, a frequent comment from well-meaning adults was “You can be anything you want... but you would make such a great teacher!” Having been raised by educators, this was not something with which I wanted to be involved, and, consequently, I suppressed and despised my God-given gift of teaching. As the Lord has shaped me and matured my faith, I have come to see that if God only called teachers to work in classrooms, the world would be an undesirably different place. In light of all that, I know that God is calling me to some type of missionary career, particularly with the American Deaf culture that I have grown to admire in recent years. I do not know how He will combine my gifts and interests in this area, but I trust that He will.

My favorite quote and why:
“The success of God’s plan is not dependent on my ability to execute it. He will not be handcuffed by my failures or unleashed by my accomplishments. He is bigger than that.” – Jon Acuff
There is something surreally beautiful about knowing that, no matter how great or small I seem to myself, nothing can interfere with the perfect plan of my Savior. He is totally in control, and that is a truth upon which I can always depend.

My favorite Bible verse and why:
“‘My ways are not your ways,’ declares the Lord, ‘and my thoughts are not your thoughts. Just as Heaven is higher than earth, so my thoughts are higher than yours, and my ways than your ways.’” – Isaiah 55:8-9
God brought this verse into my life through chance encounter at just the time I needed to hear it. Since then, it has been written on my heart. The Lord’s ways are so high and mighty, and though I cannot always see it, His ways are far superior to my own. For that, I am eternally grateful!