

The Newsletter of the



Spring 2012/Issue 1

April 18, 2012

Cheryl Carithers, Editor

Greetings, Everyone! I hope you are all having a wonderful, productive semester. As we prepare for the end of the semester, a colleague and I are working on a final assignment, which asks students to compare depictions of college life we see in the media with real college life. In reading Mark Langer's article "Screen Universities: Hollywood Goes to College," I was amused by his observations regarding college professors: "My activities and those of my colleagues seem vastly different from our movie counterparts. No one I know has battled evil Nazis for the possession of the Lost Ark; we don't sit around drinking tea or sipping sherry with graduate students...; and none of us appears to be hosting soirees in our mansions in our off-hours." As writing center professionals, it seems to me we are the farthest removed from any of the above fictional activities and many others which are more realistic. Our lives are often jam-packed with not only writing center obligations but other necessary duties in our various work-life roles. These responsibilities very often exclude us from the more "fun" occurrences on campus—book signings, speakers, student presentations, informational fairs, and the like. Tutorial sessions run long, we are caught up in administrative details, arguing for budget increases, figuring

out how we are going to fill in the tutorial schedule given the dearth of tutors available... All of these things, and more, create the life of the writing center professional. But, we also need time to relax, and we need to be mindful of opportunities to rejuvenate our academic spirit, especially in the face of challenges, which seem to zap it. I urge all of you to take some time to enjoy your colleagues and your institutions of higher learning and to ferret out those moments, which validate your professional selves. Organizations such as this one serve to do that for so many of us. In the case of NTWCA, I think we receive as much or more than we give. So, while most of us don't sit around our giant offices, paging through first editions, we are fortunate in so many ways.

In addition, I want to congratulate Brianna Casey from Texas Woman's University, winner of the Mary Nell Kivikko Excellence in Scholarship Award and Paula Smith, from Tarleton State University, as the winner of the Outstanding Tutor Award this spring. Our best to both of you!

Finally, it has been my great privilege to serve as the president of this fine organization. We are strong, vital, and growing, and I appreciate all of you, my colleagues and friends.

Alice Newsome
NTWCA President

North Texas Writing Centers Association

Spring 2012 Conference
April 20, 2012

Hosted by
Collin College, Central Park Campus
McKinney, Texas

Program Schedule

11:00-12:00	Arrival and Registration (Conference Room D106B)
12:00-12:45	Lunch
12:45-1:15	Opening Remarks and Business Meeting
1:15-2:00	Keynote Address, Mary Nell Kivikko Award Winner Brieanna Casey, Texas Woman's University "The Potential & Importance of Technology Literacy in Writing Center Theory & Practice"
2:00-2:15	Break
2:00-3:00	Paula Smith, Tarleton State University "The Evolution of a Student Tutor" Rachel Spurrier, Texas Christian University "When Flow Charts Don't Flow: Working with Visual Aids in the Writing Center"
3:00-3:30	Closing Remarks and Writing Center Tour

Central Park Campus
2200 West University Drive
McKinney, Texas 75071

Campus Map

http://www.collin.edu/shared/shared_imageslib/images/campuses/2010CPCaerialMap.jpg

***Mary Nell Kivikko Award Winner
and Keynote Speaker***



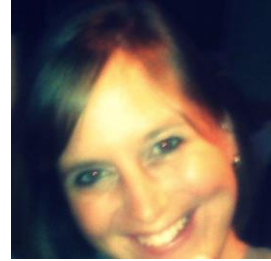
Brieanna Casey is currently the lead writing consultant at Texas Woman's University's writing lab. She graduated in May 2011, receiving a BA in English, with a minor in Education. She completed her student teaching with Denton ISD and obtained her certification to teach in English and ESL classrooms. Brieanna currently is pursuing her MA in English and is enjoying the new challenges and opportunities to learn from colleagues that graduate style courses provide. In her free time, Brieanna enjoys reading up on the latest and greatest in technology, as well as reading, writing, television and film, and occasionally practicing piano and artwork. She has always derived a great sense of satisfaction and pride in the ability and achievement of teaching others and believes writing labs to be very necessary and beneficial environments for peer collaboration.

"The Potential & Importance of Technology Literacy
in Writing Center Theory & Practice"

Technology has become an integral part of the composition process, which, in turn, has brought it to the steps of writing centers across the country. The use of technology as well as the necessity of technology literacy has become a fundamental aspect of student success in composition classrooms, which translates to the tutorial sessions of the writing center. This presentation will outline possible improvements to, and new uses for, the implementation of a more frequent, and more productive use of technology into the writing center. A higher degree of technology use in writing centers will not only allow students to be tutored with styles more attuned to their individual preferences, but it will allow students to retain greater ownership of their own learning. The techniques this presentation will include will save time and money and will make the training gaps between transitions of tutoring staff more fluid. Technology use can also heighten the quality of the ELL sessions, both face-to-face and online. With an enhanced awareness and tactful integration of technology, writing centers can facilitate a higher degree of student success and efficiency. Doing so will make tutorial sessions within the writing center more beneficial and productive for students and more efficient for tutors. In an increasingly fast-paced and technology driven world, it is not only advantageous, but crucial, for writing centers in conjunction with their composition programs, to aid their students in keeping up with the technology that will continue to affect human communication.

Presenters

Paula Smith is an English major at Tarleton State University. Currently absorbed in her senior year, she is a third year University Writing Center tutor. In addition to face-to-face tutorials, Paula has been the designated online tutor for the past two years. She is actively involved in Sigma Tau Delta, currently holding the vice president position. Following graduation in December 2012, she plans to pursue a Master's of Library Science degree.



Rachel Spurrier is a senior Writing major at Texas Christian University. She is an intern at the TCU Press and a peer consultant at the William L. Adams Center for Writing. Her interests in writing include creative nonfiction and poetry. She is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society, a student of the John V. Roach Honors College, and a member of the Sigma Tau Delta international English honor society.

Spring 2012 Officer Nominees

President: Ka Riley, Dallas Baptist University

Vice-President: Jennifer Phillips-Denny

Secretary: Abigail Manuel, Collin College, Central Park Campus

Treasurer: Elizabeth Parrish, TCC-Northeast Campus

Newsletter Editor: Cheryl Carithers, Texas Christian University

Web-Spinner: Angela Petitt, TCC-Northeast Campus

Archivist: Angela Petitt, TCC-Northeast Campus

News from the Region

Dr. Angela Pettit has been named as the chair of the new Department of Education Foundations for fall 2012. This is the sixth department under Humanities at the NE campus. The new department will serve developmental, ESOL, and first-time-in-college students. Angela is the archivist for the North Texas Writing Centers Association and an associate professor of English at the Tarrant County College Northeast Campus.

Dr. Steve Sherwood, Director of the William L. Adams Center for Writing, was elected vice president of the South Central Writing Centers Association in February and secretary of the Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers during the organization's fall meeting. He continues to serve as an at-large member of the International Writing Centers Association Executive Board, and a board member for the Conference of College Teachers of English. Sherwood has presented the following works to conference during the past school year:

"The Mentor." College Conference of Teachers of English. Fort Worth, TX. 3 March 2012.

"Mining Humor in the Writing Center: Comical Misunderstandings as Pathways to Knowledge." South Central Writing Centers Association. Little Rock, AR. 24 February 2012,

"Techniques of Fiction Writing." Trinity Valley School's Young Writers' Workshop. Fort Worth, TX. 18 February 2012.

"Mentors and Protégés: A Cautionary Tale." Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers. Austin, TX. 24 September 19, 2011.

Dave Kuhne, Associate Director of the William L. Adams Center for Writing at Texas Christian University, presented a story from his recently published collection, *The Road to Roma*, at the September 2011 conference of Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers in Austin, Texas. Kuhne also presented a paper, "Gender Roles after the Collapse: Women in American Post-Apocalyptic Fiction," at the March CCTE conference in Fort Worth. The paper won the CCTE American Literature Award and will be published in *CCTE Studies*.

Anyone wishing to read a story from Kuhne's collection, *The Road to Roma*, may do so by visiting his website: davekuhne.com <<file:///C:/Users/dkuhne/Documents/Roxio>>

Invitation to Join the North Texas Writing Centers Association

The North Texas Writing Centers Association serves writing centers of the region as a clearinghouse for exchanging information, as a forum for discussing important writing center issues, and as a means of promoting the professional status of writing center personnel.

Membership in the NTWCA includes directors and staff of writing centers and persons interested in writing centers. Membership can be either institutional (\$50 for a single campus institution, \$25 for each campus in a multiple campus institution), or individual (\$10). Institutional memberships include writing center staff and tutors at the institution.

Name: _____

Individual Membership: _____ Institutional Membership: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Institutional Address: _____

Please indicate your profile:

____ I am a Writing Center Director.

____ I am a Writing Center Staff Member (professional consultant, graduate tutor, or undergraduate peer tutor).

____ I am interested in Writing Centers (past director, faculty member, student ...).

____ Other:

**Please Send Dues To: TCC NE English Department
Attn: Elizabeth Parrish
828 W. Harwood Rd.
Hurst, Texas 76054**

CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTH TEXAS WRITING CENTERS ASSOCIATION
(REVISED SPRING 2007)

- I. The North Texas Writing Centers Association serves writing centers of the region as a clearinghouse for exchanging information, as a forum for discussing important writing center issues, and as a means of promoting the professional status of writing center personnel.
- II. Membership in the NTWCA includes directors and staff of writing centers and persons interested in writing centers. Membership can be multiple-campus institutions (\$25 per campus), single-campus institutions (\$50), or individual (\$10). Institutional memberships include writing center staff and tutors at the institution.
- III. NTWCA assesses dues annually at the fall meeting. Memberships run from September through August. Monies collected are used for communication, publication, and conference expenses.
- IV. The right to vote and to hold office extends to all individual and institutional members.
- V. The following elected officers serve a two-year term and may be elected for multiple, two-year terms:
 - a. President: The president chairs all meetings, facilitates the operations of the association, and serves as co-chair of the Membership Committee.
 - b. Vice-President: The vice-president functions as program chair and assumes the duties of the president in the president's absence.
 - c. Newsletter Editor: The newsletter editor gathers information, edits articles, publishes the newsletter, and handles mailings.
 - d. Secretary: The secretary takes minutes at meetings and reports at executive board meetings and conferences.
 - e. Treasurer: The treasurer collects dues, records memberships, reports finances and memberships at meetings, and serves as co-chair of the Membership Committee.
 - f. Immediate Past President: The immediate past president serves as an advisor and assists other officers in discharging their duties.
- VI. The president appoints the following officers for two-year terms:
 - a. Web Spinner: The web spinner maintains the NTWCA website page.
 - b. Archivist: The archivist serves as custodian of the organization's records.
- VII. The Membership Committee is co- chaired by the president and treasurer and consists of three volunteers from the organization membership. The membership committee promotes involvement by serving as the NTWCA's outreach liaisons, contacting potential members at colleges, universities, and secondary schools in the area, and conducting an annual membership drive.
- VIII. The Executive Board, consisting of the six elected officers and two appointees, meets at least twice per calendar year to plan meetings and conferences. When officers and

appointees are selected at the spring meeting, they immediately assume their duties and plan the schedule of events for the following year.

- IX. If an officer resigns, the Executive Board will appoint an interim officer to serve out the officer's term. If the resigning officer's term has more than one year remaining, the association will elect a new officer at the next regular meeting to serve out the remainder of the term.
- X. The NTWCA sponsors two conferences per calendar year.
- XI. This constitution may be amended or replaced by a majority vote of the executive board and membership at any business meeting.

Current NTWCA Officers

President: Alice Newsome, Tarleton State University

Vice-President: Ben Sword, Tarleton State University

Secretary: Ka Riley, Dallas Baptist University

Treasurer: Elizabeth Parrish, TCC-Northeast

Newsletter Editor: Cheryl Carithers, Texas Christian University

Web-Spinner: Elizabeth Parrish and Angela Petitt, TCC-Northeast

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