

The Newsletter of the



Fall 2010/Issue 2

October 6, 2010

Cheryl Carithers, Editor

Greetings, NTWCA members! We are once again in the swing of things with a new academic year. It is exciting to think about the how our writing centers can create a culture of academic excellence, a place where ideas are fostered and nurtured, and where creativity is valued.

As we often share with each other, we know what a great job we do in our writing centers. It is something else, though, to explain what we do or prove what we do to others. It is with some concern that we look at forces beyond our writing centers that want to have a hand in running our centers. Many times, administrators who control the purse strings are far removed from the day- to-day operations of what really works for us. To that end, we face the very real issue of assessment.

For those of us who work with writers and their texts, we understand the very fluid nature of the beast. We know that writing improves sometimes, that it doesn't sometimes, but, regardless, we are committed to helping students become better writers. And, now, somehow, we must quantify exactly how that happens, but it has to be short and to the point—no narratives, please...

Fortunately, our keynote speaker this fall is Elisabeth Piedmont-Marton who will enlighten us, in several ways, about assessment.

In addition, we have several tutors presenting who represent the diversity in our organization. All of them have something in common, however. Their writing center work has influenced other areas of their professional and, in some cases, personal lives. These tutors will discuss how working in the writing center fuses with their “other” lives as writers, mentors, teachers, and students. Also, Shawn Stewart and his staff, our fantastic hosts for this event, will examine the future of writing and learning centers. What is on the horizon for us? What will it take to preserve and move forward our centers?

Several conferences are coming up quickly, with some calls for papers extended a bit. Our organization is always well represented at a number of state, multi-state regional, and national conferences.

Again, we thank Shawn and his staff at the Trinity River Campus of Tarrant County College. We appreciate your hosting NTWCA.

Alice Newsome, President

North Texas Writing Centers Association

Fall 2010 Conference

October 15, 2010

Hosted by

Tarrant County College-Trinity River Campus

Fort Worth, Texas

Program Schedule

11:00-11:30	Arrival and Registration (Win Conference Room, Trinity Building, Room 4030)
11:30-12:30	Lunch @ The Trinity River Restaurant—The River Front Café
12:30-1:00	Opening Remarks and Business Meeting (Win Conference Room) Alice Newsome, Tarleton State University
1:00-1:50	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Elisabeth Piedmont-Marton “What You Counted Doesn’t Count: Assessment and the Writing Center’s Black Box Problem”
1:50-2:00	Break
2:00-2:50	Tutor Reflections: A Roundtable Discussion David Ghitis, Carrie Hamilton, and Brandi Shepherd (DBU) Kelli Trapnell (TCU) Marsha Decker and Kristyn Hammond (TSU)
3:00-3:30	The Future of Writing/Learning Centers Discussion led by the Trinity River Campus Writing and Learning Center
3:30-4:00	Writing and Learning Center Tour

Campus Map

The Win conference room is at the far north end of the fourth floor of the Trinity Building, room TRTR 4030. The link below contains a map of the campus.

http://www.tccd.edu/Campuses_and_Centers/Trinity_River_Campus/Maps_TR.html

Parking Information

Parking is in the enclosed parking garage at the corner of W. Belknap St. (Spur 347) and N. Henderson St. Enter on Florence St. or Cherry St. The security guard will direct visitors to park on levels three and four. Enter the building via the north door and take the elevator to stop six (actually the fourth floor of the Trinity building). See link above.

Driving Directions

The Trinity River Campus is located at 300 Trinity Campus Circle in downtown Fort Worth.

http://www.tccd.edu/Campuses_and_Centers/Trinity_River_Campus/Directions_TR.html

Keynote Speaker

Elisabeth Piedmont-Marton received her B.A. in English from Kenyon College, her M.A. in Humanities from the University of Chicago, and her PhD in American Literature from The University of Texas at Austin. She began her career in writing centers as coordinator of UT-Austin's Undergraduate Writing Center in 1995. Since 1999 she has combined her work in writing centers and American Literature as Associate Professor of English and Director of the Debby Ellis Writing Center at Southwestern University. She has served as a leader at IWCA Summer Institute and as a member or chair of both the best book and best article award committees. Her most recent publications are on Vietnam and post-Vietnam war narrative in American Literature. She is currently working on a manuscript about her experiences traveling, learning, and school-building in Vietnam, and co-editing a book of essays on writing center tutor training.



The 2011 Mary Nell Kivikko Excellence in Scholarship Award

The North Texas Writing Center Association soon will be accepting entries for the 2011 Mary Nell Kivikko Excellence in Scholarship Award. The award is open to all writing center professional staff, graduate tutors, and undergraduate peer tutors in the South Central Writing Center Association region (Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana). Proposals should focus on the subject area of writing center theory and practice. More information is forthcoming.

The 2011 North Texas Writing Centers Association Awards Outstanding Tutor Award

The NTWCA also will be accepting nominations for the Outstanding Tutor Award, which is designed to recognize professional staff (full or part-time consultants) as well as peer tutors (graduate or undergraduate) who not only demonstrate excellent tutoring skills but also make significant contributions to their writing center. One award will be given, and the winner will be recognized and the award presented at the NTWCA spring conference. More information regarding the award will be available soon.

Peer Tutor Panel

David Ghitis is the Senior Writing Consultant at Dallas Baptist University. This is his fourth year attending DBU, and he has worked at the University Writing Center since he was a freshman. After finishing his bachelor's degree in psychology and Christian studies, David wants to pursue a graduate degree in Social Psychology at either the University of Texas at Austin, Baylor University, or the University of Texas at Arlington. Eventually, he would like to earn a Ph.D. in Social Psychology and conduct research in the areas of identity formation and persuasion. At the same time, he would love to teach Psychology as well.

Brandi Shepherd is a graduating senior at Dallas Baptist University with a major in English and a minor in history. She eventually plans on attending graduate school to pursue either linguistics or church history. Her career plans involve working with refugees who are seeking residence in America. When she is not studying at school, she loves spending time with her family and hopes to visit Ireland one day.

Carrie Hamilton earned a B.A. in English from DBU in May of 2009. She has been a UWC writing consultant since the fall of 2006, and the opportunity of working with such a variety of students and staff members has been a huge encouragement for Carrie as she has grown in her studies. Carrie currently is pursuing a master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Missiology, with a concentration in Linguistics. She is considering a career working as a translator or an English teacher.

Kelli Trapnell is a senior Writing major with a minor in Spanish and Business at Texas Christian University. She has worked with the Center for Writing for almost four years now as both a Peer Consultant and a Writing Associate. She has won multiple awards for her fiction, including the 2009 Excellence in Literary Fiction scholarship. She is currently applying to multiple Fiction MFA programs, and she plans to write professionally and teach creative writing at the college level.

Marsha Decker is a 2010 graduate of Tarleton State University with a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Bachelor of Arts in History with a minor in Sociology. She is currently pursuing her Master's in English Literature with a focus on Composition and Linguistics. She has been a student tutor with The University Writing Center at Tarleton for the last two years and has recently expanded her duties by becoming a graduate assistant.

Kristyn Hammond is a 2009 graduate of Tarleton State University where she earned her bachelor's degree in English, with a minor in history. Currently, Kristyn is seeking her master's degree in English from Tarleton State University, where she is a first year Graduate Assistant. Her research interests include Greek, Renaissance, and American Gothic literature. Kristyn is an avid reader and enjoys creative writing.

News from the Region

Alice Arrington Newsome and **Ben Sword**, NTWCA officers and faculty members in the English Department at Tarleton, along with **David J. Carrothers**, professor of Criminal Justice at Tarleton, presented at SCWCA in Lake Charles in late April. Their presentation, “When the Writing Center and Homeland Security Cross Paths: Negotiating a Fractured System,” examined the unexpected commonalities between writing centers and the Homeland Security system. In both systems, there are barriers to communication, as well as the reality of territorialism. Using the criticisms of the deficient Homeland Security strategies as a lens, this presentation examined the Writing Center’s difficulties in establishing itself as a part of the university community. Understanding the fractured nature of the Homeland Security system allows exploration of the interdependent relationships among the writing center, professors, and students. The presentation was based on results of a survey given to sociology, social work, and criminal justice classes in spring 2010. Newsome, Sword, and Carrothers also presented a different version of the research at Tarleton’s Excellence in Teaching Conference, held in early April.

Ben Sword received the CCTE William E. Tanner Award for Best Rhetoric Paper by a Graduate Student for the paper “Remember Your Audience.’ ‘What Audience?’ How General Studies Programs Affect Composition Students’ Interaction with Concepts of Academic Inquiry and Discourse Community.” Additionally, CCTE published the paper in *CCTE Studies*, the organization’s journal.

Beginning fall 2010, **Tarrant County College’s Northwest Campus Writing Center** transferred from Student Development Services to the Humanities Division, chaired by **Mike Matthews**, in association with the Developmental Studies Department, chaired by Conrad Herrera, and the English Department, chaired by Angela Chilton.

St. Martin’s Press soon will release a fourth edition of *The St. Martin’s Sourcebook for Writing Tutors*, edited by **Steve Sherwood**, Director of the William L. Adams Center for Writing at Texas Christian University, and Christina Murphy, former director of the center who, most recently, served as Dean of Marshall University.

Additionally, in May, **Sherwood** presented a paper at the European Writing Centers Association conference in Paris.

Cheryl Carithers, an assistant director of the William L. Adams Center for Writing, attended the International Writing Centers Association Summer Institute in Lone Wolf, Oklahoma, in July. The institute, consisting of 55 participants, provided an opportunity for writing center professionals to share ideas and attend sessions addressing topics such as writing center philosophies, tutor education and development, assessment, and leadership.

Also, **Carithers** along with **Sherwood** and **Amy Hermanson**, a professional writing consultant in the Center for Writing, will present at the IWCA Conference in Baltimore in November.

Cynthia Shearer, an assistant director of the William L. Adams Center for Writing, **Sherwood**, and **Dave Kuhne**, Associate Director, made presentations at the Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers Conference in September.

Moreover, **Shearer** and **Hermanson** will read at the SCMLA Conference later this month.

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

Archivist: Angela Petitt, TCC-Northeast

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.