

The Newsletter of the



Fall 2011/Issue 2

September 14, 2011

Cheryl Carithers, Editor

Welcome to a new academic year! As we start the fall, we enter into conversations revolving around budgets, financial instability, and uncertainty for future programs. Fortunately, we are in the writing center business and are not strangers to this sort of talk. Because we are on the fringes of academia, suspicious and mysterious entities, we face budget issues regularly and continually are asked to validate what we do. Though that validation comes in the form of increased student contacts, space constraints because our centers are so busy, and demands for more ways for students to access our centers, the most influential validation for us is delivered by the students we serve. The relationships the staff forms with students and the professionalism with which our tutors go about their work are the foundation of our centers. Recently, a student who was a regular writing center client came by to visit. He has been out of school for some time training for the 2012 Olympics. One of his first stops when he returned to school was the writing center. He just wanted to touch base with the tutors who had helped him become an engaging, intelligent, independent writer. Another student continued to visit the writing center from his freshman year until this past summer when he graduated. Though terribly shy, he sought help and found tutors who made him comfortable and were patient with him, and, as a result, he became a much more competent writer. He never failed to say “thank you” when

he left a tutorial session. And, there are the more difficult clients, those we survive, only a little worse for the wear. One of our former tutors, now a second-year graduate student, told the story of her encounter with such a student. The tutor was new and had been training. The difficult student came (and stayed) in the writing center, effectively becoming the tutor’s trial by fire. The tutor made it through the session, thought she had made so many mistakes that she would be fired, and was questioning her abilities. Another tutor explained how it works: “If you make it through a session with her, you can make it through anything!” So, budget issues notwithstanding, our writing centers are important, they flourish despite dire predictions, and the tutors and directors who staff our centers are committed to those who need us most.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge Mike Matthews. After 40 years at Tarrant County College, Mike is retiring. Mike has been an integral part of the North Texas Writing Centers Association, serving as president for multiple terms and as the Dean of Humanities at the Northwest Campus, playing host to a number of NTWCA conferences. Mike’s generosity will extend to future students at TCC in the form of a scholarship in his name. We wish Mike the best as he embarks on the next big adventure!

Alice Newsome
President

North Texas Writing Centers Association

Fall 2011 Conference
September 16, 2011

Hosted by
Texas Woman's University
Denton, Texas

Program Schedule

11:00-11:30	Arrival and Registration (Student Union, Room 113)
11:30-12:30	Lunch
12:30-1:00	Opening Remarks and Business Meeting
1:00-1:50	Keynote Address <i>Dr. Jennifer Phillips Denny, Texas Woman's University</i> "Using Primordial Metaphors as a Schematic for Tutoring Sessions"
1:45-2:00	Break
2:00-3:00	Nick Clowers, Texas Woman's University "Collaboration Between Writing Centers and First Year Composition Programs" Paula Smith, Tarleton State University "Online Tutoring: More Than Editing" Brienna Casey, Texas Woman's University "Experiences Implementing Online Writing Center Software"
3:00-3:30	Write Site Tour (CFO, Room 129)

Campus Map and Driving Directions
http://www.twu.edu/map_denton_campus.asp

Parking Information
http://www.twu.edu/dps/parking_map.asp

Keynote Speaker



Dr. Phillips-Denny became the tutor coordinator of the Write Site in January of 2011 with a variety of experience in higher education gained over the past 14 years. She has taught numerous college English courses at UNT, Grayson College, and Colorado State University, and she is teaching for TWU starting in fall 2011. Dr. Phillips-Denny was the Assistant Director of Freshman English and the UNT Student Writing Lab from 2001-2006. Her other

experiences in higher education include managing course redesign projects, instructional design, learning technologies, and assessment. She received a B.A. in Sociology from Texas Tech in 1995, an M.A. in English from UNT in 1998, and a Ph. D. in English from UNT in 2001. Her areas of scholarly interest are writing center theory and practice, Victorian literature, and rhetoric and composition.

Presenters

Nick Clowers, a double major at TWU in Theatre and English, plans to enter graduate school in the spring for a Master's in English. When Nick is not in school or working, he is at the ice arena training students or skating for his own pleasure.

Paula Smith is an English major at Tarleton State University. Currently in her junior 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 and several creative writing groups.

Brieanna Casey is beginning her third semester at The Write Site. She graduated from TWU in May 2011, receiving a B.A. in English, with a minor in Education. Brienna is currently pursuing her M.A. in English and enjoys helping others learn how to become better writers. In her free time, she enjoys learning about new computer technology, reading, writing, watching TV and movies, and occasionally practicing piano.

News from the Region

Hugh Burns, TWU Professor Emeritus is spending this academic year at the United States Air Force Academy. He is the Holland H. Coors Endowed Chair in the Department of English and Fine Arts.

Congratulations to **Angela Pettit**, for completing her Ph.D. in Rhetoric from Texas Woman's University. Angela is the archivist for the North Texas Writing Centers Association and an associate professor of English at the Tarrant County College Northeast Campus.

Dave Kuhne, Associate Director of the William L. Adams Center for Writing at Texas Christian University, recently published a book titled *Road to Roma* with Inkbrush Press.

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.