



Spring Newsletter

April 13, 2018

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Officers:

President:
Holly Stone

Vice President:
Jared Landin

Treasurer:
Elizabeth Parrish

Secretary: Ka Riley

Membership Committee:
Darren Breedlove
Anna Rieve

Newsletter Editor: April
Trafton

From the President

Welcome NTWCA Friends,

I always knew Collin College had a writing center but never utilized its services while I was a student. Until I became a part of the writing center, I had never, in all of my college years, used a resource like this one. As I began my duties as the Manager of The Center for Academic Assistance, I learned from the experienced director, I planned schedules and workshops, duties a manager would have on a daily basis. But as the years have gone by, I've been included in this writing center club, if you will, learning about types of writing, different tutoring styles, and the abundant number of career opportunities writing can open up to anyone. Educators, technical and creative writers (think video games, movie storylines and TV shows), newsletter editors, social media bloggers, and student's writing their own poetry or published books; I've found myself talking to students about the many offerings that writing presents.

Now, I'm still a novice when it comes to tutoring or helping students in their writing needs, but I can comfortably assist a student with a Works Cited Page or a reference. Being included as part of this club is definitely a blessing. Learning much more than being a manager, you're getting to know the students, expanding their ideas of the story, giving them advice. The tutors learn from the students also, experiencing new stories of history and music, speeches about the passionate topics the students are sharing. It is definitely an experience that both the tutor and tutee leave learning new things each time.

As the past two years of my tenure as the NTWCA president have come to an end, I have learned different ways I can help students with their writing needs. I attend classroom visits to discuss writing consultations available to students, visit new student and faculty orientation to tout the services our writing centers can offer to the students, and work with administrators to help make writing and learning center spaces more conducive for students and their learning environments. I hope by doing all of this I can encourage students to come to the writing center and really experience what a resource such as this can do for them.

On behalf of the North Texas Writing Center Association board, I hope you enjoy our conference today and networking with fellow colleagues. I do hope that your experience here today will pique your interest in joining our great association and look forward to seeing you in the fall.

As you look through our conference guide today, I hope you find our topics helpful and take away some learning experiences to use at your campus writing or learning centers.

Good Luck to our newly elected officers. I look forward to the upcoming conferences and what lies ahead. Congratulations to our 2018 award winners. Your skills and experience are a valued part of your writing centers. Keep up the good work.

Thank you and have a great conference!

Holly Stone, President, NTWCA
2016-2018

Program Schedule

North Texas Writing Centers Association

Spring 2018 Conference
April 13, 2018

Hosted by
Texas Woman's University
The Pioneer Center for Student Excellence
&
The Write Site

10:00 - 10:45	Arrival and Registration (Blagg-Huey Library 220) Poster Presentations
10:45 - 11:15	Opening Remarks Business Meeting & Election of New Officers (Blagg-Huey Library 101)
11:15 - 12:00	Keynote Speaker: Winner of Mary Nell Kivviko Excellence in Scholarship Award (Blagg-Huey Library 101)
12:00 - 12:15	Presentation of Outstanding Tutor Award (Blagg-Huey Library 101)
12:15 - 12:30	Break
12:30 - 1:30	Lunch (Blagg-Huey Library 220)
1:30 - 3:00	Breakout Sessions—Theme: Inclusion in the Writing Center (Blagg-Huey Library 220)
3:00 - 3:30	Closing Remarks and Tour of The Write Site (Blagg-Huey Library 220 & 235)

Texas Woman's University

The Pioneer Center for Student Excellence and The Write Site

The Blagg-Huey Library
307 Administration Dr.
Denton, TX 76204

<https://twu.edu/pioneer-center/directions-and-parking>

**Mary Nell Kivviko Award Winner and Keynote
Speaker: Giribala Joshi
Texas Woman's University**



"Giribala Joshi is currently working as a tutor at the writing center at TWU. She will soon complete her master's program in English literature, and will embark on her Ph.D. in Rhetoric journey in Fall 2018. She also has a master's degree in inorganic chemistry from India and had taught science and mathematics in schools, but her love for literature has made her abandon chemistry. Giribala looks forward to teaching composition and literature classes in the future, and believes that teachers not only have a big role in motivating students to succeed in life, but also have a huge responsibility of making students aware of the ethical issues in the real and the digital world."

**Outstanding Tutor Award Winner:
Savanna Mertz
Dallas Baptist University**



For the past three years, Savanna has been an integral part of Dallas Baptist University's Writing Center family. With a B.A. in Intercultural Studies and Business from Dallas Baptist University, she is presently pursuing an M.A. in Leadership. Savanna's current position in the DBU UWC is to serve the staff and students as the Student Coordinator. Her primary role is to assist students with their writing assignments, but as one of the director's "two right hands," she also helps oversee training, scheduling, and the development and implementation of inner-office projects. Outside of work, Savanna is active with the Oaks Baptist Church and volunteers as a Business Plan Advisor with the Prison Entrepreneurship Program.

In her free time, she can be found attempting Pinterest crafts and recipes, running, cheering for the Texas Rangers, and obsessing over all things American history.

Breakout Session Information

“Tutoring English Language Learners” Dr. Sarah DeCapua

Dr. Sarah DeCapua serves as the Assistant Director of First-Year Composition at Texas Woman’s University. She received her doctorate in Composition & TESOL from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2016. Her teaching and research interests include best practices for responding to students’ writing, TESOL, and corpus analysis.

“Tutoring Multi-Modal Projects” Dr. Maureen Johnson

Dr. Maureen Johnson graduated from Texas Woman's University with a PhD in Rhetoric. Her research interests include embodied rhetorics and multimodal composition. She teaches writing courses at Texas Woman's University and University of Texas at Dallas. She has a Master's in English and a Bachelor's in Journalism from Marshall University.

“Tutoring Diverse Student Populations” Dr. Kimberly Rodriguez

Dr. Kimberly M. Rodriguez (Pronouns: she, her, hers) is a Staff Psychologist and the Cultural Diversity Liaison at TWU Counseling and Psychological Services. Dr. Rodriguez received her M.S. in Educational Psychology and Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Texas A&M University. She completed her pre-doctoral internship training at Texas Woman’s University’s CAPS and completed her post-doctoral fellowship at the University of New Hampshire Counseling Center. Dr. Rodriguez’s professional interests include the academic persistence and resiliency of First Generation College Students (FGCS), diversity/multiculturalism issues, interpersonal dynamics, self-compassion, training and supervision, and outreach. Dr. Rodriguez values being part of the facilitation of outreach programs such as Diversity Institute, ALLY training, and Cultural Café that seek to increase multicultural awareness, to discuss a broad variety of diversity related variables, and to explore the intersectionality within cultural identities.

News From the Region

Texas Woman's University

Since the Write Site's move to its new space last September, we have been working to further collaborate with other departments now that we are in a more visible location in order to carry out TWU's tradition of community and to find the best ways of serving our students. Shortly after our move, we worked with the research librarians to implement an embedded librarian into the Write Site schedule in order to assist students who were specifically seeking help in the research stage of their writing. We've seen a lot of appreciation from students who have been able to use the embedded librarian!

We also collaborated with Career Connections to host the first Workplace Written Communication Skills workshop on April 6. The daylong workshop focused on resumes, cover letters, and interpersonal communication within the workplace. Students arrived eager to improve the drafts they brought in for review. The Write Site is looking forward to hosting similar events and to continue to expand our resources to all TWU students!

Tarrant County College, Northeast Campus

Congratulations to Jared Landin! Jared moved to a full-time faculty position at TCC NE campus. While Jared enjoyed his time as a lab manager, he relishes teaching even more.

The NE Academic Learning Center continued its work without interruption as Elizabeth Parrish stepped into the role of Interim Manager after Jared's departure. The ALC happily announces the selection of Elizabeth as the permanent manager. Elizabeth has been with the NE Writing Center since 2005 and looks forward to refreshing materials in the area and increasing the writing center's online presence. Elizabeth has many plans for the writing center and its transition to a Learning Commons in the near future. While she has worked in various occupations from bookstore clerk to office manager, Elizabeth feels her career at the community college is the right niche for her.

Tarrant County College, Northwest Campus

The TCC NW Academic Learning Center has expanded its Tutors in Classes program, which is an embedded tutoring model that serves a variety of classes from Integrated Reading and Writing to English 1302. In the past, only a few class sections have participated, but this semester, the program has grown to include more than ten sections and many different professors. More tutors have had the chance to get involved as well!

In addition to expansion of programs, April Trafton became the Learning Lab Manager in February. April has been working as a writing tutor and ESL specialist in the TCC NW Academic Learning center since 2015, and She is excited to collaborate with faculty and other departments on campus to promote Academic Learning Center services and develop new programs to support students!

Upcoming Events

Association of Colleges for Tutoring and Learning Assistance (ACTLA) Conference http://actla.info/2017-conference/	April 26-28, 2018	San Diego, CA
International Writing Centers Association (IWCA) Summer Institute http://writingcenters.org/events-2/iwca-summer-institute/	July 16-20, 2018	Indianapolis, IN
International Writing Centers Association (IWCA) Annual Conference http://writingcenters.org/annual-conference-2/	October 10-13, 2018	Atlanta, GA
College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) Conference http://www.crla.net/conference/2018/	October 24-27, 2018	Albuquerque, NM
The National Conference in Peer Tutoring in Writing (NCPTW) Conference http://ncptw.chicagolandwritingcenters.org/upcoming-conferences/	November 1-4, 2018	UT Rio Grande Valley South Padre Island, TX
Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) http://www.ncte.org/cccc/conv	March 13-16, 2019	Pittsburgh, PA

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: NTWCA
Attn: Elizabeth Parrish
TCC NE English Department
828 W. Harwood Rd.
Hurst, Texas 76054-3299**