

The Newsletter of the



Spring 2007/Issue 1

March 9, 2007

Alice Newsome, Editor

A Message From the President

As we look ahead to our upcoming conference, I cannot help but reminisce a bit. Ten years ago, in the spring of 1997, I attended my first North Texas Writing Centers Association conference. A first semester graduate student at Tarleton State University under the mentorship of the late Dr. Randall Popken and the guidance of Alice Newsome, I and my fellow teaching assistants were encouraged to attend the meeting, hosted then by Mike Matthews at the Tarrant County College Northwest Campus. I was excited and a little bit in awe upon entering the conference room, knowing the two speakers that day would be Lady Falls Brown and Jeanette Harris. I was not to be disappointed, either, as the conference more than exceeded my expectations. The people were friendly and welcoming, and the presentation was as inspiring as I had imagined. By the close of the program, I knew that my career path would lead me to the writing center, and I can say, granted with some nostalgia, that the NWTCA was a major influence in my decision.

Today, I am proud to say that the NWTCA continues to foster the same welcoming attitude that was there in full force on that day in 1997. However, our members are not only compassionate but also talented. And, our forthcoming

conference is to be a direct reflection of this. On March 30 at the Langdon Center in Granbury, we will celebrate the winner of the 2007 Mary Nell Kivikko Excellence in Scholarship Award. Karen Boozer, founder of the writing center at Fairhill School, will share with us her experiences as director of the center and impart upon us her suggestions for assisting “learning different” students. In addition, we have on the agenda presentations by four exceptional peer tutors. We also will recognize the winners of the 2007 Outstanding Tutor Awards. This conference will be an excellent complement to the wonderful presentations in the fall by Dr. Richard Enos and The HOPE Literacy Project.

Lastly, I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to Alice Newsome, Sandy Beaty, and Tarleton State University for hosting our conference this spring. Granbury is a charming town and a favorite meeting location for our members. Thus, I hope to see you all there. We have a wonderful program planned for you.

Cheryl Carithers
President
North Texas Writing Centers Association



Spring 2007 Conference

Hosted by
Tarleton State University at
the Langdon Center in Granbury
March 30, 2007

Program Schedule

11:30-12:00	Arrival and Registration Concert Hall, The Langdon Center
12:00-12:30	Lunch
12:30-1:00	Opening Remarks and Business Meeting Cheryl Carithers, President, NTWCA William L. Adams Center for Writing, Texas Christian University
1:00-1:15	Break
1:15-2:15	<i>Winner of the 2007 Mary Nell Kivikko Excellence in Scholarship Award</i> “The Writing Center at Fairhill” Karen Boozer
2:15-2:25	Break
2:25-3:45	Tutor Presentations “Sensible Sensitivity: An Examination of Tutorial Anomie” Joshua Hart, Tarleton State University “Love and Hate in the Writing Center,” Dylan Taylor-Smith, Texas Christian University “Ethiopia, My Home” Alicia Graber, Texas Christian University “OWL Macros- An Easy Way to Prevent Carpal Tunnel” Tyler Fultz, Texas Christian University

Information about the Langdon Center and Lunch

Campus Map

<http://www.tarleton.edu/~langdoncenter>

Parking Information

Parking is free. Please park in the Stockton Street parking lot.

For driving directions, go to

<http://www.tarleton.edu/~langdoncenter>

and click Map.

Lunch

Lunch will be provided by Tarleton at no cost to attendees.

Please choose your sandwich from the following selections:

Fillings

Chicken Salad

Tuna Salad

Egg Salad

Avocado-Cheese

Sliced Turkey

Sliced Ham

Bread

Sourdough

Seven-Grain

**The sandwich lunch also includes a pickle, chips,
a cookie, and bottled water.**

**Have your lunch selection to Alice Newsome
(anewsom@tarleton.edu) by Tuesday morning, March 27th.**

About Our Presenters

Karen Boozer is the founder and director of The Writing Center at Fairhill School, a private school in Dallas, dedicated to the needs of learning different students. She teaches 8th and 9th grade English and 9th grade Literature. Before beginning her career at Fairhill School, Karen earned her BA from Texas Woman's University in 2000, graduating Magna Cum Laude. She worked as a journalist for six small town newspapers earning *Reporter of the Year* her first year. In 2002, she served as the Campaign Manager for a Texas State Representative winning the election with 76% of the vote.



Karen has presented at the Federation of Rhetoric Conference and the Texas Woman's University Annual Student Research and Creative Arts Symposium.

Joshua Hart is a senior English major with minors in Spanish and Sociology at Tarleton State University. A native Texan and a nontraditional student, he is a high school dropout and a veteran of the U.S. Army Military Police Corps. After receiving his Associate of Arts degree at Cisco Junior College, Joshua came to Tarleton to complete his undergraduate studies. Married with two children, he works as a tutor in the writing center as well as night shifts at Rockhouse, a group home for mentally challenged adults, in Stephenville. Upon graduating, Joshua hopes to take a break to be with his family before enrolling in a graduate program.

"Sensible Sensitivity: An Examination of Tutorial Anomie" discusses a particularly difficult tutoring session in which the tutor was asked to help the student president of the NAACP in editing the group's press release concerning a scandal over a Martin Luther King party wherein black stereotypes were displayed and published in pictures on the internet site, Facebook.com. Though an extreme case, this clearly represents some of the concerns regarding culture, background, atmosphere, meaning and perceptions, which can arise in any tutoring session and create difficulties in effective tutoring.

Dylan Taylor-Smith, a Dallas native, is a junior advertising/public relations major at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. She graduated from Harpeth Hall, an all-girls prep school in Nashville, Tennessee, and returned to Texas after high school to become a TCU horned frog through-and-through. In addition to being a peer tutor at TCU's writing center, Dylan is active in such programs on campus as TCU Ambassadors, Frog Camp and Purple Hearts, a recruitment program for the TCU football team.

Dylan's presentation, "Love and Hate in the Writing Center," discusses the love/hate relationship writers have with their writing and cites the hatred that so many students have for writing as the reason some students struggle. Peer tutors serve as guides to help the students grow to love their writing.

Alicia Graber is a graduating senior at TCU, majoring in English and aspiring to the world of publishing, editing, and professional writing. She moved from the north to San Antonio when she was young and quickly converted to being a Texan after her first taste of carne guisada. She was home-schooled for her final two years of high school, and then earned her Associate of Arts degree thanks to the Raul S. Murgia Presidential Honors Scholarship at San Antonio College. She transferred to TCU for her final two years and looks forward to moving to New York City after graduating.

Alicia's presentation, "Ethiopia, My Home," describes the plight of a tutor, Alicia herself, who has experienced several tutorials with students who did not speak English as their first language. She left those tutorials feeling completely useless and frustrated at her lack of impartation and aid to the students who need her help the most. She experiences this, that is, until she meets a particular woman in a session one day, an Ethiopian woman who changed her perspectives both on tutoring and on life. Through this experience, the tutor finds that not only has her conceptions of ESL students changed; it has revolutionized her entire understanding of the communicative word forever.

Tyler Fultz is a last-semester senior majoring in History and Political Science. He is also pursuing a minor in economics. He is in Air Force ROTC and plans to commission in May and will be stationed in Sembach, Germany. He is currently engaged to Kathleen Quinn, who also worked at the TCU Writing Center.

Tyler's presentation, "OWL Macros—An Easy Way to Prevent Carpal Tunnel," will be a short introduction to using Microsoft Word Macros. Macros are a tool that will allow tutors to insert pre-made text at the push of a button. Such capabilities can make online writing tutorials much faster and easier. Part of Tyler's goal is to organize regular communication between writing centers in the North Texas area for the sharing and improvement of Macros.

"To understand the nature and development of literacy we need to consider the social context in which it occurs—the political, economic, and cultural forces that encourage or inhibit it."

Mike Rose, *Lives on the Boundary*

Check It Out

Everyday Writing Center: A Community of Practice by Anne Ellen Geller, Michele Eodice, Frankie Condon, Meg Carroll, and Elizabeth Boquet

The Politics of Writing Centers by Jane Nelson and Kathy Evertz

Intersections: Theory-Practice in the Writing Center, Joan A. Mullin and Ray Wallace, Editors

Outstanding Tutors

The North Texas Writing Centers Association is pleased to announce the first winners of the annual **Outstanding Tutor Awards**. The NTWCA Outstanding Tutor Awards are 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.

Myrtle Watkins from Collin County Community College-Preston Ridge was selected as the recipient of the professional consultant award. **Janna Pate**, a TCU graduate student from the William L. Adams Center for Writing at Texas Christian University, was selected as the recipient for the peer tutor award.

About Myrtle...

Betty Mayeur, Director of the Preston Ridge Writing Center, nominated Myrtle. This is an excerpt from Betty's nomination letter:

"Myrtle is the heart and soul of CCCCD's writing center program. She, along with Ted McFerrin, started the first fledgling center at Spring Creek in 1988 in a small room in the LRC. Since that time and from those humble beginnings, she has worked tirelessly to see her first struggling center flourish into the three current centers plus an online program.

"Based on her wealth of experience as an English teacher, Myrtle's skills as a tutor are without peer. No matter how hectic her duties became as Director of the Spring Creek Writing Center, Myrtle's first priority and first love remained working with her students, and they, in turn, loved her back. To this day Myrtle serves as an inspiration because she still loves her work and it shows."

About Janna. . .

Dr. Steve Sherwood, Director for the William L. Adams Center for Writing, nominated Janna. The following is an excerpt from his nomination letter:

"As her supervisor at the center for the past year and a half, and her instructor in a tutor training course, I got to know her well and believe her to be one of the better peer consultants to work for me during my tenure as director. She brought to the job a high level of intelligence, excellent writing skills, a great work ethic, and a friendly personality. She came to work each day eager to do the sometimes difficult work of assisting students with their writing projects.

"One of the ways she set herself apart from our other peer consultants was by submitting an essay to the *Writing Lab Newsletter*, a nationwide journal published by Purdue University. The same essay won a creative writing contest sponsored by the TCU English Department, and Janna presented it aloud to the April 2006 meeting of the North Texas Writing Centers Association in Granbury. In addition, Janna will publish a short story titled "My Example" in the 2007 issue of TCU's literary journal *descant*. On top of these other accomplishments, she is playing a key role in TCU's new Writing Associates Program, which will begin placing tutors in writing emphasis classrooms during the fall semester of 2007."

News from the Region

From the **William L. Adams Center for Writing** at TCU **Steve Sherwood** reports that his article "Portrait of the Tutor as an Artist: Lessons No One Can Teach" is in the spring 2007 issue of *Writing Center Journal*. Also, the third edition of the *St. Martin's Sourcebook for Writing Tutors* will come out this spring. The *Sourcebook* is edited by Christina Murphy and Steve.

Billie Hara and **Steve** both presented papers at CCCCs in March. **Dave Kuhne, Cheryl Carithers, Billie** and **Steve** are presenting a panel discussion about working with graduate students, faculty, and other advanced writers at IWCA in Houston. **Steve** is also doing a second presentation at IWCA titled "Writing Center as Scapegoat: Excuses, Pretexts, and Passing of the Buck." **Cheryl** is also presenting a second time at IWCA.

Pat Peters (Director of the Spring Creek Writing Center—CCCCD) reports that **Peggy Vera** received the 2006 ROSE AWARD from the All College Council of Collin County Community College District on Jan. 4, 2007 on "All College Day". This award recognizes CCCC employees who consistently apply the school's core values through service to the college staff, students, and public. Peggy's work as the Director of the Online Writing Lab (OWL), Secretary of the NTWCA, and part-

time English instructor helped to convince the council members of her outstanding capabilities.

It is also notable that the college has recently recognized the importance of the CCCC Writing Centers as this is the second year that the ROSE AWARD has been presented to a Writing Center staff (Spring Creek Campus 2005). In addition, **Betty Correll**, Director of the Central Park Campus Writing Center, received the award for Outstanding Part-Time Instructor in 2005.

From the **A&M-Commerce Writing Center**:

Elise Flanagan, Jeremy Hurley, Sean George, Maryann Whitaker, LeAnn Nash, Andi Miller, Rick McCraw, and Kay McCraw will be presenting at the International Writing Centers Association conference in April, 2007.

Shannon Carter (Director of the Writing Center at **Texas A&M-Commerce**) served as a Discussion Leader at CCCC's Pre-Conference Workshop on Basic Writing (CBW). She will also be presenting a paper at IWCA, along with **Jake Pichnarcik** and **Lucy Smith**. In March, Carter began teaching a writing class at Dawson State Jail in Dallas, Texas, which will continue through June.

Carter has also had two articles published recently: “Redefining Literacy as a Social Practice” (*Journal of Basic Writing*, 25.2, Fall 2006) and “Graduate Courses in Basic Writing Instruction: Recommendations for Teacher Trainers” (*BWe: Basic Writing e-Journal*, 6.1, Spring 2007).

The Ntwca has a new cyber-home and a new look!

The new website offers information about recent and upcoming conferences, membership dues, and our brand

new Ntwca listserv. Those interested in joining the listserv may do in one of three ways:

- (1) Go to <http://orgs.tamu-commerce.edu/ntwca/list.htm> and follow the instructions there,
 - (2) try <http://mailman.tamu-commerce.edu/mailman/listinfo/ntwca> and fill out the form there, or
 - (3) send an email Shannon_Carter@tamu-commerce.edu and she'll sign you up.
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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. **Membership fees are due on or before September 22, 2007.**

Name: _____

Individual Membership: _____ or 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: _____

**Send Dues to : Ben Sword
Department of English and Languages
Tarleton State University
Box T-0300
Stephenville, TX 76402**

NTWCA Officers

President: Cheryl Carithers, Texas Christian University

Vice-President: Shannon Carter, Texas A&M University Commerce

Secretary: Peggy Vera, Collin County Community College

Treasurer: Ben Sword, Tarleton State University

Newsletter Editor: Alice Newsome, Tarleton State University

Web-Spinner: Shannon Carter, Texas A&M University Commerce

Archivist: Cynthia Shearer, Texas Christian University

Past President: Steve Sherwood, Texas Christian University

CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTH TEXAS WRITING CENTERS ASSOCIATION

(Revised Spring 2004)

- 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 either institutional (\$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 a second two-year term:**

- A. **President:** The president chairs all meetings and facilitates the operations of the association.
- 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 handles correspondence.
- E. **Treasurer:** The treasurer collects dues, records memberships, and reports finances and memberships at meetings.
- 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. **Membership Chair:** The membership chair promotes involvement by serving as NTWCA's outreach liaison, contacting potential members at colleges, universities, and secondary schools in the area.
- B. **Web Spinner:** The web spinner maintains the NTWCA website page.
- C. **Archivist:** The archivist serves as custodian of the organization's records.

VII. The Executive Board, consisting of the six elected officers and three 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.

VIII. 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.

IX. The NTWCA sponsors at least two meetings per calendar year, including a mini-conference.

X. This constitution may be amended or replaced by a majority vote of the executive board and membership at any business meeting.

In a recent meeting, the executive board, with input from members, proposed these changes to the constitution. Members will have the opportunity to ratify these changes at the fall meeting.

CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTH TEXAS WRITING CENTERS ASSOCIATION

**(Proposed Revision Fall 2006)
To vote on in 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.
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- 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.