

The Newsletter of the



Spring 2016

April

Daniel Heffner, Editor

Letter from the President

“It is not once nor twice but times without number that the same ideas make their appearance in the world.”

--Aristotle

Dear NTWCA friends,

Thank you all for the opportunity to be your president for the past two years. As we elect new officers today, I ask you to pause for a moment and reflect upon our strengths and your hopes for the future of our association.

One of the characteristics of an effective organization is wisdom sharing. Here is where our organization excels! Sharing our wisdom as writing center professionals empowers us in so many ways. Sharing best practices and overall strategies gives us new wisdom to apply to our writing centers. Valuing the wisdom of all our members—tutors as well as writing center administrators—instills confidence in all of us which improves our morale for those difficult days that are filled with back-to-back appointments while our own writing assignments, grading deadlines, and administrative duties are looming. Our spring meeting is focused on wisdom sharing as we select a winner for the Mary Nell Kivviko Excellence in Scholarship Award, and we invite that winner to share his or her wisdom with us. We also award an outstanding tutor—

a homage to that tutor's own wisdom. From every NTWCA conference, I take away a new piece of wisdom: an answer to a question I might not have even known I had, a new strategy for teaching a certain rhetorical device, or even an idea for streamlining daily operating procedures. Despite the excess of information available at our fingertips—from databases to wikis—the human element is fundamental to wisdom sharing, and we have kept that human element at the forefront of our association.

Because the human element is our strength and so vital to wisdom sharing, I would like to challenge us all, though, to start reaching out to the writing center professionals in North Texas who are not currently participating in our association. As we are sharing wisdom today, I ask each of us to think of one institution not participating and make a note to reach out to the writing center professional at that institution. Perhaps you went to graduate school with her; perhaps you worked with him in your previous position. My hope is for our association to grow, and I will support our next president as we continue to share wisdom.

My best,
Jennifer Phillips-Denny
(soon to be past) President, NTWCA

***North Texas Writing Centers
Association***

Spring 2016 Conference
April 29th, 2016

Hosted by
Collin College Central Park Campus, Center for Academic Assistance
McKinney, TX

Program Schedule

11:00-12:00	Arrival and Registration Poster Presentations
12:00-12:45	Lunch
12:45-1:15	Election of Officers
1:15-1:30	Business Meeting
1:30-1:45	Break
1:45-2:45	Keynote Speaker; Winner of Mary Nell Kivviko Excellence in Scholarship Award: Haley Mowdy, Texas Woman's University "Pioneering Community Advocacy: <i>Write Now</i> and the Future of Writing Center-Sponsored Service"
2:45-3:00	Presentation of Outstanding Tutor Award Jenna Lawrence, Dallas Baptist University
3:00-3:30	Closing Remarks and Tour of Central Park Campus Health Sciences Building

Collin College, Central Park Campus

Conference Center

2400 Community Drive, McKinney, TX 75070

Keynote Address

Haley Mowdy, Mary Nell Kivviko Award Winner



Haley Mowdy, winner of the 2015-16 Mary Nell Kivviko Award for her presentation entitled “Pioneering Community Advocacy: Write Now and the Future of Writing Center-Sponsored Service,” graduated from the University of Oklahoma magna cum laude with degrees in English and Classical Studies. She is currently pursuing a Masters in English at Texas Woman's University, as well as a graduate certificate in Multicultural, Women's, and Gender Studies. Her thesis research focuses on understanding conceptions of gender in speculative fiction and the variable treatment of feminist issues across cultures within the genre. She plans to attend law school after she completes her Masters in Spring 2017.

She is the Lead Graduate Assistant at TWU's Write Site where she supervises the other tutors, creates and facilitates workshops and presentations, and more recently, focuses her energy on supporting graduate students at TWU through extensive thesis and dissertation support.

She was recently granted the 2016-2017 Albert Schweitzer Fellowship for her creation of the program *Write Now*, a low-cost pop-up writing center benefiting students at Denton High School.

Mowdy is also the owner of Mint Dot Design, a freelance graphic design e-studio specializing in custom products such as printed invitations and stationery, T-shirts, mugs, and more.

She lives in Denton with her fiancé, Taylor, and her two kitties.

Outstanding Tutor

Jenna Lawrence



Jenna Lawrence is a senior at Dallas Baptist University and will be graduating in May with a bachelor's degree in English. She has been working at DBU's Writing Center since 2014 and is involved with various organizations on campus. She credits her grandmother with cultivating her passion for history, reading, and writing. Jenna is an avid baseball fan and always cheers on her Texas Rangers. After she graduates, she will be working as a summer intern for the Leadership Institute in Washington, D.C. She hopes to attend graduate school.

News from the Region

If you would like to have your writing center featured here, send updates at any time to the newsletter editor, Daniel Heffner, at christopher.heffner@utdallas.edu.

Collin College-Central Park Campus

CPC is pleased to announce that Anna Rieve, who has been a tutor for four years, has accepted the position of Lead Tutor. While still helping students, Anna will be working more on the administrative side of the Writing Center.

CPC has instituted hour-long seminars in the Writing Center itself this semester, covering such topics as understanding the class syllabus as well as using Blackboard and Turn it in. Other seminars cover writing scholarship essays, learning time management and study skills, and hints for taking tests. We also have "Visits with Granny Grammar" that discuss common grammar errors, how to recognize them, and how to correct them. We are suspending these seminars for the summer, but plan to have more in the fall.

On Monday, 14 March, CPC implemented the online appointment system. It has taken some ramping up, but we are now pretty much in the swing of things. One perk we have noticed is far fewer no-shows with the new system. Our students like the convenience of making appointments any time of the day. Collin Colleges' Spring Creek Campus and Preston Ridge Campus began the spring semester with WC online for students, seminars and online appointments.

Texas Woman's University

Dennis Barbee will graduate with his BA in English in May; he begins his Master's program in Multicultural Women's & Gender Studies at TWU in the fall. Lucy Russell will graduate with her BS in Psychology in May; she begins her Master's in Occupational Therapy in the fall at TWU. Renae Bruce, Christopher Coan, Haley Mowdy, and Shannon Robinson all won department scholarships from English, Speech, and Foreign Languages. Haley Mowdy won the Albert Schweitzer fellowship for her program "Write Now," for which she is also the Mary Nell Kivviko Excellence in Scholarship winner.

Dallas Baptist University

The Dallas Baptist University Writing Center is proud to announce the graduation of Jenna Lawrence, who will be walking with honors as she receives her Bachelor of Science in English. A member of multiple on-campus organizations, Jenna is busy all the time. Just look at how involved she is: Sigma Tau Delta – president, Alpha Sigma Omega – secretary, Alpha Chi – active member, Student Government Association – Senior Senator, Kappa Gamma – active member, and College Republicans – events coordinator, newsletter writer/editor. In addition to all that, Jenna is a Writing Consultant of the highest caliber. Students love her patience and concise explanations, and her contributions to the UWC are numerous. This semester she has not only consulted, but she has also served as the go-to person for our receptionists, making sure they are fully trained and assuring that their schedules are workable.

University of Texas at Dallas

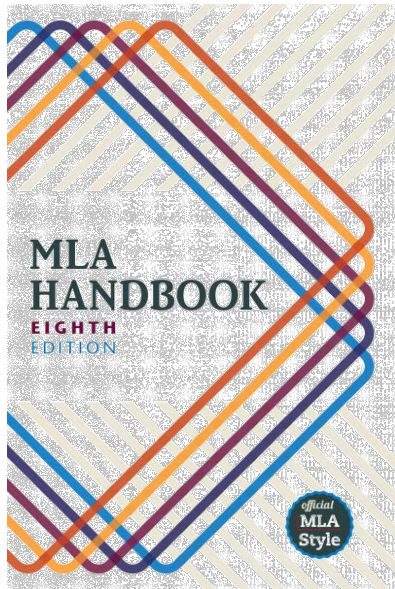
During the 2015-16 school year, the UTD Writing Center introduced a mentor program and expanded its writing group program. The mentor program is designed to effectively prepare students for positions as writing tutors. All applicants for tutor positions who do not have tutoring experience are now required to complete this program. Mentees commit 4 hours per month as volunteers for the duration of a semester. Through training and observations, the program familiarizes mentees with tutoring strategies and equips them with necessary skills. The mentee's role in tutoring sessions gradually increases from observer to tutor. At the end of the program, each mentee receives a formal evaluation and, upon successful completion, begins work as a paid tutor. In Spring 2016, the writing group program expanded due to increased demand. This program assists Ph.D. students with writing their dissertations and dissertation proposals. These discipline-specific groups offer a forum to discuss research sources, writing strategies, and writing goals, but they are primarily geared toward providing doctoral students with a system of accountability and the opportunity to receive feedback from their peers as well as a writing center facilitator. In addition, the facilitator is responsible for organizing the meetings, providing members with resources, and responding to members' suggestions.

Tarrant County College-North East Campus

Andrew Weatherford Tutor of the Year- 2015 welcomed his first born child, Atlas James on April 18th

Special Feature

Review: *MLA Handbook, Eighth edition*



The eighth edition of the *MLA Handbook* openly declares its purpose—Rethinking Documentation for the Digital Age. This edition recognizes that research materials, especially those online, appear in many forms other than the traditional book, journal, etc. Thus, the handbook “offers a new approach to thinking about MLA style, one centered not on a source’s publication format, but rather the elements common to most sources and on the means of flexibly combining those elements to create appropriate documentation for any source” (xiii).

The new edition emphasizes scholarship is no longer based on the “traditional,

printed form ... Scholars produce presentations, videos, and interactive projects” (127-28). Thus the text is no longer the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*; rather, it is a handbook covering multiple types of sources.

Rather than focusing on the publication format for a source as in previous editions, this edition bases citations on “universal guidelines” common to all sources: author, title, publication format, where source was found, and publication date. This list is expanded to include “author, title of source, title of container, other contributors, version, number, publisher, publication date, and location,” which are thoroughly explained and illustrated in “Part 1: Principles of MLA Style.” The second half of the handbook, “Part 2: Details of MLA Style” is the more familiar format in numbered sections.

The book is half the length of the seventh edition (146 pages), and the text and plentiful illustrations are specifically designed for students—easy to read and understand. For instance, one page is an illustration of a book’s title page with lines to boxes that explain where to find the title, subtitle, and so on. Another page illustrates where to find the credits for a film on DVD, explaining that missing information necessary for the citation can often be found on the packaging. Want to know how to cite a comic book? See page 31. This edition covers almost everything available today in print or online.

The text does use some new terms, such as container, but the terms are thoroughly defined and illustrated. Let's say a student is citing an episode of a television series, the container is the title of the show, for instance, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, the "container" in which the episodes are stored. There are also handy "See" references, pointing students to other related sections of the book. A "Practice Template" is provided, so students can be sure they have included all necessary information. All in all, the information is easily accessible and easy to comprehend.

So what's new in the actual citations? The medium is no longer required, so no Web, Print, and no access dates. URLs are back but in a simpler form, but a DOI (digital object identifier) is preferred to the URL if available. Volumes and issues of periodicals no longer use the colon, but are written out: vol. 12, no. 1. The aim of this new edition is to simplify the documentation process, and it does just that. Michael Greer, professor at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, gushes, "I have authored and edited textbooks and handbooks for twenty years and have taught college writing for thirty years. This is the MLA style we have needed for a long time. I love it!" Not sure I love it, but I do agree this is the style guide we have needed for years. The eighth edition is a boon for students, teachers, and certainly, for writing center tutors.

Anna Hammonds Rieve
Lead Tutor, CPC

For more information or to purchase the *MLA Handbook, eighth edition*, please visit the MLA website.

<https://www.mla.org/Publications/Bookstore/Nonseries/MLA-Handbook-Eighth-Edition>

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.

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Institutional Address: _____

Other: _____

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

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.