Miller Williams, and Larry L. King to speak on campus as part of the creative writing awards program.

In 2000, Dave Kuhn, associate director of the center, became editor of TCU’s literary journal, descent. In recent years, descent has increased its national visibility; for instance, a story from the 2000 Texas Writers Special Issue—"Nobody Listens When I Talk" by Annette Sanford—was chosen for inclusion in Best American Short Stories 2001. To encourage more submissions and gain increased visibility for the journal, Kuhn has secured additional funding for descent’s literary award series; the journal now awards $1,500 each year to writers who have contributed outstanding stories and poems to descent.

Reflecting the center’s interest in creative writing and encouraging young writers, Director Steve Sherwood has, for the past two summers, participated in a summer workshop program for gifted young writers. Working with the Larry McMurtry Center, Sherwood, former staff member Marie Schein, and Thomas Pfau and Cara Dianocoff of the Department of English offered instruction to approximately twenty young writers from across the state. These students spent one week at a retreat setting in Acher City, Texas, where they visited with Mr. McMurtry and worked on their manuscripts. The retreat at Acher City was followed by a week of study at TCU. A similar week-long writing institute is being planned for the summer of 2003.

The center also has organized a series of poetry and fiction readings that have highlighted the work of local creative writers, and the center conducts outreach programs for students in area secondary schools. These outreach programs are intended to help students with their writing and to introduce them to TCU. Finally, the change in name to the William L. Adams Center for Writing recognizes the writing done by the staff members who have published a number of books, stories, and scholarly essays in recent years.

About the William L. Adams Center for Writing

The center for writing is a place where students can talk openly about writing with someone who is non-judgmental but informed. It is staffed by writing specialists who offer one-on-one conferences about writing in all disciplines. A specific piece of writing or an assignment usually serves as the focus of the conference; however, staff members will also review a specific aspect of writing such as essay exams, documentation, punctuation, grammar, or usage. Staff members also provide reviews for students planning to take the Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation Exam administered by the Department of Journalism.

The main center, located in room 244 of the Rickel building, is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Students can make appointments by calling 817-257-7221, or they may simply come to the center where they will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. Students can also obtain help with their writing at the library center located adjacent to the Information Commons in the Mary Couts Burnett Library. The library center is open Sunday through Thursday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Students can make appointments at the library center by calling 817-257-6520.

The on-line writing lab, or OWL, offers students another way to get assistance from the writing center. The OWL allows students to submit their writing electronically for review by a consultant. Students can access the OWL by going to the center’s web page <http://www.wrt.tcu.edu> where they will find specific instructions for using the OWL under the link titled “On-line Writing Help.” In addition to the OWL, the center has a new on-line chat service to provide students with help on their writing projects. Using AOL Instant Messenger, students can chat online with a writing consultant from 1 till 4 p.m. on Monday through Wednesday and from 2 till 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
discussion by outlining several practical solutions to the problem of plagiarism. He suggested that writing center staff members can prevent unintentional plagiarism from occurring by adopting a proactive stance toward plagiarism. In particular, Kuhne recommended that writing center staff members take the message about the importance of documentation beyond the borders of the writing center and into the larger academic community via presentations on the various systems of documentation. He also reminded the audience that during the course of tutorial sessions, writing tutors have many opportunities to inform students about plagiarism and how to avoid it.

The panel presentation sparked a vigorous discussion among those attending the session, and later, the panel presentation was the subject of a larger presentation at Weener, the national writing center computer discussion site.

Writing center staff members will continue to contribute to their profession this semester when they take part in the South Central Writing Centers Association conference in Lafayette, Louisiana, and the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

Consultant Profile: Marie Laine

Marie Laine, one of the most popular writing consultants on the center’s staff, has helped hundreds of TCU students with their writing assignments. Marie joined the writing center in 1989, when she became one of the center’s first part-time writing consultants. But Marie’s connection to TCU predates her work with the Writing Center; she earned her B.A. in English from TCU before obtaining her Master’s in English from the University of Texas at Arlington. Before joining the Writing Center staff, Marie taught composition at UTA and worked for many years as a public school English teacher. Marie continues to enjoy working with student writers, especially students whose first language is not English. Among the numerous challenges she faces as a writing consultant is the necessity to work with students in many different majors. Marie, however, recently noted that she looks forward to these challenges because she enjoys learning about various topics as she assists students with their papers. When she’s not working with TCU students, Marie enjoys visiting with her family, reading, and traveling.

Remembering Mary Nell Kivikko

Staff members of the Writing Center were saddened last fall by the death of their friend and longtime colleague, Mary Nell Kivikko. Kivikko died on September 18, 2000, from complications following surgery. Mary Nell had worked in the William L. Adams Writing Center since 1989, coming to TCU from Tarleton State College South Campus, where she helped direct their writing center. She held a Master’s from Texas Woman’s University and then studied under Allen Tate at the University of Minnesota. Kivikko was a founding member of the North Texas Writing Centers Association and was active in the South Center Writing Centers Association. She retired from TCU in December of 1998.

Focus on Peer Consultants: Outstanding Student Workers

The Writing Center is especially proud of its staff of peer writing consultants. These are outstanding student writers who are recommended for their jobs by faculty members familiar with their writing. Those chosen to work as peer writing consultants attend a series of training sessions designed to help them assist other students with writing projects. The center is pleased to introduce the following peer consultants for the spring of 2001:

Timothy Colligan comes to TCU from John Carroll University in Cleveland. He is an English major who plans to attend graduate school to study creative writing and publishing.

Catherine Collins is a senior history and English major who is completing her certificate for secondary education. Catherine studied at the TCU London Centre in the spring and summer of 1999.

Amanda Emerson is a sophomore English and Spanish major in the Honors Program. She enjoys reading and writing and hopes to become an English professor and author.

Max Ketigas, a graduating senior RTVF major with a minor in English, was born in Japan, raised in Texas, and went to Ryan High School in Denton. Max has produced a short film titled “Piran,” and he is currently applying to graduate schools for film production.

Lauren Krahule is a freshman communications major from Englewood, Colorado. Lauren has a competitive personality and enjoys the challenges that accompany work in the writing center.

Jessica Leonard, a senior English major, has worked as a peer consultant for the writing center for two years. She enjoys walks on the beach, home-cooked dinners, and foot massages.

Stephen McManus, a graduating senior from Waco, is an English major with a minor in history. After graduation, he plans to take a semester off and then enter an MFA program in writing. He has won several awards for his writing while at TCU and is a member of the Honors Program.

Emily Seidel is a senior geology major with a minor in German. Emily is from Columbus, Texas, and transferred to TCU from Chicago.

David E. Smith, a third year undergraduate student, is currently pursuing a biology major and a Japanese minor.

Ben Smithson is a junior business major from Plano, Texas. Ben has an interest in technical writing. He enjoys playing volleyball and staying single.

Ben Willian, a sophomore who plans to major in e-business, comes to TCU from Joshua, Texas. When he’s not working at the writing center or attending class, he likes to play guitar.

Jakobus Wolf, an art history major with a minor in English, lived primarily in Mexico until coming to TCU in the fall of 1997. Jakobus is currently working on his honors thesis, a study of androgyny in Early Modern Italian art.