

— From the Center —

The Newsletter of the William L. Adams Writing Center

Volume 1 Issue 1

September 1997

Center Has New Director and Associate Director

The William L. Adams Writing Center has a new director: Dr. Jeanette Harris. Dr. Harris comes to TCU from the University of Southern Mississippi, where she served as Chair of the English Department and Director of Composition. She has twenty years of experience in designing and directing writing programs. Dr. Harris is the former Director of Composition and Director of the Writing Center at Texas Tech University and Supervisor of the Writing Center and Coordinator of Reading Instruction at East Texas State University. She is the author/co-author of many publications, including six books on writing. Dr. Harris is former president of the National Writing Centers Association, which presented her with its Award for Outstanding Scholarship in 1989 and the Award for Outstanding Service in 1991.

The writing center also has a new associate director: Steve Sherwood. Mr. Sherwood, a member of the William L. Adams Writing Center since its inception in 1988, has served the Center as Interim Director, Writing Specialist, and Coordinator for Peer Tutor Training. A popular teacher in the English Department, Mr. Sherwood holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Montana and is currently pursuing a Ph. D. at the University of Texas at Dallas. In addition to publishing numerous articles and short stories, Mr. Sherwood has co-authored two recent books: *The St. Martin's Sourcebook for Writing Tutors* (1995) and *Writing Centers: An Annotated Bibliography* (1996). In 1997, Sherwood and co-authors Christina Murphy and Joe Law received the

Award for Outstanding Scholarship from the National Writing Centers Association for the best book written on the work of writing centers.

Staff Members Available to Address Classes

Professors who would like to arrange for a Writing Center staff member to address their classes and inform students about the services of the William L. Adams Writing Center should call 921-7221. The presentations are around ten minutes in length and, therefore, will not consume an entire class meeting.



Center Can Assist With Many Writing Projects

- Essays and research papers
- Summaries and abstracts
- Proposals
- Recommendation reports
- Case studies and lab reports
- Speeches and presentations
- Letters of application and resumés
- Business and professional letters
- Theses and dissertations
- Creative/personal writing projects

About the William L. Adams Writing Center

The Writing Center serves the entire TCU community: faculty and staff as well as undergraduate and graduate students. 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, upon request, staff members will also provide tutorials to review a specific aspect of writing such as essay exams, documentation, punctuation, or usage.

The environment of the Writing Center is non-threatening and supportive. It is a place where students can talk openly about writing with someone who is non-judgmental but informed. To meet with a writing specialist, students simply schedule an appointment by calling 921-7221 or by coming to the Center, which is located in Room 100 of the Rickel Building. Students may also visit the Center without an appointment and work with one of the Center's peer tutors—students with strong writing skills who have been selected and trained to tutor other students in writing.

The Writing Center also has a computer lab equipped with Windows 95 computers and Microsoft Office software for word processing, presentation design, and data management. Students can use the computers to send and receive E-mail, surf the Internet, and access the TCU library. A peer tutor is available at all times in the computer lab to assist students with questions about writing.

How the Writing Center Can Help Your Students

- Provide one-on-one writing instruction
- Discuss new assignments with students, helping them to clarify and organize ideas
- Read a draft of what a student has written and offer suggestions for revisions
- Help students expand and develop a paper
- Assist students with matters of style and correctness
- Explain specific rules of usage
- Answer questions about research and documentation of sources
- Help students increase confidence in themselves as writers

What the Center Does Not Do

- Edit or proofread what a student has written
- Guarantee a particular grade or even suggest what grade a student is likely to receive on an assignment
- Read multiple assignments or extremely long assignments in a single conference
- Assist students with take-home exams or final portfolios

What We Would Like for You to Do

- Encourage (but not require) your students to use the Center
- Send us copies of your writing assignments so that students and tutors may refer to them
- Understand that our goal is not to edit students' papers but to improve their writing skills

The Staff of the William L. Adams Writing Center

- Dr. Jeanette Harris, Director
- Steve Sherwood, Associate Director and Writing Specialist
- Margaret-Rose Marek, Writing Specialist and Technologies Coordinator
- Mary Nell Kivikko, Writing Specialist and Outreach Coordinator
- Dave Kuhne, Writing Specialist and Newsletter Editor
- Dr. Carol Lattimore, Writing Specialist
- Marie Lane, Writing Specialist
- Daria Harris, English as a Second Language tutor
- Mary Lane, Administrative Coordinator

Peer Tutors

- Eden Baker, Senior French Major
- Spencer Baum, Senior Economics Major
- Kristen Evans, Junior Education Major
- Jennifer Mansfield, Master's Candidate in Education
- Denise Nichols, Senior English/Political Science Major
- Mary Ripper, Senior Dance Major
- Robyn Ross, Junior Journalism Major
- Chris Smith, Senior English/Philosophy Major
- Ashley Vaught, Junior Spanish Major
- Daniel Worden, Junior English Major

Students Can Get Online Help From the Writing Center

Your students can send questions about writing to the Center via E-mail. To access the Center by E-mail, students simply type **writingcenter@tcu.edu** at the "To" prompt. At the "From" prompt, students should type their **username**. At the "Subject" prompt, they simply type **help**.

In the body of the message students can ask a question or send a sentence, paragraph, or up to two pages of a writing project that is causing them concern. Writing consultants will respond with help; however, students should remember that if they send a request for help in the middle of the night, replies will be written after 8 a.m. the next business day.

Praise and blame are much the same for the writer. One is better for your vanity, but neither gets you much further with your work.
—Jeanette Winterson, British author

The William L. Adams Writing Center is located in the Rickel Building, Room 100. The Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. till 5 p.m. Phone 921-7221 to arrange for consultations and appointments.