

— From the Center —

The Newsletter of the William L. Adams Center for Writing

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About the 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, or usage. Staff members will also provide reviews for students planning to take the Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation Exam administered by the Department of Journalism.

The main Center for Writing, located in room 244 of the Rickel Academic Wing of the University Recreation Center, is open from 8 a.m. till 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Students can make appointments by calling 817-257-7221, or they may simply drop in to the center on a first-come, first-served basis. Students can also obtain help at the library writing center adjacent to the Information Commons in the Mary Coats Burnett Library. The library center is open Monday through Friday from 2:00 p.m. till 4:30 p.m. and Sunday through Thursday from 6 p.m. till 9 p.m. Students can make appointments at the library center by calling 817-257-6520.

The on-line writing lab, or OWL, is yet another way that students can get assistance from the Center for Writing. Established in the fall of 1998, the OWL continues to grow in popularity. The OWL allows students to submit papers electronically for review by a consultant. Students can access the OWL by going to the recently revised Center for Writing 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."

Call the Center for Class Presentations

Staff members are always happy to address classes and inform students about the services of the Center for Writing. The presentations are about ten minutes in length. To arrange a presentation, call 817-257-7221.

Center Can Assist with Many Writing Projects

- Essays and research papers
- Summaries and abstracts
- Proposals
- Recommendation reports
- Case studies and lab reports
- Presentations and speeches
- Letters of application and résumés
- Professional and business letters
- Theses and dissertations
- Creative and personal writing projects
- Public documents

Statement of Ethics

In order to assist students in a fair manner, the center has adopted the following statement of ethics:

A text should reflect the student's own work and efforts; thus, consultants do not write any portion of a student's paper.

Consultants do not proofread what a student has written.

Consultants do not guarantee a particular grade or even suggest what grade a student is likely to receive on an assignment. Consultants do not criticize an instructor's assignment.

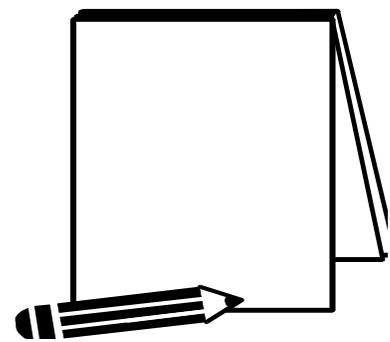
Consultants do not assist students with take-home exams or final portfolios.

Revised Web Page

The center's recently revised web page is attractive and easy to use; the page provides information about the staff, the center, and resources for writers.

Creative Writing Contests for TCU Students

Since the early 1990s, the Department of English and the Center for Writing have jointly coordinated and conducted TCU's annual creative writing contests. This year, Center for Writing staff members will assist Professor Charlotte Hogg of the Department of English with the administration of the writing contests and program.



More than twenty contests are open to TCU students, including contests for prose, poetry, fiction, and drama. A complete list of contests and details about submissions will be available in the Department of English. The department will award nearly five thousand dollars to the winners of these awards. The Department of English will recognize winners at the annual creative writing awards program. Selections from the winning entries will be published in the 2004 Creative Writing Publication. This year, the program will feature a reading by Walt McDonald, a former Air Force pilot and Professor of English who has taught at the Air Force Academy and Texas Tech University. McDonald has published six volumes of poetry, received four awards from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, and six awards from the Texas Institute of Letters. McDonald's poetry is the subject of a book of literary criticism: *The Waltz He Was Born for: An Introduction to the Writing of Walt McDonald* (Texas Tech University Press, 2002). Please encourage students to enter these contests.

Second Edition of Sourcebook is Popular

A second, revised edition of Steve Sherwood and Christina Murphy's *St. Martin's Sourcebook for Writing Tutors* has recently been issued by St. Martin's Press. First published in 1995, the sourcebook has become a widely used resource for writing centers and for classes in writing center theory and administration. In the introduction to the second edition, Sherwood and Murphy note that the world of writing centers has seen three important developments in recent years: there has been a challenge to the "process model" of writing instruction, there has been a renewed focus on ethics in the writing center, and there have been dramatic technological advances that continue to influence the job of writing tutors and writing center administrators. Building upon the scholarship included in the first edition, Murphy and Sherwood hope that the second edition of the sourcebook will address these changes and continue to "fill a niche between manuals that teach beginners simple tutoring techniques and philosophical treatises that too often divorce theory from practice."

Center Can Assist Students in All Disciplines

While students in English and composition courses make frequent use of the center, the staff can assist students writing in any of the disciplines and departments on campus. In a typical year, staff members will conduct 3,500 to 4,000 tutorials with students whose majors range from accounting to women's studies.

TCU Toastmasters Meet in the Center for Writing

Since January 2003, TCU Toastmasters has been meeting in the center on a regular basis. The TCU group is a member of Toastmasters International, an organization that has been devoted to improving public speaking and communications since 1924. TCU Toastmasters has become a model for students in the Intensive English Program; after visiting a Toastmasters meeting, the IEP students began using techniques they observed in Toastmasters to practice presentations in their classes. TCU Toastmasters meet in the Center for Writing each Monday from noon till 1 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

Fall Presentations

The Center for Writing plans to conduct a number of special workshops during the coming

semester. Among these will be a review session for students intending to take Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation exam required of all journalism majors. Dave Kuhne, Associate Director of the Center for Writing, will conduct the GSP review on Thursday, October 30, at 3:30 p.m. in the center's classroom. Cheryl Carithers plans to conduct a workshop on avoiding plagiarism and on writing résumés and cover letters. Staff members also plan to conduct a workshop for students interested in entering TCU's annual creative writing contests, a session on taking and writing essay exams, a discussion of documentation styles used in academic writing, and a workshop on publishing academic and creative writing. The Center for Writing staff is always happy to organize workshops for professors who would like staff members to address particular aspects of academic writing with their students.

Staff to Present Papers at Numerous Conferences

Center for Writing staff members will present the results of their research projects at a number of writing center conferences in the coming year. In late October, Steve Sherwood, Director of the Center of Writing, will present a paper titled "The Joys of Tutoring" at the International Writing Centers Association Conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Staff members Billie Hara and Cheryl Carithers will discuss their research projects in separate presentations delivered to the South Central Writing Centers Association Conference in Stillwater, Oklahoma, and at the Beaumont, Texas, meeting of the Conference of College Teachers of English. Dave Kuhne, Associate Director of the Center for Writing, plans to attend the Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers Conference in Fredericksburg, Texas, and the Associated Writing Programs conference in Chicago. In March, of 2004, Sherwood, Hara, and Carithers will also present a panel presentation on Writing Across the Curriculum at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in San Antonio.

Hara Helps Secure Grant

Staff member Billie Hara has been instrumental in securing a grant funded by the TCU Leadership Curriculum that will support a collaborative project of the Center for Writing, AddRan School of

Humanities and Social Sciences, the School of Education, and Write to Succeed, Inc. (a Fort Worth-based nonprofit literacy organization). The grant will fund two service-learning projects—"Reading Partners" and "Writing Partners"—which will involve nearly 2,000 students. The projects will pair approximately 300 TCU students with 1,700 students from Versia L. Williams, DeZavala, and Alice Contreras elementary schools in a semester-long reading and writing partner exchange. Through "Writing Partners," TCU students in ENGL 10803 and 20803 will conduct a letter exchange with third and fourth grade students at the three elementary schools. In this exchange, the older students will mentor the younger students in effective writing strategies. TCU students will write proposals and will present these proposals at a joint end-of-term symposium conducted by the Center for Writing, AddRan, the School of Education, and the Fort Worth ISD. The "Reading Partners" project will be the focus of EDUC 20003 students. Working with kindergarten through fifth grade classes, TCU Education majors will spend their time reading to and writing with elementary school students. Because of these projects, the elementary school students will receive additional support in reading and writing, and the TCU students in Education will begin practicum hours required in the Education major. TCU students will also learn about teaching strategies associated with the various age groups in the schools.

Scholarship and Fiction from the Center

Staff members of the center continue to publish their scholarship and creative work on a regular basis. Recently, Steve Sherwood placed his story titled "Marathon" in the *Red Rock Review*. *Chiron Review* will publish another of his stories, "Archipelago," later this year. Dave Kuhne recently contributed two entries to the *Continuum Encyclopedia of British Literature*, and his story "Magic Coins" was anthologized last year in *Literary Fort Worth* (TCU Press).