

— From the Center —

The Newsletter of the William L. Adams Writing Center

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Writing Center Has New Director

The writing center has a new director, Steve Sherwood. Sherwood became the director of the center upon the retirement of Jeanette Harris who had been director since 1997. Having served as a writing specialist with the center since its creation in 1988 and as interim director in 1996, Sherwood has a long association with the writing center.

Sherwood received a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Colorado in 1977 and an MFA in creative writing from the University of Montana in 1987. He is a nationally recognized authority on writing centers and writing center administration. He compiled, with Christina Murphy and Joe Law, *Writing Centers: An Annotated Bibliography* (Greenwood Press, 1996), for which he received the 1997 National Writing Centers Association award for the outstanding book published on writing center theory and practice in 1996. He is also the editor, with Murphy, of *The St. Martin's Sourcebook for Writing Tutors*. A new edition of the book, *The New St. Martin's Sourcebook for Writing Tutors*, is forthcoming in 2003. He has contributed articles and chapters to *Wiring the Writing Center*, *The Writing Center Resource Manual*, *Writing Center Journal*, *Writing Center Perspectives*, and *Writing Lab Newsletter*. In addition to his scholarship concerning writing centers, Sherwood has published numerous articles and short stories in such journals and magazines as *Outside*, *New Texas*, *RiverSedge*, *Amarillo Bay*, and *Red Rock Review*. An associate editor of TCU's literary journal, *descant*, he frequently serves as a judge for TCU's annual creative writing contests.

Sherwood has already announced plans for several new writing center projects, most notably an outreach-liaison program in which writing center staff members will establish ongoing partnerships with professors in various disciplines.

About the Writing Center

The writing center 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. Writing center 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 writing center, located on the lower level of the Student Center, is open from 8 a.m. till 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Students can make appointments by calling 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 at the library writing center adjacent to the Information Commons in the Mary Coats Burnett Library. The library center is open Sunday through Thursday from 6 p.m. till 9 p.m. Students can make appointments at the library center by calling 257-6520. The on-line writing lab, or OWL, is yet another way that students can get assistance from the writing center. Established in the fall of 1998, the OWL continues to grow in popularity. The OWL allows students to submit electronically up to five pages of writing for review by a consultant. Students can access the OWL by going to the writing center 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."

Class Presentations

Staff members are always happy to address classes and inform students about the services of the writing center. The presentations are about ten minutes in length. To arrange a presentation, call 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 writing 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.

NTWCA Meets at TCU

The William L. Adams Writing Center hosted the fall meeting and workshop of the North Texas Writing Centers Association on Friday, September 13, 2002. Steve Sherwood discussed writing center pedagogy, and Sherwood and Cheryl Carithers took part in a discussion concerned with training peer tutors. Writing center professionals from Tarleton State University, Tarrant County College, and Texas Woman's University also made presentations at the workshop.

New Staff Members

The writing center is pleased to introduce several new staff members this year: Cheryl Carithers, Billie Hara, Jeanne Rose, Sarah Lock, and Paul Amore.

Cheryl Carithers earned a B.A. in English and history from Tarleton State University in 1996. Specializing in rhetoric and composition, she received her M.A. in English from Tarleton in 1999. After obtaining her M.A., Ms. Carithers served as the assistant director of the writing center at Dallas Baptist University. She has also taught composition at Howard Payne University and taught composition and literature at Angelo State University. In addition to teaching, Ms. Carithers has worked as a professional editor. Her research interests include the history of composition, feminist studies in composition, writing center issues, and developmental writing theory.

Billie Hara, a Ph.D. candidate from the University of Texas at Arlington, comes to TCU from Texas Wesleyan where she worked as Director of the Wesleyan Collegiate Institute, an outreach program for students in the Fort Worth ISD. Hara has also been active in *Writing Partners*, a collaborative writing experience that brings writing to public communities. In addition to teaching composition, Ms. Hara has also conducted a variety of writing and literature classes and has had extensive experience working with developmental and intensive English students. Hara has won a number of awards including the 2002 K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award from the American Association for Higher Education and the 2002 Texas Wesleyan Board of Trustees Faculty Award for Teaching.

Jeanne Rose will be joining the writing center staff on a part-time basis. Ms. Rose holds a bachelor's degree from Washington University in St. Louis and a M.Ed. from the University of Missouri. Rose worked in St. Louis as a French and Latin teacher before embarking on a second career as a real estate agent. Rose has received numerous awards for her work, including a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to study Greek and Roman classics and a grant from the Missouri Committee for the Humanities. Also joining the staff on a part-time basis is **Sarah Lock**. Ms.

Lock is a Ph.D. candidate in English at TCU.

Paul Amore will serve as assistant director of the writing center. He is a Ph. D. candidate at TCU, specializing in rhetoric and composition.

Center Plans Series of Workshops

The writing center plans to conduct a number of special workshops during the coming year. Among these will be workshops on the Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation test required of all journalism majors, a workshop designed to help students who plan to enter 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. Dates and locations of the workshops will be announced at a later time.

Peer Writing Consultants

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 writing center is pleased to introduce the following peer consultants for the fall of 2002:

Paula A. Bryant is a junior E-Business major. Ms. Bryant won the Women's Wednesday Club Award for a Research Paper in the 2002 TCU Writing Contests.

Sarah Gibbs is a junior marketing major. Ms. Gibbs has worked for the writing center since fall 2001.

Lindsey M. Hale is a sophomore education major. Ms. Hale plans to complete a master's degree in education before leaving TCU.

Hollis Ray Henley II is a sophomore finance major. He is also a member of the TCU Leadership Council.

Abigail M. Manuel is a sophomore majoring in Radio-TV-Film and English.

Emily Seidel recently graduated from TCU with a bachelor's degree in geology. Ms. Seidel is a

veteran tutor for the writing center.

Meredith Smith is a senior majoring in advertising and public relations. She has worked for the writing center since fall 2001.

Sarah Smith is a senior design major. Ms. Smith's essay "Memoirs of a Girl in the Oven" appeared in the Summer 2001 issue of *TCU Magazine*. The essay has since been anthologized in a composition textbook titled *Interactions*.

Andrea Troxel is a junior biology major; Ms. Troxel is at work on a science fiction novel.

Some Publications by the Writing Center Staff

By Paul Amore: *Readings Online: A Virtual Commonplace* (Houghton Mifflin).

By Harry Antrim: *T.S. Eliot's Concept of Language: A Study of Its Development* (University Press of Florida).

By Cheryl Carithers: Carithers has contributed to two textbooks: *The People, Places, and Principles of English Language Skills* and *The People, Places, and Principles of English Communication*.

By Billie Hara: "Rhetorical Invention, Asynchronous Learning Environments and Ancient World Literature" in *Past and Future Perspectives: Negotiating our Changing Field* (Texas Tech University Press).

By Margaret-Rose Marek: "The Life and Times of a Writing Center Technical Coordinator" and "Right Brain Processing and Learning Disabilities: Conclusions Not to Reach in the Writing Center" in *Writing Lab Newsletter*.

By Dave Kuhne: *African Settings in Contemporary American Novels* (Greenwood Press); "Magic Coins," in *Literary Fort Worth* (TCU Press).

By Steve Sherwood: *The New St. Martin's Sourcebook for Writing Tutors* with Christina Murphy; "Marathon" (short story) forthcoming in *Red Rock Review*; "Environmentalism as Misanthrope: The Danger of Loving the Earth Too Much" in *Rendezvous*.