

# — From the Center —

## The Newsletter of the William L. Adams Center for Writing

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### About the Center

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 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 in suite 244 of the URC, is open from 8 a.m. till 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Students can make appointments on-line, by calling 257-7221, or by coming 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 Monday through Friday from 2 to 5 p.m. and Sunday through Thursday from 6 p.m. till 9 p.m. Students can make appointments at the library center either on-line or 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 papers electronically for review by a consultant. Students can access the OWL by visiting <<http://www.wrt.tcu.edu>>, where they will find specific instructions for using the OWL under the link titled "On-line Writing Help."

### Center Plans Workshops

The Center for Writing will conduct a series of workshops during the coming year. These workshops will address specific issues related to writing and the evaluation of writing. Unless otherwise noted, all workshops will last about an hour and will be conducted in the Center for Writing (URC Room 245). This

year, the center will present workshops concerning the newest editions of the APA and MLA manuals, workshops on preparing students for the grammar, spelling, and punctuation exam that students must pass before taking specific classes in journalism, workshops on taking essay exams, workshops on writing resumes and cover letters, and workshops on creative writing and academic publishing. Specific workshop dates will be announced on the center's website: <<http://www.wrt.tcu.edu>>.

### Center Can Assist with Many Writing Projects

- Essays and research papers
- Summaries and abstracts
- Proposals
- Recommendation reports
- Case studies / 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 exams or final portfolios.

### Peer Consultant Wins First ELF Scholarship

Kelli Trapnell, writing major and peer writing tutor at the center, is the first winner of the Excellence in Literary Fiction scholarship endowed by best-selling novelist Sandra Brown and her husband Michael Brown. Brown, who attended TCU and who has published more than 70 novels (56 of which have appeared on the *New York Times* best seller list), established the award to give a full scholarship to a TCU student who demonstrates academic excellence and significant potential as a fiction writer.

### Center Welcomes New Staff Member

A new staff member joins the center this year. Amy Hermanson holds a Ph.D. in English (2009) from Texas Christian University and is a specialist in composition and rhetoric. Her dissertation is titled *Acts of Faith: Reading, Rhetoric, and the Creation of Communal Belief in Sixteenth-Century England*. She earned her B.A. in English and philosophy at Marquette University in 2002, and she is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Her rhetorical interests include classical, medieval, Renaissance, and modern rhetoric and rhetorical criticism. Her interests in literature include the history of the novel, the history of reading, early modern religious literature, Shakespeare, and Milton. She was an assistant to the Radford Chair of Rhetoric from 2006 until 2009. She is the co-editor of *The Rhetoric of St. Augustine of Hippo* (Baylor, 2008) and *Advances in the History of Rhetoric: The First Six Years* (Parlor Press 2007).

### Staff Members Promoted

Dr. Sherwood, Director of the Center for Writing, recently promoted two veteran staff members, Cheryl Carithers and Cynthia Shearer, to the position of Assistant Director of the Center for Writing. As assistant directors, Carithers and Shearer will work closely with Dr. Sherwood to make plans for developing and delivering the center's services.

## Publications and Professional Activities

Staff members continue to be active in a number of international, national, state, and regional organizations. Steve Sherwood, director of the center, is At-Large Representative to the Executive Board of the International Writing Centers Association through 2010, and Cheryl Carithers continues to serve on the North Texas Writing Centers board of directors. Dave Kuhne, the center's associate director, continues to edit the university's literary journal, *descant*, and works to coordinate the student writing competitions for TCU and the Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers. Kuhne contributed entries on Harold LeClaire Ickes and William Orville Douglas in the recent John Hopkins University Press publication, *Modern American Environmentalists*. Novelist and Pushcart Award winner Cynthia Shearer continues to attract national attention with her literary blog, *Thimblewicket*, which now posts on the *Oxford American* magazine's RSS feed as part of its new initiative to become a web aggregator covering art and culture.

## Center Collaborates with Neeley, Brite, and Nursing

The center continues to collaborate with academic departments and colleges across the university to assist student writers in specific disciplines. In order to better deal with the increasing numbers of students from the Neeley School of Business and the Brite Divinity School, the Center for Writing has partnered with these schools to provide tutoring in specific disciplines. Beginning in the spring of 2008, the center and the Neeley School opened a writing center annex in the Center for Professional Communication to specifically aid business students with their writing projects and reports. In addition, the center works with new MBA students each semester to help them identify strengths and weaknesses in their business writing. A similar writing assessment is conducted with new students at Brite Divinity School. The business and divinity school writing tutors have been trained by Dr. Sherwood, director of the writing center, and the costs of employing the tutors are shared by the center and the business and divinity schools. In mid-August, the center's assistant director, Cheryl Carithers, visited with the faculty of the Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences in order to plan ways to better assist

students with their writing assignments.

## 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 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 and in the Center for Writing in late September. The winners of these contests receive nearly \$3,000 in prizes, and selections from the winning entries will be published in the 2010 Creative Writing Publication. Please remind your students of these opportunities to publish and to be recognized for their writing.

## Slam Bang Theater Retro Weekend

One of the more popular TCU creative writing competitions is the Bill Camfield Memorial Award for Humor and Satire, an endowed award established by Paul and Stephanie Camfield. This award honors TCU alumnus Bill Camfield, who graduated in 1957 and worked as a writer for one of Fort Worth's early television stations, KFJZ-TV Chanel 11 (now KTVT). Camfield was a pioneer of children's television, creating *Slam Bang Theater* and performing as the show's host, Icky Twerp. The retro weekend will include a panel discussion in Dallas, a *Slam Bang Theater* marathon on cable television, and a 60s street dance at the Scott Theater in Fort Worth on the evening of September 26. Funds raised from the retro weekend event will be used to sponsor writing awards and scholarships at TCU. For additional information visit [www.dallasimedia.net](http://www.dallasimedia.net) or contact Lisa Hembry at Dallas iMedia Network, 214-631-5571, extension 304.

## Students Make

### Appointments Online

Students may make their own appointments by visiting the Adams Center for Writing website: <http://www.wrt.tcu.edu/>. The site prompts first-time users to register and then asks students for their email addresses and passwords. The center's secure server allows students to view the available tutorial times. The

schedule describes the special interests and skills of the consultants and indicates which tutors are available at specific times, and students may then make an appointment for help with a writing project. Of course, students, faculty, and staff may continue to call the center at 7221 to make an appointment or simply come to the center and meet with an available tutor.

## Peer Writing Consultants

The Center for Writing 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. If you have outstanding student writers in your classes who may like to work at the Center for Writing, please have them call 257-7221. The center is pleased to introduce the peer tutors for 2008-2009:

- **Becca Allen**, a first-year English major
- **Nick Boerner**, a junior business major
- **Matt Bridges**, a Brite divinity graduate student
- **Stephen Elkind**, a senior English major
- **Kristen Escher**, a junior neuroscience major
- **Cameron Jones**, a junior graphic design major
- **Meghan Roe**, a graduate student in English
- **Stephanie Scott**, a senior English and Ad/PR major
- **Samantha Shircliff**, a sophomore history major
- **Rubertha Taylor**, a Brite divinity graduate student
- **Kelli Trapnell**, a junior writing major

The center also welcomes back our part-time professional consultants: **Emily Cody**, **Glynn Mathis**, **Marie Laine**, and **Jeanne Rose**.