

# — From the Center —

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

Volume 5 Issue 1

September 2001

### The William L. Adams Writing Center

The writing center is a place where students can talk openly about writing with someone who is non-judgmental but informed. The center 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. 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, which is open from 8 a.m. till 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, is located in Rickel 100. 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.

In addition to the Rickel location, students can obtain help at the Library Writing Center in Room 112 of the Mary Coats Burnett Library. The library center is open 6 p.m. till 9 p.m. on Sunday through Thursday. Students can contact 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, where they will find specific instructions for using the OWL under the link titled "On-line Writing Help."

### Class Visits and 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 257-7221. Faculty who would like writing center staff members to give presentations on special topics related to writing should call the center for information

### 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.

### Center to Host Workshop for North Texas Writing Center Association

The William L. Adams Writing Center at TCU will host the fall meeting and workshop of the North Texas Writing Center Association on Friday, October 5, 2001. The guest speaker at the meeting will be Kurk Gayle, Director of TCU's Intensive English Program.

Mr. Gayle will make a presentation titled "If a Picture Paints a Thousand Words, Then Millions of Words Paint Principled Patterns: Some Insights for ESL Writers." This presentation will focus on the latest theories of English language acquisition and how these ideas can assist us as we work with international students. International students are increasingly seeking assistance at writing centers across the nation, and writing tutors are working to become more efficient and knowledgeable in their dealings with students whose first language is not English.

The North Texas Writing Centers Association is one of the largest regional writing center associations in Texas. The organization's members include writing center professionals from the north Texas region. The NTWCA is affiliated with both the South Central Writing Centers Association, which includes institutions in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana, and the International Writing Centers Associating (formally the National Writing Centers Association). Staff members from TCU's writing center have played important roles in the development of the NTWCA.

### 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 long-time 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 Tarrant County 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 follow 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.

**Mark Keitges**, 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. Mark has produced a short film titled "Prism," and he is currently applying to graduate schools for film production.

**Lauren Krauth** 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 Leonardo**, 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 McMinn**, 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 Williams**, 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.