

# — From the Center —

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

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### 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. While the dates have been established for some of the sessions, specific dates for spring workshops will be announced later. Unless otherwise noted, all workshops will last about an hour and will be conducted in the Center for Writing (URC Room 245). For additional information or to register for the workshops, please visit the center's website: <<http://www.wrt.tcu.edu>>.

**Billie Hara** and **Dave Kuhne**, in partnership with the Center for Teaching Excellence, will conduct a workshop for faculty and graduate students concerning evaluation of student writing. The workshop will take place at 3 p.m. on Thursday, September 15.

**Steve Sherwood** and **Dave Kuhne** will offer graduate students suggestions on writing a thesis or dissertation on Tuesday, October 11, from 3 to 4 p.m.

**Dave Kuhne** will conduct a review session for students planning to take the Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation exam, a standardized test administered by the Journalism Department. The review will be held at 3 p.m. on Monday, October 17.

On Monday, November 7, from 3 to 4 p.m., **Cheryl Carithers** will offer students advice about taking essay exams.

On Monday, November 14, from 3 to 4 p.m., **Steve Sherwood** and **Dave Kuhne** will give an overview of TCU's annual creative writing contests and offer suggestions to students planning to enter the contests.

**Billie Hara** will supervise the center's annual Writer's Night Studio from 6-10 p.m. on Wednesday, November 30.

Topics for spring workshops include writing about literature,

writing application essays, writing résumés, writing for the Web (Dreamweaver), writing grants, and writing for publication.

### 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 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 in suite 244 of the URC, 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 Monday through Friday from 2 to 5 p.m., Saturday from noon to 4 p.m., and 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 papers electronically for review by a consultant. Students can access the OWL by visiting the center's site <<http://www.wrt.tcu.edu>>, where they will find specific instructions for using the OWL under the link titled "On-line Writing Help."

### 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 take-home exams or final portfolios.

### 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 257-7221. Staff members will also conduct in-class workshops concerning student writing assignments, suggest methods of approaching assignments, and discuss documentation of research with students.

### New Staff Members

The writing center is pleased to introduce two new staff members this year:

**Matt Levy** earned his doctorate in Rhetoric from the University of Texas at Arlington in 2005 with a dissertation entitled "Comp and Circumstance: Cynicism and the Rhetorical Situation of College Composition." His M.A. in English is also from UTA, and he graduated with honors with a B.A. from Guilford College. Matt has an article forthcoming in *JAC: A Journal of Composition Theory*, and he is an active online publisher, currently serving as Editor of *rhetcomp.com*, Managing Editor of *Fast Capitalism*, Editorial Assistant of *American Canons*, and an Editorial Board member of *Enculturation*.

**Cynthia Shearer** holds an M.A. in English from the University of Mississippi and is the author of two novels, *The Wonder Book of the Air* (Pantheon/Vintage, 1996) and *The Celestial Jukebox* (Shoemaker & Hoard/Avalon, 2005). Her work has appeared in such publications as *Tri-Quarterly*, *The Missouri Review*, *The Quarterly*, *The Oxford American*, *The Hungry Mind Review* (now *Ruminator*), and *Speakeasy*. Awards for her short fiction include Honorable Mention in *Best American Short Stories* and inclusion in various anthologies such as *Beyond O'Connor* (University of Georgia Press, 2003) and *The Best of Oxford American*. Her first novel won the 1996 prize for fiction from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters. In October of 2005, her *Speakeasy* essay, based on her six years of experience as the curator of the William Faulkner Home in Rowan Oak, will appear in the thirtieth anniversary issue of the *Pushcart Prize Anthology*.

### 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. 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.

### 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 and in the Center for Writing in late September. The winners of these contests will be awarded nearly \$5,000 in prizes, and selections from the winning entries will be published in the 2006 Creative Writing Publication.

This year, the program will feature a reading by novelist and founding member of the PEN/Faulkner Foundation Board, Kate Lehrer. Lehrer, a TCU graduate who grew up in Texas and now lives in Washington, D.C., is the author of numerous short stories, articles, and reviews as well as five novels: *Mango Walk*, *When They Took Away the Man in the Moon*, *Best Intentions*, *Out of Eden*, and most recently, *Confessions of a Bigamist*. Lehrer won the Western Heritage Award for *Out of Eden* and has garnered excellent reviews for *Confessions of a Bigamist*.

Lehrer will read at 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 2, 2006, in the Kelly Alumni Center. Please encourage students to enter these contests and attend the award ceremony.

### Remembering Margaret-Rose

Staff members were saddened by the death last spring of long-time colleague and friend Margaret-Rose Marek. Margaret-Rose had taught in the Department of English and worked at the center since 1988. Margaret-Rose brought to the Center for Writing the humor and enthusiasm that characterized her life. The many letters of appreciation Margaret-Rose received over the course of her career—and her desire to continue teaching and tutoring to the end of her courageous battle with cancer—are indicative of her dedication. She was named a Mortarboard preferred professor in 1998, and several graduating

seniors have made donations to the university in her name. In addition to teaching and tutoring, Margaret-Rose maintained an interest in research and authored a number of essays on writing center theory and practice. Margaret-Rose will be remembered for her strength, her passion, and her tenderness.

### Announcing the Graduate Writing Center

The William L. Adams Center for Writing announces the opening of a graduate writing center, where graduate students and faculty from all academic disciplines can receive feedback on writing projects. By appointment only, consultants will work with writers on such projects as articles, essays, theses, dissertations, books, and grant proposals. The graduate writing center will also offer various workshops on topics of interest to advanced academic and creative writers. Appointments will last from 30-90 minutes, and writers can schedule several sessions for lengthy pieces. Writers may also submit portions of their work through the Center for Writing's OWL (online writing lab). In addition to serving as a friendly audience, consultants will gladly address any issue a writer would like to discuss, though consultations often focus on such issues as topic generation, organization of ideas, style, clarity, and documentation. The graduate writing center is not a proofreading or editing service; however, consultants will alert writers to punctuation and grammar concerns. The graduate writing center recognizes the high level of disciplinary and writing expertise required of graduate students and faculty. Therefore, writers will work only with professional staff members who have advanced degrees.

### Staff to present Papers at Numerous Conferences

Staff members plan to present their scholarship and creative work at a number of important conferences this year, including the International Writing Centers Association Conference, the South Central Writing Centers Conference, the Texas Conference of Creative Writing Teachers, the Associated Writing Programs Conference, and the Conference on College Composition and Communication, and the Conference on Feminism(s) and Rhetoric(s), among others.