

From the Center

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Call the Center to Schedule 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 Plans Fall Workshops

The Center for Writing will conduct a series of workshops during the fall semester. These workshops will address specific issues related to writing and the evaluation of writing.

On Friday, August 20, Dr. David Kuhne conducted a workshop aimed at preparing students for the Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation exam, a standardized test administered by the Journalism Department.

Other workshops and events are scheduled throughout the semester. Unless otherwise noted, all workshops will last about an hour and will be conducted in the Center for Writing (URC #245).

Responding to Student Writing (Faculty Workshop held in conjunction with CTE), Tuesday, 9/7, from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Literary Analysis, Wednesday, 9/15, from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Sentence Level Issues, Wednesday, 9/22, from 2-3 p.m.

Resume Writing, Wednesday, 9/29, from 3-4 p.m.

Visual Literacy, Thursday, 10/7, from 4-5 p.m.

Reading by Paul Ruffin, poet, novelist, and editor. Thursday, 10/14, Woodson Room of the Student Center from 4-5 p.m.

Creative Writing Contest Workshop, Thursday, 10/21, from 3:30-5 p.m.

Poetry Slam, Sunday, 10/24, Brown-Lupton Student Center from 7-9 p.m.

Overcoming Writer's Block, Wednesday, 10/27, from 3:30-5 p.m.

Transitions, Tuesday, 11/2, from 4-5 p.m.

Essay Exams, Wednesday, 11/10, from 3-4 p.m.

Writer's Night: Studio, Thursday, 12/2, from 6-10 p.m.

You can register online for these workshops (www.wrt.tcu.edu), or you can call (817.257.7221).

Center to Host Conference

The Center for Writing will host a conference for the North Texas Writing Centers Association on Friday, September 24. The conference will focus on tutor training and will feature a keynote presentation by Chris LeCluyse, Ph.D., director of the

Undergraduate Writing Center at the University of Texas, Austin.

In recent years, Center for Writing staff members have become increasingly active in the North Texas Writing Centers Association. Currently, Steve Sherwood,

director of the center, serves as NTWCA president, Cheryl Carithers serves as vice president, Billie Hara is membership director of the organization, and Margaret-Rose Marek is currently the organization's archivist.

Paul Ruffin, Poet and Novelist, to Visit Campus

The Center for Writing and *descant*, TCU's literary journal, will host a public reading by Paul Ruffin, poet, novelist, and editor, on Thursday, October 14. Ruffin, Editor of the *Texas Review* and Director of the *Texas Review Press*, is the author of five books of poetry including the recently released *The Book of Boys and Girls* (2003), two collections of

short fiction—*Islands, Women, and God* (2001) and *The Man Who Would Be God* (1993)—as well as the critically acclaimed novel, *Pompeii Man* (2002).

Ruffin has also edited and co-authored several other volumes including such anthologies as *That's What I Like (About the South): Southern Fiction for the*

1990's (1993) and *Contemporary Southern Short Fiction: A Sampler* (1991) both with George Garrett.

Ruffin will read from his work at 4 p.m. in the Woodson Room of the Brown-Lupton Student Center. He will also speak to creative writing classes while he is on campus. Please encourage your students to attend this reading.

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 preparing for 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 where they will be accommodated on a first-come, first-serve basis, either at our main Rickel location or the Commons area in the Mary Coats Burnett Library. The library (Commons) center is open Monday through Friday from 2 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. and Sunday through Thursday from 6 p.m. until 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

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writing consultant. Students can access the OWL by going to the recently revised Center for Writing web site (www.wrt.tcu.edu) where they will find specific instructions for using the OWL.



Call us if you need
writing assistance

William L. Adams / Center for Writing

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Changing the World One Writer at a Time

**Check our Website:
www.wrt.tcu.edu**



Staff Members Present at Conferences

As part of their professional development and service, Center for Writing staff members continue to present papers at national and regional conferences. Billie Hara made three presentations at TCU's Summer Advanced Placement Institute for English this June, and in July she presented papers at the Writing Program Administrators conference at the University of Delaware and at the national GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) conference in Washington, D.C. In September, Hara will present at the Oklahoma State GEAR UP conference, and in November, she'll present at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference in Roanoke, Virginia.

Dave Kuhne, editor of TCU's nationally recognized literary journal, *descant*, will take part in an editors' panel at the Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers conference in San Antonio this September.



Cheryl Carithers plans to present a paper at the Conference of College Teachers of English next March in Waco.

The entire staff of the center is making plans to attend the South Central Writing Centers Association conference in the spring of 2005.

Our New Website!

The center's recently revised site is attractive and easy to use. The site provides information about the staff, the center, and resources for writers. Learn about what we do, who we are, our OWL, our tutors, get help about citing sources, register for workshops, or chat with us LIVE.

The site address is <http://www.wrt.tcu.edu>

We Assist with a Variety of 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
- Profession and business letters
- Theses and dissertations
- Creative and personal writing projects
- Public documents

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 2005 Creative Writing Publication.

This year, the program will feature a reading by novelist Stephen Yarbrough. Yarbrough is author

of the acclaimed novels *Prisoners of War*, *Oxygen Man*, and *Visible Spirits*, as well as two collections of short fiction, *Mississippi Histories* and *Family Men*. Yarbrough will read at 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 3, 2005, in the Kelly Alumni Center. Please encourage students to enter these contests and attend the award ceremony.

Sherwood Wins Competition—Publishes Novel

Steve Sherwood, Director of the Center for Writing, has won the 2003 George Garrett Fiction Award. The *Texas Review* Press will publish his novel, *Hardwater*, in October of 2004.

The novel is a mystery set in a small Wyoming town. C.W. Smith, a professor of English and creative writing at SMU, calls Sherwood's book "a rockin' good read I wolfed down in two big bites sitting by the fire on a cold Sunday afternoon, the story line so strong I hated to leave it even momentarily to download the morning's tea."

Smith goes on to say, "It has everything you'd want in a thriller, not the least of which is a richly evocative sense of place: the high left corner of Wyoming up near Yellowstone, in a town where failed uranium mines have left the bitter

taste of failure in white men's mouths and the area's resident reservation Shoshones and Arapahos find themselves literally at war with farmers and ranchers over water rights. When the editor of the local rag there gets hot on the trail of a serial killer, a poet with a macabre sense of humor, you've got a bang-on good contemporary Western in the mode of Hillerman and Sanderson. Every move of this plot is as sure-footed as a Bighorn sheep."

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Our 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.