

# — 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 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."

### 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.

### 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.

### 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). For additional information or to register for the workshops, please visit the center's website: <<http://www.wrt.tcu.edu>>.

On Monday, September 11, at 4 p.m., **Cheryl Carithers** presented a workshop on writing résumés and cover letters for clients of Student Support Services. Carithers will offer her advice about resume writing to the larger university community at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, September 25. **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 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 4. On Wednesday, October 25, also at 3:30 p.m., Kuhne will discuss the 2007 Creative Writing Awards competitions and assist students who want to submit writings to the competitions. **Billie Hara** will continue the tradition of directing the annual Writers' Night Studio on Tuesday, November 28, from 6 p.m. till 10 p.m. Spring workshops will be announced on the center's website.

### Recent Publications

Members of the Center for Writing staff continue to publish their work in a variety of venues.

*The Celestial Jukebox*, a novel by **Cynthia Shearer**, was recently released in paperback by the University of Georgia Press. Shearer participated in a book signing sponsored by the University of Georgia Press at the Associated Writing Programs conference in Austin last spring. Shearer's Pushcart Prize winning essay, "The Famous Writers School: Lessons from Faulkner's House," was included in *2006 Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses*.

**Dave Kuhne's** interview with poet and novelist Paul Ruffin appeared in *descant*. Kuhne, who serves as the editor of *descant*, TCU's nationally recognized literary journal, is also working on an anthology of the best of the first fifty years of *descant*. The anthology is scheduled for publication by TCU Press in 2007.

**Billie Hara** (with Matthew Levy) placed a review of *The Measure of Service Learning: Research Scales to Assess Student Experience* (edited by Robert G. Bringle, Mindy A. Phillips, and Michael Hudson) in *Reflections: A Journal of Writing, Service Learning, and Community Literacy*.

**Steve Sherwood**, with Christina Murphy, is looking forward to the publication of the third edition of the *St. Martin's Sourcebook for Writing Tutors* and an article titled "Portrait of the Tutor as an Artist: Lessons No One Can Teach," which is forthcoming in *Writing Center Journal*.

### 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 receive nearly \$5,000 in prizes, and selections from the winning entries will be published in the 2007

Creative Writing Publication. Please remind your students of these opportunities to publish and to be recognized for their writing.

### Professional Organizations

Staff members continue to be active in a number of international, national, state, and regional professional organizations. International Writing Centers Association elected Steve Sherwood, director of the Center of Writing, to serve as At-Large Representative to the Executive Board for 2006-2009. Members of the Texas Association of Creative Writing teachers chose Dave Kuhne to serve as the organization's president for 2006 and 2007. The North Texas Writing Centers Association (NTWCA) elected Cheryl Carithers as president for 2006-2008. Cynthia Shearer is currently Archivist for the NTWCA. Billie Hara has served the NTWCA as Secretary of the Executive Board, and she is also an Executive Board member of Clayton YES (Youth Enrichment Services).

### Graduate Writing Center

The graduate writing center celebrates its first anniversary this fall. In the past year, the graduate center has worked closely with students and faculty in a number of disciplines, especially business, history, nursing, and divinity. The graduate writing center is place 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; 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.

### 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 of College Teachers of English among others.

### Center Assists with New Media Writing Studio

Center for Writing staff member **Billie Hara** and faculty from the English department are now managing the New Media Writing Studio (NMWS). The NMWS, located in Rickel 38, is a space where teachers and writers learn to use such programs as Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign Flash, Dreamweaver, and Fireworks to create newsletters, web pages, and presentations. The NMWS staff also offers instructional sessions and tutorials to classes on subjects such as the rhetoric of Power Point, working with images, textual design basics, and blogging. Additional information about the NMWS and its hours of operation are available via email at [newmedia@tcu.edu](mailto:newmedia@tcu.edu) or at <http://www.newmedia.tcu.edu>

### Writing Associates Program

Beginning in fall of 2007, the Writing Associates Program, an initiative bridging the English Department and the Center for Writing, will place trained writing "partners" in some writing-emphasis courses across campus. The aim of the Writing Associates Program, funded by a Vision in Action grant, is to enhance, not replace, the writing instruction students already receive in composition classes and at the Center for Writing.

The writing associates, trained undergraduate and graduate student tutors, will spend a semester focusing on helping students in a particular class understand the best strategies for writing in a discipline. Writing associates will not serve as graders or teaching assistants. Rather, over a semester, they will work closely with students, reading and responding to papers at all stages of the writing process.