



A Message From the President

Welcome to another great year for the North Texas Writing Centers Association! In continuing to strive in our goal to be “a forum for discussing important writing center issues,” as stated in our organization’s constitution, we have planned an exciting fall conference. First of all, Betty Mayeur, Director of the Writing Center at the Collin County Community College Preston Ridge Campus, has offered to host the conference at their beautiful event center in Frisco. Valerie Balester, Founder and Executive Director of the University Writing Center at Texas A&M University, is our scheduled keynote speaker. Her presentation will address how 21st century Writing Centers are expected to go beyond “just writing” as a means of communication. The expanded role of writing centers includes, in part, focusing on sophisticated rhetorical strategies.

The second half of the program will consist of a panel composed of four founding members of the North Texas Writing Centers Association, including past presidents Mike Matthews and Steve Sherwood as well as our newsletter editor, Alice Newsome, and Myrtle Watkins. Entitled “Remembering the North Texas Writing Centers Association: From the Beginning,” panel members will share their memories of special people and events from years past and offer their perspective on the

future of the organization. The panel presentation will also include a brief preview of an upcoming oral history project for the NTWCA, which Cynthia Shearer, NTWCA archivist, and I will be developing.

Once again, we are seeking proposals for the Mary Nell Kivikko Excellence in Scholarship Award as well as nominations for the Outstanding Tutor Award. In the past, we have offered honorariums with the awards; however, this year any monetary gifts will be dependent on donations from our membership. We hope to continue recognizing our writing center colleagues for their scholarship and service in such a way and, thus, would greatly appreciate your contribution.

Unfortunately, I end this message on a very sad note. We have lost yet another member of our organization. Dr. Ted McFerrin, a founding member of the NTWCA, passed away recently. He was a former Director of the Writing Center and an English professor at the Collin County Community College Spring Creek Campus. On behalf of the NTWCA, I extend my condolences to those who mourn his passing. He was a respected professor and a beloved colleague.

Cheryl Carithers
President
North Texas Writing Centers Association



Fall 2007 Conference

Great Expectations

Hosted by
Collin County Community College—Preston Ridge Campus
Frisco, Texas
September 21, 2007

Program Schedule

11:30-12:00	Arrival and Registration
12:00-12:30	Lunch
12:30-1:15	Opening Remarks and Business Meeting Cheryl Carithers, Texas Christian University
1:15-2:15	Keynote Speaker, Dr. Valerie Balester, Associate Professor of English, Founder and Executive Director, Texas A&M University Writing Center "Not Just About Writing Anymore: Writing Centers in the 21st Century"
2:15-2:25	Break
2:25-3:25	<i>Remembering the North Texas Writing Centers Association ... From the Beginning</i> Mike Matthews, Tarrant County College Northwest, Fort Worth Alice Newsome, Tarleton State University, Stephenville Steve Sherwood, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth Myrtle Watkins, Collin County Community College, Frisco

Campus Map

<http://www.ccccd.edu/campuses/prestonridge/prestoncampmap.html>

Parking Information

Parking should be available close the Events Center. Overflow parking is clearly marked.

Lunch

Our hosts at Collin County Preston Ridge will provide a sandwich lunch.

RSVP to BMayeur@CCCCD.EDU by Friday, September 14th with your lunch choice.
Choices: Ham, turkey, or vegetarian filling on white or wheat bread.

About Our Presenter

Dr. Valerie Balester, Texas A&M University

Valerie M. Balester, Associate Professor of English, is Executive Director of the University Writing Center, which houses the writing-in-the disciplines program for Texas A&M University. Her 1993 *Cultural Divide: Case Studies of African American College-Level Writers* (Portsmouth, NH: Boynton/Cook-Heinemann) earned an Honorable Mention for the W. Ross Winterowd



Award for best book on composition theory. She discusses that work in **"The Problem of Method: Striving to See with Multiple Perspectives,"** a response to **"History in the Spaces Left: African American Presence and Narratives of Composition Studies"** (*CCC* 52:1, September 2000: 129-32). More recently, co-edited, with Michelle Hall Kells and Victor Villanueva, *Latino/a Discourses: On Language, Identity and Literacy Education* (Boynton/Cook, 2004), now going into a second printing.

Dr. Balester's presentation, **"Not Just About Writing Anymore: Writing Centers in the 21st**

Century," will examine some of the new challenges facing writing centers. The 21st century writing center is not just about writing anymore. In some ways, the future is looking more like the past when 19th rhetoric classes were rooted in oral traditions and drew upon the complementary skills of writing, speaking, listening, and reading. In the present we are evolving into culture the need for these skills becomes more pervasive, where media from video and audio to sophisticated graphics become significant forms of communication. And writing interweaves all these media. In fact, the demand for good writing is more intense than ever, and the literacy skills students need more are diverse than ever. Today, plain old academic or technical writing skills are not enough-writers need rhetorical sophistication and communicative competence. They need the ability to engage in all four of the language arts, to use them for enhancing learning, for communicating to a wide range of audiences in a wide variety of genres and media. A writing center that focuses solely on writing of the old forms may be doomed. The writing center of the future will be interdisciplinary and will work in a multi-media, multi-genre rhetoric, even if writing remains the central concern.

News from the Region

From Texas A&M Commerce, **Dr. Shannon Carter** wishes to congratulate student **LeAnn Nash**. Her essay, "ESL in a Different Light: Can You Hear Me Now?" will be published in a future issue of the Writing Lab Newsletter--one of the two most widely read and circulated publications in writing center studies. LeAnn presented an earlier version of this article at the 2007 meeting of the International Writing Centers Association.

This is the second A&M-Commerce student to have her work published in the Writing Lab Newsletter in the last six years. In 2003, a revised version of **Angie Smith's** presentation at the 2002 conference of the South Central Writing Center's Association was published in WLN ("Non-Traditional Students in the Writing Center: Bridging the Gap from a Process-Oriented World to a Product-Oriented One"). Another publication in writing center studies from A&M Commerce: In Fall 2004, **Jennifer Cooper** published "An Outreach First" in the nationally-recognized publication *Praxis: A Writing Center Journal*. Cooper's publication stemmed from her presentation at the South Central Writing Center Association's 2004 meeting.

In total, since 2001 A&M-Commerce graduate and undergraduate students have given more than 40 presentations at regional, national, and international writing center conferences.

Dr. Carter also announces her promotion and tenure effective August 1, 2007. Also, her article "Living Inside the Bible (Belt)" was published in the most recent issue of *College English* (July 2007). Another of Dr. Carter's publications, *The Way Literacy Lives: Rhetorical Dexterity and Basic Writing Instruction*, will be

published by State University of New York Press in March 2008. Dr. Carter will also be a Featured Speaker at the next National Council of Teachers of English. The session, **Writing, Reading, Composing: The Movie(s)**, will prove to be a fascinating look at how film can be a "powerful tool for action" in the writing classroom. Noted rhetorician **Linda Adler-Kassner**, as well as **Pete Vandenberg**, and **Bonnie Kyburz** will also lend their expertise.

The NTWCA website offers information about recent and upcoming conferences, membership dues, newsletter information, and our NTWCA listserv. Those interested in joining the listserv may do in one of three ways:

- (1) Go to <http://orgs.tamu-commerce.edu/ntwca/list.htm> and follow the instructions there,
- (2) try <http://mailman.tamu-commerce.edu/mailman/listinfo/ntwca> and fill out the form there, or
- (3) send an email Shannon_Carter@tamu-commerce.edu and she'll sign you up.

Janna Pate, a former tutor at the William L. Adams Writing Center at TCU, has been published in the *Writing Lab Newsletter*. Her article, "Writing Center Ethics: The Process" is in Volume 31, pages 14-16. Janna presented this piece in Spring 2006 at the NTWCA conference in Granbury. The article also won TCU's Subversive Thought Award, part of the annual creative writing awards sponsored by the TCU English Department.

***A Special Thank You from
Mike Matthews***



Receiving the plaque and the gift certificate from you last fall continues to remind me of how important my association with NTWCA has been. The plaque on my wall says “For Invaluable and Continued Support and Contributions to the North Texas Writing Centers Association the Executive Board Recognizes Mike Matthews as a Founding Member and Former NTWCA President.” In turn, my institution, colleagues, students, and I have received invaluable support and contributions from the association.

I put notice of the award on my webpage after I received it and was later notified in April by Dr. David Holdeman, Chair of the University of North Texas English Department that I was the department’s selection to be recognized on Alumni Appreciation Day. My visit back to UNT completed a circle from the first university class I attended in the fall of 1964 to Darin Bradley’s composition class that I visited in the spring of 2007. I was reunited with Dr. Robert Stevens, who taught my honors Composition II class in the spring of 1965, and I visited with Dr. Kathryn Raign, Director of Composition and the Writing Center. She assured me that she is interested in joining NTWCA and attending its meetings with her tutors.

The recognition that I received from NTWCA and UNT in 2006-2007 is reciprocal. Since the awards we give shine back on us, I hope that through my return to UNT, I was able to shine a light back on the North Texas Writing Centers Association.

With thanks and appreciation to everyone,
Mike Matthews
Dean of Humanities
Tarrant County College Northwest Campus

In Memory

Ted McFerrin, co-founder of the Collin Writing Centers and charter member/former officer of NTWCA, died August 17 after a valiant struggle with cancer. Ted passed peacefully, surrounded by numerous friends and family members.

Ted entered the teaching profession after serving two tours of duty in Vietnam in the U.S. Navy, volunteering when he was only nineteen. After the funeral service in Plano, his naval career was recognized by military ceremony at the family plot in Westminister, Texas. After his military service, Ted attended Purdue University, where he taught classes and worked at their progressive Writing Center.



Ted was a long-time professor at Collin College, where he taught a

variety of English classes. He was the first director of the Spring Creek Writing Center and served for fifteen years as coordinator of the three campus writing centers, where he is fondly remembered. During his productive tenure at Collin College, Ted remained devoted to the writing centers, leaving them his professional library when he passed away.

Ted is survived by his wife, Lina, and daughter, Laura McFerrin. A scholarship has been established in Ted's memory. Donations can be sent to

Collin College Foundation
4800 Preston Blvd., Ste. A 100
Plano, TX 75093

In 2006, Ted posted to the Pancreatic Cancer Web site to tell his story:

http://www.pancreatica.org/story_McFerrin.html.

Read, in Ted's own words, about the discovery of his pancreatic cancer and treatment strategies. Read, also, Ted's comments and reflections on his life.

This tribute is from friends and colleagues Myrtle Watkins, Betty Correll, Betty Mayeur, Peggy Vera, and Pat Peters

Announcing the 2008 Mary Nell Kivikko Excellence in Scholarship Award

The North Texas Writing Center Association is now accepting entries for the 2008 Mary Nell Kivikko Excellence in Scholarship Award. The award is open to all writing center professional staff, graduate tutors, and undergraduate peer tutors in the South Central Writing Center Association region (Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana). Proposals should focus on the subject area of writing center theory and practice.

The paper based on the winning proposal will be presented at the NTWCA Spring Conference to be held in April of 2008, at which time the winner will receive the award.

The 250-word abstract of the entry should include a title and the name and contact information of the presenter. Please submit entries to Cheryl Carithers (c.carithers@tcu.edu), NTWCA President, by February 15, 2008. Electronic submissions only, please.

Announcing the 2008 North Texas Writing Centers Association Outstanding Tutor Award

The NTWCA is pleased to accept nominations for The NTWCA Outstanding Tutor Award, which is designed to recognize professional staff (full or part-time consultants) as well as peer tutors (graduate or undergraduate) who not only demonstrate excellent tutoring skills but also make significant contributions to their writing center. One award will be given, and the winner will be recognized and the award presented at the NTWCA spring conference.

Any nominated professional consultant and graduate or undergraduate peer tutor at a writing center in the NTWCA region is eligible to receive an award. Nominees should be current members of the NTWCA.

Writing center directors may nominate a professional consultant or an undergraduate or graduate peer tutor who is an employee in his/her writing center. Nominations should include the name, institution, address, telephone, and email address of the consultant and/or tutor as well as a letter explaining why the individual should be considered for the award, including information regarding tutoring abilities and contributions to the center. Please submit nominations to Cheryl Carithers (c.carithers@tcu.edu), President of the NTWCA, by February 29, 2007. Electronic submissions only, please.

The winner of the award will be notified via email no later than March 7, 2008 and should plan to attend the NTWCA spring conference, at which time the award will be presented.

Invitation to Join the North Texas Writing Centers Association

The North Texas Writing Centers Association serves writing centers of the region as a clearinghouse for exchanging information, as a forum for discussing important writing center issues, and as a means of promoting the professional status of writing center personnel.

Membership in the NTWCA includes directors and staff of writing centers and persons interested in writing centers. Membership can be either institutional (\$50 for a single campus institution, \$25 for each campus in a multiple campus institution) or individual (\$10). Institutional memberships include writing center staff and tutors at the institution. **Membership fees are due on or before September 21, 2007.**

Name: _____

Individual Membership: _____ or Institutional Membership: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Institutional Address: _____

Please indicate your profile:

☐ I am a Writing Center Director.

☐ I am a Writing Center Staff Member (professional consultant, graduate tutor, or undergraduate peer tutor).

☐ I am interested in Writing Centers (past director, faculty member, student ...).

☐ Other: _____

**Send Dues to : Ben Sword
Department of English and Languages
Tarleton State University
Box T-0300
Stephenville, TX 76402**

SPRING 2007 CONFERENCE



Karen Boozer of the Fair Hill School in Dallas was the recipient of the Mary Nell Kivikko Excellence in Scholarship Award.



Janna Pate of TCU won the Outstanding Peer Tutor Award.



Joshua Hart of Tarleton State University, Alicia Graber of TCU, Tyler Fultz of TCU, and Dylan Taylor-Smith of TCU presented their research at the Spring Conference.



Myrtle Watkins, a founding member of the North Texas Writing Centers Association, received the Outstanding Professional Tutor Award. Myrtle expressed her appreciation to the organization and challenged the members to continue to recruit new members and to keep the NTWCA vital and relevant. Myrtle also commented on Karen's work with the junior high school writing center. One of Myrtle's passions has been to introduce the concept of the writing center to junior high and high school teachers.

**Thank you, Myrtle, for your commitment to the organization
and to the profession.**



Above: **Vera Ornelas** and **Steve Sherwood** visit after the conference.

Below: **Cheryl Carithers** adjusts the projector.



Above: **Karen** receives her award from **Cheryl**.

Below: Tarleton GAs **Stephen Dillard** and **Courtney Kincaid** help with the luncheon.



Tarleton State University hosted the Spring 2007 Conference at the Langdon Center in Granbury. Participants enjoyed excellent presentations by Karen Boozer (the Mary Nell Kivikko Excellence in Scholarship Award winner) and tutors from the region including Joshua Hart (TSU) and Dylan Taylor-Smith, Tyler Fultz, and Alicia Graber, all of TCU.