



A Message From the President

Greetings from the North Texas Writing Centers Association!

I want to begin with an invitation to our spring conference, which is scheduled for Friday, April 18, at Texas Women's University. We promise both a beautiful location and an outstanding program. Thanks to the thoughtfulness of those who brought their membership dues up to date and the generosity of our members who donated to the Mary Nell Kivikko Excellence in Scholarship Award fund, we are able to highlight scholarship once again through presentation of the award.

John Burkett, this year's winner, is our scheduled keynote speaker. We follow his presentation with a series from undergraduate and graduate consultants, including Kelley Scott, winner of the 2008 Outstanding Tutor Award. And, Angela Kennedy and LeAnn Nash, both of Texas A&M-Commerce, will share with us their presentations from the South Central Writing Centers Association conference. The title of the program for our forthcoming meeting is "(The) Writing (Center) Matters." I believe this statement both highly appropriate and optimistic for a time when the demands of society, particularly the inclusion of new media in classrooms, ask us to reevaluate our purpose as compositionists and writing consultants. Attitudes towards writing are changing, and as writing center folk, we find

ourselves in the middle of a debate between alphabetic, print literacy and visual/digital literacy. Will the writing center become the last place for preservation of the art of writing, or in order to preserve our relevancy, will we all redefine our mission in order to provide for the needs of a growing student population that is versed in new media?

As I leave you with that question to ponder, I note that this is my final message as President of the North Texas Writing Centers Association. Once again, officer elections are upon us. The past two years have been challenging at times, but with the help of a hardworking, supportive executive board and membership, the rewards far exceed the challenges we encountered. We have revised the constitution, improved on the website, created a listserv, and designed a logo to name a few of our accomplishments. More importantly, we have brought in new members and brought back into the fold members who had left. The organization has a vast potential and much to offer the writing center community. Hopefully, through your continued support, the NTWCA will continue to thrive, as we choose to participate in its growth and encourage one another to succeed as scholars and writing consultants.

Cheryl Carithers
President
North Texas Writing Centers Association



Spring 2008 Conference

(The) Writing (Center) Matters

**Hosted by
Texas Women's University
April 18, 2008**

Program Schedule

11:30-12:00	Arrival and Registration Blagg-Huey Library, Library Conference Room (Room 101)
12:00-12:30	Lunch
12:30-1:00	Opening Remarks and Business Meeting Cheryl Carithers, William L. Adams Center for Writing, Texas Christian University
1:00-1:45	Winner of the Mary Nell Kivikko Excellence in Scholarship Award "Discernment is the Thing: A Key Skill Before Applying Theory in the Writing Center," John Burkett, Texas Christian University
1:45-2:00	Break
2:00-3:00	"Business Majors and Arrogance: They Just Go Together." Kelley Scott, Texas Christian University "High School Writing Centers: A Multimodal Argument" Angela Kennedy, Texas A&M-Commerce "ESL in a Different Light: Can You Hear Me Now?" LeAnn Nash, Texas A&M-Commerce
3:00-3:30	Closing Remarks and Writing Center Tour

Lunch Information

Deadline for lunch orders is Friday, April 11th. Please forward your lunch selections to Laura Bass at LBass@mail.twu.edu

Cost: **\$8.50 for the complete lunch** (You can pay at the door or send your check to Laura Bass, Department of English, Speech, and Foreign Languages, Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas.)

Select from the following:

1. Deli **Bread** Choice: Hoagie Roll or Croissant

2. Deli **Sandwich** Choice:

Chicken Salad

Tuna Salad

Turkey and Swiss

Ham and Cheddar

Roast Beef and Provolone

Grilled Vegetables

3. Choice of **Side**: Pasta Salad or Potato Chips

4. Choice of **Dessert**: Fudge Brownie or 2 Gourmet Cookies

5. Choice of **Drink**: Canned Soda or Bottled Water?

Location

Blagg-Huey Library, Library Conference Room (room 101)

Map to Campus: http://www.twu.edu/map_denton_location.asp

Map to Building (Blagg-Huey Library):

http://www.twu.edu/map_denton_campus.asp

About Our Presenters

Winner: The Mary Nell Kivikko Excellence in Scholarship Award
John Burkett, Texas Christian University

John Burkett is currently a Ph.D. Candidate at Texas Christian University where he holds several writerly roles: he serves as Instructor of Composition, Editorial Assistant of *Composition Studies*, Writing Tutor in the William L. Adams Center for Writing, and



Writing Coach in the Neeley School of Business. For his dissertation, John is writing a commentary on Aristotle's *Art of Rhetoric*. John joined TCU in 2005 as the Lillian B. Radford Fellow in Rhetoric and Composition. His studies and research have focused on applying classical rhetoric to modern writing. Along with Richard Leo Enos and other editors, he is helping to produce the book, *The Rhetoric of St. Augustine of Hippo: De Doctrina Christiana and the Search for a Distinctly Christian Rhetoric* (Baylor UP, Fall 2008). Prior to becoming a Texan, John taught at the Mississippi School for the Blind while working on a graduate degree in English literature at Mississippi College. John originally hails from southern California where he earned a Bachelor of Business Communication degree at USC.

Winner: The Outstanding Tutor Award 2008
Kelley Scott, Texas Christian University



Kelley Scott is a senior at TCU majoring in Writing with a minor in Advertising/Public Relations. She has worked at the William L. Adams Center for Writing for two years.

LeAnn Nash is pursuing her PhD in English at Texas A&M University - Commerce, with a focus in Critical Literacy. Her research interests lean toward nineteenth and twentieth century modern literature, but she dabbles in contemporary fiction and writing studies. She has been associated with the TAMU-C Writing Center since Fall 2006, and currently serves as assistant to Dr. Shannon Carter, Director of the Writing Center and Basic Writing Program. She is currently serving as editor of *The Mayo Review*, which will be launching its first issue on April 24, 2008.



Angela J. Kennedy holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Texas A&M University-Commerce where she is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Rhetoric and Composition with a focus on Writing Center Studies. She is an active member of Mu Phi Epsilon and Sigma Tau Delta. She



performs with the Select Chorale and serves the university in a myriad of ways including as the Assistant Music Camp Director. Her current projects include "Podcasts in Practice: Texas A&M University-Commerce Multimodal Writing Series" and serving as the web editor for *The Mayo Review*, a creative writing publication.

News from the Region



Dr. Dave Kuhne of TCU edited *descant: fifty years*, an anthology of the best work appearing in the first fifty years of *descant*. TCU Press will publish the book in June. Kuhne is currently researching another book for TCU Press: *Big Country Texas*. The project will involve an informal survey of the geography, history, and culture of the Texas big country, an area that stretches roughly from Brownwood to San Angelo to Abilene. An essay based on one chapter of the book will appear in the fall issue of the *Concho River Review*.

Dr. Steve Sherwood's essay "Writing Center as Scapegoat: Excuses, Pretexts, and Passing the Buck" appears in the March 2008 issue of *Writing Lab Newsletter*. Sherwood presented the essay at the International Writing Centers Association conference in 2007. Steve is the Director for the William L. Adams Center for Writing at TCU.



Busy Scholars from Texas A&M Commerce!

Christy Foreman, former Assistant Director of the Writing Center at A&M-Commerce, successfully defended her dissertation "Negotiating Meaning in Context: How First-Year Students Make Sense of Writing Assignments" (Texas A&M-Commerce; PhD, 2007)

Sonja Andrus, former Assistant Director of the Writing Center at A&M-Commerce,

successfully defended her dissertation, "“No Longer Just visiting the Borderlands: A Case Study of First-Year Writing Instruction at a Two-Year College” (Texas A&M-Commerce; PhD, 2008)

Presentations at the SCWCA 2008 in Norman, Oklahoma last March:

Erin O'Grady : "The Lightbulb Effect: How Learning Styles Can Influence Students' Writing Styles"

Shannon Carter, Greg Mitchell, Jake Pichnarcik, and LeAnn Nash: "Writing Out Loud, Out There: A Whodunit of Writing Center Expansion"

Donna Dunbar-Odom, Shannon Carter (TAMU-C) and Valerie Balester (TAMU): "When Technologies Converge: Writing Centers, Centers for Multiple Literacies"

Angela Kennedy: "A New Look at Writing Centers: Multimodality"

Shannon Carter, Christy Foreman, Sandra Liu (TAMU-C), and Lori Rios Doddy (TWU): "The In-World Writing Center: Virtual Tutoring in Second Life"

Presentations at CCCC 2008 in New Orleans, LA

Jake Pichnarcik, "Writing in Prison: Peer Tutors, Newspapers, and Literature"

Shannon Carter, Donna Dunbar-Odom, and Christy Foreman (with Maryann Whitaker), "What's Y/our Story?: Personalizing Research, Researching the Personal"

Facilitating an all-day workshop at CCCC 2008

Shannon Carter (with Doug Downs, Elizabeth Wardle, Kathleen Blake Yancey, Deb Dew, Barbara Bird, and Betsy Sergeant), "First-Year Composition as Writing Studies: Implementing a Writing-about-Writing Pedagogy."

Publications by Dr. Carter

Carter, Shannon. "HOPE, 'Repair,' and the Complexities of Reciprocity: Inmates Tutoring Inmates in a Total Institution." *Community Literacy Journal*. Spring 2008.

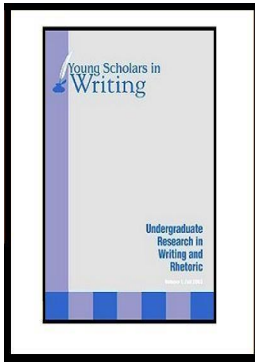
---_The *Way Literacy Lives: Rhetorical Dexterity and the "Basic" Writer*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2008.

"Young Scholars in Writing Feature: Young Scholars in First-Year Writing." (with co- editor Doug Downs). *Young Scholars in Writing: Undergraduate Research in Writing and Rhetoric*. Vol. 5. Spring 2008.

"Living Inside the Bible (Belt)." *College English*. 69.6 (July 2007): 572-595.

At CCCC, **Shannon Carter** was elected to join Hannah Ashley (West Chester University) as Co-Director of the Conference on Basic Writing, the national organization for basic writing studies.

On May 9, 2008, **A&M-Commerce** will offer a day-long professional development workshop for area English and History teachers (secondary). See http://faculty.tamu-commerce.edu/scarter/PD_workshop.htm for schedule of events and additional information about this free workshop.



Dr. Shannon Carter of Texas A&M Commerce joined the editorial board of the national, peer-reviewed journal *Young Scholars in Writing: Undergraduate Research in Writing and Rhetoric* and began, with Doug Downs of Utah Valley State University, a new feature publishing outstanding scholarship in writing, rhetoric, and literacy studies produced by first-year writers. The first issue including this new feature was published in January 2008 (YSW, volume 5) and included an essay written by A&M-Commerce student Eric Pleasant in his English 102 course spring 2007 ("Literacy Sponsors and Learning: An Ethnography of Punk Literacy in 1980s Waco").

Dr. Kathleen Mollick of Tarleton State University presented a paper entitled "Riches of Embarrassment: The Faltering Reelection Ethos of George H.W. Bush" at the Federation Rhetoric Symposium at Texas Woman's University in February. The paper focused on Bush's 1992 State of the Union Address, in which he hoped to forcefully argue to the American public why he was the strongest candidate in the upcoming election. Analyzing the speech's use of candid speech (parrhesia) to build the president's ethos, the paper noted areas in which Bush's reelection discourse fell short in being persuasive to his audience.

She will also be presenting another paper on the reelection discourse of George H.W. Bush at the Rhetoric Society of America conference in Seattle this May.

Ryan Farrar, a first-year graduate assistant at **Tarleton**, recently presented at the Pop Culture Conference/American Culture Conference in San Francisco in March. The presentation, "Digesting the Sap: Applying I.A. Richards's Semantic Triangle to Darren Aronofsky's *The Fountain*," focused on how, in the Post-Modern era, film has developed as a useful and visual tool in capturing Western Civilization's attitudes towards the surrounding reality as denoted by time. With film allowing the human race to capture spots of time and perpetuate the motives that call the future generations to action, audiences attend theaters in an attempt to dissociate themselves with the inevitable destination death in exchange for stories that transcend mortality. Recently, Darren Aronofsky's film, *The Fountain*, attempted to persuade film audiences of time's absolute and relativistic nature by advocating eternal hope through inescapable death. In order to structure the argument, the film employs ideas of religious mythos, particularly Christian and Mayan, Romantic dualism, biological symbolism, Orwell's concept of "the last man," and futurism as memes for understanding Man as a monadic force in the universe. The focus of his analysis explored the rhetorical purpose each device serves in communicating the director's purpose to the audience.

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.

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**

Officer Nominations and Elections for 2008-2010

It is time to install new officers for the North Texas Writing Centers Association. There are **five elected officers** for the organization; officers serve for a minimum of two years and may be elected for multiple, two-year terms:

The responsibilities of each officer follows:

President: The president chairs all meetings, facilitates the operations of the association, and serves as co-chair of the Membership Committee.

Vice-President: The vice-president functions as program chair and assumes the duties of the president in the president's absence

Newsletter Editor: The newsletter editor gathers information, edits articles, publishes the newsletter, and handles mailings.

Secretary: The secretary takes minutes at meetings and reports at executive board meetings and conferences.

Treasurer: The treasurer collects dues, records memberships, reports finances and memberships at meetings, and serves as co-chair of the Membership Committee.

Any member in good standing may nominate another member in good standing for any of the positions listed. Members may also nominate themselves. Nominees should have paid dues for 2007-2008 (either institutional or individual) and should be able to serve a two-year term.

The following members have expressed interest in these positions:

President: Alice Newsome, Tarleton State University

Vice-President: Ben Sword, Tarleton State University

Secretary: Angela Petit, Texas Women's University

Treasurer: Elizabeth Parrish, Tarrant County College, Northeast Campus

Newsletter Editor: Cheryl Carithers, Texas Christian University

NTWCA Website

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.



Do you feel this way about your Writing Center?