UTA English Writing Center Hosts NTWCA

The UTA English Writing Center welcomes Ball State’s Dr. Jackie Grutsch McKinney, who recently authored *Peripheral Visions for Writing Centers*, and members of the North Texas Writing Center Association (NTWCA) for the Fall Conference and board meeting on October 17, 2014.

The NTWCA is a group of faculty, staff, and students from regional universities and colleges committed to supporting student scholarship and developing strategies for improving student retention and graduation rates through writing support services.

UTA College of Liberal Arts Dean Beth Wright and Department of English Chair Bruce Krajewski will offer opening remarks. This is the first year UTA has hosted this conference, and we look forward to a successful and productive meeting!
SCWCA 2014 Annual Conference

Earlier this spring, the UTA English Writing Center sent a group of consultants and executive staff members to Stillwater, OK, for the South Central Writing Center Association’s annual conference, which promotes scholarship and fellowship among the writing center community. Our group consisted of nine members of the UTA Writing Center, including all four executive staff members. Our five consultants were a mix of undergraduate and graduate students from a variety of academic departments, and they represented UTA well with their presentations.

This year marked the conference’s 25th anniversary. The theme, “Participate! An SCWCA 25th Anniversary Celebration,” encouraged discussions of the writing center within the context of The Participatory Turn. In line with this theme, we were given the chance to participate in a number of ways. Our tutors were able to present their own work alongside tutors from schools across Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana. We also participated in many important and engaging conversations concerning all aspects of writing center work. These conversations allowed us to hear about various strategies being used by other writing centers, as well as share our own experiences of success and struggle at UTA.

Many positive comments were made to executive staff members about the quality of scholarship presented by our consultants, and we were and are extremely proud of their work and participation.

The SCWCA provided an opportunity for us to form new relationships with neighboring writing centers, engage in important discussions, and display our great consultants and the various initiatives and changes we have recently instituted. The trip to Stillwater was successful in a number of ways, and we look forward to representing UTA again at next year’s conference. SCWCA’s 2015 Conference will be held on February 12-13, 2015, in Austin, TX.

Professor Spotlight

Dr. Richard Smith is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. He has been a key supporter of the Writing Center, informing his students of our services by scheduling classroom visits, commenting on assignments to visit the Writing Center, and recognizing students when they utilize our services. Students across disciplines commit similar writing errors, such as lack of clarity and focus, lack of assignment comprehension, and basic grammar errors. Dr. Smith recognizes that visits to the Writing Center frequently produce “better organized and focused written responses.” He calls on fellow faculty members to similarly encourage students to visit the Writing Center.

“Writing is a key aspect in any part of the Criminal Justice System. For example: police officers need to write concisely and precisely in the course of their work. Administrators, and those in leadership positions, must be able to critically analyze and prepare focused and cogent responses to a wide variety of public policy issues for use within their organizations and the communities they serve.” —Dr. Richard Smith
Where Are They Now?

We recently caught up with former tutor Chidozie Menakaya, who worked at the UTA Writing Center from 2009 to 2012. During that time, he made numerous friends and impacted the many students he tutored. He especially enjoyed “working with students to establish a clear understanding of their writing.”

Chidozie is currently a Resident Assistant and peer mentor to newer pharmacy students at MCPHS University-Worcester. He expects to graduate with his PharmD degree this year.

When asked about the importance of writing in his field, Chidozie responded, “In practice, pharmacists do a lot of writing for physicians and some other healthcare providers to explain the use of certain medications. Poor writing skills can quickly diminish one’s credibility and perceived respect.”

We wish Chidozie the best of luck!

Featured Tutor

Jessica Story has worked as a consultant at the Writing Center for almost two years and is one of our most experienced tutors. Her love of writing led her to the Writing Center, where she has had the opportunity to help countless students improve on the skills they already have.

As a Writing Center consultant, Jessica has developed a variety of strategies to help students with their writing. Though she admits that finding the right learning style for each is a challenge, she is gratified when she finds the right style and sees the understanding show on the client’s face. She also finds satisfaction in seeing the writing of repeat students improve with each session.

On how her work at the Writing Center has helped her in her own writing, Jessica explains, “The writing process seems much clearer to me now than when I first started, and when doing my own revisions, I’m able to focus on the higher-level concerns, rather than being drawn to lower-level issues.”

Jessica looks forward to graduating with a Bachelor’s degree in English, and a minor in Creative Writing, this December, after which she hopes to continue to write as well as teach, research, and publish.

Riding in Style

This fall, the Writing Center participated in UTA’s 34th annual Bed Races. The “Rough Writers” sought diversion and bragging rights while bringing attention to our center. After blazing down Maverick Stadium in their four-wheeled cot, the team reveled in comradery with fellow UTA students, taking part in many of the additional activities available. Though they didn’t place in the race, the team had a blast representing the Writing Center at UTA’s self-proclaimed “longest running” tradition!
**Fall 2014 Workshops**

*Writer's Studio, Central Library Room 4ll, 6:00 p.m.*

- Oct. 23: Fragments/Run-ons
- Oct. 29: Comma Splices
- Nov. 4: Possessives
- Nov. 10: Word Accuracy
- Nov. 20: Review

*Writer's Studio, Central Library Room 4ll, 12:00 p.m.*

- Oct. 22: Rhetorical Analysis Essay
- Nov. 19: Synthesis Essay
- Nov. 26: Synthesis Essay

*Writer's Studio, Central Library Room 4ll, 6:45 p.m.*

- Oct. 20: Common Grammar Errors
- Oct. 30: Being Your Own Editor
- Nov. 5: Literature Review (Arts)
- Nov. 11: Abstracts
- Nov. 17: Personal Statements

**Style Guides**

The Writing Center has created quick style guides for four of the most popular organizations. Come in to get a free copy!

- **APA**
- **Chicago**
- **MLA**
- **CSE**

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