

# Citings

Department of Rhetoric and Writing Studies Newsletter

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## New TAs Welcomed at Fall Conference

DRWS's 2000 pre-fall semester academic conference was another great success. As always, a new group of enthusiastic Teaching Associates joined the ranks of DRWS instructors. We welcome the contributions that will be made by this year's new TAs, who represent a variety of interests and backgrounds.

Virginia Paterson is in the M.F.A. program for Creative Writing. She teaches RWS 100, tutors in two RWS 92A classes, and is the Co-Managing Editor of Two Girls Review literature magazine.

Fredric Ball will be receiving his M.A. in

English in the Spring, 2001. Prior to starting in the M.A. program, he worked as an editor for a local publishing company.

Sara Wheaton is a second year British Literature major. Prior to attending SDSU, she taught English in Arlington, VA.

Nancy Morgan is graduating in Dec. 2000 with an M.A. in English Lit. She started working on an ESL Certificate this semester.

Leah Blaine is working on her M. A. in American literature.

Leslie Hammer is working on getting an

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*Melody Kilcrease leads a discussion group of new TAs at this year's DRWS Academic Conference*

## Department Chair Marks First Year

Beginning my second year, I still feel disoriented much of the time, but it's becoming a familiar sort of confusion, at least. Aside from survival and crisis management, several worthy goals for the year have surfaced that I'd like to mention:

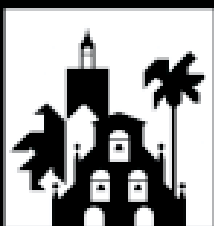
- Complete our search for a tenure-track specialist in advanced composition (Jane Robinett and Richard Boyd chair the search committee).
- Finalize our new 305 description and complete the process of University approval.
- Develop a special course for trans-

fer students who do not pass the Transfer Writing Assessment.

- Assess the computer needs of lecturers and TAs and upgrade equipment and software as necessary (the Cyber Committee will have oversight).
- Launch our graduate program (we're still awaiting approval from Long Beach).
- Improve DRWS's web page (Chris Werry will lead this effort).
- Enhance DRWS's pedagogical technology and propose relevant courses in tech-

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## Tech Writing Program Presents First Symposium

Mark Your Calendars for December 1, 12:00-1:00PM! The Certificate Program in Technical and Scientific Writing is pleased to present its first symposium featuring Mike Palmquist, Professor of English and University Distinguished Teaching Scholar at Colorado State University.

Professor Palmquist's talk, "Clashing technologies: The legacy of nineteenth century writing instruction meets the twenty-first century writing classroom," will discuss the effects of computer and network technologies on writing instruction, and the use of hypertext/hypermedia in instructional settings.

Palmquist's work has appeared in journals including *Computers and Composition*, *Written Communication*, *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication*, *Journal of Engineering Education*, *Kairos*, *Council of College Teachers of English Studies*, and *Social Forces*, as well as in edited collections.

He is co-author of *Transitions: Teaching Writing in Computer-Supported and Traditional Classrooms*

(Ablex, 1998), and *Writing with a Computer* (Allyn & Bacon, 1999).

The presentation will address both theoretical and pedagogical implications of teaching written communications utilizing technology. Faculty and students are invited. The talk will be held 12:00-1:00PM at the Aztec Center in Quetzalcoatl.



*Professor Mike Palmquist*

## Students Need To Know

All DRWS instructors: Please inform your students that our department offers free workshops for both the TWA and the UDWT every semester. While it would be easy to just post the dates, please take a minute to tell your students (particularly RWS 200) about the importance of getting their test requirements fulfilled and what the workshops are about.

Working in the testing department for the last six months has made me privy to what our students DON'T know about this test. Almost none of the hundreds of students I tutored knew about the free workshops, while those in the workshops did not know about the one-on-one tutoring available.

One-on-one tutoring allows the student to actually go over test(s) failed. Appointments are available through the Test Office.

Although information regarding the test requirement is provided on various forms throughout a student's application process, hundreds of SDSU graduates are able to somehow emerge from our beloved university, eagerly awaiting their diploma on which hangs a potential job or even graduate school, only to find they have a test hold.

Worse, when they come back to take the test, they fail because they haven't taken a writing class in years, and therefore, don't know what to expect.

The workshop, a 1&1/2 - 2 hour session given the week before the test, focuses on helping students understand the question (reading comprehension), how to develop their discussion, and how to appropriate their time responsibly so that all tasks are fulfilled.

Encourage your classes to sign up to take the test by the end of this semester. What better time to take it than after the class that's supposed to prepare you for it, right?

**Sandy Fimbres**

## Want to go to the CCCC?

Present your research at the research network forum! Please let your graduate students know that there is still time to propose a roundtable work-in-progress talk on their current research project at the Research Network Forum (RNF) of the Conference for College Composition and Communication in Denver in March 2001. And propose one yourself!

Work-in-progress talks do not have to be super sophisticated. Whether you have completed a research or publication project or are planning one, propose to present it at the RNF.

You'll have an opportunity to share it with fellow professionals, to meet and

talk to well-known researchers in the field and in your area of interest, and above all to enjoy the ambiance of the largest composition and writing conference in the country. And it's in Denver!

You can propose on-line (easiest way) by accessing and filling in the proposal form at <http://athena.english.vt.edu/~dubinsky/rnf/rnf.htm>. Or, you may propose by email; write Cezar Ornatowski at [ornat@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:ornat@mail.sdsu.edu) for an email copy of the proposal form.

Or, you may mail in the proposal form in hard copy (get one from Cezar or ask him to send you one electronically and print it out).

## Announcements

We would like to welcome our new staff person, Jennifer Nguyen. Her position will be responsible for the department's budget and faculty contracts. We would also like to welcome our new student assistant, Yen Diep.

The Certificate Program in Technical and Scientific Writing is sponsoring two American Medical Writers Association (AMWA) meetings here on campus,

October 24 and February 19. Linn Bekins will be speaking February 19 on Scientific Writing Genres. Both meetings are open to the public.

The Society for Technical Communication (STC) will be hosting a FrameMaker workshop October 28 using one of the DRWS computer labs. If interested in attending the workshop, contact Mary Larkin @ 858.565.1513.

## Papers, Etc.

**Don Bush** is mentioned in *A Dictionary of Modern American Usage*, by Bryan Garner (N. Y.: OUP, 1998), p. 649. Garner uses a 43-word quote from "Grammatical Arthritis," (Technical Communication, Feb. 1994) in which Don labeled H. W. and F. G. Fowler as inventors in 1906 of the popular taboo against "which" in restrictive clauses (even in such sentences as "I am not responsible for that which is done by others.").

**Charles Kovach** published his article "Past Participles and Writing about Food" in the fall 2000 issue of *Iowa Language News*, which is a juried publication of the Iowa Council of Teachers of English and Language Arts. His paper "Writing Clear Essay Prompts" was accepted for presentation at the California Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (CATESOL) San Diego Regional Conference for 2000.

**Cezar Ornatowski** presented "*Do Not Be Afraid: John Paul II and the Rhetoric of Christian Community Building in the Democratic Transformation in Poland*" at the conference "Rhetoric and Religion," University of Cape Town, South Africa, September 11-13, 2000; organized and chaired a panel on "Political Rhetoric, Public Discourse, and Civil Society in New European Democracies: Reflections on a Decade of Change," presented a paper "*Rhetorical Challenges of*

*Democratic Transition: The Case of Poland, 1989-1999*" and participated in a roundtable discussion on "Civil Society: National, Comparative, and Transnational Challenges" at the Seventh Conference of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas, Bergen, Norway, August 14-19, 2000.

The essay, "Gagool and Gollum: Exemplars of Degeneration in King Solomon's Mines and The Hobbit" by William N. Rogers II and **Michael R. Underwood** was published in *J. R. R. Tolkien and His Literary Resonances: Views of Middle-Earth* edited by George Clark and Daniel Timmons, Greenwood Press: 2000.

## New TAs

*Continued from page 1*

M.A. in English with a specialization in American Literature.

Rocio Avila is a Mexican-American who fell in love with English in a 7th grade drama class. She plans to receive her M.A. in English with an emphasis in Comparative Literature by the end of this school year.

Jennifer Young is an M.A. candidate, majoring in English with an American Literature specialization. After earning a B.F.A. from USC, she taught drama classes at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

## Chris Werry Joins Faculty

Please join the entire department in welcoming Chris Werry as DRWS's newest faculty member. Chris comes to us from Carnegie Mellon University. His teaching and research interests include: rhetoric of inquiry, the history of linguistics, argument, composition, new media, and online education.

Chris has worked on large electronic text projects within the academy and in industry, and is interested in how the resources and knowledge produced by



different communities get organized in online environments. He has published articles on the rhetoric of electronic commerce, and on the pragmatics of online discourse.

He is co-editor (with Miranda Mowbray) of *Online Communities: Commerce, Community Action, and the Virtual University* (Prentice Hall, 2001).

When asked about his new position, Chris said, "As a new person here, the semester crept up on me the way a windscreen creeps up on a bug. However I am finding my feet, like the students here very much, and think this is a great community to do work in.

I like what little I've seen of San Diego, and have heard a rumor that there are some nice beaches nearby. I hope to explore them at some point in the future."

## Pedagogy Corner

When I considered enrolling my son in the Montessori School, I visited the site, discussed the program with the staff, and observed a lesson. The simplicity, clarity and effectiveness of the teaching techniques amazed me.

To teach young people the parts of the solar system, the teacher used little spheres to represent the planets, smaller spheres to represent the moons, and a big sphere to represent the sun. As the students identified first the sun, then each planet with its moons, they built a little solar system on the rug. When I saw children of five or six learn these concepts so easily, I was amazed.

To teach students paragraph structure and topic sentences and organization within the whole essay, I suggest the following Montessori-type technique:

Locate an essay with approximately ten paragraphs, presumably a paradigm of logical structure.

Make copies of the essay.

Use a scissors, preferably not a nail scissors, and cut out each paragraph.

Place the little strips of paragraphs

within an envelope and produce approximately fifteen such envelopes.

During your class, assign each envelope for two students.

Ask the students to rearrange the strips of paper into the correct paragraph order just like the original, which you have in your hands.

After the students have finished their project, ask them to explain why each paragraph is in its proper place. Have them look at the first and last sentences of each paragraph so they can understand coherence. You might also ask them if the paragraphs could be interchangeable and how one paragraph leads to another. To finish the lesson, ask them to look at their own essay drafts for essay structure.

### Quotable Quotes for Journal Prompts

"Emotion is the glue that makes history stick." (James Lowen)

"Look not where you fell but where you slipped." (Old African Proverb)

### Crazy Stuff

Don't talk to students while you eat a banana. If they have just studied Darwin, they might refer to you as the missing link.

Remember to teach your students to be alert, flexible, and efficient. One of them may well be the pilot of your future plane flight.

*Albert Moorin*

## Chair's First Year

*Continued from page 1*

nology and writing instruction.

- Promote range elevation for lecturers.
- Enhance assessment, particularly of 200 (see Richard Boyd, Candace Boeck, and Julie Williams).
- Lower enrollments in undergraduate courses.
- Increase tutor and teaching associate compensation.

I have no idea how many of these objectives can be accomplished, but we'll certainly work on all of them. If you know of other worthy goals that I've left off the list, I would enjoy hearing from you. In addition, if you would like to contribute your time and/or expertise to any of these causes, please let me know.

*Glen McClish*

## Lecturer Rides for AIDS

From June 3-9, 2001, Karl Kline will be participating in the California AIDS Ride, a 580 mile bicycle ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles, which has in the past 7 years raised nearly \$41 million for AIDS charities and awareness programs in California.

To be eligible to ride in this remarkable event, each rider must raise \$2,700 in donations. However, since Karl so strongly believes in the good the AIDS ride does (he rode once before in 1997), he has set a personal fundraising goal of \$5,000.

If you would like to support Karl in this effort (he's doing the hard part, after all), see him for a pledge sheet and more information. You can also e-mail him at [kaksd@pacbell.com](mailto:kaksd@pacbell.com) for the same.

Karl thanks you in advance for your generosity.

**SDSU**  
San Diego State University

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## Computer Labs Get Software

The College of Arts and Letters recently purchased ten FrameMaker site licenses to be used by DRWS in teaching advanced word processing (e.g., newsletters, manuals, books).

The programs are located on computers in SH 239.