The Newsletter of the

Fall 2009/Issue 2 **September 30, 2009** **Cheryl Carithers, Editor**

As we begin the new academic year, it is exciting to think about what the next few months will bring. Many of the NTWCA members are involved in various conferences and research projects. Several members also have new duties in their writing centers and are busier than ever.

Even with our busy schedules, it's important to take some time to think about the impact all of us have on developing writers. At the forefront of this effort are our consultants. In particular, our peer tutors are such an important part of what makes our writing centers successful. I am always in awe of the energy and expertise our peer tutors bring to their writing center work. In the past few weeks, I've been privy to listen to several difficult tutorials. Our tutors handled these situations with maturity and grace. On more than one occasion, it was clear that the students who came for help not only needed writing help but also someone to understand their individual challenges. One student, for instance, was angry at having failed an important writing test, while another was completely stressed out by her composition class and life in general. Yet another is far from home and doesn't understand much English; she is homesick and worried about making progress in her classes. In each case, the students needed writing help, but they needed something more. And, in each case, our tutors showed compassion, understanding, and empathy. By doing this, they were able to turn what could have been unsuccessful tutorial sessions into memorable discussions about life and writing.

The NTWCA fall conference is a time to celebrate our peer tutors and all of the consultants who make our writing centers what they are. I know we are all grateful for their dedication, their commitment to student writers, and their pursuit of excellence.

One way our organization acknowledges the good work the tutors do is by hosting a fall conference which focuses on situations of particular interest to our consultants. Our keynote speaker this fall is Dr. Lou Thompson from Texas Woman's University. Dr. Thompson is an expert in disabilities rhetoric and will share her presentation "'One of Us:' Situating Disability in the Writing Center." This presentation is most valuable as our writing centers continue to offer services to a diverse student population. In addition, the staff from the William L. Adams Center for Writing will contribute a short comedy routine titled "Comedy in the Writing Center."

Also, it isn't too early to begin thinking about officer nominations. In Spring 2010, we will elect a new slate of officers. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact me at anewsom@tarleton.edu.

Finally, our thanks goes to Ka Riley and her wonderful writing center staff at Dallas Baptist University. It is quite a treat for the members to be able to visit such a lovely location!

I hope all of you have a wonderful fall and a productive academic year.

Alice Newsome
President

North Texas Writing Centers Association
Fall 2009 Conference

Hosted by
Dallas Baptist University
Dallas, Texas

Program Schedule

11:30-12:00	**Arrival and Registration** Great Hall of the John G. Mahler Student Center
12:00-12:30	**Lunch**
12:30-1:15	**Opening Remarks and Business Meeting** Alice Newsome, Tarleton State University
1:15-2:15	**Keynote Speaker** Dr. Lou Thompson, Texas Women's University **"'One of Us:' Situating Disabilities in the Writing Center"**
2:15-2:30	**Break**
2:30-3:00	**"Comedy in the Writing Center"** Dr. Steve Sherwood, Texas Christian University Cheryl Carithers, Texas Christian University
3:00-4:00	**Chapel and Writing Center Tours**

Campus Map

http://www3.dbu.edu/campusmap/

For driving directions, go to http://www.dbu.edu/about-dbu/directions.

Parking Information

Parking is free. Please park in front of the Chapel, which is immediately adjacent to the Mahler. Enter the Mahler door on the Chapel side of the building.

Lunch

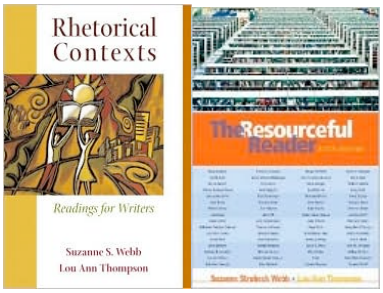
Remember to RSVP your lunch choices to Ka Riley (ka@dbu.edu) by **October 2**. Choices include Chicken Salad on Croissant, Chicken Caesar Wrap, Ham and Cheese on Wheat, Turkey and Swiss on White, or Roast Beef on Wheat. Cost is $7.25 per person.

About Our Keynote Speaker

Dr. Lou Thompson is a Professor of English at Texas Woman's University. She has been a member of the TWU faculty since 1998. During her time there she has served as the Interim Director of the First-Year Writing Program and the Write Site (2006-07) and the Interim Department Chair (Spring 2005).

Dr. Thompson teaches graduate level courses at Texas Woman's University that range in subject matter from the Romantic Poets, to the History of Rhetoric, Visual Rhetoric, and the Rhetoric of Disability. In her time at the University, she has either chaired or served on 21 doctoral dissertation committees, several of which dealt with research in the fields of composition, writing center theory, and/or disability theory.

Just as is the case with her university service, Dr. Thompson's professional presentations and publications cover a wide range. She has presented and published in the fields of Composition Studies, Film, Disabilities Studies, and Literary Criticism. Her publications include *The Resourceful Reader* and *Rhetorical Contexts*.



Dr. Thompson received her B.A. from North Texas State University, her M.A. from Louisiana State University, and her Ph.D. from Texas Christian University.

Continued Recognition for Outstanding Scholars and Writing Consultants!

The North Texas Writing Centers Association once again will recognize an outstanding scholar during the organization's Spring 2010 conference. The **Mary Nell Kivikko Excellence in Scholarship 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). Submission information will be coming soon!

The NTWCA also will be accepting nominations for the **Outstanding Tutor Award**, which recognizes 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. Writing center directors may nominate a professional consultant or an undergraduate or graduate peer tutor who is an employee in his/her writing center. Official rules and nomination information are forthcoming.

News from the Region

The **University Writing Center at Tarleton State University** celebrated the beginning of the school year with an open house. Thanks to Mike Fraley, senior tutor in the writing center, and James Gray, our technology guru, the writing center has undergone an exciting transformation. The entire campus was invited to visit the Writing Center and take a look at our newly revamped space. In the last year, the writing center has had over a thousand student contacts, which is several hundred more than in past years.

In July, members of the Tarleton State University Writing Center staff participated in a conference at Texas A&M University. Alice Newsome and Mike Fraley from the Writing Center, along with Benni Konvicka, director of the TSU Writing Intensive Program, and Cathy Wilterding, TSU Librarian, attended a plagiarism workshop hosted by the Writing Center at Texas A&M. Valerie Balester and her staff presented "Their Cheating Hearts: Why Students Plagiarize and What You Can Do About It."

The Writing Center at **Texas A&M-Commerce** proudly welcomes Tabetha Adkins (PhD, University of Louisville) as new Director of the Writing Center and Basic Writing Program.

Shannon Carter recently published two articles. The first, "The Writing Center Paradox: Talk About Legitimacy and the Problem with Institutional Change," appeared in the September issue of *College Composition and Communication*. The second publication, co-written with Donna Dunbar-Odom and titled "The Converging Literacies Center: An Integrated Model for Writing (Programs)," will appear in *Kairos: A Journal on Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy* this fall.

In addition, the Converging Literacies Center at A&M- Commerce will celebrate the National Day of Writing (October 20) by hosting the Commerce Week on Writing, October 16 through October 23, 2009. Please visit the event website www.convergingliteraciescenter.wordpress.com for more information.

The university also is thrilled to serve as institutional home for the National Conversation on Writing (NCoW) archive of stories and artifacts about writing and writers. Read more about the national launch and new web interface at www.ncow.org/site.

Angela Petitt, NTWCA Treasurer, recently joined the **TCC Northeast Campus** English department as a full-time faculty member.

A new staff member joined the William L. Adams Center for Writing at **Texas Christian University**. Amy Hermanson holds a Ph.D. in English (2009) from Texas Christian University and is a specialist in composition and rhetoric.

Dr. Steve Sherwood, Director of the Center for Writing, recently promoted two veteran staff members, Cheryl Carithers and Cynthia Shearer, to the position of Assistant Director. In addition, Shearer has achieved national attention with her literary blog, *Thimblewicket*, which now posts on the *Oxford American* RSS feed.

Dave Kuhne, Associate Director of the Center for Writing, recently contributed entries on Harold LeClaire Ickes and Willima Orville Douglas in the John Hopkins University Press publication, *Modern American Environmentalists*.

A Special Announcement

Under the umbrella of NCTE and CCCC, Mike Matthews, Dean of Humanities at TCC Northwest Campus and long time member of the NTWCA, is serving on a committee of the Two-Year College English Association to revise the "Guideline for the Academic Preparation of English Faculty at Two-Year Colleges." He is soliciting ideas for the revision of this document and any updates for the bibliography. A copy of the document can be found at http://www.ncte.org/library/NCTEFiles/Groups/TYCA/TYCAGuidelines.pdf.

Note that writing centers are included under recent trends in item 2.

Here is the charge:

1. Review the 2004 position statement, Guidelines for the Academic Preparation of English Faculty at Two-Year Colleges, to determine the currency of the existing document and to establish the areas that require revision.

2. Engage in research to incorporate recent trends in the field, e.g. First Year College, multiple literacies, multiple deliveries, international students, service learning, writing centers, and other movements in education. (I would add the trend of high schools placed at college campus locations called "Middle College" and "Early College" depending on the programs housed there, whose students take college courses.)

3. Consider the relationship of adjunct faculty and the English Department of two-year institutions.

4. Engage in a thorough review of the existing Bibliography and recommend revisions.

5. Submit a preliminary written report of the work accomplished and recommended revisions according to the committee time line.

6. Submit a draft of the revised document according to the committee time line.

7. Submit a final draft of the revised document according to the committee time line.

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: _____ 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:

_____

Please Send Dues To: **TCC NE English Department**
Attn: Elizabeth Parrish
828 W. Harwood Rd.
Hurst, Texas 76054

NTWCA Officers

President: Alice Newsome, Tarleton State University

Vice-President: Ben Sword, Tarleton State University

Secretary: Angela Pettit, Texas Women's University

Treasurer: Elizabeth Parrish, TCC-Northeast

Newsletter Editor: Cheryl Carithers, Texas Christian University

Web-Spinner: Website hosted by TAMU-C.

Archivist: Cynthia Shearer, Texas Christian University

Past President: Cheryl Carithers, Texas Christian University

Alice Newsome, assistant professor of English**,** has a B.S. in Counseling and English from Texas A&M University-Commerce and holds a M.Ed. from Tarleton State University, with specialized courses taken post-Master's in rhetoric, composition, and literature. She co-directs the Writing Center and the Basic Writing Program at Tarleton, and she teaches basic writing, composition courses, and literature. In recent years, she has presented at NTWCA, CCTE, and SCWCA conferences. Her research interests include the examination of the psychology of the basic writer and the application of writing center theory to the composition classroom (individualized instruction in the classroom). For a number of years, she has helped select and train graduate assistants who work with the basic writers and in the writing center.

Ben Sword is currently serving as the Vice President of the NTWCA. Before serving in the capacity of Vice President of the NTWCA, Ben held the office of Treasurer for 2 years. He is an instructor at Tarleton State University and Co-Director of the Writing Center, along with Alice Newsome.

Angela Pettit is a faculty member at the TCC Northeast Campus.

Elizabeth Parrish holds a B.A. in English from the University of North Texas. She spent many years working in fields unrelated to education until she accepted a short term position teaching English in China. Returning after six months abroad, her renewed interests in the teaching field lead her to pursue a teaching certificate. She accepted the position of Instructional Associate at the Northeast campus of Tarrant County College where she directs the Writing Center. Elizabeth recently completed the notable TCC Leadership program. She is coordinating the addition of a workshop and lecture series to her Writing Center.

Cynthia Shearer holds an M.A. in English from the University of Mississippi and is the author of two works of fiction, *The Wonder Book of the Air* (Pantheon /Vintage 1996) and *The Celestial Jukebox* (Shoemaker &Hoard/Avalon, 2005). Her work has appeared in such publications as *Tri-Quarterly*, *The Missouri Review*, *The Quarterly*, *The Oxford American*, *The Hungry Mind Review* (now *Ruminator*), and *Speakeasy*. Awards for her short fiction include Honorable Mention in Best American Short Stories, and inclusion in various anthologies such as *Beyond O'Connor* (University of Georgia Press, 2003) and *The Best of the Oxford American*. Her first novel won the 1996 prize for fiction from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters. She was the recipient of a fiction fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts in 2000. In October of 2005, her *Speakeasy* essay, based on her six years of experience as the curator of the William Faulkner home Rowan Oak, appeared in the thirtieth anniversary issue of the *Pushcart Prize Anthology*.

Cheryl Carithers received her M.A. in English with a specialization in rhetoric and composition from Tarleton in 1999. In addition to teaching, Ms. Carithers has worked as a professional editor. Her research interests include the history of composition, rhetoric and pop culture, literature, and writing center theory. She is currently an assistant director in the William L. Adams Center for Writing and an instructor in the TCU English Department.

CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTH TEXAS WRITING CENTERS ASSOCIATION
(REVISED SPRING 2007)

I. 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.

II. Membership in the NTWCA includes directors and staff of writing centers and persons interested in writing centers. Membership can be multiple-campus institutions ($25 per campus), single-campus institutions ($50), or individual ($10). Institutional memberships include writing center staff and tutors at the institution.

III. NTWCA assesses dues annually at the fall meeting. Memberships run from September through August. Monies collected are used for communication, publication, and conference expenses.

IV. The right to vote and to hold office extends to all individual and institutional members.

V. The following elected officers serve a two-year term and may be elected for multiple, two-year terms:

a. President: The president chairs all meetings, facilitates the operations of the association, and serves as co-chair of the Membership Committee.
b. Vice-President: The vice-president functions as program chair and assumes the duties of the president in the president's absence.
c. Newsletter Editor: The newsletter editor gathers information, edits articles, publishes the newsletter, and handles mailings.
d. Secretary: The secretary takes minutes at meetings and reports at executive board meetings and conferences.
e. Treasurer: The treasurer collects dues, records memberships, reports finances and memberships at meetings, and serves as co-chair of the Membership Committee.
f. Immediate Past President: The immediate past president serves as an advisor and assists other officers in discharging their duties.

VI. The president appoints the following officers for two-year terms:

a. Web Spinner: The web spinner maintains the NTWCA website page.
b. Archivist: The archivist serves as custodian of the organization's records.

VII. The Membership Committee is co- chaired by the president and treasurer and consists of three volunteers from the organization membership. The membership committee promotes involvement by serving as the NTWCA's outreach liaisons, contacting potential members at colleges, universities, and secondary schools in the area, and conducting an annual membership drive.

VIII. The Executive Board, consisting of the six elected officers and two appointees, meets at least twice per calendar year to plan meetings and conferences. When officers and

appointees are selected at the spring meeting, they immediately assume their duties and plan the schedule of events for the following year.

IX. If an officer resigns, the Executive Board will appoint an interim officer to serve out the officer's term. If the resigning officer's term has more than one year remaining, the association will elect a new officer at the next regular meeting to serve out the remainder of the term.

X. The NTWCA sponsors two conferences per calendar year.

XI. This constitution may be amended or replaced by a majority vote of the executive board and membership at any business meeting.