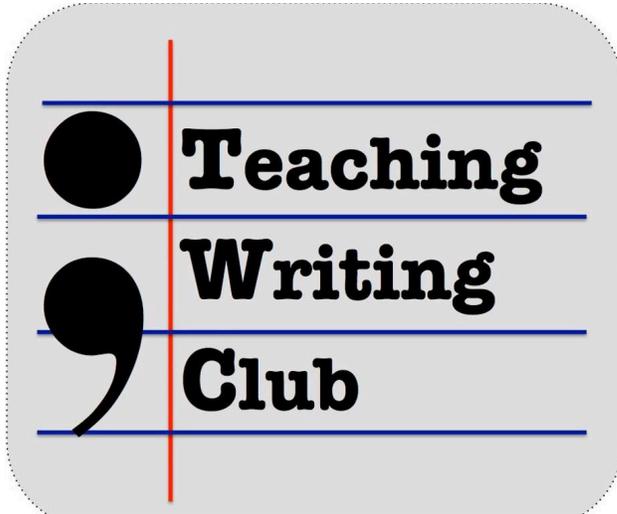


Comp Talk



A Letter from President Pam

This year is off to a running start! So far, we've had a panel on "What is Rhetoric and Composition?" and, with the help of Dr. Martha Webber and the Creative Writing Club, we've put on the National Day of Writing. Thanks to my wonderful officers for all the effort you've put in to make these events successful.

Workshop coordinators Jana Heyman and Eric Rodriguez made our Rhet-Comp Panel memorable by inviting great speakers: Dr. Bonnie Williams, Dr. Martha Webber, and Dr. D.B. Magee gave advice on teaching composition and spoke about their research in the field. I think everyone who attended would agree that their stories about their research were very moving.

Our latest event, the National Day of Writing, took place in different forms all over the country; it's promoted by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). You

might have seen our CSUF version in the Writing Center, where students came to respond to various prompts about writing and their community. Students took selfies for posts on social media with hashtags #WriteMyCommunity, #WriteCSUF, and #WritinTitans. I liked seeing the students' ideas for making CSUF better—there were the expected comments about parking, but there were also unexpected suggestions like "I wish CSUF had more social events to encourage people to get to know one another."

Be on the lookout for more events to come. We'll be hosting a fundraiser at the local burger joint, the Habit, in the coming weeks, so I'll hope you'll make it out for that. And our last workshop of the semester will be on the myriad ways to add to your Curriculum Vitae—don't miss it!

Until next time, keep
#WritinTitans!
Pam

Current Officers

President: Pamela Simon

Vice President: Nicole Neitzke

Secretary: Christina Kennedy

Treasurer: Katie Snyder

Workshop Coordinators: Jana Heyman

Eric Rodriguez

Newsletter Coordinators: Jaime Govier

Adira Edmund

Fundraising Coordinator: Amanda Fiske

In This Issue:

[A Word From Our President...1](#)

[What Is Comp/Rhet Workshop...2](#)

[Upcoming Workshops...2](#)

[Comp/Rhet Certificate Requirements...2](#)

[Interview with a Freeway Flyer...3](#)

[Upcoming Conferences...3](#)

[National Day of Writing...4](#)



Meet Dexter Finn, Comp Talk's new mascot!

October Workshop: What Is Comp/Rhet?

On October 1, Teaching Writing Club hosted their first workshop, “What Is Comp/Rhet?” in the Writing Center at California State University, Fullerton. English graduate students and Teaching Writing Club members, Jana Heyman and Eric Rodriguez moderated the panel with the intention of bringing insight into what it means to teach composition and rhetoric. Invited to share their knowledge in the field of comp/rhet studies were English instructor Dr. D.B. Magee from Fullerton College, and Associate Professors of English Dr. Martha Webber and Dr. Bonnie Williams from CSUF.

The panelists agreed that Composition & Rhetorical Studies extends beyond just teaching students to write academic essays. As Dr. Williams described it, comp/rhet contains different concentrations of composition. Dr. Williams stated that comp/rhet “is about how people write, how people learn in different communities and cultures,” adding that it also incorporates literacy and pedagogical studies. Dr. Magee, expanding Dr. Williams’ statement, claimed that writing can help make meaning out of people’s lives and existence -- a lesson he learned while leading a writer’s workshop to people with HIV/AIDS. Dr. Webber added that composition also includes multimodal pedagogy and practices, as communication is something that is not necessarily textually written, but can be utilized through different modes of arts, crafts, and forms of technology.

When asked if they had any advice or important teaching strategies to share with the audience, the panelists’ responses all reflected back to how they engage with comp/rhet studies. Dr. Magee advised all teachers to incorporate topics and activities that relate to students’ interests and then expand onward. Dr. Williams suggested that teachers flip the lessons around by introducing new ways of looking at and interacting with writing. Concluding the discussion, Dr. Webber said that composition and rhetorical studies can be messy, but that is what makes the field exciting.

The consensus among the panelists all pointed to changing our perceptions on what composition and rhetoric studies is. Comp/rhet is not just about teaching students the writing skills needed for academic writing; it is also about helping students find successful and alternative ways to tell their stories and let their voices be heard.

-Adira Edmund

Upcoming Workshops...

Professional Development
Wednesday December 3rd
at 7:15 PM
CSUF Writing Center



Professional Certificate in Writing and Teaching Requirements:

Visit english.fullerton.edu to see all of the requirements! But remember, you will need a total of 12 units with at least 3 units of a Practical Application Course (either Eng 402 (S), Eng 515, or Eng

590 and other coursework can include Eng 404T, 509, 510, 525T, 575T, 591T). In addition to that, you will need to attend at least 3 Professional Development Workshops! For any other questions, reach out to Dr. Stephen Westbrook

Interview with Kim George

We met up with recent graduate Kim George and asked her what she had learned from the Master's Program at Cal State Fullerton. She gave us some tips and some useful information about calming nerves, juggling multiple jobs, and the basic tenants of being a freeway flier.

TWC: What was your first day as a TA like? Were you nervous?

Kim: It's really nerve racking. I had taught for a nonprofit and those classes were really scary because it was all levels. It was K-12. I taught a kindergarten and the parents were there and that was the scariest thing ever. The freshmen were easier.

TWC: Does the imposter syndrome ever go away?

Kim: The imposter thing goes away but that question never goes away. If you are engaged in what you are doing, you are always questioning whether you can do it better. But after your first class you realize that you didn't ruin anybody. You do get more comfortable. At the beginning of the class it's always a bit uncomfortable, but it gets easier, you get better at conquering your nerves. It was fine last time; it will be fine this time.

TWC: How many campuses do you teach at?

Kim: Three

TWC: How do you balance everything?

Kim: You've got to really organize. At least I know where all my stuff is. I plan a detailed syllabus so that helps me to not worry about the day to day. You have some sort of plan to fall back on. And then you just keep your fingers crossed.

TWC: Any advice for grads and undergrads who are interested in comp teaching? And even those who are not going through the TA program?

Kim: I would suggest going through other writing centers at community colleges. Community colleges like that you've had some community college experience. Being familiar with the population is useful for anyone. Any kind of experience you can get in a class, even if it's in a non profit or SAT class. If you like it, follow your passion. There are a lot of schools out there. And there are a lot of opportunities out there. They want professors that are excited and so stick to it!

-Adira Edmund and Jaime Govier

Worried about your Comp/Rhet Project? Don't Be, Here is What Kim did:

"I did a classroom study in an English 99 class. It was kind of funky. I had done research with Westgate in my 500 class on teaching dialect, and I was interested in the idea of exposing students to the fact that dialect is an actual thing—that it doesn't necessarily mean that you have 'bad English, or talk proper' and that it could have positive impacts on writing anxiety— and I wanted to

see if it would have impact. It was a little inconclusive, but I found some interesting things so..."

Though the results were a bit inconclusive, she was able to gather data and see how the impact of the lessons affected the students' confidence. Although the lessons might be too experimental for the classroom (for now), she finds that this kind of conversation



Get ready, it is coming! In Spring, we will be doing our Annual Fundraiser at The Habit in Fullerton. Part of the proceeds will go to funding Teaching Writing Club! Keep a look out!



Hotmail for Teacher

Submit any questions that you would like to have answered to teachingwritingclub@gmail.com. We will put those questions to professors, TA's or veteran tutors at the writing center and talk about different strategies of pedagogy. You can also drop off handwritten inquiries at the English office. We hope that we will be able to make this a safe space for any concerns you might want to air.



Photo Courtesy of Nicole Rehnberg

Thank You!

Thanks to Kim George, Dr. DB Magee, Dr. Martha Webber, and Dr. Bonnie Williams for your support and participation in this month's Comp Talk and Professional Development Panel!

Upcoming Conferences: Call for Papers

Acacia Conference 2015
"[Ab]Normativity and [Per]Formativity"
California State University, Fullerton
Conference Date: March 13-14, 2015
Abstracts Due: December 19, 2014

The Acacia Group is currently accepting proposals for both creative and critical works. Abstract submissions are to be 250-300 words and emailed to theacaciagroup.csuf@gmail.com. Please see the call for paper posting at call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/59123 for more information

The Conference on Community Writing
Program for Writing & Rhetoric
University of Colorado, Boulder
Conference Date: October 16-17, 2015
Abstracts Due: February 2, 2015

They are accepting proposals "Building Engaged Infrastructure" They welcome all academic levels for individual papers, panels, workshops, and digital poster displays. Proposals should be no longer than 500 words.

<http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/59384>

National Day of Writing

On October 20th, California State University Fullerton participated in the National Day of Writing. Using hashtags like #writecsuf, #writintitans, and #writemycommunity, we asked students what they would like to see from their community.

Students came to the Writing Center, participated via tweet and facebook, and wrote up a storm.

What they came up with was truly inspiring! Some wrote that they love their school and that they love the diversity they see. Some wrote how friendly everyone is.

Some wrote their vision of what they hope CSUF will be.

Regardless of their vision, the conversation was started and this event will hopefully be the first of many! Next year, who knows what the theme will be, but we know that our Titans will do us proud.

