

Rhetoric and Writing Notes

Fall 2010

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Thirtieth Anniversary of the Rhetoric & Writing PhD Program

The 2010-11 academic year marks the Thirtieth Anniversary of the BGSU's rhetoric and composition PhD Program which is among the longest-running doctoral programs in rhetoric and composition. Few programs were founded earlier than Bowling Green's and a large number were founded later, among them, Penn State 4 years later, Ohio State 5, Arizona 9, Illinois 10, Washington 12, and Minnesota 13.

Here are two links related to the anniversary celebration.

Alumni reflections on their experiences in the program:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/english/rcweb/page81232.html>

A PowerPoint presentation on the R&W PhD Program developed for English Department program during BGSU's 2010 Centennial:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/english/rcweb/>

Additionally, the Thirtieth Anniversary program of the October "Third Friday" meeting featured the program's first two faculty members: Professor Bruce Edwards and Professor Emeritus Alice Calderonello. They lead a short discussion for students and faculty on the early days of BGSU's rhetoric and composition PhD program. Some of the comments made by Dr. Edwards can be listened to here: <http://blogs.bgsu.edu/3rdfriday/>.



Dr. Alice Calderonello (pictured Left) and Dr. Bruce Edwards (pictured Right) share their thoughts on the development of the Rhetoric and Writing Program during the October 3rd Friday meeting.

Dr. Bruce Edwards Reflects on the BGSU Rhetoric and Writing Program Thirtieth Anniversary

At the 1980 MLA in Houston, conveniently placed for an about-to-be-graduate of University of Texas-Austin's rhetoric program, I interviewed with approximately 20 schools, eventually getting firm offers from four of them. My first choice was BGSU. The reason was two-fold; first, the position, as I understood it, would remarkably involve me in graduate teaching from the start, since BGSU had launched their Ph.D. program in rhetoric, and I would become its second full-time faculty member; secondly, I enjoyed my interview with the team from BGSU very much, and I remembered very distinctly the kindness and welcome of Alice (Calderonello) as the key person on the interview. Her enthusiasm and vision for the future of the program was compelling and inspiring. It was also daunting to me.

I actually joined BGSU in May, 1981; department chair, Les Barber, had given me a teaching assignment for the summer term, since I would be moving to Ohio with a family of three children, and we were completely broke. That salary got us through the summer. The Fall term was my true introduction to the program; BGSU was still on the quarter system and faculty load was two courses a term. If I remember it right, I taught one section of 111, and my first graduate course, which was a version of what we now call 7240, Rhetoric of Written Discourse. (We had to carefully define and name our coursework for the curriculum to distinguish it from any and everything the Speech Communication [as it was called] and Literacy faculty in the College of Education would be offering so it wouldn't "compete.") Here I would meet my first set of graduate students—who were eager, bright, talented, committed, and thrilled to inhabit a thriving new discipline, with the prospect of jobs at graduation! Fresh from my own program, with only 10 weeks of class materials to cover under the quarter system, I leaned on what I had been taught by my mentors at Kansas State (Donald Stewart) and Texas (James Kinneavy, Lester Faigley, Steve Witte, Maxine Hairston, Nancy Sommers, and Rick Chervitz). I am sure it was a confusing pastiche of theoreticians and theories—a good dose of Young, Becker, and Pike, Lee Odell and Janet Emig, pieces of Peter Elbow and James Britton, scatterings of Booth, Burke, Ong, Flower, Shaughnessy, and, of course, C. S. Lewis.

Out of this first crop of students came eventually the first set of doctoral dissertations I was privileged to direct, including subject matters as diverse as the digitized word and technology of writing or a rhetorical analysis of several biblical translations. The boundaries of what constituted rhetorical study seemed quite permeable, and students (so it seemed) moved easily among our then three doctoral programs: literature, creative writing, and rhetoric. I was mostly oblivious to whatever politics between and among going on down the hall; we were growing, our students were publishing and getting jobs, and the reputation of our rhetoric program continued to grow with the addition of more faculty from the elite schools, UT-Austin, Carnegie-Mellon, and Purdue.

The biggest changes in this first decade of the program, occurred, of course, amidst the growing professionalization and delineation of what constituted rhetoric and composition studies and the attendant tensions locally and nationally among colleagues who feared, perhaps rightly, their disciplines would be overtaken by upstarts; the steady development of gender and diversity studies that would illuminate the past and challenge the status quo both in method and subject matter, and, to add a third, the impact of technologies on how and what is taught in the name of writing, and its effect on how we conduct research on writers and writing. In regard to the latter, let me reminisce that one my classmates at UT was Cindy Selfe, who was among the first persons I knew to write her dissertation on a computer, in this case, on a gigantic mainframe in the basement of the computer science building, printing out dot-matrix drafts on that extra-wide green-bar paper that has largely disappeared. She encouraged me to see the advantages of becoming an early adopter as she has pioneered the use, study, and critique of technology in the writing classroom and beyond.

Entering Class of 2010

Eight students joined the Rhetoric and Writing Program this fall; they come to BGSU with diverse and unique backgrounds. Their short biographies give a glimpse of their background and interests (academic and recreational).

Laural Lea Adams

Laural has a BS in Marketing from UMASS Amherst and an MS in Library and Information Science from Simmons College in Boston where she specialized in academic librarianship. She recently received an MFA in Creative Writing with an emphasis in Poetry at BGSU where she was awarded the Devine Fellowship. She has published several articles on librarianship and a book chapter on designing electronic classrooms. She has taught composition and worked as a business reference librarian at New Mexico State University. She also designed and taught a class on librarianship at NMSU and an undergraduate creative writing workshop at BGSU. Laural's current interests include academic discourse, specifically the varying degrees of tolerance for violating genre conventions and the tendency of certain disciplines to define "creativity" in terms of broken conventions; the cognitive components of the writing process, particularly affect, its social dimensions, and the way it informs text; and literacy as a storehouse for Burkean "common ground" and as social currency.

Amanda Athon

Amanda Athon is originally from Cincinnati, Ohio but has spent the past decade or so living in Chicago. While in Chicago, Amanda earned her MA in Writing from DePaul University and a BA in English from Loyola University. She spent several years working in publishing, most recently as an Associate Editor for McGraw-Hill, and also taught reading and composition at the City Colleges of Chicago. Her academic interests include writing assessment, adult literacy, and semantics. When she's not studying or teaching, Amanda enjoys writing fiction, cooking, and planning her upcoming wedding.

Stephen Boston

Stephen Boston earned his BA in Liberal Studies at Bowling Green State University. While earning his BA, he focused on three areas of concentration: English, Popular Culture, and Ethnic Studies. Stephen also focused on two minors: Theater & Film and History. After graduating with his BA, he continued on at BGSU earning his MA in Rhetoric and Writing. Stephen taught First-Year-Composition for four years prior to returning to BGSU to complete what he started with his MA. He has now returned to BGSU in the Rhetoric and Writing PhD program. Stephen's scholarly interests include media studies, popular culture, and ethnic studies in relation to composition theory and writing instruction. He currently coaches the Women's Club Volleyball Team at BGSU, and has been doing so for nine years. Stephen is a big sports fan and a diehard Cleveland Browns fan.

Matthew Bridgewater

Matthew is currently a PhD student in BGSU's Rhetoric & Writing program. He received a BA in English from Michigan State University, a secondary teaching certificate for English and History from Wayne State University, and an MA in English Language and Literature from Central Michigan University. He has taught secondary school in both the Detroit area and California, which segued into teaching TEFL in Florence and Bologna, Italy. Matthew's scholarly interests are in history of rhetoric, technical/business/grant writing, and pedagogy. Outside of work and school, he enjoys astronomy, cooking, socializing (in person and via social networking), and traveling.

Kellan Deardorff

Kellan earned his BA in English Studies at Western Washington University and his MA in Rhetoric and Composition at Washington State University. He taught First-Year-Composition for three years prior to joining BGSU's Rhetoric & Writing PhD Program. Kellan's Scholarly interests focus primarily on critical pedagogies in FYC, but branch from there into new media studies, rhetorics of racism, cultural/ethnic studies, and composition theory more generally. In his off time, he experiments with freewill as it pertains to food preparation. As an informally trained fine-dining chef, he spends time critically analyzing various cooking ingredients and recipes. For fun, Kellan thoroughly enjoys trashy reality television as well as violent movies and video games (FPS).

Kyllikki Persson

Originally from Northern Kentucky, Kyllikki joins the Rhetoric and Writing PhD program at BGSU with an MA in English from Belmont University in Nashville and BAs in English and French from Northern Kentucky University. Within the field(s) of rhetoric/composition/writing, she is especially fascinated by the persuasive aspect of rhetoric as a linguistic tool for simultaneous creation and communication, a fact that likely explains her belief that creative writing and "academic" writing are more inextricably related than is sometimes thought. Besides writing and teaching, she likes to (try to) find time for traveling (she hopes to eventually live abroad and teach at a university there) and indulging her insatiable desire to learn new things (current goals include sewing and the names and types of Midwestern plants). A consummate clotheshorse, too, she enjoys the occasional spare moment with her law-student husband, Fredrik, and their Irish wolfhound, Amadeus, and cats, Dorian and Marie.

Michael Salitrynski

Michael earned his BA in French & Philosophy and his Masters in English Education from Mansfield University. He took several years off of school between earning his BA and MS ED during which time he lived in Colorado, Vermont, New York, and PA. He has held a variety of employment, including retail, waitering, substitute teaching, and the management of a transitional care facility for people who suffer from schizophrenia. An Eagle scout, he is still active with the Boy Scouts as the Program Director of Camp Brulé in north-central PA. He has worked at that camp for the past 17 years. His current research interests include composition pedagogy and the rhetoric of speculative fiction. In his spare time Michael enjoys writing fiction, watching films, and going camping. His favorite books include *Blindness* by José Saramago, *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card, *Tao Te Zhing* by Laozi, and the *Dark Tower* series by Stephen King. Upon completion at BGSU he hopes to find post-doctoral work abroad and plans to eventually settle in a small college town where he can teach composition, fiction writing, and work with a writing center.

Heather Trahan

Heather Trahan grew up in metro Detroit, and received her BA in English from Oakland University. She recently earned an MA in English & Comparative Literature with an emphasis in creative writing from the University of Cincinnati. She has served as editorial assistant for *The Cincinnati Review*, and her poems have been published in *wordriver* literary review, *Word Riot*, *Detroit's Metro Times*, and others. Before the pleasures of grad school and teaching FYC, Heather worked a multiplicity of jobs: private tutor, publishing assistant, freelance journalist, cashier, waitress, performance poet. Currently her scholarly interests include queer theory, feminist rhetoric, working with film in FYC, theories of silence, and pedagogy. Some of Heather's non-school passions are doing yoga, critiquing film, hiking, and cooking.

Recent Student Scholarship

Each year, several members from the BGSU Rhetoric and Writing program—faculty and students alike—participate in conferences and additional scholarly endeavors. The following is a representative—but incomplete list—of some of the conference presentations, publications, and other scholarly work produced by students in the Rhetoric and Writing PhD program for the year of 2010.

Emily J. Beard (2007)

“The Virtual Teacher: Talking Ourselves into Student Writing with Digital Tools,” *Computers and Writing*, West Lafayette, Indiana, May 2010.

“Remixing (Techno) Feminist Pedagogies in Virtual, Multimodal Spaces,” *Computers and Writing*, West Lafayette, Indiana, May 2010.

“Moving Past Red-Ink and Written Comments: Discovering New Ways of Responding to Student Writing in a Technological Age,” accepted for presentation by the College English Association, San Antonio, TX, March 2010.

Toby Coley (2007)

“Opening a Dialogue about Religious Restraint in Graduate Professionalization.” *Rhetoric Review* 29.4 (2010): 395-413.

“Ethics and the Future of Digitally-Mediate Writing Instruction.” CCCC, Louisville, KY: March 2010.

Joe Erickson (2007)

“Webbing Rhetoric and Composition: A Grounded Study of our Virtual Presence.” CCCC, Louisville, KY: March 2010.

“Comments Upon Comments: Using Video Screen Capturing to Help New Teaching Assistants Develop Effective Essay Commenting Habits.” CCCC Computer Connection, Louisville, KY: March 2010

Christine Garbett (2007)

“Rhetorical Practices of Working-Class Deaf People in Central Minnesota.” CCCC, Louisville, KY: March 2010.

Kerri Hauman (2009)

Co-director and instructor, “The Digital Mirror,” an annual, three day residential computer camp for girls in grades 6-8. August 2010.

Review of *Lingua Fracta: Toward a Rhetoric of New Media* by Collin Brooke. *Computers and Composition Online* (Spring 2010). Web.

“Re-envisioning Blogs' Role in Composition Pedagogy: What Blogs Have to Offer Prewriting.” Presented at the Conference on College Composition and Communication. Louisville, KY, May 2010.

Jeff Kirchoff (2009)

“Graphic Novels and First Year Composition: A Critical Cultural Studies Model of Teaching Writing.” NCTE. Orlando, FL, November 2010.

Review of *Wiki Writing: Collaborative Learning in the College Classroom* edited by Matt Barton and Robert Cummings. *Computers and Composition Online* (Spring 2010). Web.

“‘Who Drops Dunn?’: Numeracy and Literacy in Online Fantasy Sports.” *Computers and Writing*. Purdue University, IN, May 2010.

Eden Leone (2007)

Review of *Women’s Ways of Making it in Rhetoric and Composition* by Michelle Ballif, D. Diane Davis, and Roxanne Mountford. *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* (Fall 2010). Print.

Kent Lenz (2008)

“Rethinking Feminism in Pedagogy: Conceptualizing the Use of the Frontier Metaphor.” CCCC, Louisville, KY: March 2010.

Jie Li (2007)

“Student Evaluation of Teacher Comments and Its Implications for Writing Assessment.” CCCC, Louisville, KY: March 2010.

David McClure (2007) “Investigating the Role of Emotion in the Way We Approach Student Writing.” CCCC, Louisville, KY: March 2010.

Shawn Ramsey (2008)

“Alcuin, Charlemagne, and Deliberative Rhetoric in the Twelfth Century.” CCCC, Louisville, KY: March 2010.

Awards and Honors

Non-Service Fellowships



From Left to Right: Toby Coley, Joe Erickson, Suzan Aiken, and Rick Gebhardt (program director)

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2010-2011 non-service dissertation fellowships for Rhetoric and Writing. These students were selected for this honor by the rhetoric faculty based on the quality of the applications they submitted for these dissertation projects.

Suzan Aiken: *Silence as a Rhetor's Tool*

Toby Coley: *Ethics of New Media and the Writing Classroom*

Joe Erickson: *Webbing Rhetoric and Composition*

Faculty Awards and Honors



Lee Nickoson (pictured on the right) received the award as Bowling Green State University's Outstanding Contributor to Graduate Education for 2009-2010. She was nominated by students in the Rhetoric and Writing PhD Program and then selected by judges from several departments across the university.

Kris Blair (pictured on the left) was selected to give the Arts and Sciences Faculty Lecture in the spring of 2010 because of her record of research and professional activity dealing with the digital in teaching, scholarship, and professional development. Kris's multimodal lecture was entitled "Twittering Our Way Toward Tenure: The Politics of Scholarly Communication in the Digital Age." Kris also received the 2010 Computers and Composition Charles Moran Award for Distinguished Contributions to the field of Computers and Composition. This is a national award presented annually at the Computers and Writing Conference in May.

Alumni News

Recent Program Graduates

Elizabeth L. Church (2010)
Editor, Rossford Record Journal
bethchurch325@yahoo.com
<http://www.rossford.com/RRcontactus.html>

Brittany Cottrill (2010)
Assistant Professor of English
Grandview University (Iowa)
bcottrill@grandview.com

Cheryl Hoy (2010)
Assistant Director of General Studies Writing
Bowling Green State University
choy@bgsu.edu

Erin Dietel-McLaughlin (2010)
Assistant Teaching Professor
University of Notre Dame
Erin.Dietel-McLaughlin.1@nd.edu

Stephanie Anderson Quinn (2010)
Visiting Instructor of Composition
University of Toledo
stephanie.anderson9@utoledo.edu
<http://engagedrhetoric.com/>

Jeremy Schnieder (2010)
Assistant Professor
Department of Writing and Rhetoric
Morningside College (Iowa)
schniederj@morningside.edu

Ruijie Zhao (2010)
Assistant Professor of English
Parkland College (Illinois)
RZhao@parkland.edu

Recent Alumni Scholarship

Meredith Graupner (2010) and **Erin Dietel-McLaughlin** (2010) are co-authors with Rhetoric and Writing faculty member **Kris Blair** on "Looking into the Digital Mirror: Reflections on a Computer Camp for Girls by Girls," a chapter in the collection *Girl Wide Web 2.0* (Peter Lang, forthcoming).

Elizabeth Fleitz (2009) had an article related to her dissertation in the first issue of the new online journal, *Present Tense*
<http://www.presenttensejournal.org/vol1/cooking-codes-cookbook-discourses-as-womens-rhetorical-practices/>

Florence Bacabac (2008) recently published two articles related to her dissertation. They appeared in *Journal of Online Teaching and Learning*
http://jolt.merlot.org/vol6no2/bacabac_0610.htm and in *Journal of Literacy and Technology*
http://www.literacyandtechnology.org/jlt_vol1_1/jlt_v11_1_bacabac.pdf.

Robin Murphy (2007) recently published *How Social Trauma Affects How We Write: Post 9/11 Rhetorical Theory and Composition Pedagogy* (Edwin Mellen Press, 2010). The book grows out of Robin's dissertation.

Lanette Cadle (2005) worked with Rhetoric & Writing faculty member **Kris Blair** to co-author a chapter on "Computers and Composition Online: A Feminist Learning Community of Journal Administration" in *Performing Feminism and Administration* (Hampton Press, 2010).

Lynnette Porter (1989) had a number of publications this year, including *Tarnished Heroes, Charming Villains, and Modern Monsters* (McFarland, 2010) and "The Cinematic and Historic Weight of Stone of Destiny," *Studies in Popular Culture* (Fall 2010)
<http://www.pcasacas.org/SiPC/33.1/Porterpdf>

Miscellaneous Notes

- The list of rhetoric and composition journals (with links) developed by students in BGSU's Rhetoric & Writing PhD Program has been updated. Besides its main section of three dozen journals it includes sections on Communications and Technical Writing, Cultural and Literary Studies, Education and Literacy, and NCTE Regional and State Journals. Journals in Rhetoric and Writing links from the program's main page and from this direct link:
<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/english/rcweb/page87425.html>

The list was developed by Rhetoric & Writing PhD students in the 2004 Scholarly Publishing seminar and expanded and updated by students in the 2006, 2008, and 2010 Scholarly Publishing Seminars. We hope you find it a useful resource, and that you will share your responses, suggestions, and updates.

- Rhetoric and Writing Courses to be offered in the Spring Include
 - English 7220: The History of Rhetoric and Written Discourse
 - English 7800: WPA Work and its Evaluation
 - English 7800: Systems Approaches to Studying Writing
- 3rd Friday meetings are now podcasted; starting with the October 2010 3rd Friday meeting, excerpts will be podcasted and posted to the 3rd Friday blog. Look for them at <http://blogs.bgsu.edu/3rdfriday/>
- Meredith Graupner Hurley successfully defended her dissertations this fall. Meredith wrote her dissertation on *Remediating the Professionalization of Doctoral Students in Rhetoric and Composition*. Two other R&W PhD Program students will defend dissertations during the final weeks of the semester
- Rhetoric and Writing faculty members Lance Massey and Richard Gebhardt have coedited *The Changing of Knowledge in Composition: Contemporary Perspectives* (Utah State University Press forthcoming in 2011). Contributors to the collection reassess Stephen North's 1987 *The Making of Knowledge in Composition* as a way to comment on the present and future of composition studies.
- *Rhetoric and Writing Notes* is the newsletter of the Rhetoric & Writing PhD. Program at Bowling Green State University. Its 22 issues are available at the "Newsletter" link on the main page of the program website or at <http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/english/rcweb/page50967.html>. The Spring 2011 issue will feature news about R&W PhD Program alumni. Alumni news and ideas for future stories should be sent Program Director Richard Gebhardt at richgeb@bgsu.edu.