

Rhetoric and Writing Notes

Fall 2011

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Computers and Composition: An International Journal Now Housed at Bowling Green State University

As some of you already know, Bowling Green State University is the new home for *Computers and Composition: An International Journal*. Previously, the journal's editorial board was housed at the University of Illinois and the production of the journal was handled at Ohio State University. Previous editors Gail Hawisher and Cynthia Selfe decided to step down in 2011 and our own Kris Blair was chosen to be the new editor beginning January 2011. Selfe and Blair co-edited the journal until August 2011 when the entire administration of the journal transitioned to BGSU. Helping Kris with her duties are two Associate Editors, Alison Witte, who handles manuscript submission, and Heather Trahan, who handles manuscript production. Also helping Kris and Heather with important duties are several other Assistant Editors who serve as copyeditors: Megan Adams, Estee Beck, Matt Bridgewater, Kyllikki Brock, Mariana Grohowski, Kerri Hauman, Ken Hayes, and Jeff Kirchoff.



Hosting one of the top journals in the field is incredibly important for BGSU's Rhetoric & Writing program. Everyone is very excited to have *Computers and Composition* here at BGSU. This journal enhances the visibility of the program and is a wonderful professional development opportunity for graduate students currently enrolled in the program. It's also a tremendous way of mentoring graduate students as future faculty members and scholars. Furthermore, it allows everyone in the program to be attuned to the peer-review production process of a professional journal and allows us to work with some of the most cutting edge research and scholarship in the field (both nationally and internationally) before it's even in print.

Some might be wondering about what topics would Kris like to promote while she's editor of the journal. There are many current topics that Kris is particularly interested in, such as gaming literacies, technology and diversity, the advent and development of web 2.0 and open source tools and how they impact literacies and what it will mean to teach writing. Moreover, the journal would like to publish articles exploring the connection between the college/university and public school systems. Kris would be particularly interested in soliciting pieces from high school educators. The journal will seek to explore how to bridge the gap between what we educators do with technology and what students do with technology. Several special issues are in the works, including one on literacy narratives and another on multimodal assessment. The journal is also going to be active in encouraging more international contributions. Please extend a heart-felt congratulations to Kris for all of her incredible work with *C&C*.

2011's Entering Class



Eight students joined the Rhetoric & 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).

Megan Adams

Megan earned a BA in Journalism and Political Science from The Ohio State University and an MA in Education from The University of Findlay. Prior to deciding to pursue more academic endeavors, she worked in both the broadcast and print journalism fields as a reporter in Lima, Ohio. Megan's scholarly interests stem from her passions for writing, videography, and women's issues; they include digital literacies, multimodal composition, and feminist rhetoric. When not studying or teaching, she enjoys

writing fiction, running, reading, and spending time with her husband, Kyle, and curling up with her cat, Oliver.

Nick Baca

Nick is from southern California and received his undergraduate degree from UC Santa Barbara with a BA in English. He received his MA from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona in English specializing in Rhetoric and Composition and Renaissance Literature. Nick's scholarly interests include the history of

rhetoric and Sophistic rhetoric, composition studies, literary and critical theory, psychoanalysis and desire in virtual social spaces, and gender studies and sexuality, to name a few. Aside from his academic interests, Nick enjoys independent film, local food and craft beer cultures, crossword puzzles, and long-distance running.

Estee Beck

Currently a PhD student in BGSU's Rhetoric and Writing program, Estee attended school at Marshall University, where she earned a Master of Arts in English with a concentration in Rhetoric and Composition, and earlier attended West Virginia State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in English with a specialization in Literature. During her time at Marshall, Estee worked in the university's writing center for three years, taught first-year composition full-time for one year, and also taught a service learning course focusing on preparing multimodal compositions for a community partner. Her research interests include technology use in first-year composition, multimodality, literacy studies, and feminist rhetorics. In her spare time, Estee can be found in the Dawnbringer server, spending time with friends, reading, or playing with her cat, Chibi.

Shirley Faulkner-Springfield

Shirley earned a BA and MA in English from North Carolina Central University (NCCU), where she taught English Composition I and II. At NCCU, Shirley gradually integrated technology into her basic writing classes to meet her pedagogical goals, but she plans to enhance her technical skills and clearly articulate a philosophy of education that includes multimodal tools. Shirley's scholarly interests comprise identity politics; language acquisition; "nonstandard dialects"; basic writing; technological literacy; rhetorical, composition, and narrative theories; and service learning/community literacy. Shirley wrote a research-based reflective analysis of her students' community literacy project, and the article, "Letters to Young High School Students:

Writing and Uniting an Academic Community," was published in the Spring 2011 issue of *Reflections*. When Shirley is not thinking about the ways her students reinvent themselves in their writing classrooms, she conducts genealogical research, tutors, volunteers, and visits senior citizens.

Mariana Grohowski

Mariana (Mare Mueller) received her BA in Liberal Studies in which she focused on rhetorical theory from Grand Valley State University. She earned her MS in Rhetoric and Technical Communications from Michigan Technological University, where she served as assistant-editor of the award winning *Community Literacy Journal*. Mariana's scholarly interests are eastern philosophy (which she has been independently studying for 11 years), digitally-mediated composition, feminist theory, and rhetorical theory. Mariana was an instructor at Northwestern Michigan Community College, is a certified yoga teacher, and has presented at such conferences as CCCC and Feminisms and Rhetoric. In her spare time she enjoys reading philosophy, long-distance running with her dog Sam, and folding her husband's laundry.

Ken Hayes

Ken, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, spent the last 5 years at Wright State University, where he earned his BA and MA in English Literature. While at Wright State Ken taught English 101 and 102 as a graduate teaching assistant and was a co-founder of WSU's first conference on multimodal composition in the spring of 2011. Ken's primary research interests include film and literature, multiliteracy studies, and multimodal composition. In his free time Ken enjoys reading 20th century literature, watching movies, playing frisbee golf, and spending time with his wife, Blair (though not necessarily in that order).

Craig Olsen

Craig received his BA in Music from Wesleyan University in 2007. However, he accidentally took so many English classes that he received

an English major on accident (in 2008). Running with that, he went to Ball State University where he got his MA in Creative Writing. He decided that he wanted to pursue a PhD in Rhetoric & Writing after teaching several classes on the subject as a GA. His areas of interest in the rhetoric field include comics, gaming, and genre study, and he is constantly adding new areas to explore.

Martha Wilson Schaffer

Martha attended Marietta College where she earned a BA in English & Psychology. She then went to the University of Toledo, earning an MA

in English Language and Literature and a JD at the University of Toledo College of Law. She has practiced as an attorney in the Toledo area since 1997. In her legal career, she represented injured and disabled individuals in the Ohio workers' compensation system and state courts. Over the past year, she decided to make a significant career change, leaving the practice of law and applying to the Rhetoric & Writing program. She is excited to be a part of the department and is looking forward to her role as an instructor in the General Studies Writing Program.

Recent Student Scholarship



Above: Working on digital portfolios in Kris Blair's ENG 7280 class.

Laural Lea Adams (2010) presented "Up Close & Personal: Teacher Identity Formation in Digital Spaces" at the *Wide-EMU un-conference* in October.

Matt Bridgewater (2010) published a review of *Facebook and Philosophy for Computers and Composition Online* and it can be found at <http://www.bgsu.edu/cconline/reviews/mattb/>

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.

[Intro.html](#). He also presented his paper "Charting Activity Systems in Online Writing" at *Computers & Writing* in Ann Arbor this past May.

Mariana Grohowski's (2011) article "Community Literacy for the 21st Century: A Review of Adela C. Licona's Works" is forthcoming in the journal *Community Literacy Journal*. She also presented her paper "Feminist Challenge / Feminist Opportunity: Recognizing the Spiritual in Digital Composition Pedagogy" at *Feminisms and Rhetorics* in Mankato Minnesota this past October.

Kerri Hauman (2009), **Stacy Kastner** (2009), and **Alison Witte** (2009) have had an article accepted at *Pedagogy* titled "Twenty-First Century Teachers for Twenty-First Century Students: A Gap in Graduate Education" which will be published as part of a special issue on graduate education. **Kerri, Stacy** and **Alison** also

presented with **Kris Blair** and **Lee Nickoson** at NCTE on a panel titled "'In Dark Corners Only': Technology Instruction in Rhet/Comp PhD Programs."

Jeff Kirchoff (2009) reviewed *Good Faith Collaboration* for the Summer 2011 issue of *Rhizomes* and it can be found at <http://rhizomes.net/issue22/reviews/kirchoff/home.html>. Jeff also presented his paper "Re-conceiving the Safehouse in the era of Multimodal Composition" at the WPA conference this past summer and was a workshop leader, along with **Kent Lenz** (2008), for "Using Comic Life for the Personal Narrative

Composition" at *Computers & Writing* in Ann Arbor this past May.

Heather Trahan (2010) published a review of *Over Ten Million Served: Gendered Service in Language and Literature Workplaces* in the journal *Enculturation* and it can be found at <http://www.enculturation.net/review-of-over-ten-million>. She also presented her paper "Old Meets New: Aspasia and Sex" at *Feminisms and Rhetorics* this past October in Mankato, Minnesota.

Awards, Honors, and Faculty News

Non-Service Fellowships

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2011-2012 non-service dissertation fellowships for Rhetoric & 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.

Katie Fredlund: *"Among Ourselves": The Collaborative Rhetorics of Nineteenth Century Ladies' Literary Societies*

Krista Petrosino: *Some (Still) Like it Hot: (Re)envisioning Transdisciplinarity and Collaboration in First Year Composition and Jazz Performance.*

Shawn Ramsey: *Deliberative Rhetoric in the Twelfth Century: The Case for Eleanor of Aquitaine, Noblewomen, and the Ars Dictaminis*

Receiving grants can be a difficult and time-consuming process. Congratulations to those in the program who were selected to receive grants for professional use based on the merits of their scholarly projects.

Mariana Grohowski (2011) received a \$100 travel grant for "funding professional development" from the Graduate Student

Senate to attend *Feminisms and Rhetorics* in Mankato, Minnesota.

Heather Trahan (2010) received "The Emerging Pedagogies Research and Travel Grant" from Pearson to attend CCCC in Atlanta.

Faculty News

The program's faculty are as busy as ever.

Kris Blair is now the editor of *Computers and Composition: An International Journal*. She also has a review essay published in the December 2011 issue of CCC called "New Media Affordances and the Connected Life." She is also contributing a chapter to *Writing Studies Research in Practice: Methods and Methodologies* and published foreword to **Toby Coley's** book *Teaching with Digital Media: An Exploration of our Ethical Responsibilities*.

Rick Gebhardt and **Lance Massey's** scholarly collection *The Changing of Knowledge in Composition: Contemporary Perspectives* was released this fall by Utah State University Press. For more information, check out <http://www.usu.edu/usupress/books/index.cfm?isbn=8206>.

Donna Nelson-Beene was presented with a "BGSU Student Achievement Assessment Award" for her work with the GSW program

and was also presented with an “Outstanding Commitment Award” from the Sidney A. Ribeau President’s Leadership Academy.

Lee Nickoson and Mary Sheridan’s book *Writing Studies Research in Practice: Methods and*

Methodologies is scheduled to be released this spring by Southern Illinois University Press.

Sue Carter Wood is currently on sabbatical for the 2011-12 academic year.

Alumni News

Recent Program Graduates

Suzan Aiken

Instructor of English
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Emily Beard

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Joe Erickson

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Recent Alumni Scholarship

The following is a representative, but incomplete list, of the recent scholarship the alumni of BGSU are doing in the field.

Florence Bacabac (2008) was recently appointed as Dixie State’s representative to the Utah Women in Higher Education Network (U-WHEN), a statewide organization that supports efforts and initiatives that broaden opportunities for women leaders both on campus and within Utah and is also the current chair of U-WHEN’s Resources and Support Committee.

Roxanne Cullen’s (1984) book, *Curriculum: Design and Implementation*, is coming out in March with publisher Jossey Bass. It is co-written with Michael Harris and Reinhold Hill.

Toby Coley’s (2010) book, *Teaching with Digital Media in Writing Studies: An Exploration of Ethical Responsibilities*, is coming out with Peter Lang Press. He is also presenting his paper “Teaching an Ethical Literacy of Digital Composing: Developing an Interdisciplinary Curricula?” at CCCC 2012, and presented “Digital Media Ethics in First-Year Composition: It’s Not Just About Academic Honesty” at CCCC 2011.

Gail Corso (1991) is now Professor of English and Communication and Media Arts. She is also the Coordinator of Writing at Neumann University. This past year, she received one of the six national research grants from the Council of Writing Program Administrators and participated in the first national seminar on

research about writing in higher education co-sponsored by CWWPA and Dartmouth. At present, she is editing a volume on the fiction of Alice McDermott and is proposing a proposal for a second book on ongoing research about integrating oral presentations between drafts and revisions as a best practice for teaching writing. Next year, she will be enjoying a sabbatical.

Vanessa Cozza (2010) attended the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) conference. She is also contributing a chapter to Mark Roberge, Kay M. Losey, and Margi Wald's edited collection *Teaching U.S.-Educated Multicultural Writers: Practices from and for the Classroom*.

W. Keith Duffy (1999) teaches at Penn State-Harrisburg and had his article "Suffering and Teaching Writing" accepted to the NCTE-sponsored *Journal of the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning* and is slated for the January 2012 issue. The article explores the particular kind of suffering often experienced by veteran teachers of writing, from the dread of facing mounds of student essays to the despair of scheduling endless one-on-one conferences. While most pedagogical research regarding this issue is analgesic in nature, this article eschews offering temporary relief. Instead, it asks some tough questions: Is there value in examining the nature of this human suffering? Can academic conversations regarding the spiritual and emotional dimensions of human suffering help us understand its origins and our relationship to it? What can spirituality tell us about effectively responding to the suffering we experience in our roles as literacy teachers?

Cynthia Jo Mahaffey's (2004) book *Wearing the rainbow triangle: The effect of out lesbian teachers and lesbian teacher subjectivities on student writing in the first year composition classroom* was recently published. She was also a judge on the Selection Committee for

academic presentations for BGSU Women's Studies Conference in March 2011 at Bowling Green State University.

Liz Monske (2004) recently earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at Northern Michigan University.

Robin Murphy (2007) won the East Central University (Oklahoma) Teaching Excellence Award for the 2010-11 academic year and is currently up for tenure. She is an invited speaker in the ECU Distinguished Lecture Series and her lecture is called "Feminism in Academia." She recently published a chapter titled "Heroes and Villains: Morality, The Will to Power, and the Overman in the Work of Joss Whedon" with **Gary Heba** in *The Philosophy of Joss Whedon* (2011). The ECU Linscheid Library Academic Friends has also invited her to give a book talk/signing in spring of 2012 about her 2010 dissertation as book publication.

Joe Wilferth (1999) is the current department head at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. His recent publications appear in *Southern Indiana Review* and *Enculturation*. Joe is especially grateful for the guidance he received from **Kris Blair**, his dissertation director, and from **Bruce Edwards**, who offered Joe an assistantship at the beginning of his doctoral work.

Ruijie Zhao (2009) presented her paper "YouTube: A contested Space to Produce Knowledge during the Invention Stage" at the 2011 CCCC Annual Convention in Atlanta. Her paper "Integrating Blogs into Developmental Writing Classes" has an anticipated publication date of Fall 2011 in *Computers and Composition Online*.

From the left: Stacy Kastner, Kerri Hauman, Alison Witte, Kris Blair, and Lee Nickoson during their NCTE presentation.



Miscellaneous Notes

- The English department wishes the best to **Mary Ann Sweeney**, who retired after many years of distinguished service.
- After an arduous search, the department is very pleased to welcome our new Graduate Secretary, **Max Kupresanin**. The English department is thrilled to have Max join us and we welcome him to our community .
- Congratulations to everyone who defended dissertations this spring, summer and fall, including: **Suzan Aiken** "Silence as a Rhetor's Tool: Rhetorical Choices for and Uses of Silence"; **Emily Beard** "First-Generation College Students Transitioning to Graduate Teachers of Writing: A Proposed First-Generation Pedagogy"; **Vanessa Cozza** "Latino/as in Higher Education: Modes of Accommodation in First-Year Writing Programs"; **Joe Erickson** "Designing and Maintaining Rhetoric and Composition Program Websites: An Empirical Study and a Heuristic Model"; and **Bobby Kuechenmeister** "Answering the Call of Duty: Composition Pedagogy Problems, Multimodal Solutions, and Gaming Literacies."
- Congratulations to everyone who presented their graduate lectures this fall, including: **Jeff Kirchoff** "Writing Centers as Literacy Sponsors in the 21st Century: Investigating Multiliteracy Center Theory and Practice"; and **Alison Witte** "Preaching & Technology: A Study of Attitudes and Practices."

- Lee Nickoson's ENG 7260 class worked closely this semester with Victims Services, a local organization that helps victims of sexual assault and domestic/dating violence. The class piloted and conducted a survey for Victims Services so that they may better understand what the public knows about the services they provide and what services the public might want, among other questions. For more information on what Victims Services is, please visit the online brochure at:
http://www.behavioralconnections.org/images/clientid_187/victims_services_brochure.pdf.

Below is the class presenting its findings to Julie Broadwell, the person in charge of Victims Services. **Kellan Deardorff**, **Kyllikki Brock**, and **Stacy Kastner** organized the class's presentation.



- Rhetoric and Writing Courses to be offered in the Spring Include
 - Publication in Rhetoric & Writing (ENG 7290)
 - Rhetoric and Written Discourse (ENG 7240)
- *Rhetoric and Writing Notes* is the newsletter of the Rhetoric & Writing PhD. Program at Bowling Green State University. Its 24 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>. Alumni news and ideas for future stories should be sent to Matt Bridgewater at mabridg@bgsu.edu.

