

Alumni Annotations

A NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE
PURDUE WRITING LAB

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Medievalist As Tutor

What makes a tutor stand out from their peers when everyone is bright and talented? Every tutor in the Writing Lab has a unique style and personality. However, one graduate tutor stands out by stepping up to serve. Richard Sévère is the type of individual that shares more than just his knowledge. Nathaniel Rivers, a peer tutor, stated it best when he said,

Richard possesses the qualities every good tutor should have. He is knowledgeable and articulate. On several occasions I have seen Richard thoroughly explain some aspect of writing in ways that made it clear for the student. However, it is Richard's dedication that makes him an excellent tutor and an outstanding person. No matter the task Richard is always the first to volunteer.

Richard has volunteered to suffer the hot and humid Indiana summer to review alumni resumes at the Indiana State Fair. He handed out information to more than 5,000 incoming freshman during Boiler Gold Rush. He has networked with alumni on a Saturday morning when his peers were probably still in bed. If Richard hasn't volunteered for a Writing Lab sponsored activity, it is because we didn't get to him first.

In addition to tutoring in the Lab and coordinating the



Richard Sévère (right) volunteering at the Indiana State Fair

follow-up to the thousands of emails that come into our OWL Mail, Richard is a Ph.D. candidate in Medieval Studies. He also teaches Introductory Composition, serves as co-president of Comitatus, the medieval graduate student organization, and is president for the Graduate Student English Association (GradSEA).

The Writing Lab has over thirty years of success in recruiting top students like Richard to our program. On behalf of everyone affiliated with our organization, we would like to thank the hard work of all our current and past tutors.

STAFF RECOGNITION

The Front Line

Hsiao-Ming Tong received a special merit award by the Department of English recognizing her ongoing contribution to the Writing Lab. This marks the 9th year of her tenure as Office Manager.

My front desk helpers this semester are Erin & Bridget Houser (sisters), Kathleen Smith, Gina Rayburn, Allyson Yoder, and Mike Waling. Without them and our former front-desk workers, I wouldn't have been able to do a great job and get the special merit award. Thanks to all of you.

Recently, I got some good news from our graduated front-desk workers to share. Elaine Poon found a job in Huntington, IN. Becky Li obtained her pharmacy license and works at Walgreens in Chicago, IL. Others out there don't forget to send me a note telling me how you are doing.

— Hsiao-Ming

Email: hlton@purdue.edu



Hsiao-Ming Tong, Mike Waling and Melissa Grider (BWC)

Upcoming Conference Presentations

This spring, we are proud to assist the following tutors with travel related expenses so they may participate in the East Central Writing Center Association (ECWCA) Conference in Bowling Green, OH; the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) in New York City; and the International Writing Center Association (IWCA) meeting in Houston, Texas. Funding is made possible through ongoing contributions to the *Muriel Harris Tutor Development Fund*.



Jodi Wagner (Graduate Tutor)

East Central Writing Center Association Conference (ECWCA)

March 15-17, 2007
Bowling Green, OH

Dana Bisignani

"A Crash Course: Working with Creative Writing Students in the Writing Center"

Jaisree Jayaraman, Richard Severe and Dana Bisignani

"ESL Conversation Groups: Constructing Techniques for Language and Cultural Development"

Ashley Watson & Tammy Conard-Salvo

"Simple Elements of Design: Creating Effective Writing Center Publicity"

International Writing Centers Association (IWCA)

April 12-14, 2007
Houston, TX

Aimee Kappes and Lisa Stalbaum

"Duality and the Undergraduate Peer Tutor: Examining the Shift between Specialized and Generalist Tutoring"

Tammy Conard-Salvo with Serkan Gorkemli (alum), Jingfang Ren (alum), and Joy Santee

"Writing Centers as Professional Spaces: The Pedagogy of Professionalization in Tutor Training Courses"

College Composition and Communication (CCCC)

March 21-24, 2007
New York, NY

Jodi Wagner, Joy Santee, Kristine Johnson, Tammy

Conard-Salvo, and Linda Bergmann

"Creating a Tipping Point: Using Images and Words to Represent the Writing Center's Internal and Public Identity"

Tammy Conard-Salvo

"Grouping, Alignment, and 'Wasted Space': Prioritizing Users' Feedback to Revise the OWL"





*Dr. Lynn Burley, Assoc. Professor
Linguistics and Writing
University of Central Arkansas*

A NOTE FROM DR. LYNN BURLEY

Since I Left Purdue

It's been 8 years since I left Purdue—left in 1998 but didn't graduate until 1999. I spent 4 years in the Writing Center and found that experience to be of great help in my teaching. I'm now at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, AR--a mainly 4-year school of about 12,000 students although we now have 3 PhD programs and a bunch of master's degrees. I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Writing (completely separate from English--we're not even in the same college). I teach mostly linguistics courses--Introduction to Linguistics, World Languages, Sociolinguistics, Semantics and Linguistics for Educators, but I do occasionally still teach writing. This semester I'll teach Comp I for the first time in five years, and in the spring I'll teach a new course called Writing in the Mid-Level Grades for our education majors. I have spent time in our Writing Center--we had a program for a year or so where faculty tutored for a couple of hours per week, but they have since discontinued it. I enjoyed it, but when you teach 4 classes per semester--and usually 4 preps for me--it's hard to find even two extra hours a week. On a more personal note, I've been married 19 years, and my husband, Bill, just retired this year. We travel a lot although I haven't made it back to Purdue territory in a while.

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A WRITING LAB COOKBOOK IN DEVELOPMENT

Memories of Food and Time Gone Bye

Do you have a memory or story tied to food and the Writing Lab? We are collecting recipes from our current and former tutors with the hope of distributing a forthcoming collection of recipes, photos, and essays. The tradition of potlucks and staff meetings served with a healthy dose of sugar seems to be a constant throughout the lab's history. Below are two recipes submitted from our most recent potluck luncheon.

Pretzel Salad

Submitted by Jodi Wagner

1 cup pretzels
1/2 cup sugar
1 stick of melted butter

Crush pretzels. Mix with sugar and melted butter.
Bake at 400° for 6 minutes.

8 oz Cool Whip
8 oz cream cheese
1/2 cup sugar
20 oz crushed pineapple (drained)

Whip Cool Whip and cream cheese, add pineapple. Once cooled, break up pretzel mixture and add to the rest. Chill. (If you make a day before, refrigerate the cream mixture and add pretzels immediately before serving.)

Carrot Raita

Submitted by Jaisree Jayaraman

Recipe for Carrot Raita (Indian dish which is had with rice or Indian bread along with a spicy Indian curry):

Mix the following ingredients together:

3 cups of plain yogurt
3 grated carrots (the long ones)
2 teaspoons of sugar
1 teaspoon of salt

For making a larger quantity of the dish, add one cup of yoghurt for every additional carrot, and add sugar and salt to taste. This dish can also be made with other salad vegetables such as cut tomatoes and cut/grated cucumbers.

Email your recipes and accompanying text to wmadore@purdue.edu.



Megan Doppler and Hadley Moore (UTA) discuss a visual rhetoric assignment

UNDERGRADUATE UPDATES

New Tutors

The Lab welcomed eight new undergraduate tutors to our staff in January. Note we have several new students with majors outside the traditional English and English Education disciplines. This trend in recruiting will strengthen our efforts in developing a Writing In the Disciplines program.

Undergraduate Teaching Assistants (UTAs)

- Derek Laan, Dietetics and Nutrition
- Steven Lee, Biomedical Engineering
- Lindsey Pavlovick, English Education
- Tori Talsma (*currently on study abroad*)
- Karla Walther, English Education

Business Writing Consultants (BWCs)

- Kyle Hanrahan, Management
- Julie Jansen, English and Professional Writing
- Andrea Lemieux, Creative Writing
- Ashley Watson, Professional Writing/Classics

ALUMNI OUTREACH

Take the Google Challenge

The OWL recently participated in a College of Liberal Arts event featuring the “Google Challenge.” Alumni were asked to type in a writing related word of choice using Google’s search engine. Did you know that words such as “writing lab,” “owl,” “writing,” “adverb” and “Purdue” typically deliver our website as one of the top 3 returns?

[HTTP://OWL.ENGLISH.PURDUE.EDU](http://owl.english.purdue.edu)

ONLINE WRITING LAB

Lab Revitalization

The computer stations throughout the Lab were recently upgraded with adjustable task seating. Additional improvements are currently under consideration by the Writing Lab Space Issues Committee. The committee will discuss how possible changes to the physical space of the Writing Lab would directly benefit tutorials. The committee will meet regularly throughout the spring semester to develop recommendations for possible implementation over the summer session.

New OWL Material

The Online Writing Lab (OWL) rolled out more updates to the website this semester. We currently have graduate students in the Department of English working on the development of handouts for additional resources on the site.

Usability testing will also continue throughout the year to collect data on how best to serve our users. Look for more revisions to the site as the semester progresses.

PURDUE ALUMNUS MAGAZINE

The Write Stuff



Stacy Lolkus, Business Writing Consultant

The Writing Lab is featured in the March/April 2007 issue of the Purdue Alumnus magazine. The magazine is mailed to all members of the Purdue Alumni Association. If you aren’t a member, please visit <http://www.purduealum.org/alumnus/alumnus.asp> to request your copy.