

September
24th, 2010



Critical Thinking through Writing Fall Ambassador Conference



Senate Salon

Georgia State University

Student Center

Table of Contents

Welcome Back	3
CTW Accomplishments	4
Information for New Ambassadors	5
CTW Tutoring and Training Space	6
Online Writing Environment Updates	7
CTW Award Winning Ambassadors	8
Conference Schedule	9
Appreciation	13
Notes	14



Welcome Back

Welcome to the 3rd annual CTW ambassador conference. On behalf of the CTW office and all of the administrators, faculty, staff, and students who have benefited from your work with CTW, we would like to thank and congratulate you for an amazing first (official) year. The work you are doing for your departments is fundamental to the success of this initiative. You are significantly improving undergraduate education, as the comments we've received from faculty and students illustrate.

What the CTW faculty are saying:

"I am really enjoying it. I see vast improvements in student writing and understanding. Previous students report that they used their skills in other courses."

"Overall a great idea— it was a little rough the first time through, but I know I can improve my course in the future, and I think it really helped my students."

What the students are saying:

"This class improved my writing skills. I found it different and relevant to learn about a subject through writing about it rather than memorization. It was more about comprehension, which in my opinion is a better way to LEARN a subject instead of just doing well in a class."

"I really liked this class and I really enjoyed working on the critical writing piece. At first I was sad because I didn't think I could do it, but with the revisions of each paper I got better and I really learned from the process."

Congratulations and welcome back!



CTW Accomplishments

The first year of CTW has been extremely successful, and we would like to take a moment to reflect on your accomplishments.

In 2009 and 2010, CTW

- offered 325 sections of 117 CTW approved courses to 7565 students.
- trained 254 faculty members across the university in CTW principles and supported them as they taught CTW courses.
- trained and monitored 138 writing consultants to work with CTW courses.
- revised and redesigned CTW assignments, rubrics, and, in some cases, courses.
- revised all CTW official course titles to include the CTW designation.
- petitioned for and received funding to outfit a new state-of-the-art CTW training space, which will open in September.
- automated the CTW course monitoring process, ensuring that CTW courses will be accounted for on student CAPP.
- connected the Online Writing Environment to the university's central authentication system so that now users login using campus id and password.
- submitted the first official CTW assessment reports in WEAVE online.



As we look toward our second year of the CTW requirement, our community is evolving and continuing to learn from and adapt to the needs of our students, continuing our mission to look closely at how GSU students think, how the way we ask them to think affects their understanding of the subject matter, and how we might improve both as a result of those insights.

Information for New Ambassadors

We would like to welcome 6 new CTW ambassadors.

- Jamen Bhola, Computer Science
- Dean Dabney, Criminal Justice
- Craig Drennan, Art Studio
- Janelle Kerlin, Policy Studies
- Lydia Mays, Early Childhood Education
- Kathryn McClymond, Religious Studies

As we are sure you will soon discover, the CTW ambassadors are some of GSU's most dedicated, creative, and productive faculty. Below are some links you might find useful as you become your department's CTW ambassador.

CTW website: www.gsu.edu/ctw

This is the CTW Initiative's primary website. Here you will find CTW regulations, upcoming events, sample assignments, and sample syllabi.

CTW content management system: <http://www.ctwdb.gsu.edu/ctw/>

The content management system is a record of CTW courses and approvals.

CTW consultant information: <http://www.gsu.edu/ctw/25896.html>

If you are in a department eligible for CTW consultants (i.e. any department outside of A &S), you will want to familiarize yourself with the roles and duties of CTW consultants.

Online Writing Environment: www.wac.gsu.edu/wow

The Online Writing Environment is a web-based software program many ambassadors use for formative assessment of student learning, thinking, and writing.

WEAVE online login: <http://app.weaveonline.com/login.aspx>

You will login to this site to post your annual CTW report .

New ambassadors should make an appointment with George Pullman and Jennifer Lawrence to discuss the ambassador position.

CTW Tutoring and Training Space

We are pleased to announce the opening of a tutoring, training, and research facility, located in 423 Aderhold, and jointly sponsored by Critical Thinking through Writing and Writing Across the Curriculum.



This space has four offices equipped with 27in. IMACs where CTW and WAC consultants can tutor undergraduate students; three 27in. IMACS in a communal area for students to use for traditional and multi media projects; and a presentation area for CTW and WAC related workshops. This facility will also be used for research into how writing influences thinking and vice

versa.

For more information and upcoming events for faculty and graduate student consultants, please visit our new website at www.gsu.edu/ctw/training_center.

If your consultant(s) would like to use this space to meet with students from CTW or WAC classes, please have them contact us to set up appointments.



Online Writing Environment Updates

The Online Writing Environment is an interactive, collaborative work space modeled after traditional peer-review processes. It is designed for short, informal, critical-thinking-through-writing assignments, geared toward improving students' knowledge of a subject by making them think and write about the material more often. With this website, professors can engage students directly, embed formative assessment measures using department-specific rubrics, create peer-editing groups, and view reports of class progress.

Beginning in Fall of 2010, the Online Writing Environment has been updated to sync with the university login and password databank.

Now, when faculty visit wac.gsu.edu/wow they will log in using their campus ids and passwords and see a list of all of their available courses. Faculty will be able to create online writing environment courses for any of their courses just by clicking "create."

Likewise, when students login using their campus ids and passwords, they will see a list of all of the courses they are taking in a given semester and be able to create accounts more easily. For more information, contact ctw@gsu.edu

Course	Semester	Section	CRN	Action
GLOBAL AND BUS PRACTICES CTV	FALL	200	1075	CREATE
GLOBAL AND BUS PRACTICES CTV	FALL	200	1076	CREATE
GLOBAL AND BUS PRACTICES CTV	FALL	200	1077	CREATE
INTERNET TRACK INT	F	400	1078	CREATE

Conference Schedule

Morning Sessions in Senate Salon

Breakfast and Sign In	9:00-9:30
Welcome Back	9:30-10:00
George Pullman and Jennifer Lawrence	
CTW Ambassador Awards	10:00-10:30
Undergraduate Assessment Committee Review	10:30-11:15
Marti Singer and Brian Thoms	
Exciting Initiatives	11:15-12:00
Shelby Frost, Center for Teaching and Learning	
Brennan Collins, Writing Across the Curriculum	
Marika Lamreau, Psychology Writing Lab	
Eric Friginal, Applied Linguistics	
Lunch	12:00-1:00

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Session I 1:00-1:50

Group A: Caucus Suite

Jennifer Joe, Accounting
 Carl Stucke, Computer Information Systems
 Shelby Frost and Paul Kagundu, Economics

Group B: Lucerne Suite

Therese Pool and Frank Cruz, Biology
 Jeff Rupp, Kinesiology and Health
 Kathy Plitnick, Nursing

Conference Schedule Continued

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Session 1 (cont.)

1:00-1:50

Group C: Dalton Suite

Debby Cannon, Hospitality Administration

David Bruce and Pedro Carrillo, International Business

Walter Wallace, Managerial Sciences

Group D: Dorchester Suite

Susan Richmond, Art History

Charles Jarett, Interdisciplinary Studies

Greg Smith, Communications

Jonathan Gayles, African American Studies

Group E: 460 UC

Robin Huff, German

Chris Henrich and Kim Darnell, Psychology

Oliver Greene, Music

Session 2

2:00-2:50

Group A: Caucus Suite

Rich Fendler, Finance

Yi Zhao, Mathematics

Martin Grace, Risk Management

Conference Schedule

Group B: Dorchester Suite

Katherine Hankins, Geosciences

Barbara Hopkins, Nutrition

Brian Thoms, Physics and Astronomy

Group C: Dalton Suite

Kay Bunch, Human Resources

Chip Barksdale, Marketing

Wendy Simonds, Sociology

Group D: Lucerne Suite

Craig Drennan, Art Studio

Jaye Atkinson, Communications

Audrey Goodman and Melissa McLeod, English

Session 3

3:00-3:50

Group A: Lucerne Suite

Doyle Barrow, Chemistry

Rashid Naim, Political Science

Doug Gardenhire, Respiratory Therapy

Group B: Caucus Suite

Doug Barthlow, Communications

Jared Poley, History

Rudy Alcocer, Spanish

Conference Schedule Continued

Session 3 (cont.) **3:00-3:50**

Group C: Dorchester Suite

Eric LeCalvez, French

Deb Whitley, Social Work

Juli Kubala, Women's Studies

Group D: Dalton Suite

Frank Miller, Theater (BIS)

Gary Bingham, Birth-through-Five

Teri Peitso-Holbrook and Lydia Mays, Early Childhood Education

Late Afternoon

Final session Wrap Up and Award Letters **4:00-4:30**

George Pullman and Jennifer Lawrence

Appreciation

The Critical Thinking through Writing initiative would like to thank the following individuals for their unwavering support and dedication to building and improving the initiative. While the bulk of the work for CTW is done by CTW Ambassadors, many other individuals have played a central role in the development of the initiative, and we would like to thank them.

First and foremost, we offer thanks to the CTW leadership team. This group of individuals volunteers its time and knowledge throughout the year to help guide the development of the CTW initiative. We sincerely thank the following people for their service:

Bill Bogner	Peter Lindsay	Therese Poole
David Cheshire	Spencer Middleton	George Rainbolt
Shelby Frost	Brian Thoms	Marti Singer
Oliver Greene	Teri Peitso-Holbrook	

We would also like to thank the following people for their service and support throughout the year. The members of faculty, staff, and administration have offered their time and encouragement and have assisted the CTW initiative in many ways, from providing faculty presentations to working to build the initiative from the ground up to reviewing the annual reports to patiently answering the hundreds of questions that have arisen in the process of instituting this initiative. We thank them all, and all the others who remain unnamed, for their dedication and support.

Amber Amari	Mary Demming	David Nasser
Shealyn Allman	Peter Eisemann	Murugi Ndirangu
Jaye Atkinson	Mary Finn	Rachael Nelms
Chip Barksdale	Eric Friginal	Risa Palm
Doyle Barrow	Chris Goode	Melind Shirkhande
Bess Blyler	Marta Hess	Alexandra Smirnova
Kay Bunch	Bob Howard	Mindy Stompler
Brennan Collins	Paul Kagundu	Carla Tanguay
Dean Dabney	Juliette Kitchens	Edgar Torbert
Sarita Davis	Ramona Matthews	Shelly Ann Williams

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Critical Thinking through Writing

George Pullman, Director
Jennifer Lawrence, Associate Director

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