

The Newsletter

Conference on Basic Writing Skills
A special interest group of CCCC



“CHALLENGING the BASIC WRITER”: CBWS Special-Interest Session at 4 C’s

As you know, the 4 C's will be held March 29-31, 1984, in New York City. CBWS is pleased to announce that our Special Interest Group Meeting at this year's 4 C's will be centered upon the theme "Challenging the Basic Writer." Our session, number C-09, will meet on Thursday, March 29, 1984, from 4-5:15 p. m., in the Georgia Ballroom B.

Program Chair for this year's meeting is Professor Andrew Moss of California State University in Pomona, California. Professor Moss, who is Coordinator of Basic Communication Skills at Cal Poly, and who, prior to that, served as Director of Basic Writing at the University of California at Riverside, has organized a superb program which will feature three speakers and a respondent.

Professor Laurel Corona of San Diego State University will speak on "Developing the Academic Skills of Underprepared College Freshmen Through an Integrated Writing, Reading, and General Curriculum." Professor Corona developed and coordinates such a program at San Diego State where she has established writing adjunct courses for basic writers in conjunction with subject matter courses.

A second speaker is Professor Vivian Rudisill of San Antonio College in San Antonio, Texas. Professor Rudisill's topic is "A Multidisciplinary Approach to Basic Writing Skills." She will describe the San Antonio College Multidisciplinary Studies Program. Professor Rudisill is Professor of English, Audiovisual Director, and Coordinator of the Multimedia Laboratory at San Antonio College.

Professor Richard Ramsey of Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne will present his views on "Basic Writing Texts: Determining Interest Level." Professor Ramsey has developed some new tools for evaluating texts in terms of their usefulness, interest level and degree of challenge and stimulation. His paper should assist instructors in selecting the best text for a particular purpose from the numerous titles on the market.

Rounding out the program will be a Respondent, Professor Paul Ellis of Northern Kentucky University. After the CBWS meeting, we will continue a tradition begun last year. If you wish to continue the discussion informally, plan to have dinner with the CBWS group; at the close of the meeting we will gather together as many as are interested and then make our dinner plans.

CONFERENCES and INSTITUTES

COMPUTERS AND WRITING--RESEARCH AND APPLICATIONS will be the theme of a conference sponsored by the Composition Program of the University of Minnesota to take place April 12-14, 1984. Both the hardware and software of writing applications will be discussed. Contact: The Composition Program / University of Minnesota / Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414.

CONFERENCE AND INSTITUTE IN ENGLISH EDUCATION (SEVENTH ANNUAL) will be held June 26-29 (conference) and July 1-18 (institute), at New York University in New York City. Co-sponsored by the NCTE and NYU, the theme will be "Mediating Interpretations--Transactions in the Teaching of English." Contact: Office of Summer Sessions, Overseas and Special Programs / School of Education, Health, Nursing and Arts Professions / New York University / 60 Press Building / New York, NY 10003 / (212) 598-2126.

CONFERENCE OF THE WRITING CENTERS ASSOCIATION: EAST CENTRAL (SIXTH ANNUAL) will be held May 4-5, 1984, at Raymond Walters General and Technical College of the University of Cincinnati. Contact: Phyllis A. Sherwood / Raymond Walters College / 9555 Plainfield Road / Cincinnati, OH. 45236.

THE CONFERENCE ON COLLEGE COMPOSITION AND COMMUNICATION will be held March 29-31, 1984, at the Sheraton Centre in New York City. This year's theme is "Making Language the Cornerstone of an Education for Freedom"; keynote speakers are William Zinsser and Ira Progoff. Be sure to look for the CBWS Special Interest Group Meeting on "Challenging the Basic Writer," chaired by Andrew Moss. For details, see p. 1 of this issue. Contact: 1984 CCC Conference Information / National Council of Teachers of English / 1111 Kenyon Road / Urbana, IL. 61801.

DEVELOPMENTAL WRITING WORKSHOP (FOURTH ANNUAL) of the Writing Center of Old Dominion University will be held April 6, 1984, in Norfolk, Virginia. The workshop will focus on how to better educate

the basic writing student. Educators from both the post-secondary and secondary levels are invited. Contact: Steve Fletcher / Coordinator of the Developmental Writing Workshop / Writing Center / Old Dominion University / Norfolk, VA. 23508 / (804) 440-4112.

THE KELLOGG INSTITUTE FOR THE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATORS will be held July 15-August 12, 1984, at Appalachian State University, in Boone, NC. The institute trains faculty, counselors, and administrators from remedial, developmental, and learning assistance programs in the most current techniques for promoting learning improvement. The program consists of a summer session followed by a fall practicum project on the home campuses of participants. The 1984 summer program will focus on the use of learning styles and their implications for instruction, the process of developing evaluation activities, the use of academic intervention and counseling techniques, the management of programs and classes, and the use of computers for management, data collection, and instructional purposes. Application deadline is March 31, 1984. Contact: Hunter R. Boylan, Director / Kellogg Institute / Center for Developmental Education / Appalachian State University / Boone, NC. 28608 / (704) 262-3057.

DO YOU KNOW OF A WORKSHOP, CONFERENCE, SEMINAR, OR EVENT, OR OF A JOURNAL, NEWSLETTER, OR PUBLICATION OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO TEACHERS OF BASIC WRITING? Please send press releases or details to THE CONFERENCE ON BASIC WRITING NEWSLETTER. Deadline for the Summer 1984 issue is June 30, 1984. Contact: The Editors / Conference on Basic Writing Skills Newsletter / Boise State University / Boise, ID. 83725.

MICROCOMPUTERS AND BASIC SKILLS IN COLLEGE, a national conference sponsored by the instructional Resource Center of the City University of New York, will be held April 13-15, 1984, at the Vista Hotel, in New York City. Topics include the use of microcomputers in teaching basic writing. Contact:

Geoffrey Akst, Conference Chair / Instructional Resource Center / The City University of New York / 535 East 80th Street / New York, NY. 10021 / (212) 794-5425

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH CONVENTION (74TH ANNUAL) will be held November 19-21, 1984 (Part II), in Detroit, Michigan. Tentative registrations for NCTE members are: Part I, \$40.00; Part II, \$25-\$35.00. Contact: National Council of Teachers of English / 1111 Kenyon Road / Urbana, IL. 61801.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH SPRING CONFERENCE will be held April 12-14, 1984, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus in Columbus, Ohio. Registration for NCTE members is \$45.00. Contact: National Council of Teachers of English / 1111 Kenyon Road / Urbana, IL. 61801.

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION, PLANNING AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING, will be held March 23, 1984, at Massachusetts Bay Community College in Wellesley, Massachusetts. This chapter will draw from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Contact: Robert Lemelin / University of Southern Maine / 96 Falmouth Street / Portland, ME. 04103.

NYCLSA (New York College Learning Skills Association) SYMPOSIUM ON REMEDIAL/DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION (SEVENTH ANNUAL) will be held April 1-4, 1984, at Grossinger's Conference Center and Resort in New York's Catskill Mountains. Contact: Anne Parsons / Learning Skills Center / S.U.N.Y. College at Brockport, NY 14420 / (716) 395-2471.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN WRITING CENTERS ASSOCIATION (SECOND ANNUAL MEETING) will be held June 16 at Montana State University in Bozeman. The keynote speaker will be Frank O'Hare, director of the writing program at Ohio State University. Program proposals or completed papers are welcome; they should be submitted by April 1 if possible. Send proposals and requests for further information to Mark L. Waldo / Department of English / Montana State University / Bozeman, Montana 59717.

PROJECT EXCELLENCE: A NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON STUDENT RETENTION AND MOTIVATION IN LEARNING will be held April 12-14, 1984, at the Tarrytown Hilton, in Tarrytown, New York. Topics include teaching achievement motivation, learning and instructional styles, confidence in learning, teaching thinking skills, and time management for students. Contact: Keith Cotroneo / National Director, Academic Excellence Leadership Project / 888 Oglethorpe Aven. / Athens, GA. 30606 / (404) 549-3626 or William Michels / Co-Director, AELP / Bergen Community College / 400 Paramus Road / Paramus, NJ. 07662 / (201) 447-7100.

SOUTHEASTERN WRITING CENTER ASSOCIATION (FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING) will be held April 12-14, 1984, hosted by the University of South Carolina. The theme is "Accountability and Survival," and papers will be presented on writing center services and administration. Contact: Phyllis Fleishel / Conference Director, SWCA / Department of English / University of South Carolina / Columbia, SC. 29208.

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA DEVELOPMENTAL STUDIES CONFERENCE (NINTH ANNUAL) will be held April 26-28, 1984, at the University of Georgia. Contact: Leroy Ervin / Conference Chairman / 106 Clark Howell / University of Georgia / Athens, GA. 30602.

THE WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION AND THE NORTHWEST ADULT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION SPRING CONFERENCE will be held April 26-28, 1984, at the Red Lion Motor Inn in Seattle. Contact: Alan Torgerson / Highline Community College / Midway, WA.

WESTERN STATES CONFERENCE ON COMPUTER ASSISTED WRITING will be held May 2-4, 1984, at Weber State College in Ogden, Utah. Presenters include Lillian Bridwell on the FIPSE project, Ruth Von Blum on the WANDAH project, William Wresch, author of a forthcoming book on computer assisted writing, and others. Contact: Western States Conference on Computer Assisted Writing / Department of English / Weber State College / Ogden, UT. 84408 or call: Barbara West / Director, Computer Writing Lab / Weber State College / (801) 626-7084.

THE 1984 WYOMING CONFERENCE ON FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORE ENGLISH will be held June 25-29, 1984, at the University of Wyoming, in Laramie, Wyoming. Principal consultants will be Cleanth Brooks, Richard Ohmann, and Walter Ong. Participant submissions are due by April 25, 1984. Contact: Michael Leonard / Conference Director / Department of English / University of Wyoming / Laramie, WY. 82071.

PENN STATE CONFERENCE ON COMPOSITION AND RHETORIC will be held July 10-13, 1984, at Pennsylvania State University, in Univeristy Park, Pennsylvania. Wayne Booth, Peter Elbow and James Kinneavy will be major consultants. Among the topics for papers, demonstrations, or workshops is basic writing; one-page proposals will be accepted until April 15. Contact: Jack Selzer / Department of English / The Pennsylvania State University / University Park, PA. 16802 / (814) 865-0251.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, a seminar on adult learning styles and adult development, will be held June 25-28, 1984, at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. The program is sponsored by The Center for the Study of Higher Education of Memphis State University and co-sponsored by such organizations as the National Association of Developmental Educators, the Association for Psychological Type, and the Career Planning and Adult Development Network. Reduced fee available until April 1, 1984. Contact: Center for the Study of Higher Education / Memphis State University / Ball Education Building, Room 406 / Memphis, TN. 38152. A post conference workshop will feature MYERS-BRIGGS TYPE INDICATOR LEVEL I TRAINING; this workshop will be held June 28-30, 1984, and will be run by Gordon Lawrence and Ann Lynch. Contact: CAPT. / 2720 N. W. 6th St. / Gainesville, FL. 32601 / (904) 375-0160.

In a recent article in The Chronicle of Higher Education, Professors Robert M. Nielsen and Irwin H. Ploishook report on the first systematic national survey on remediation, recently conducted by The City University of New York's Instructional Resource Center ("Underpreparation and the University," February 22, 1984, p. 4). The survey, which was sent to "every American college and university," netted 1,269 responses. "Of this number 85 percent reported that inadequate preparation of their entering freshmen was a common problem;" 31 percent reported that their students had deficiencies in writing. The authors go on to note that "over 80 percent of American colleges and universities offer remedial courses in basic skills."

CBWS's New Members

WELCOME to the following individuals and groups who have joined CBWS since our last issue: Clara Alexander, Doris B. Armstrong, Augusta College, J. K. Bower, Brick Memorial High School (R. Handschurch), Kathy Buteau, Ellen Cree, Matthew Diomede, Dorothy O. Disse, Dominican College of San Rafael, George T. Dorrill, Lynne Hahn, Ann Kraybach, Stephen Krashen, R. E. Lapp, Anne Ogle, Jane E. Peterson, Carol O. Sweedler-Brown, Sara M. Thompson, Allison Wilson, Gerry Winter.

PUBLICATIONS of Interest

CLAC, the Official Publication of the Conference on Language Attitudes and Composition, is a witty, sarcastic newsletter sent to subscribers, test-makers, legislators, textbook publishers, school administrators, language critics, "and other folks who ought to, but won't subscribe." The Fall 1983 issue included an article by James Vopat entitled "Everyone Sees What You Think of Your Testees" and one by Smokey Daniels called "The Students' Right Controversy Rages On." One-year individual subscriptions are \$8.00. Contact: CLAC / 897 Spruce Street / Winnetka, IL. 60093.

COMPUTERS AND COMPOSITION, a quarterly newsletter on computer applications in composition research and the composition classroom, commenced publication November 1983. Short articles (1000 words or less) are solicited. One-year subscription is \$5.00. Send articles and notices to: Kate Keifer / Fort Collins, CO. 80523. For subscriptions, contact: Cynthia L. Selfe / Humanities Department / Michigan Technological University / Houghton, MI. 49931.

EDUCATIONAL MEASUREMENT: ISSUES AND PRACTICE IN 1984 will be a thematic issue on the topic of large-scale writing assessments. Copies of this special issue are \$5.00. Contact: National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME) / 1230 17TH St. N.W. / Washington, D.C. 20036. Ask for Volume 3, Number 1 (Spring 1984).

EXERCISE EXCHANGE, a biannual journal of practical, classroom-tested ideas for teaching English at the secondary and college levels, seeks manuscripts especially from teachers not previously published. One-year subscription for individuals is \$3.00. Contact: Exercise Exchange / Department of English / Murray State University / Murray, KY. 42071.

JOURNAL OF DEVELOPMENTAL & REMEDIAL EDUCATION, published by the Center for Developmental Education at Appalachian State University, reflects the evolving body of theory and the front line practices in a professional dialog. A one-year subscription for individuals is \$9.00. Contact: Journal of Developmental & Remedial Education / Center for Developmental Education / Appalachian State University / Boone, NC. 28608.

JOURNAL OF TEACHING WRITING examines writing pedagogy throughout the curriculum and carries theoretical and practical articles on how writing is taught or understood. Published by the Indiana Teachers of Writing and sponsored by Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, JTW encourages educators on all levels and in all disciplines to write for the journal. Send two copies of the manuscript to the Editor. Individual subscriptions are \$8.00 a year. Contact: Journal of Teaching Writing / 425 Agnes Street / Indianapolis, IN. 46202.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION (NADE) NEWSLETTER encourages contributions (maximum length of articles 1000 words). Contact: Audrey Reynolds / NADE (NARDSPE) Newsletter / English Language Program / Northeastern Illinois University / 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue / Chicago, IL. 60625

RESEARCH IN DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION, a newsletter edited by Hunter R. Boylan of Appalachian State University, summarizes current research in developmental education, reviews the effectiveness of programs, and discusses the merits of instructional, tutoring, and counseling techniques. Contact: Center for Developmental Education / Appalachian State University / Boone, NC. 28608.

THE WRITING INSTRUCTOR is a practical, teaching-oriented journal. TWI publishes articles concerning pedagogy based on rhetorical or educational theory; the student as communicator or audience; the teacher as communicator, facilitator, audience, or student; classroom management; the educational institution as rhetorical scene; and the larger community's view of writing. The journal offers classroom-tested exercises, handouts and tools; textbook reviews which emphasize classroom application; reviews of teaching resources; and announcements of

meetings and calls for papers. In addition, each issue contains a two-page, tear-out spread called the "TWI Resource File," a teaching idea or handout which can be easily reproduced. An individual subscription for one year is \$8.00. Contact: The Writing Instructor / c/o The Freshman Writing Program / University of Southern California / Los Angeles, CA. 90089-1291.

THE WRITING LAB NEWSLETTER is an informal means of exchanging information among those who work in writing labs and language skills centers. Brief articles (four to six typed pages) describing labs, their instructional methods and materials, goals, programs, budgets, staffing, services, etc., are invited. To join the newsletter group, a donation of \$5.00 to help defray duplicating and mailing costs is appreciated. Contact: Muriel Harris, Editor / Writing Lab Newsletter / Department of English / Purdue University / West Lafayette, IN. 47907.

THE CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION at Appalachian State University provides The Journal of Developmental and Remedial Education, The Kellogg Institute for the Training and Certification of Developmental Educators, people-to-people linking services, annotated bibliographies, internship locator service, information about graduate programs, assistance with federally-funded programs, and consultation and technical assistance. Contact: Assistant Director, Center for Developmental Education / Appalachian State University / Boone, NC. 28606 / (704) 262-3057.

NADE, THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION, changed its name as of November 1, 1983, from NARDSPE, The National Association for Remedial Developmental Studies in Post-Secondary Education. NADE offers a national conference, regional conferences, a placement service, research reports, local chapters, a newsletter, and a journal. One-year membership is \$20.00. Membership information: Lucille Warren-Beck / Sinclair Community College / 444 W. Third Street / Dayton, OH. 45402; chapter information: Anita McDonald / University of Missouri / 8001 Natural Bridge Rd. / St. Louis, MO. 63121.

According to a recent article in The Chronicle of Higher Education (Robert M. Nielsen and Irwin H. Polishhok, "Underpreparation and the University," February 22, 1984, p. 4), The City University of New York's Instructional Resource Center "published a 'Bibliography of Basic Skills' in 1980 that catalogued fifty-seven pages with 600 listings of published works by CUNY faculty on the subjects of scholastic diagnosis, remediation and performance of college-level students."

The editors of the Journal of Developmental & Remedial Education, while stating that precise statistics on illiteracy are "impossible" to come by, go on to cite figures submitted by Rep. Paul Simon (D-ILL.) As many as 25 million Americans cannot read or write. As many as 72 million Americans are functionally illiterate. They cannot read and write above the fifth grade level. Forty-seven percent of all black 17-year-olds are functionally illiterate. By 1990, that figure could become 50 percent. Fifty-six percent of all Hispanic Americans are illiterate.



The opinions expressed in the CBWS NEWSLETTER are those of the writers and editors and do not necessarily reflect the view of CCCC or its Executive Committee.

Professor Michael Montgomery kindly requests your views on the teaching of grammar in basic writing courses; would you take a moment to complete the survey on the other side of this page and then drop it in the mail directly to him? Professor Montgomery, who directs the Graduate Program in Linguistics at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, writes that he doesn't "get the opportunity to teach basic writing enough." Professor Montgomery is beginning a research project on basic writing and the teaching of grammar. He has promised to share the results of his survey with the CBWS membership in a future issue of THE NEWSLETTER.

Send survey to:

Michael Montgomery

Dept. of English

University of South Carolina

Columbia, SC. 29208

SURVEY OF TEACHING GRAMMAR IN BASIC WRITING COURSES

(This survey assumes that the term "grammar" refers to the aspects of word choice and sentence structure, including punctuation, that are appropriate to formal written English and that are usually covered in workbooks and texts for basic writing courses such as Glazier's The Least You Should Know About English and Licklider's At Your Command: A Basic English Workbook.)

What percentage of classtime, if any, do you spend on grammar in teaching basic writing?

Which of the following do you cover in teaching basic writing?

- subject-verb agreement
- pronoun case
- sentence structure (fragments and run-ons)
- word endings (past tense, third person singular, etc.)
- punctuation (commas, periods, semicolons) of sentence elements
- verb principal parts
- spelling
- capitalization
- subject-pronoun agreement
- others

What part of a student's course grade is based on his/her performance in grammar?

To what extent do you individualize work on grammar for each student?

Do you rely on a writing or other resource center or laboratory to assist your instruction? If so, for how many students and how often?

Do you discuss grammar on a regular basis or do you discuss it only when a student writing problem arises?

Do you distinguish between grammar and usage? If so, how?

How do you generally teach grammatical points? (E.g., do you teach students to memorize rules or teach them to rely entirely on a handbook?) Please explain.

Thanks very much. Please return this survey to Michael Montgomery, Dept. of English Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208.

Editorial Policy

The CONFERENCE ON BASIC WRITING SKILLS NEWSLETTER is the official publication of the Conference on Basic Writing Skills, a special interest group of the CCCC. The editors encourage material on all topics of current interest to humanists professionally interested in basic writing and literacy at the post-secondary level. Material with a range of approaches--from teaching strategies to accessible discussions of theory and research to book reviews--will be considered.

Possible topics include the following: composing processes of basic writing students; instructional sequencing within the basic writing course; relationships between attitudes and skills in the basic writing course; connections among writing, reading, speaking, and listening in the basic writing course; evaluation of basic writing programs, courses, materials, and tutors; and the impact of technology on the teaching and learning of basic writing.

Possible types of material include:

- Short articles
- Reports of work in progress
- Interviews
- Reviews of textbooks
- Reviews of books on composition, rhetoric literacy, pedagogy, etc.
- Teaching ideas and classroom exercises
- Surveys or questionnaires with follow-up of results
- Calls for papers
- Announcements of conventions, conferences, seminars, workshops
- Announcements of new or especially helpful journals, newsletters, or other publications
- Guest editorials
- Information on current political events in your local area that affect basic writing

This brief list of topics and types of submissions serves only to suggest the broad range of material appropriate for the CBWS NEWSLETTER.

GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The editors suggest that articles not exceed 1,000 words. Avoid formal documentations when possible; however, when needed, notes should follow the current MLA STYLE SHEET. Material should not be previously published and should comply with NCTE GUIDELINES FOR NON-SEXIST USE OF LANGUAGE. Send two copies of an article. Contributions will not be returned unless accompanied by SASE. Deadline for the next issue is June 30, 1984. Send to:

The Editors
CONFERENCE ON BASIC WRITING SKILLS NEWSLETTER
English Department
Boise State University
Boise, ID. 83725

I'd like to become a member of the CONFERENCE ON BASIC WRITING SKILLS and join the CBWS NEWSLETTER group. I am sending a donation, as indicated below, to help defray duplicating and mailing costs.

____ \$7.00 CONFERENCE ON BASIC WRITING SKILLS only (four issues of THE NEWSLETTER)

____ \$15.00 (personal) CONFERENCE ON BASIC WRITING SKILLS (four issues of THE NEWSLETTER), plus THE JOURNAL OF BASIC WRITING (two issues) published by The Instructional Resource Center, Office of Academic Affairs, The City University of New York.

____ \$19.00 (institutional)

Name _____

Address _____

Send to:

CBWS
Department of English
Boise State University
Boise, ID. 83725