Sixteenth PWP Writing Contest

Mark your calendars for the 16th annual PWP Professional Writing Contest Ceremony scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 2003, at 1:30 p.m. It is being held in 1120 SQH (Lecture Hall). The keynote speaker will be William W. Destler, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost. Refreshments to follow the ceremony in 3119 SQH. To date for our prize money, we have received $600 from the Rotary Club of College Park, $300 from the College of Life Sciences, $400 from Bedford/St. Martin’s Publishers, $200 from Info. Design, Inc., $200 from Allyn & Bacon/Longman Publishers, $100 from Glenn M. Hendrickson, CPA, Chartered, $650 from A. James Clark School of Engineering, $300 from Bel-Jean, $250 from the Greenbelt Lions Club, $200 from the Lions Club of Hyattsville. We received a gift certificate for each winner from the Maryland Book Exchange and Barnes and Noble, College Division. Our refreshments are compliments of Steve Saling of Bedford/St. Martin’s. Prizes will be awarded to the following students:

Advanced Composition:
First Place: Elie Teichman
(Rosalia Saklas, instructor)
Second Place: Sara Yessenow (Rosalia Saklas, instructor)
Third Place: Bonny Busch
(Pam Gerhardt, instructor)

Technical Writing:
First Place: Marc Hirshenson
(Sandy Morrison, instructor)
Second Place: Anne Catherwood (Walter Knorr, instructor)
Third Place: Robert Stuntz
(Stan Dambroski, instructor)

Business Writing:
First Place: Matthew Anderson &
Angela Minahan
(Aletha Hendrickson, instructor)
Second Place: Amy Friend
(Aletha Hendrickson, instructor)
Third Place: David Amdur
(Marybeth Shea, instructor)

The Oswald Prize for Writing in the Health Professions
Holly Cummings (Lisa McCullough, instructor)

Second Place Brandon Lebow (Ed Berlinski, instructor)
The Rotary Club Grand Prize: Be There!

Important Dates:
5/5 - 5/09: Student Evaluations
5/12: Summer contracts returned to Grace
5/12: UMEG Electronic rosters available for grade submission
5/27: UMEG Grade deadline- 10am
5/31: Deadline to submit copy of grades & incomplete contracts to Helen

Remember: No incompletes without signed contracts

Congratulations to:


Suzanne Del Gizzo, whose article “Going Home: Hemingway, Primitivism, and Identity”, was accepted for publication in the Fall issue of Modern Fiction Studies.

Walter Knorr, who has a photograph exhibit at Jasmine Café in the Lake Anne Center in Reston. Grace, Helen, and Jean Waldman have visited this exhibit and were quite impressed with Walter’s talent and creativity.

CCCC Rider

I did all the right things before confronting my first CCCC: read the program (which, let the record reflect, is almost as long as one of my 392 texts); circled sessions most appropriate to my courses; tried to mix theory with practice; and made sure I’d attend the newbies session on Wednesday afternoon, even if it meant shortchanging the ATTW event. And I still wandered around for a day and a half feeling like Butch and Sundance: who are all these guys?

The veterans told the rookies in Wednesday’s orientation and in a Thursday a.m. session that the first CCCC can be overwhelming, isolating, strange and a real downer. They were right about the first three and wrong about the last. I wasn’t about to let feeling like a stranger in MY city prevent me from enjoying myself. The mentors also told us to choose a theme and follow it, even if the thread wasn’t in our sweet spot.

I heard that, but I must not have been listening. My theme was to learn as much as possible about anything that would help my teaching. So I went to sessions about teacher assessment, non-tenure track faculty, legal writing and reading, teachers’ response to student writing, alternative methods in the comp classroom, and formal meanings and the study of style, starring our own Jeanne Fahnstock.

My Final Four take-homes:

1. At least at Georgia Southern University, student evaluations are the most significant factor in denying/approving merit raises.
2. Most students associate intellectualism with writing, leading Linsey Cuti of Illinois State University to suggest teachers should use ALL available means to help students feel comfortable about writing. She mentioned drawing ideas for final papers, peer interviews and peer interviews soliciting oral responses, which “pull students out of the praise/blame syndrome.” Incorporating outside elements can engage students more in WRITING than traditional pedagogical methods.

3. In a “Commenting in Context” talk filled with great lines, Gordon Harvey’s best might have been that we dole out “great” on papers like party hats. He asked whether we’ve become professional trimmers in our responding/grading work. The Harvard man summed up by noting that part of us enjoys doing this, but we imagined our writing would be something other than responding to students’ writing. Nevertheless, that adds up to one helluva lot of writing, even if it never wins a Pulitzer.

4. The “Writing and Reading Across the Legal Landscape” panelists began by correctly comparing legal writing with “turgid prose” and finished by saying that it is possible to work on the concept AND implementation of ELEGANT legal writing. How? According to Jim Flannery of the University of Pittsburgh Law School, make sure the course provides challenging legal writing opportunities while still facilitating the operation of the law. And "teach the nuts and bolts, but don’t erase the ability to write poetry.”

So...Legal Poetry, anyone?

Willie Schatz

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**PWP World Travellers:**

Walter Knorr went to Germany and Slovenia in March on a Mosaic Harmony Goodwill Tour. The Mosaic Harmony Choir is an interracial, interfaith, volunteer organization committed to promoting tolerance and cooperation among all people. The Mosaic Harmony website is: http://www.mosaicharmony.com

Eric Bond travelled with members of the Takoma/Silver Spring community to Cuba this spring to deliver medicines and medical equipment to a nongovernmental organization, the Cuban Association for the Physically Disabled. Eric visited the College of Social Work at Havana University where Eric was told that Cuba has a literacy rate of 99%.

Joanna Findlay: Michele Balze, Ed Berlinski, and myself were discussing our creative writing endeavors and how we used to enjoy giving readings of our work. We were hoping that some of the other creative writers might be interested in taking part in a reading. This would be a lovely way of getting to know each other better through our work, as well as a fun creative outlet. My dear mother is coming to visit me in May, and I’d mention having a party for her at my place. Martin would like to drink my malt whisky; I love giving parties. I have a lovely big garden where we could have the first reading among the flowers and the nature. Willie would dance and entertain between readers, and it could be quite lovely. Would Saturday May 24th, or Sunday May 25th work for our first reading? Non-creative writers are welcome.

Every performance needs an audience. This would make a nice end to the semester. Everyone should feel welcome to bring a loved one. If you don’t have one of your own, bring someone else’s.