

Rhetoric and Composition

Spring 2015 Program Newsletter



Faculty Recognized for Service and Research

Continuing the trend of Rhetoric and Composition faculty winning major awards, Rhea Estelle Lathan has been awarded Florida State University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Service Award, and Kathleen Blake Yancey has received the 2015 CCCC Research Impact Award for her co-authored book *Writing across Contexts*.

University Service Award



Dr. Lathan is the proud recipient of Florida State University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Service Award, presented to her by President John Thrasher at this year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration at Ruby Diamond Concert Hall on January 20. Established in 1986, this university-wide award, honors "a faculty member,

"I'm humbled to get recognized for doing what I believe I'm supposed to do: 'service.'"

administrator, or staff member for his or her outstanding service in keeping with the principles and ideals of Dr. King." The award guidelines stipulate that "nominees from the faculty must demonstrate scholarly excellence and a commitment to diversity."

Dr. Lathan says, "for me the service comes easy because it embodies my research and my commitment to community." She sees all of her work as literacy activism: "In my research I illuminate the literacy activism of community-based 'neighborhood' African American women—everyday people. Women who don't 'fit' the mold of 'educated elite' but who are

intellectual activists in the same sense." Through her work, Dr. Lathan believes that she "expose[s] these stories—or give[s] them back—to the community." These stories can have a positive impact both on the community and on individual lives because "women who are 'at-risk' of harmful activities identify with these ordinary heroines and focus their energies toward creative, successful outcomes."

Dr. Lathan's university service and community outreach over the past four years have been extensive. At FSU, she facilitated a discussion workshop for the Black Student Union as well as a Rape Awareness Panel for the Women's Student Organization. More broadly, Dr. Lathan serves as an academic advisor and Board Vice-Chair for the Atlanta Recovery Project (ARP) and volunteers for the Gadsden Correctional Facility as a Literacy and Recovery Support Facilitator. This partial list of

service commitments highlights why Dr. Lathan was the 2015 recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Service Award.

National Research Award

Dr. Yancey, along with Dr. Kara Taczak and Dr. Liane Robertson—the latter both alumnae of the FSU Rhetoric and Composition program—have been awarded the 2015 CCCC Research Impact Award for their book *Writing across Contexts: Transfer, Composition, and Sites of Writing*. This award, which was first given in 2012, is presented annually to an "empirical research publication in the previous two years that most

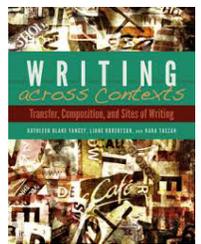
advances the mission of the organization or the needs of the profession."



Dr. Yancey notes that the focus of this award is on the difference a monograph has made: "the CCCC Research Impact Award signals that the project has

been acknowledged and recognized both within and outside the field." For example, although *Writing across Contexts* was published less than a year ago, it is already included on several PhD dissertation readings lists, and, Dr. Yancey comments, "there are several programs across the country that are using the book as the basis of their first-year curriculum, in addition to several research projects using it as their conceptual frame."

Writing across Contexts has received attention outside of the field as well. Dr. Taczak was interviewed for an article on transfer published in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and, earlier this year, the co-authors presented their research at the Association of American Colleges and Universities.



In addition, *Writing across Contexts* is now providing a foundation for a new project—known as the Transfer of Transfer Project. Collaborating on this second-stage project, the co-authors are now joined by Dr. Matt Davis, another FSU rhetoric and composition program alumnus, and Erin Workman, a second-year PhD student in the

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Research Cont'd from p.1

FSU rhetoric and composition program. This second stage of the research has been awarded funding from the 2014 - 2015 CCCC Research Initiative, a further indication of its value.

CCCC 2015 Graduate Student & Faculty Presentations



Bruce Bowles, "Moneyball Writing Assessment"

Joe Cirio, "The Promise of Negotiation: Situating Negotiated Rubrics Beyond Well-Intentioned Pedagogy"

Jason Custer, "Assessment Nerfed and Buffed: Reconsidering Assessment Practices for Game-Based Pedagogies"

Julianna Edmonds, "A Dialogue of Rhetorical Interruption and Listening: Negotiating Student Ethos Construction in First-Year Composition"

Aimee Jones, "Lessons from International Students: Rethinking Tutoring Practices for Multilingual Writers"

Heather Lang & Jeff Naftzinger, "Life on the Margins: A Case Study of Digital Marginalia in Kathleen Fitzpatrick's *Planned Obsolescence*"

Travis Maynard, "The Paradigm That Always Was: Scientific Discourse in Young-Earth Creationist Textbooks"

Kendra Mitchell, "Writing Intersections and Interventions: African American Multilingual Learners in the HBU Writing Center"

Michael Neal, "Risking Digital Writing and Research: Blending the Familiar with the Unfamiliar in Digital Scholarship and Teaching"

Erin Workman, "Teaching for Transfer: Using Visual Mapping Exercises to Scaffold Prior and New Knowledge Integration"

Kathleen Blake Yancey & Kristie Fleckenstein, "Risks and Rewards in Writing Majors: A Roundtable Discussion"

Workshops

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Michael Neal & Tarez Samra Graban, Linking Archives and Digital Humanities: Identifying Questions, Defining Terms, Exploring Resources, and Creating Digital Archives

Kathleen Blake Yancey, Three Ways of Starting and Sustaining Conversations about (Teaching) Writing: The Framework for Success in Postsecondary Writing, the WPA Outcomes Statement, and Threshold Concepts

Kathleen Blake Yancey, The Risks and Rewards of Assessment: A Workshop for WPAs and Writing Instructors

Kathleen Blake Yancey & Jacob Craig, Are Texts That Display Differently Different Texts? The Role of the Device—Cell, Kindle, Tablet, Laptop, Paper—in the Making of Meaning

Kathleen Blake Yancey, Postcards from the CCCC: A Workshop for Your Writing

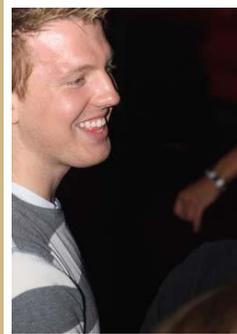
Research Network Forum Participants: Molly Daniel, Jenn Enoch, and Megan Keaton

Digital Pedagogy Posters: Stephen McElroy & Travis Maynard, David Bedsole & Martha Canter, and Netty Lehn

Student Spotlights



Ashley Humphries, a second-year MA student in Rhetoric and Composition, is one of the few MA students to choose the portfolio option as her culminating project for the program. Ashley says, "The portfolio is tough but rewarding work; the portfolio is supposed to be a showcase for my work as a student and a scholar in Rhetoric and Composition, but I think the portfolio has actually pushed me to be the scholar—the expert—that I wasn't before." In particular, Ashley notes that she has learned how important it is to conduct research that speaks to both her personal and scholarly interests. "Finding research that you care about personally enhances the quality of the work you produce professionally," Ashley explains. Her portfolio builds on her interest in copyright and fair use in rhetoric and composition scholarship, as well as in composition pedagogy. Ashley's portfolio should prove helpful for FYC teachers at FSU because, as Ashley says, she is "composing a training module, intended for new TAs in FYC, that challenges teachers to incorporate copyright and fair use discussions in the classroom and gives them ways to do it."



Logan Bearden, a third-year PhD student in Rhetoric and Composition, has recently been elected to serve on the Writing Program Administrators – Graduate Organization (WPA-GO) Graduate Committee. WPA-GO works with the Council of Writing Program Administrators (CWPA) "to support graduate student WPA preparation and strengthen connections between graduate students and professional WPAs." Currently serving as assistant WPA for Dr. Coxwell-Teague, Logan joined WPA-GO, as he explains, "after attending the CWPA conference in Savannah and realizing how different composition programs are across institutions." Logan's work at FSU provides him with experience in one institutional context, but, as he notes, "I intend to be a WPA or at least do WPA work when I leave FSU. I figured that if I want to contribute to that scholarship and those conversations, I should be aware of those [institutional] differences." Though Logan's official term does not begin until the CWPA conference in Boise this summer, he has already joined the Mentoring Committee, "which puts members of the WPA-GO in contact with established figures in the field," and the Outreach Committee, "which encourages graduate student participation in the CWPA."