



FSU's Kara Taczak Wins CCCC Chairs' Memorial Scholarship

The night before the 2010 CCCC opening ceremony, when most were sleeping, Kara Taczak, a third-year Ph.D. student, was practicing her walk so she wouldn't trip in her 5-inch heels. In an outfit celebrity stylist Rachel Zoe could have picked out herself, Kara showcased her distinctive sense of fashion, "classic with a hint of stylistic flare": a tomato red sweater under a short motorcycle leather jacket accentuated a black and white polka-dot silk scarf which was paired with a boot-cut black dress pant and pointy-toe, 3-inch black kitten heels (a safer choice).

During the opening ceremony, boisterous cheers of "Hooray!" and "Woohoo!" from an ecstatic FSU bunch echoed throughout the Louisville Marriott ballroom. The enthusiastic applause followed the announcement of Kara's acceptance of the CCCC Chairs' Memorial Scholarship.

"The opening session was amazing," Kara said. "When Akua Duku Anokye was reading the overview of my research I just stood there and thought, 'Whoa! This is really cool—she is quoting me.' I felt unbelievably proud of not only myself but the program that I

was representing."

According to the CCCC website, the CCCC Chairs' Memorial Scholarship was established "to remember and honor the Chairs of CCCC who have passed away." Four 750 dollar scholarships are award each year by the CCCC Executive Committee to graduate students who have been selected to present at the conference. Over 125 applicants applied this year, and Kara was one of four graduate students chosen.

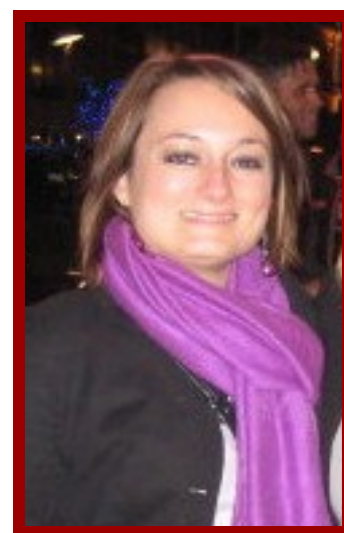
"I think I am doing research that could have an impact on first-year composition, and the area is very prominent right now in the field, so I think that might have helped," said Kara. "In truth, though, my letter of application was very personal for me because I opened with a story about my family and connected it to my desire to become a professor and also how by teaching for transfer we, as teachers and as educators, have the opportunity to give students the ability to take charge of their education."

As a result of winning, Kara was recognized throughout the conference by some prominent names in the field.

Elaine Richardson sat beside her in the computer room, and after chatting briefly, congratulated her on the honor.

"That was incredible," Kara said.

It was rewarding for Kara to bring



Kara Taczak, recipient of CCCC Chairs' Memorial Scholarship

attention to the program at FSU, which has played an integral role in shaping her research and her future career.

"The prestige and honor of winning such a coveted scholarship helped make my C's an experience I will not easily forget," said Kara. "I was able to meet and talk with many different types of people about things I am passionate about like the transfer of knowledge. Hopefully, this moment will create many more 'moments' for my career, such as help in the job market, but even if they don't come for many years, the experience surrounding the scholarship was simply put: an unbelievably amazing moment I'll remember forever."

Matt joined the Rhet/Comp program in Fall of 2008. Since then, he's worked in the RWC and Digital Studio, participated in the FYC Committee, supported new TAs as a peer mentor, and, most recently, humbly served as the Research Assistant to Professor Kathleen Yancey. He's attended and presented at several conferences, including the Watson Conference, Computers in Writing, and CCCC. Matt has also helped with the Interviews Series for several semesters. As part of the interview team, Matt has had the pleasure of chatting with the Rhet/Comp guest speakers—Deborah Brandt, Charles Schuster, Beverly Moss, Shirley Wilson Logan, Meg Morgan, and Charles Bazerman. Matt then works with the team to transcribe the interviews to be posted on program website archive.

Having recently finished coursework, Matt is currently gearing up for preliminary examinations. With trepidation and excitement—and a major area in Literacy and a minor area in Media Studies—Matt looks forward to spending the summer in a library cubicle, at least when he's not out fishing in the Gulf, visiting his baby nephew, or daydreaming about travel. Matt's research areas include digital and new literacies, technology and composition, classroom pedagogy and pedagogical theory, and collaborative learning and writing. He looks forward to merging those interests with teaching Writing & Editing in Print and Online in the new Editing, Writing & Media major starting in the fall.

Student Spotlight



Matt Davis



Rhetoric Society of America
Minneapolis, MN
May 28-31, 2010

Leah Cassorla

War Photography in the Digital Age

Kristie Fleckenstein

Invent and Subjugate: Polygenesis and the Visual Rhetoric of J. T. Zealy's Slave Daguerreotypes

Scott Gage

Sacrificing the Scapegoat, Reifying the Cult: Victimage, Identification, and the Circulation of Lynching Postcards

Leigh Gruwell

Image and the Construction of the Historical Subject: Portraits of Elizabeth Cady Stanton



Nineteen members of the Rhet/Comp program represented Florida State at the 2010 Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC). From March 17-20, Louisville, Kentucky played host to the annual convention. Our professors and students actively participated in panels, workshops, and the Research Network Forum as presenters, chairs, and respondents. Some even took on multiple roles, such as second-year M.A. student **Katie Bridgman**, who participated in the RNF and also chaired a session.

In addition to attending daily sessions, many also had the opportunity to enjoy Louisville's famous attractions including the Maker's Mark Bourbon House and Lounge, the Muhammad Ali Center, the Louisville Slugger Museum, and Churchill Downs. Some left Louisville full after indulging in Hot Brown sandwiches; others left with a "bourbon twinkle" in our eyes. As the spring semester comes to an end, the proposal deadline for CCCC 2011 approaches quickly. If Louisville was any indication of the momentum of our program, Atlanta should be sure to expect us all in full force again next year.



Computers and Writing 2010:
"Virtual Worlds" @ Purdue
May 20-23, 2010

Katie Bridgman, Matt Davis, and Natalie Szymanski

Click, Curate, Celebrate: A Multimodal Investigation of The National Gallery of Writing

Rory Lee

"So we, like, tweet where?": The Use of Twitter in the Composition Classroom

Josh Mehler

Re-Writing 'Underlife', the Internet, and Classroom Technologies

Michael Neal

Hyperactive Hyper-Techs: Assessing Digital Texts

Jennifer O'Malley

Beyond the Margins of Student Papers: Virtual Worlds as a Space for Reflection Response



Writing Across the Curriculum
Bloomington, Indiana
May 20-22, 2010

Ruth Kistler

Cultivating Critical Engagement Across the Curriculum

Jennifer O'Malley

Blogging Across the Curriculum: Writing for a Community

Kathleen Blake Yancey

The 'Things They Carried' from Another Vantage Point: The Contribution of WAC and WID to the Question of Transfer of Composing Knowledge and Practices

Congrats to Scott Gage and Rory Lee on their teaching awards!

Welcome to all of the new incoming M.A. and Ph.D. students!

Congratulations to Leah Cassorla, Tony Ricks, and Liane Robertson for passing prelims! **FSU**

