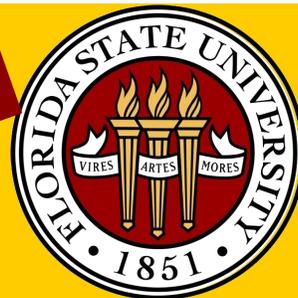


RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION

CCCC EDITION



A CCCC State of Mind

Logan Bearden, first-year MA, is “hell-bent” on presenting at CCCC in St. Louis, 2012. Logan’s enthusiasm stems from his great experience at CCCC this year.



Twenty-four members of the Rhet/Comp program represented Florida State at the 2011 Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) in Atlanta, April 6-9. FSU professors and graduate students took on a variety of roles as presenters, chairs, respondents, cheerleaders, revelers, and workshop participants.

“We have a really good presence at the conference,” says Jen O’Malley, first-year PhD student. “I’m not surprised by this, but I’m always so excited to see how active our program is at CCCC.”

Logan participated by chairing a session on student portfolios. “It went better than I thought it was

going to,” says Logan.

Logan had a bit of unplanned excitement when his time-keeping cell phone died during the last speaker’s presentation. Impressively, he was able to mentally keep track of the time and continue listening to the presenters.

Jen presented at CCCC for the first time this year. “I was nervous, but it was more of an excited-nervous,” she says. Jen enjoyed the experience—she got valuable feedback on her ideas and FSUers were there to cheer her on. “One of the best things about presenting was seeing a group of FSU people in attendance. We have our ‘CCCC rule’ where we’re not obligated to attend



each other’s sessions, so when I saw a group of us at my session, it was so comforting and encouraging. We have such a great support system.”



The Rhet/Comp Program at the FSU Party

During off-hours or when not acting in official conference roles, FSU grad students enjoyed mingling and celebrity watching. “I was surprised how star struck I was,” confesses Logan. “Everyone in the field seemed to be really friendly, and not intimidating at all, which is good because I was panicking.”

Logan enjoyed conversing with Chris Anson at the Thursday night FSU party, and appreciated receiving advice from Gail Hawisher on possible avenues for his thesis research.

CCCC 2011 was good to us—St. Louis, here we come!

The Dissertation Situation: Reflections on the dissertation-writing process, from our fourth-years

Liane: "You'll know it when you get there"

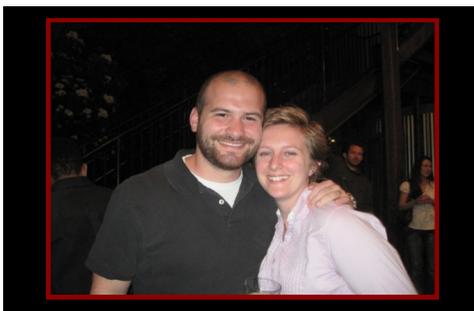


"The thing about writing a dissertation that is different from other pieces is the circling in toward it that you have to do. You have all this research to organize and make sense of, you have your own ideas as they develop around your dissertation topic based on all the other contexts you're immersed in at the time and which inform your thinking about the topic, and then you begin the writing itself, which gets you to the place where you know what you finally think about the topic. All of this happens in a nonlinear fashion - you kind of circle around your topic building layers of information, thinking, context, analysis, and insight and eventually you center in on what's important to write about, and it comes together strategically. You just need to keep circling and layering on the information until you get to the point where

your strategy becomes clear and you know exactly what you want to say. And you'll know it when you get there."

Scott's "quick & easy" steps for dissertating:

- 1) Start yesterday.
- 2) Organizing the books you have to read is not the same thing as working on your dissertation, no matter how much it gives you a sense of accomplishment.



3) If you have to take a deep breath before explaining what your dissertation is about, you need to go back to the drawing board.

4) **Find something painful** to you, whether physically or emotionally, and start subjecting yourself to it in small doses every day. Think of it as endurance training.

5) Have fun!

A message from Tony, from the depths of Dissertation Land:

*As I write this, I'm stalling from working on chapter two of my dissertation. Chapter two addresses the way a particular living learning community influences and is influenced by individual members of it. This is a qualitative study, and I am working on **making an argument** about how shared values emerge over time within the community. Well, back to it...*



* Three Dissertation Mantras from Kara:

1) Create a weekly schedule and try to stick with it. It really helps to work on your dissertation daily—even if it's only for an hour, and it's some form of organizing.

2) Weather the downpours because **there will be a rainbow** (or two) at some point.

3) Push forward knowing that the sun will come out tomorrow no matter how the writing went that day.

Upcoming Conferences

Computers and Writing,
Ann Arbor, Michigan
May 19-22, 2011

Katie Bridgman
Matt Davis
Rory Lee
Josh Mehler
Michael Neal
Natalie Szymanski

Kenneth Burke Society
Clemson, South Carolina
May 26-29, 2011

Katie Bridgman
Scott Gage
Stephen McElroy
Josh Mehler

Congratulations to...

Kendra Mitchell & Kara Taczak for their Awards for Excellence in Teaching FYC!

Caleb Sutton for successfully completing his thesis!

Scott Gage & Liane Robertson as they transition into tenure-line jobs next fall!



Matt Davis, recipient of a Dissertation Research Grant!

Dr. Fleckenstein, who was awarded a Graduate Teaching Award!

Dr. Yancey, for the Distinguished Research Professor Award!

Becca Skinner, for successfully passing her prelims!

