



Rhetoric and Composition Program Newsletter

Spring 2020

RWC-DS Certification Recognized at SWCA Conference

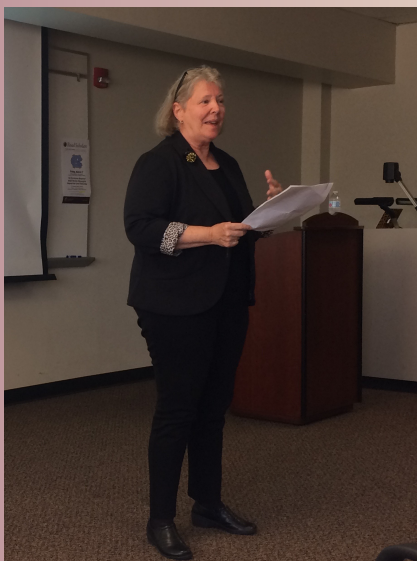
At the SWCA Conference on February 20th through 22nd, FSU graduate students Kamila Albert, Katherine Kelly, Amanda May, and Sidney Turner accepted recognition for the efforts of a group of graduate students in getting the FSU Reading-Writing Centers and Digital Studios (RWC-DS) certified by the SWCA. These efforts were awarded due to “the outstanding work taking place in Florida State University’s Reading-Writing Center and Digital Studio[s],” according to one reviewer of the group’s application. “It was a proud moment for us,” said Albert. The process of applying for certification of the RWC-DS took place in part during a transition period between writing center directors here at FSU, so even though



the certification took place with faculty guidance--both from former director Dr. Stephen McElroy and current director Dr. Jude Marr, as well as RhetComp program director Dr. Michael Neal--the effort was one led by graduate students.

Over a period of roughly six months, a team of graduate students--including Albert, Kelly, May, and Turner, as well as Noah Patterson, Gabriela Diaz, and Amanda Presswood--worked to put together a comprehensive application packet for review that was meant to serve not only as a “a snapshot of the RWC-DS within the last few years” for the SWCA certification at hand, but also “as a sustainability guide for future staff,” according to Albert. Since SWCA certification is renewed every five years, Albert and other members of the team worked on the packet with the additional hope that future re-certification teams would have a starting point from which to “re-assess, revise, and add onto” the RWC-DS’s body of certification materials.

Professor Yancey to Retire after Fifteen Years at FSU



Fifteen years ago, Professor Kathleen Blake Yancey came to Florida State to reestablish the Rhetoric and Composition Program. Now, upon the occasion of Yancey’s retirement, we *reflect* on her career and what the program has become due to her vision, her tireless labor, and her commitment to building up others. If anyone has earned bragging rights to career accomplishment, Yancey would be first in line: She is the recipient of the most prestigious awards in the field and at FSU; she has played key leadership roles in our disciplinary organizations; and she is the author and editor of countless publications. Yes, if anyone has the right to be proud of her individual accomplishments, Yancey has earned it. Yet what distinguishes Yancey’s time at FSU is not as much her personal accomplishment as the way she has *assembled* the Rhetoric and Composition Program to become a thriving, intellectual community where others have found their *voices*. She has mentored graduate students and faculty alike, has been instrumental in developing robust graduate and undergraduate curricula, and has offered wise counsel to anyone who

pays attention. The legacy of Yancey’s career at FSU is *in print and online*, but it’s also *embodied* in the people with whom she’s interacted, who are better and smarter for that opportunity. As Yancey is fond of asking, “*Are we having fun yet?*” The answer is “yes,” inasmuch as we’ve had *everyday* opportunities to learn from and alongside such a brilliant and generous scholar. This coming year we will offer several opportunities to *reflect* upon and express appreciation for Yancey’s significant contributions at FSU and to the discipline.

Three Generations of FSU at the Naylor Conference

collaboratively authored with Kathleen Lipham; Kathleen is a current Editing, Writing, and Media intern and will be joining the RhetComp program as an MA student in the fall.

This past September, Jessi Thomsen and three Florida State undergraduate students attended the Naylor Workshop for Undergraduate Research in Writing Studies. This particular workshop focuses on promoting undergraduate research in writing and in helping undergraduate English students envision themselves specifically as writing researchers. The Workshop aims to move these undergraduate writing researchers towards “deeper knowledge of the methodologies of our discipline.” While there, current PhD candidate Jessi and the undergrads (two of whom were also previously interns at FSU’s Museum of Everyday Writing) met up with Matt Davis, a mentor at the workshop and alumnus of the FSU RhetComp program--effectively representing three generations of FSU students in attendance (see photo to the right).

The undergraduate students who attend the workshop (about 30 students are selected per year) come from all over the country, with varying educational backgrounds and academic interests. Each student is able to present their research in progress, receive feedback, and experience hands-on, one-on-one time with scholars in the field. Among those undergraduates in attendance was Carmen Renee Morley, an Editing, Writing, and Media major at Florida State, who said, “Attending the Naylor Conference was one of the best experiences I had during my undergraduate career at Florida State...The opportunity to meet with scholars in the field from all over the country was amazing...I would recommend attending to any undergraduate interested in doing research in this field.”



Digital Symposium Showcases Undergrad and Grad Work

To close out the bustling month of February, the Reading-Writing Center Digital Studio’s Williams location held FSU’s annual Digital Symposium. This symposium, now in its 11th year, showcases digital work in the FSU English Department from both undergraduate and graduate students. This work encompasses “scholarship, coursework, and pedagogy that takes seriously the possibilities of researching, teaching, and composing with digital media and digital technologies.” Organized by CWC-Coordinator Noah Patterson, this year’s Digital Symposium featured the work of almost 50 different digital composers in various genres and several presentations throughout the day of the event.

Those entering the Digital Symposium from the Williams second floor hallway would have first seen the projected slideshow of images compiled from different works on the wall directly opposite the entrance of the Williams Digital Studio: definitely a very effective way to capture the attention of anyone passing by! In the Studio itself, all the computers were set up to display the Digital Symposium’s website compiling all of the work for the year, and light refreshments were served. “I wanted it to be really casual and informal, for people to be able to come in and out as they go [about their day],” Noah explained.

