2005 SSWC Program

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7th Annual Student Success in First-Year Composition Conference

Friday, February 4, 2005

Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Building,
Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Georgia

Keynote Speaker: Karen McElmurray

Assistant Professor in the Department of English,
Speech & Journalism at Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville, Georgia.

In Defense of Narrative in Academics: Personal Writing and Beginning Writers

Karen McElmurray, currently part of the Creative Writing Program at Georgia College and State University, is originally from the mountains of Eastern Kentucky. McElmurray's debut novel, Strange Birds in the Tree of Heaven, was published in 1999 by Hill Street Press and received the 2001 Thomas and Lillie D. Chaffin Award for Appalachian Writing. Her work in fiction has received support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Kentucky Foundation for Women, and the North Carolina Arts Council. Most recently, McElmurray is the author of a memoir, Surrendered Child: A Birth Mother's Journey, recipient of the 2003 Associated Writing Programs Award in Creative Nonfiction.

In Partnership with:
The Continuing Education Department, Georgia Southern University
MISSION STATEMENT
THE STUDENT SUCCESS IN FIRST-YEAR COMPOSITION CONFERENCE is designed to promote the success of students in their post-secondary English composition courses. The conference seeks to establish and maintain an ongoing dialogue between college and high school composition teachers. To that end, we are committed to offering practical, strategy-oriented teaching workshops, as well as theoretical presentations of composition topics that focus on the link between high school and college. We invite writing teachers from four- and two-year colleges, technical schools, and high schools, as well as graduate students.

PRE-CONFERENCE RECEPTION
MEET THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS and the presenters at a reception on Thursday, February 3, 2005, from 7 to 9 pm at the Hampton Inn, 616 Fair Road, Statesboro, GA. The Hampton Inn Statesboro is located next to Food Lion shopping center and is directly across the street from the Georgia Southern University campus on Fair Road (Hwy. 67).

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUESTED. Fee of $50 includes continental breakfast, keynote luncheon, interactive sessions, breaks, and exhibits. Confirmations will be e-mailed.

CEU CREDITS
THIS CONFERENCE meets the criteria for the nationally accepted Continuing Education Unit (CEU). Each participant successfully completing the program will earn 0.6 CEUs for 6.0 hours of participation through the Division of Continuing Education and Public Service at Georgia Southern University.

THE GOLDEN AWARD
HONORING THE MEMORy OF DOROTHY GOLDEN, Georgia Southern University Assistant Professor Emerita, the award recognizes dedication to teaching excellence in first-year composition or the preparation of students for first-year composition. The Department of Writing and Linguistics at Georgia Southern University seeks nominations by January 28, 2005 for the annual Golden Award.


NEW THIS YEAR!
FEATURED THREAD: BRIDGES
EVERY HOUR WILL FEATURE A SESSION that focuses on the intersections between high school and first-year composition: students, teachers, expectations.

"Bridges" sessions include
THE TEACHERS SPEAK: THE HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE (DIS)CONNECT
GOING THROUGH THE CHANGE—FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE WRITING
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NATIONAL COMMISSION ON WRITING, THE NEW SAT ESSAY, GEORGIA'S NEW PERFORMANCE STANDARDS
BUILDING PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS IN FIRST-YEAR COMPOSITION
THE CIVIC ARENA IN ACADEMICS: CIVIC RHETORIC PEDAGOGY AND THE COMPOSITION CLASS
COLLABORATION BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES: DOES IT WORK?

TABLE TALK: "WHAT DO THEY WANT?" EXPECTATIONS OF FIRST-YEAR COMPOSITION INSTRUCTORS

TABLE TALK: HOT TOPICS FOR CONVERSATION
OUR AFTERNOON GENERAL SESSION will feature a roundtable format, with a different "hot topic" at each table and conversation led by a facilitator with experience and expertise in the area. Bring your ideas, questions, and concerns to share with the table of your choice.

"HOT TOPICS" for this year:
- Journals
- Portfolios
- Technology in the Classroom
- Service Learning
- Learning Communities
- Assessment
- Advanced Placement
- "Bridges"

TEACHING STRATEGIES TO TAKE ALONG
RECOGNIZING THAT OUR CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS are among the best teachers in the region, we'd like to compile a booklet of successful assignments, teaching strategies, and classroom activities. Please bring a one-page handout of your favorite assignment or suggestion to contribute to the booklet, which will be available for a nominal fee at the closing session. At the top of your handout, please be sure to include your name, your institution, and a phone number or e-mail address. Also, please be sure to give your handout a descriptive title similar to these: Paraphrase Development, Sharpening Your Focus, Grammar and Punctuation Review, Making Your Paper "Flow."
Over a year ago, we began an extensive research project that examines the beliefs and experiences of high school seniors, first-year college students, and the teachers who teach them. Our hope is that by gathering the thoughts of students and teachers concerning their beliefs and experiences in composition classes, we can foster the kinds of constructive and dynamic dialogue needed to invigorate our classes more profoundly so that our students are more deeply engaged in writing and are more fully prepared for the formal writing demands that they will face. We hope that our research and the voices contained within will be useful to administrators wishing to support teachers in the struggle to provide the skills and knowledge vital to effective written communication.

Ron Balthazor, Robert Cummings, Christy Desmet, University of Georgia; Alexis Gilmore, Virginia Commonwealth University; Jume Mclain, University of Georgia; Enola Mosley, Statesboro High School

Our facilitators address a variety of writing exercises designed to promote fluency and fun. We also engage in "serious play." He wants his students to get the same sense about their own work. Many composition students, however, lose sight of the second aspect, play. Whether they're writing about personal struggles or social issues or other texts, they take their projects, and themselves, so seriously that they can block their own creativity. For this session, we ask teachers/writers to join us for recess as we take a break from the academic seriousness of the conference and find our creativity again. Workshop leaders explain the premise behind the play and then guide participants through a variety of writing exercises designed to promote fluency and fun. We also explore potential uses of such playshops in composition courses to foster brainstorming activities and to improve fluency.

Stacey Abbott, Sandra Giles, Jana Williams, and Michael Williams, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

We have redefined our composition program with a focus on teaching critical literacy as a means of preparing our students to become citizen critics. Our panel will include discussions of how democracy is negotiated within political, virtual, and natural environments. In addition, several panelists discuss how they encourage and maintain the assumption of order. When creative writer David Jauss writes, he engages in "serious play." He wants

David McCracken, Coker College; Lisa Mallory and Beverly Head, Atlanta Metropolitan College; Pam Meyers, Carol Hulse, University of West Florida

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Stacey Abbott, Sandra Giles, Jana Williams, and Michael Williams, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
11:20 AM - 12:20 PM  Presentation
DAILY GRAMMAR PRACTICE: ENABLING STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND AND APPLY GRAMMAR CONCEPTS
Students need a working knowledge of grammar and sentence structure in order to improve as writers. Traditional grammar instruction is ineffective because it takes too much time and yields few results. My approach, Daily Grammar Practice, takes just a few minutes a day and organizes grammar in a unique way, breaking the concepts into manageable parts while allowing students to see how all of the parts fit together. The daily repetition along with the parts-to-whole approach achieves three objectives: Students truly understand the concepts; students can apply the concepts to their writing; and students move the concepts into long-term memory. Across the country, students at all ability levels show significant improvement using Daily Grammar Practice, takes just a few minutes a day and organizes grammar in a unique way, breaking the concepts into manageable parts while allowing students to see how all of the parts fit together. The daily repetition along with the parts-to-whole approach achieves three objectives: Students truly understand the concepts; students can apply the concepts to their writing; and students move the concepts into long-term memory. Across the country, students at all ability levels show significant improvement using Daily Grammar Practice.
Sandra Brim, Debra Dobkins, and Kathryn Lacey, Brenau University

11:20 AM - 12:20 PM  Presentation
PRACTICAL STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE STUDENT WRITING & CRITICAL THINKING
The purpose of this session is to share practical tips for improving student writing and critical thinking. These tips are based on my experience as a college writing teacher. The presentations will offer inventive and engaging ways to help students understand and apply the concepts of grammar, sentence structure, and punctuation. In my workshop, I would like to explain how and why Daily Grammar Practice is effective and share the research that supports it. Then, I will do a hand-on lesson. Finally, I will show participants how to evaluate progress and ensure that students transfer their understanding to their writing.
Sandra Brum, University of Massachusetts

11:20 AM - 12:20 PM  Workshop
WEAVING A WONDERFUL WEB: FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE
This will be an interactive extension of last year’s introduction to creating webfolios (online portfolios). The focus of the workshop will be on the nuts-and-bolts issues involved in switching over from paper portfolios to webfolios. This workshop is perfect for technophobes who want to resist the mass migration to online work because the presenter is a technophobe herself!
Laura Kalamatsi, Georgia Southern University

12:30 - 1:45 PM  KEYNOTE LUNCHEON
IN DEFENSE OF NARRATIVE IN ACADEMICS: PERSONAL WRITING AND BEGINNING WRITERS
Karen McElmurry, Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Speech & Journalism at Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville, Georgia.

GOLDEN AWARD PRESENTATION
2:00 - 3:00 PM  BRIDGES THREAD - JOINT SESSION
(Please Note: The following Joint Session includes 3 presentations)

COLLABORATION BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES: DOES IT WORK?
Many high school teachers are looking for ways to modify their instruction to help students be better prepared for college English. This session zeroes in on the collaboration methods used by Dalton High School and Dalton State College English Faculty, focusing on what works best to effectively prepare students for college. Specifically, the methods discussed are classroom observation of college classes, roundtable discussion between the teachers, college presentations to senior English classes, and surveys of students. The purpose of this session is to encourage high school and college teachers to work together toward the common goal of success in first-year composition courses.
Kelley Mahoney, Dalton State College; Teresa Bennett, Dalton High School

BUILDING PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS IN FIRST-YEAR COMPOSITION
Successful college students must shed their high school personas, but most don’t know how, which creates problems for both students and professors. When freshmen come to recognize that their relationship with professors operates under the terms, understandings, and manners consistent with other professional relationships, they can acquire a persona for succeeding in an academic setting. These understandings also make them better writers, for creating a community of writers relies upon similar understandings.
Phillip Gardner, Francis Marion University, Florence, South Carolina

THE CIVIC ARena IN ACADEMICS: CIVIC RHETORIC PEDAGOGY AND THE COMPOSITION CLASS
High school and college writing classes share a number of objectives, such as a mutual emphasis on the classical rhetorical triumvirate that values reading, writing, and oral discourse. However, these courses often share a paradoxical connection as well, a connection represented by an absence rather than by a shared practice or philosophy, the omission of a civic rhetoric component. This presentation demonstrates how to redress this gap in writing instruction, pedagogy and theory, the civic arena, and how to integrate a civic focus in writing classes through the use of what I define as “civic rhetoric pedagogy,” writing, reading, speaking, and research assignments that connect academics to communities and that reposition students as citizens.
Renee Love, Lander University, Greenwood, South Carolina
PERCEPTIONS OF PLAGIARISM IN A FIRST-YEAR WRITING COURSE
The focus of this session is to highlight student reactions to unintentional plagiarism situations in the first-year writing course. This presentation will feature the situation that occurred in a particular English II class and how the professor used the mini-lesson format to illustrate the varying degrees of plagiarism. In particular, this mini-lesson helped students better understand what "voice" is in their own versus others' writing. The teacher and one of her students will share their experiences; writing samples will also be shared in order to elicit whole group interaction.
Jo Ann Steffen, Charter Conservatory for the Liberal Arts

FROM ARISTOTLE TO AMERICAN IDOL: GETTING STUDENTS TO THINK ABOUT RHETORICAL CHOICES
Getting first-year composition students to think about their writing as more than just words on a page—as, rather, rhetorical strategies deliberately chosen for a specific effect—is often a daunting challenge. Similarly, getting students to consciously engage in the complex considerations of purpose and audience is often difficult in an age where seemingly infinite messages and mediums compete for our attention. This session will offer a TV-analysis assignment and, among other topics, we’ll discuss how the designers of even the most cynical or crass TV shows must consciously consider logos, ethos, and pathos in order to survive past the pilot episode.
Michael Diebert, Georgia Perimeter College

THE FOUR HORSEMEN: REVELATIONS ON WRITING FROM A HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM
Doom and gloom seem to pervade many departments of English throughout our nation these days. Lamentations over the coming death of the written word are heard from all corners of the secondary curriculum and echo all the way to the college campus. As secondary writing teachers, we would like to offer a counter to these doomsday prophecies. Re-focusing on the four chief types of discourse, the Four Horsemen that snuff and snort through our writing classes every day, may offer an intensive, course-long re-focus on description, narration, exposition, and persuasion. It is our belief that students can finally overcome the apathy and reluctance of putting pen to paper. Helping students return to the pure form of expression they had as children and recalling that time ourselves might be the best place to begin again.
Dana L. Davenport and Melody Williams, Coffee High School, Douglas, Georgia

TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM
The purpose of this session is to respond to student writing in the following ways: to recognize clear, concrete signals indicating a student needs professional counseling; to realize ways of helping troubled students; to demonstrate a sample grief coping exercise. The audience will participate in the exercise as if they were in class, and receive handouts to perform the activity in their own classrooms.
Tobin R. Lowell and Carolyn Thomas, Georgia Southern University

SUCCESSFUL PORTFOLIOS
The focus of this presentation is literacy and community lifelong learning in nonformal settings. The purpose is to present data which describes minority participation and methods used to obtain data in cross-racial interviewing. The format is "storyboard" presentation of findings as well as audience participation in conducting qualitative "grand tour," "mini tour," and structured follow up questionnaire methods of data collection. In addition, the session will include an activity for conference participants to reflect upon their own history as lifelong readers and their preferred methods for transmitting this information in a research setting.
Michelle Sisson, Armstrong Atlantic State University

JOURNAL WRITING IN THE CLASSROOM: IT'S MORE THAN JUST WORDS
A burden of power often interferes with our attempt to teach writing in the one-on-one conference, a time when as teachers we are placed in a collaborative setting with our students. Our classroom skills don’t always serve us well in this intimate setting, which differs so dramatically from the rows of students sitting at teacher’s feet. One way to ease the transition from classroom to individual conferencing is to use a counselor’s techniques of structuring and conducting a session with a client. As writing teachers, we can benefit by tapping into this profession’s know-how.
David Taylor, Armstrong Atlantic State University

INTEGRATING SERVICE EDUCATION INTO THE WRITING CLASS
The focus of this presentation is literacy and community lifelong learning in nonformal settings. The purpose is to present data which describes minority participation and methods used to obtain data in cross-racial interviewing. The format is "storyboard" presentation of findings as well as audience participation in conducting qualitative "grand tour," "mini tour," and structured follow up questionnaire methods of data collection. In addition, the session will include an activity for conference participants to reflect upon their own history as lifelong readers and their preferred methods for transmitting this information in a research setting.
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OTHER HOT TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:
- Assessment and Grading
- Advanced Placement
- Handling Research
- Mini-Lessons

DOOR PRIZES
THE NESSMITH-LANE CONTINUING EDUCATION BUILDING is located on the campus of Georgia Southern University at the corner of Chandler Road and Plant Drive. From I-16, exit at Hwy 67 North. Follow Hwy 67 (Fair Road) approximately 14 miles. At the 5th stoplight, turn left on Chandler Road. Follow Chandler Road to the 2nd stoplight at Plant Drive. Turn right on Plant Drive. The entrance to the parking lot is located on Plant Drive. Please park in the Conference/Event Parking.

THE HAMPTON INN STATESBORO is located next to Food Lion shopping center and is directly across the street from the Georgia Southern University campus on Fair Road (Hwy. 67). They feature a complimentary continental breakfast, free access to Gold’s Gym, iron, Jacuzzi rooms, King Deluxe rooms with refrigerator and microwave, outdoor pool, and 25” TV with cable.

OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Friday
8 am - 5 pm

REGISTRATION REQUEST
FEBRUARY 4, 2005 - LA 0502204-01

Please PRINT and fill out a separate form for each registrant.

$50.00 Registration Fee

First Name __________________________
Middle Initial ______________________
Last Name __________________________
Affiliation _________________________

Home Address
City, State Zip Code

Daytime Phone ______________________
Evening Phone _____________________

E-mail Address _____________________ Required for E-mail receipt

Payment Method
□ Personal check
□ Company check
□ Cash (in person only)
□ VISA
□ Mastercard

Account number ____________________
Expiration date ____________________
Cardholder’s name __________________

Mail to: Registrations, Georgia Southern University, PO Box 8124, Statesboro, GA 30460