

Writing Matters

Stetson University Writing Program Newsletter

THE YEAR IN PREVIEW

Welcome to the now regularly-scheduled Writing Program newsletter. In previous years, we've published in the spring; our new publication date in the fall semester allows you to know what's coming! And there's lots...

READING. Last year's Critical Reading Circle was so popular we couldn't fit everyone in. This year, we going to try again! Look for the call to join Critical Reading circles, each providing resources and material support for faculty working intentionally to help students develop college reading abilities. Take advantage of last year's collected resource bank [here](#).

RESEARCH. Have you thought about where and how your students are developing their research skills? Wondering how to sequence your students' exposure to your area's essential research skills? Join us as we collaborate on scaffolding research skills with duPont-Ball Library faculty Debbi Dinkins, Grace Kaletski-Maisel and Jennifer Corbin! These folks are the experts—experts with lots of ways to support classroom faculty in their teaching goals. Contact Grace [here](#) to schedule a Library workshop.

WRITING FELLOWS. The Fellows Program is doing very well—in fact, the demand for these course-embedded writing tutors has been so strong that we've been able to add two more, thanks to support from the Student Success Center. The Fellows have been placed primarily in JSEMs and other WE courses, where informal assessment has told us that the Fellows are both accessible and helpful. This year, in addition to the JSEM courses, we'll have Fellows in place in ENGL 100, supporting students concurrently taking FSEMs. If you're curious about the Fellows—maybe you'd like to work with one yourself!—visit [here](#).

CRITICAL SKILLS. Writing effectively requires a number of very specific skills: the use of information, the ability to make critical judgments, the use of reason and logic in both content and structure, and of course a strong understanding of the material at hand. Look for a number of opportunities this year to develop your students' abilities at the core critical skills of a liberal education.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PRE-FALL 2018

NEW FACULTY ORIENTATION

FALL 2018

10TH ANNIVERSARY FSEM CELEBRATION

FSEM/JSEM WRITING ASSESSMENT

CRITICAL READING CIRCLES

OUTREACH ON RESEARCH

GEORGIA CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION LITERACY (SEPT)

FACULTY RESOURCE NETWORK ON TRANSFORMING LEARNING (NOV)

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PEER TUTORING IN WRITING (NCPTW) SAN PADRE ISLAND, TX (NOV)

SPRING 2018

CRITICAL READING CIRCLES

OUTREACH ON RESEARCH

COLLOQUIUM ON TEACHING AND LEARNING (APRIL)

VALUES INSTITUTE (AAC&U) WRITING ASSESSMENT (MAY)



JAN 2018 Stetson University hosts colleagues from small private colleges!

Representatives from Swarthmore, Bowdoin, Furman, Bucknell, Davidson, Elon, and a dozen others joined Megan O'Neill and Leigh Ann Dunning at Daytona's Plaza Resort and Spa and on Stetson's campus. Thanks to Dean Sue Ryan for hosting our closing reception at the DuPont-Ball Library and to Interim Dean of Arts & Sciences Tom Farrell for greeting our guests!



GOT QUESTIONS?

Policies, WE proposals, pedagogy, resources:

Megan O'Neill, Director

Writing Center, Writing Fellows, and Writing Tutors:

Leigh Ann Dunning, Director

Research Skills and Information Literacy:

Grace Kaletski-Maisel, duPont-Ball Library

Core Learning Experiences:

Ranjini Thaver, FSEM

Megan O'Neill, FSEM/JSEM/Sr Experience

Oral Communication:

Tara Schuwerk, Communication and Media Studies

Transfers, Credits, Audit:

Terri Richards, Registrar's Office

General Education and Gen Ed Assessment:

Lisa Coulter, UGEC Chair

Core Learning Committee:

Stuart Michelson

Daniil Zavlnov

Grace Kaletski-Maisel

Colin MacFarlane



SUPPORTING FSEM WRITERS

This fall, the Writing Program is collaborating with the Writing Center to better support students taking FSEM. In response to faculty concerns about student readiness for college writing in FSEM, we're launching a pilot that will embed Writing Fellows in a section of ENGL 100 College English. This developmental course enrolls students whose writing skills may need additional support to enable academic success, especially when they concurrently take FSEM. **We're betting that when Writing Fellows work with ENGL 100 students, students and faculty in FSEM courses will see more satisfying results and gains in writing abilities.** Let us know how this works for you, and if you have questions or comments, reach out to tell us! Email Leigh Ann Dunning at ldunning@stetson.edu with your input or with requests for additional resources.

REFLECTIVE WRITING=INTEGRATIVE LEARNING

As Stetson University thinks more about integrative learning and how to achieve it, the obvious place to start thinking is in how our writing practices as a community can enhance this essential learning. Within the writing studies community, we're turning increasingly to questions of how students transfer their learning from one situation to another to address issues involved in fostering integrative learning. However, writing assignments that ask students to reflect on their learning can go only so far—students must be taught reflective habits first. To accomplish this kind of teaching, we can take class time to talk about the value of reflection, to practice developing reflective questions for ourselves and our students, and talk with each other—often—about what works and what doesn't. If we can provide students with a foundation of reflective practice and a system by which to make it a habit, we'll be one or more steps down the path to true integrative learning. **Learn more by taking a look at the AAC&U publication *Integrative Learning: Mapping the Terrain*, [here](#).**

Let us know: are you interested in doing more with reflective writing in your teaching? [Let's talk.](#)



Stetson Symposium Success! Two Panels on Writing and Reading.....

RESPONDING TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' WRITING

IN THE WRITING CENTER

Leigh Ann Dunning, Director of the Writing Center, Stetson University
Vanessa Petion, Undergraduate Student & Writing Center Tutor, Stetson University
Jeremy Jackman, Undergraduate Student & Writing Center Tutor, Stetson University
Jeanette Jakupca, Undergraduate Student & Writing Center Tutor, Stetson University
Nicholas Ikegami, Undergraduate Student & Writing Center Tutor, Stetson University

As the number of students whose first language is not English increases in US colleges and universities, writing center tutors must adapt to develop ways to support this population as they learn to write in US Academic English.



3 CRITICAL READING PEDAGOGY FOR ALL STUDENTS

LBC 22

Megan O'Neill, Writing Program Director/Assoc Professor in English, Stetson University
Michele Randall, Visiting Assistant Professor in English, Stetson University
Leigh Ann Dunning, Writing Center Director, Stetson University

Reading at the college level challenges many students, and the frustration for faculty is real. But when we use strategies to teach and enhance this skill, everyone benefits. Helping students make meaning out of their assigned texts leads to richer class discussion, stronger writing, and deeper understanding.



Meet the Writing Program Directors

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Leigh Ann Dunning

Writing Center Director

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Reach out any time to access resources, review writing assignments, discuss reflective writing and teaching critical reading skills, brainstorm strategies for research, develop firmer scaffolding and sequencing...we can help!

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