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Issue 13
Spring 2015 Edition
cwp.missouri.edu

379 WI COURSES

AY YEAR 2014.2015

13,444 STUDENTS IN WI COURSES

Critical Thinking @MU
In the Spring of 2014, three experienced, cross-disciplinary Writing Intensive (WI) faculty members, Drs. Louise Miller (Nursing), Bob Bauer (Geological Sciences), and Tim Safranski (Animal Science), joined forces in a plan that promises to enhance an already vigorous and strong Campus Writing Program (CWP). They wrote a proposal for a Writing Intensive Project Award (see http://cwp.missouri.edu/awards/index.php) and requested funds to establish a WI Mentorship Pilot Program. In this Program, experienced WI Mentors would advise and guide those instructors who are new to, or needing review in, WI concepts and principles. The proposal was accepted and funds granted. Thus, we would like to report to the MU community and beyond the initial set-up and progress of this special innovation in writing-to-learn and learning-to-write pedagogical strategies.

One of a Kind

To begin, we have found that few other large universities with a long running Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) Program similar to MU’s have instituted a project like this one. Its purposes are multifaceted:

- To provide WI Faculty opportunities to help colleagues provide a robust WI student experience in the classroom.
- To foster best practices in the University of Missouri’s WI courses and enrich student learning through writing.
- To create a collegial WI community that will work toward a better understanding of using writing-to-learn concepts.
- To share ways that writing is integrated across campus to promote learning.

It is important to add that all Mentors involved with the project were called on to help design and develop it in this pilot stage. These faculty devoted much of their time to attending meetings and utilizing their WI experiences to guide others. This involvement relates closely to the core philosophy of CWP’s long running and internationally known success, which is the support and engagement of faculty who take teaching seriously.

Pilot Program in Action

To put this project into action, CWP staff, Bauer, Miller, and Safranski set to work in the Summer of 2014 establishing goals/objectives and an evaluation plan. They recruited ten experienced WI faculty and provided training during the summer of 2014. During the August and January faculty workshops, the mentors attended and helped lead by serving as table leaders, facilitating discussion, and providing resources for faculty. Following the workshops, the mentors kept in touch with their assigned 2-3 faculty by following up through email and through some face-to-face visits.

Benefits to Campus Writing Program, MU Faculty and Students

Although this project is in its infancy, we can say that it has run well for academic year 2014-2015. Mentors have been highly interested in the needs and expectations of their WI colleagues. As one
Mentor puts it,

“I think we will find that this project is somewhat organic in that it will take on a life of its own depending on the needs of the given mentee and the experience, skills, and investment of their mentor. There is no formula or one approach that fits all mentee/mentor relationships. One of the contributions of this project will be discovering the various ways we can be helpful to new WI faculty.”
~Professor Deanna Sharpe

The faculty mentoring program extends the goals and purpose of the Campus Writing Program by spreading and embedding WI concepts in day-to-day teaching in the classroom. Utilizing experienced frontline WI faculty to provide one-on-one coaching to faculty new or less experienced in WI makes transparent CWP’s and WI faculty’s on-going work toward best practices in Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC). We believe that this project for mentoring Writing Intensive faculty will demonstrate grassroots support for teaching critical thinking and meaningful learning. It will lead to publications and conference presentations that disseminate information on WAC practices through an ongoing dialogue - locally, nationally, and internationally.

CAMPUS WRITING PROGRAM

Writing Intensive Project Awards
Call for Proposals

Have a Good Idea for a Writing-Intensive Course or Project?

The Campus Writing Program is offering funds to support faculty with Writing Intensive Project Awards! Funding amounts range from $500 to $10,000.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS INCLUDE:
- Developing New WI Courses
- Converting Non-WI Courses to WI
- New Projects, Seminars, or Workshops
- Developing a WI Course Curriculum
- Maintaining teacher-to-student ratios

For more information, go to:
CWP.MISSOURI.EDU/AWARDS
2015 Win Horner Award for Innovative WI Teaching
Miriam Golomb, Biological Science

2015 WI Teaching Excellence Award Recipients

Lisa Bauer, Psychological Science
Wayne Brekhus, Sociology
Daniel Domingues, History
Rachel Harper, Learning Center
Aaron Harms, Learning Center
Peter Motavalli, Soil, Environmental & Atmospheric Science

Artifacts: A Journal of Undergraduate Writing
Published Student Authors

Michael Brassea
Christine Carson
Briana Corwin
Sean Donovan
Amanda Eshelman
Maura Fisher
Elias Froeschle
Sam Jennings
Paige Lockard
Bruce Mackenzie
Tighe McCandless
Cole Mendenhall
Daniel Miller
Peter Myers
David Shewmaker
Riley Simpson
Elijah Solidum
Joshua Stone
Meredith Vitale
Victoria Weber
JULY 9-10, 2015
BOONVILLE WRITING RETREAT

Hotel Frederick, Boonville, MO
9:00-5:00pm

The Summer 2015 Faculty Writing Retreat will be held at the historic Hotel Frederick in Boonville, MO. Participants in this retreat may work on any writing they choose and there will be opportunities to work with a professional editor. Attendees will have a sleeping room and all meals will be included in the registration. The schedule will include optional activities to explore some of Boonville’s history. Space is limited.

REGISTRATION FEE: $200
PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE VIA FUNDS TRANSFER OR PERSONAL CHECK. LIMITED SCHOLARSHIPS MAY BE AVAILABLE.

REGISTER AT:
MU CAMPUS WRITING PROGRAM
602 Sanford Street
Conley House
Columbia, MO 65211

Cwp.missouri.edu
thomasjm@missouri.edu
573-882-4881
Upcoming Events
Register for all events at: cwp.missouri.edu/events

**Boonville Writing Retreat**
Hotel Frederick, Boonville MO
July 9-10, 2015

**Faculty Writing Intensive Workshop**
MU Old Alumni Center
August 18-19, 2015

**TA Writing Intensive Workshop**
MU Old Alumni Center
August 20, 2015

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