



News about the Center

coordinator transition

As most of you know, Dottie left us in early June for a wonderful new life in Columbia with husband Ken Suggs. It's plainly impossible for anyone ever to take her place, but Jean Schwab, consultant *emerita* from the Class of 2004, is well on her way to carving out a niche all her own. Jean brings her three and half years of experience with the CCLC to the Coordinator position, along with keen organizational skills and a wealth of good ideas. I feel extraordinarily fortunate that she was available and willing to fill this position for the coming year!

Endowment

Through the Dean's efforts, the CCLC is one of several fortunate beneficiaries of early revenues from the Hollingsworth funds. The CCLC has received \$150,000 as an endowment, from which we will receive \$6,900 this year. The timing of this gift couldn't be better, since it coincides with the opening of our new location in the Library. We've already begun to develop some much-needed new promotional materials for students and faculty and are looking forward to new opportunities throughout the year!

the move

After this past "*annus horribilus*" of water, mud, diesel fumes, and falling chunks of metal, the CCLC came home to the Library once again, this time to much more open and inviting quarters and a much more visible location. Like much of the rest of the Library, we're still in the shakedown period, but things have been progressing slowly but steadily.

Synergy

The lower level of the Library is now anchored by the Multimedia Commons (MMC), the large open space soon to be equipped with thirty-two computer stations, including high-end video and multimedia editing stations. Just across the MMC from the CCLC is the C&IS Help Desk, User Services, and Multimedia Services, as well as the Library's audio visual collections; just down the hall are the C&IS and Library training rooms. The MMC is directed by a steering committee comprised of John Payne (Chair), Susan Dunnavant, and myself; our goal is to leverage the complementary capabilities of the Library, User Services, and the CCLC to provide both technical and academic assistance for the kinds of multifaceted projects our students are undertaking more and more. The CCLC and MMC have identical computer images, so clients can come to the CCLC to brainstorm, design, plan, and begin work on a project, then take advantage of the seamless software environment to work in the MMC as they gain autonomy through their increasing skills. Likewise, clients who begin a project in the MMC, only to find themselves in over their heads, can easily shift their work into the CCLC for one-on-one assistance. For folks who wonder where to start—MMC or CCLC?—we offer this simple guideline: ***the MMC is the toolbox; the CCLC is the know-how!***

pieces-parts

The original plan called for moving the fixtures and furniture from the old location into this new location, but these turned out to be inadequate for realizing the plan for the new space, specifically for the six carrel-type stations planned for the center rear of the room and for a corner collaborative station for the front of the room, opposite the reception desk. We're waiting for needed parts for the latter to arrive, but for the former, we decided in favor of keeping this area open to accommodate group work, presentations, and meetings. I would like to acquire some lounge seating with swivel desks for this area and was told that there might be some extra Webb lounge chairs left over from the library that we could have; we won't know this for sure until next week. In the meantime, I've worked with Lishan to price several chairs, a love seat for the reception area, and several other pieces needed to improve the functionality of the space and am now working with Mary Pat and the Dean to secure funding for these purchases.

more bits and bytes

- The CCLC hosted two series of "Putting Stuff Online" sessions in August and September, short workshops intended to provide targeted and timely assistance for faculty wishing to make course materials available over the web.
- This fall, I secured a dedicated spot on the orientation schedule for new faculty and spent a delightful half hour introducing them to the CCLC. It was wonderful to have a chance to sit down and chat with everyone and get to know each other.
- Jean and I have been working on designs for some new promotional materials, including brochures for faculty and students and a magnet.
- Jean is coordinating consultant visits to English 11 classes this fall, and we'll soon be hitting the Humanities course, as well.
- Cort has followed us throughout our moves and now is located in the office next to mine. Having ready access to his expertise and resources makes an enormous difference!
- Through the generosity of President Shi, we've just acquired a brand-new Smart Board and projector! The Smart Board is an interactive white board that can be used to record session notes for later distribution or to conduct interactive computer presentations. We're especially excited about using the Smart Board in conjunction with tablet PCs (see below) to explore new applications for teaching!

News about the consultants

We're delighted to have had the following graduates from last spring's IDS 59 class join the staff: **Rose Burlingham, Brittany Smith, Joslyn Wiley, Leslie Elliott, and Erin McDermott**. Also joining us in the Winter will be **Emily Fisher**, who is currently away on foreign study in Scotland. Foreign study has also claimed **Katie Piburn, Jen Wagener, and Andy Gould** this fall, so we're a bit short-handed. Everyone has been wonderful about stepping up to cover hours, however. Rounding out the current staff are old hands **Aden Albert, Chris Osborne, and Anne Wagner**.

The consultants are working hard under Jean's direction on revisions and additions to our in-house resource book, code-named "Fan Dance." We plan to adapt these resources as handouts and for posting on the CCLC web site.

This past Friday, Jean and I led a workshop on writing consultations for all the consultants. The older consultants brought in "dummy" papers, and we role-played and analyzed our way through two very rewarding hours of mock consultations. Everyone, no matter how experienced, came away with fresh insights about this most important and challenging part of work in the CCLC.

News about me

In addition to teaching Women's Studies again this fall, I continue to be active on a number of committees, including the Curriculum Review Committee, the IT Advisory Committee, the Faculty Development Committee, the Academic Computing Committee, and the Women's Studies Oversight Committee; in addition, the Dean has just recently added me to the Administrative Council. Here's a sampling of some of my recent activities:

- In June, I attended the summer board retreat of the Southeastern Writing Centers Association at Agnes Scott, where I accepted the position of SWCA Web Coordinator.
- As a member of the ITAC, I had the honor of participating in the search for Furman's first Chief Information Officer, which culminated in our hiring Dave Steinour. Dave and I have already met briefly to get acquainted; I'm looking forward to working with him!
- I was selected to attend the first Summer Experimental Critical Theory seminar hosted by the University of California Humanities Research Institute this past August at UC Irvine. This two-week intensive session focused on psychoanalysis, politics, and the event, and featured Slavoj Zizek, Joan Copjec, and Alain Badiou as seminar leaders. This was a wonderful opportunity for me to reconnect with my roots in theory and to broaden my acquaintance with current ethical approaches to global events. I hope to develop some of these insights into ideas for how the liberal arts might respond to contemporary challenges.
- I've been coordinating preliminary explorations of tablet PCs and am currently working with several faculty to try out their ideas in the classroom. Although there are the usual kinks to work out, there are also some promising results. We currently have three Acer tablets in circulation, as well as one by Motion; we'll soon be receiving several models by Fujitsu for evaluation.
- I coordinated and set up the blog and discussion forum sites for the Curriculum Review Committee to host proposals submitted by faculty, and I've also been working on a proposal with a small group of faculty. (Maybe I'll soon have time to draft and submit a proposal of my own!)
- Last week I visited the University of Richmond, where I was invited to lead a lunch session on building community in the classroom for the Program in Enhancing Teaching Effectiveness (PETE) and to offer a couple of sessions for

the Women Involved in Living and Learning (WILL) program: a talk on women's writing on the web and a workshop to show WILL students how to design a collaborative online journal project for their organization. All of these sessions were both great fun and very rewarding—I learned as much (or more!) than I taught.

- The Dean has just submitted my name to ACS Tech Center Director Suzanne Bonefas as a potential NITLE delegate to the Coalition for Networked Information meeting in Portland, OR this December. The CNI is a nerve center for cutting edge thinking about technology and higher education; I'm very excited about the possibility of attending!