



Writing Matters



A newsletter for the Program for Writing and Rhetoric

April 2004

Welcome back **Pat Sullivan!**

Mark Your Calendar!!

Faculty Meeting on Sexual Harrassment on April 21st and 22nd in UMC245 at noon.

This year's prize ceremony for our student prize winners (3020, 1150, 3030/40) will be Friday, April 16, from 3-4 pm in the ENVD lobby area. So mark your calendars and come support these excellent student writers!

Organizational & Employee Development WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS

FENG SHUI (Fung Shway) for Health - April 7, 2004

Do you want more time, energy and balance in your life? Learn what the Chinese have practiced for thousands of years. Come prepared to stretch conventional wisdom and discover how this ancient philosophy can help you live a healthy life! All classes are held in the Conference Rooms at the Rec. Center, noon to 1:00pm Event sponsored by the Boulder Campus Wellness Committee To Register: Contact Robin Kolble at 303-492-8885 or Robin.Kolble@Colorado.edu

APPLYING PRINCIPLED NEGOTIATIONS TO WORKPLACE CONFLICTS

Tom Sebok, Director of Ombuds Office and Mary Chavez Rudolph, Instructors

This session will provide an opportunity for participants to learn and practice the four negotiation principles in the book "Getting to Yes" by Fisher and Ury. To Register: Call 2-8103

Wednesday, May 5, 2004 9:00 a.m. - 12noon
UMC Room 245

Paul Levitt will be reading from his book "Dark Matters" on April 27 at 7:30 pm at the Boulder Bookstore.

Kudos go out to:

The 3020 Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the Hardy Long Frank prize for 2003:

Winner: Amie Kirk, student of Bryan Walpert, for "Rooting Against Leeann".

Honorable mentions go to Kristen Demaree, student of Lynda McNeil, for "Marae on Film" and Rebecca Speer, student of Paul Murphy, for "Humpty Dumpty: The 'Great Fall' of Authority."

The committee is grateful for the hard work of its prize readers, Professor Claudia Mills, Dept of Philosophy, and Professor Jan Whitt, School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

The Professional Writing Committee is pleased to announce that the 2003 Business Prize will be shared equally by the following students (in alphabetical order):

Grant Blakeman, "Communication Brief and Magazine Ads for Nike" (Paula Wenger), David Marchelya, "Perception of CU Boulder and the Current Social Scene" (Rolf Norgaard), Kara McMillin, "Auto Shade" (Don Wilkerson).

Thank you to the judges: Kristen Hislop, who teaches the Profiles course in the Leeds School of business; and Harrison Carpenter, who teaches writing in the Ecology & Evolutionary Biology department and is a member of the PWR Professional Writing Committee.

Teaching Heuristics by Kathryn Pieplow

"Heuristic" sounds a lot more impressive than it is. The definition I have finally come to is a heuristic is a problem-solving technique which involves (1) a checklist or a set of pigeonholes or method of classification – a rubric, of sorts – and (2) the act of applying it. Think about your grocery list:

1. You check the refrigerator to see what you need (analysis of the problem).
 2. You make a list (recording your analysis in a useful form).
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3. You remember to take the list to the store and consult it as you walk up and down the aisles (application).

4. If you remember something while shopping, you rewrite your list (learning)

Many writing assignments lend themselves to heuristic analysis. All that is required is for the students to pull criteria from one source and apply them to another. For example, this could mean identifying characteristics of the liberal media discussed in one article, and then using those characteristics to judge whether a second article states a liberal viewpoint. Or discussing whether a piece of music is jazz by creating a definition from known jazz pieces. Or creating a list of questions to use for rhetorical analysis of a text.

End result: a heuristic is a critical thinking tool that utilizes current knowledge to assess new, perhaps foreign information, and should be transportable to other areas of study.

It's That Time Again: Executive Committee Elections

It's time to begin thinking about electing new representatives for both the Executive Committee and the Personnel Committee for the 04-05 academic year. The election will take place in April.

There will be two positions open on the Executive Committee (you may recall that our bylaws call for a 2 year staggered term). Any instructor or senior instructor is eligible to run for these positions. The terms on the Executive Committee are renewable--meaning current representatives may run again.

There will also be two elected positions open on the Personnel Committee, in addition to 3 appointed positions--these are 1 year terms. The following restrictions are in place for eligibility to run for election to the Personnel Committee: instructors may not serve on the Personnel Committee if they are members of the Executive Committee, and instructors may not serve on this committee in their year of reappointment.

Here are the "job descriptions" for each committee from our bylaws:

A. Executive Committee.

1. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

a. Advise the Director on the current financial report and proposed fiscal year budget prior to their presentation to the Dean;

b. Hear appeals of the faculty on evaluation and salary recommendations, and make a written assessment of the merits of the appeals to the Director, and to the Advisory Board and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences as appropriate;

c. Advise the Director on recommendations made by all committees; and

d. Advise the Director on administration and policies.

B. Personnel Committee

2. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

a. Recruit and make recommendations for hiring instructors to the Director;

b. Make reappointment, promotion and merit recommendations to the Director for Instructors and Lecturers, in accordance with the PWR's written criteria for evaluation, the University's provisions, and the Laws of the Regents;

c. Review all faculty annually, and report to the Director;

d. Ensure that the process for reappointment shall begin in the spring prior to the academic year in which reappointment occurs.

Happy National Poetry Month!