



# Richmond Writing Across the Curriculum Newsletter

Issue 9, Fall 2004

## Announcements:

Nominate Students for Eng. 383

Faculty, it is not too late to nominate students for the program. The English 383 training class will be offered next semester; contact Joe Essid before registration begins with the names of your students.

The most effective Writing Fellows and tutors are those who have shown strong writing, interpersonal, and organizational skills. We ask that all prospective 383 students send a short writing sample to Joe Essid.

Don't remain anonymous!

If you find yourself facing a question in your WAC class, or if the "paper chase" grows too large for Writing Fellows to manage, please let us know. Contact Cheryl Pallant, cpallant@richmond.edu

Changes to our Web pages

Late in the summer we moved many of our commonly used administrative pages to the iSpin site administered by UR. Our special projects and materials remain on our server, but you may find "broken links" and other errors at our site. Please report them to Joe Essid.

## WAC & PETE lunches

Faculty are invited to join us in Tyler Haynes Commons 331:

**W 10/8** "Writing Effective Commentary": one of our most popular topics returns as we consider how to balance directive and facilitative comments.

**W 11/5** "Designing Effective Assignments": We invite faculty to bring in their own assignments to share and discuss.

Writers' Panel Sept. 29:  
Tips From Some Pros

What does it take to survive as a writer in Richmond? A panel of writers will address this and other questions during "A Writer's Life in Richmond," in the Alice Haynes Room in the Commons on Monday, September 29 at 7 pm. The event is free for faculty, students, and visitors.

Novelist David L. Robbins, journalist Mark Holmberg, screenwriter Megan Holley, performance poet D.L. Hopkins, science writer David Lawrence, and children's writer Amy Timberlake will discuss the challenges of pursuing their craft.

WAC and the English Department joined forces to co-sponsor this panel of six diversely talented writers. The writers will speak briefly about their specialties before opening the session to questions from the audience. The evening is a rare opportunity to have access to a group of writers and learn about their daily routine and the steps they take in making their work public.

The panel launches the first event of the James River Writer's Festival, which will occur Oct 4-5 at the Library of Virginia. The festival features two full days of workshops with editors, agents, and writers coming in from around the country, and a keynote address by Tom Robbins. The festival, spawned by a group of local writers, wanted to meet fellow professionals and share stories of the trade. Their hope is to create an annual Spoleto style event for writers and make Richmond a nationally recognized literary center.

For further information, contact Cheryl Pallant at cpallant@richmond.edu

Welcome back to campus! We would like to welcome two new WAC faculty: Stephen Addiss, teaching Core 101, and Melanie Richards, teaching Beginning Tap. Many new Writing Fellows and tutors from Ms. Dolson's Eng. 383 class last spring joined us, and she is now training a group of Biology majors to assist Dr. Paula Lessem in the Genetics lab sections. We'd like to welcome these students and those in Dr. MacAllister's section of Eng. 383 to the WAC program.

We have a few special announcements this issue, but first we want to note that the 2002-2003 academic year was one of significant growth in the program. By May 1, the Writing Center and the WAC program assisted 8.2% more students, held 36.9% more conferences, and provided 24.9% more hours of writing conferences than in 2001-2002.

Our program was honored by the MacKenzie Group, an organization funded by the US Department of Education. The MacKenzie publication *From Web to Workplace* had high praise for *Writer's Web*. In addition to a glowing review, on the cover of this publication the authors put screen shots of our site in front of the site for the Library of Congress! We'd like to thank all of those students who have written materials for *Writer's Web*!

Joe Essid, Writing Center Director  
Cheryl Pallant, Writing Fellows Coordinator