

SAAAS

Speaking Across the Curriculum

Issue #28, September 2003

Robert O. Weiss, Editor

START-UPS

Ohio University

According to Sam Larson, Ohio University has developed a comprehensive New General Education Plan in which oral expression is one of the fundamental skills, which all Ohio U. graduates must have had the opportunity to develop. Larson chairs an Oral Expression Advisory Committee, which will begin to meet this fall to implement the requirement.

In an innovative move (applicable to all the foundational skills – writing, oral expression, and mathematical thinking) speaking intensive courses are divided into two categories: "dedicated" courses, in which the subject matter is the skill itself and "enriched" courses, which use skills in the service of learning subject matter. Dedicated courses earn two "learning units" and enriched courses carry one. To graduate, students must accumulate three learning units in oral expression.

The Advisory Committee will review courses to determine their classification according to established criteria under the supervision of the University Curriculum Council.

Knox College

Knox College is in the process of implementing an SAC requirement that focuses on oral presentations. Tamara Burk (Columbia College) has led two excellent faculty workshops, attended by close to half the faculty. Guidelines have been drafted and course proposals are in the works, as well as plans for ongoing faculty development. Oversight for implementation has been undertaken by Penny Gold, Coordinator of Faculty Development. (pgold@knox.edu)

You are invited to send news for the next (May 2004) issue to the editor

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University of Pittsburgh

The University of Pittsburgh has adopted a discipline-specific Speaking Across the Curriculum model in which each department determines what types of speaking competences it would like its majors to develop. "Every major will incorporate speaking skills in some way," according to Communication Professor Peter Simonson, member of an ad hoc committee established to integrate skills across the curriculum.

Graduate students are working with Simonson in a practicum on Theory and Practice of Speaking Across the Curriculum to develop web-based resources to help faculty members incorporate oral communication into their courses.

Graduate students are also available to consult with faculty members. The Provost's Summer Instructional Development Conference in May was devoted to Speaking and Writing Across the Curriculum.

Trudy Bayer directs the new Speaking Laboratory that provides support and individual tutoring on any kind of speaking project at any stage of its development. She has further begun the process of interdepartmental networking to make the community aware of the Lab and its usefulness.

Communication Education

Communication Education invites manuscripts for a special issue entitled, "Communication Genres in Disciplinary Discourse Communities: Theoretical and Pedagogical Explorations of Communication Across the Curriculum and in the Disciplines."

According to Guest Editor Deanna Dannels, "This issue will explore the broad disciplinary and discursive contexts involved in the teaching and learning of communication genres – especially forms of talk – in the disciplines, and will inquire into their programmatic and pedagogical implications." Inquiries may be sent to <deanna_dannels@ncsu.edu >

Address manuscript submissions to:

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Submission deadline is January 2, 2004.

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KIM CUNY REQUEST

Kim Cuny, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, requests aid in compiling a list of speaking centers that utilize graduate students, for the information of undergraduates looking for graduate programs providing them with such an opportunity. Reply to her at kmcuny@uncg.edu.

NACC NEWS

The National Association of Communication Centers has been designated as a "Section" in the National Communication Assn. Chairperson Linda Hobgood reminds members that the Association will convene a business meeting at the NCA convention at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, November 22, for the purpose of ratifying its constitution.

Note also that the NACC's fourth annual conference, Excellence at the Center, will be held April 16 and 17, 2004, at Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, VA. Papers and panel proposals, including "ideas for non-traditional sessions," are due October 1 (but one suspects there may be some wiggle room there). If you have questions, contact Esther Yook (eyook@mwcc.edu).

PERSONAL

Sara Coelho (leaving for law school) informs us that her replacement as Associate Director of the Communication Within the Curriculum program at the University of Pennsylvania is Dr. Bruce Lenthall.

At DePauw University, Susan Wilson, Director of the Speaking and Listening Center, has also been appointed as Associate Coordinator of Faculty Development.

2003 NCA Convention, November 20-23

The program for the Miami convention of the National Communication Association may be accessed at <natcom.org>. We call to your attention several sessions that appear to have direct relevance to speaking across the curriculum.

Preconvention Seminar (Nov. 19). *Reaching In: Learning to Communicate; Reaching Out: Communicating to Learn. Issues Surrounding Communication Across the Curriculum.* Leaders: Mark V. Edmond, Deanna Dannels, Denise Ann Vrchocha, Ann L. Darling.

Short Course 29. *Communication Across the Curriculum: Building, Sustaining, and Assessing a Quality Program.* Leaders: Deanna P. Dannels, Stephanie D. Tomlinson, Ann L. Darling. (Short Courses require preregistration and an additional fee.)

Speaking Up. Theories Which Support Communication Across the Curriculum Practice. Pamela Miller, Deanna Dannels, Amanda Gunn, Ann L. Darling (chair).

Speaking Across the Curriculum. Shelley B. Larson, Jackie A. Granschow, Alan C. Ragains, Doric A. Little, Catlin Wills Toker.

New Directions in Oral Communication Across the Curriculum. Tamara L. Burk, Theodore F. Sheckels, Deanna P. Dannels, Amanda Gunn, Robert O. Weiss (chair).

Speaking Across the Curriculum and Beyond the Discipline: Case Studies of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Peter Simonson (chair), Mark J. Porrovecchio, Trudy Bayer, Charity Dawn Kriley, Eli J. Brennan, Kelly J. Congdon