

# SAC

## Speaking Across the Curriculum

Issue #29, May 2004

Robert O. Weiss, Editor

### Editor's Note

Items in this edition of the SAC newsletter represent a remarkable array of organizations, conferences, web sites, and publications. Pay attention. Note especially the "Special Issue." Sign up for the NCA Comm Centers Section, too.

We also expect that from now on the most recent newsletter, with updates, will be available on the web.

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

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## Communicationacrossthecurriculum.org

We are pleased to get word from Webmaster Anthony Fleury that the new CXC web site is up and running. In fact, you'll find that it is already loaded with substantial lines of practical information.

Your first stop will be a section labeled "Links," divided into four categories. (1) "Resources," the highlight of which are the complete proceedings of the CXC strand at the NCA Summer Conference of 2001. (2) "Programs," so far including North Carolina State University, University of Pittsburgh, and Washington & Jefferson College. (3) "Journals," the home page of Communication Education. (4) "Associations," leading off with material provided by the National Association of Communication Centers.

Another basic category at this site is "Newsletter Archives," providing the long-awaited complete collection of Speaking Across the Curriculum since its beginning.

Awaiting further development and your participation is a "Forum" Section, which requires a personal login. Anthony says, "This is the place to discuss communication across the curriculum pedagogy."

We can thank Anthony for his solid contribution and start accessing this web site at the following address: <<http://www.communicationacrossthecurriculum.org>>

### CXC IN COMM ED

Deanna Dannels, North Carolina State University, is guest editor for a special issue of *Communication Education* (October 2004) addressing the topic, "Oral Genres in Disciplinary Discourse Communities: Theoretical and Pedagogical Explorations of Communication Across the Curriculum and in the Disciplines."

Deanna promises us that "it shapes up to be a wonderfully diverse issue."

### NCA VISION

The National Communication Association's "Vision for Communication in the New Millennium" declares (SPECTRA, March 2004) that the NCA will continue to advance scholarship and effective practices for communication across the curriculum.

### ANOTHER LIVELY CONFERENCE

April 16 and 17 Mary Washington College welcomed the 4<sup>th</sup> conference of communication centers. Coordinators Esther Yook and Anand Rao were roundly praised for their gracious hospitality.

Two days of panels, seminars, and workshops included an opening address by Sherry Morreale and keynote speech by John Morello.

Among the more popular panels and discussions were those addressing topics of assessment, start-up strategies and means of reaching out.

Another distinguishing feature of the conferences has been the increasing degree of student staff participation. From panels on ethics to appropriate uses of Power Point students reported and facilitated Friday and Saturday workshops.



# Notes

**Nca-cxc Discontinued.** The listserver at nca-cxc has been discontinued by Yahoo Groups for lack of traffic, but look for new opportunities to share opinions and information in the "Forum" section of the web site established above.

**Graduate Assistants.** As mentioned in our previous issue, Kim Cuny at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro seeks information about speaking centers that use graduate students as consultants. She reports ([kmcuny@uncg.edu](mailto:kmcuny@uncg.edu)) responses so far from Clemson University, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, San Jose State University, Pepperdine University, and, of course, her own institution.

**Mott Community College.** From the Charles Stewart Mott Community College (Flint, MI), the Dean of Curriculum Jim Drummond, reports, "We do have a SAC requirement for all associate degrees we offer." These designated courses are an element of the general education requirements.

**Historical Item.** We retrieved a contract appointing Ann L. Weiss as "Coordinator of Oral Communication Competence Center" at DePauw University August 13, 1983.

## COMMUNICATION CENTERS UPDATE

Submitted by Linda Hobgood

Following a most successful fourth annual conference of the National Association of Communication Centers, the Communication Centers Section is preparing for the NCA Convention in Chicago. Four panel opportunities and time for a section business meeting are allotted to our Section. Summer plans include a mailing to promote increasing our section membership and determining whether to schedule a pre-conference gathering at the 2005 NCA Convention.

Sherry Morreale has graciously offered room space to the section so that we might celebrate fifteen years (at least!) since the early speech centers and labs were established. News of the get-together will be posted once the details have been confirmed. In the meantime, please look for "Communication Centers" when renewing your NCA membership for the coming year. A section must have a 200-member enrollment minimum to retain section status.

To Esther Yook and Anand Rao we offer a rousing thank-you for hosting an outstanding "Excellence at the Center" conference at historic Mary Washington College. The officers of the Communication Centers Section would like to take this opportunity to extend sincere appreciation as well to Anthony Fleury for his inaugural role as the website presence for the NACC and our NCA section.

## Assessment at DePauw University

Assessment is a prospect that many academics fear. Since DePauw University has just completed its S Program Assessment we found it useful to review the process employed there. The DePauw Speaking and Listening Center is one component of the S Program, so the assessment was directed toward the Center as well as other aspects of the program.

We started with an internal assessment team, in this case the S Program Steering Committee, who worked on the assessment documents. Substantial administrative support and facilitation were provided for the whole assessment process by Kenneth Kirkpatrick, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

The work of the committee involved:

1. Collecting and assembling Program and Center history
2. Surveying internal usage of the Program and Center
3. Finding comparative data from other institutions and research
4. Reviewing and analyzing the Program and Center goals.
5. Imagining what the future of the Program and Center should look like.
6. Writing a report summarizing 1-5 for the External Assessment Team

The DePauw assessment procedure was climaxed with a two-day campus visit by three superbly knowledgeable and professional members of the External Assessment Team: Tamara Burk, Columbia College; Charles Roberts, East Tennessee State University; and Theodore F. Sheckels, Randolph-Macon College. They worked with the Internal Assessment Team and met with a cross-section of Program and Center users in producing their final assessment report.

"And we not only survived, but feel revitalized through the process," concluded Susan R. Wilson, Director of the S Program and Center at DePauw.