

tyca southwest

NEWSLETTER OF THE TWO-YEAR COLLEGE ENGLISH ASSOCIATION - SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

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Make plans now to attend the TYCA-SW Conference in Galveston, Texas, on October 26th -28th



“AHOY MATES! ONCE AGAIN TO GALVESTON WE GO!”

BY JOAN MATHIS



“Message in a Bottle—or Berry or Palm or Pod: Composition in the New Millennium” reminds us of how

accessible information is for our students, through the internet, cell phones, and satellite television; however, much of this information appeals only to their emotions rather than their intellect. Therefore, the goals of the English instructor remain unchanged in the 21st century: to teach students to read and think critically about an issue, an idea, or a literary work and respond with a convincing essay supported with logical details and examples.

Therefore, we consistently encourage the desire for intellect, along with the needs of our evolving world. Will we depend upon a message in a bottle to educate our students about Milton and Shakespeare? Perhaps we are more concerned with how to prevent our students finding sources for their research essays through offerings on the web. Or perhaps, we seek to guide

our students in using technology for higher purposes. Whether we are seeking traditional or non-traditional methods, we are sure to find a great message at Galveston Beach among friends and colleagues.

Whatever our expectations for this TYCA-SW Conference may be, we will not be disappointed. The program planners have worked diligently to complete conference plans, negotiating for hotel accommodations and seeking conference materials that will unlock the ongoing mystery of the most effective



classroom strategies for our current students, born in the homes where the internet is an essential household feature and a book is a rarity. TYCA-SW always offers practical new methods and strategies for dealing with traditional issues and tackling the virtual teaching issues we face today.

Continued bottom of pg. 2

*You are Invited to the 2006 TYCA-SW Conference
October 26 - 28, 2006
Galveston, Texas*



*The Hawthorn Suites at the
Victorian Condo-Hotel and Conference Center
Conference hotel rate is \$94 if booked by 10/23/2006
<http://www.galveston.com/victorian/>
409-740-3555*

We have a travel agency and travel agent who will gladly make reservations for our members. The agency is Dickinson Travel at (281) 337-5693 and our agent is Steve Remollino at (281) 457-1709.

Conference Registration is \$95, but for Saturday only, it is \$45. Registration fee includes meals but does not include TYCA membership. All presenters and attendees must be TYCA-SW members & register for the conference. The TYCA Membership Registration form and the Conference Registration form are on page 6. For more information about the conference, contact:

**Michael Berberich,
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409-944-1323
email: mberberich@gc.edu**

GALVESTON CONFERENCE, CONT. FROM PAGE 1

Each year I leave the TYCA Conference with a note pad full of new ideas. The presenters approach their topics with enthusiasm and a willingness to share their academic successes with their colleagues throughout the Southwest Region.

I am experiencing an adrenaline rush just

thinking about the sessions, the conference speakers, the fellowship, and the food. Most of all, attending this conference will result in our students experiencing faculty who have enthusiasm and renewed determination to meet the challenge of teaching composition in the new Millennium.

KEYNOTES FOR FALL CONFERENCE

BY MICHAEL BERBERICH

An outstanding set of keynote speakers will complement presentations by more than 25 members at this year's TYCA-Southwest Conference in Galveston. Writing Across the Curriculum researcher Tom Jehn, one of the new contributing authors to the late Dianna Hacker's three books, will keynote Friday's lunch followed by a participatory afternoon workshop. Saturday's brunch will feature D.J. Henry, the author of five developmental studies textbooks.

In Harvard's Tom Jehn we thought we were getting someone who might share with us the role of composition in Writing Across the Curriculum in an age when students come to us with more varied kinds of writing experiences than ever before. We are getting that, of course. But Jehn says he's coming as much for what he might take from us. For Jehn, the highlight of keynoting last year's TYCA-Midwest Conference was not the praise of fellow teachers. It was the "cross pollination of teaching strategies among so many committed faculty members, and honest talk." How can you not like a guy who says he's coming to Galveston for "the chance to grow with fellow teaching professionals"?

Jehn walks the walk, too. Aside from his position as the Assistant Director of the Harvard Writing Project, Jehn has taught in continuing

education, worked in the writing center, and has been working with middle and high school teachers in Boston's urban schools. This year he is working on setting up volunteer-run writing centers in two high schools. So come grow with Tom Jehn and your colleagues from across the Southwest.

We are equally fortunate to have Saturday's keynote speaker, D. J. Henry of Daytona Beach Community College. Her breadth is all encompassing, with work in curriculum revision, college level academic skills testing, state exit exam creation, teacher certification testing, and as a Southern Association of Colleges Co-QEP Lead Evaluator. Her books include *A Framework of Portfolios for Freshmen Composition and Beyond*; *Thinking Through the Test*, and *The Master Reader*. Coming from one beach to another, Professor Henry is sure to feel right at home in Galveston.



D.J. Henry will be one of the Conference Keynotes this October

Tom Jehn and D.J. Henry at TYCA-Southwest in Galveston? It's an easy call. Sign me up!

WHAT TO DO IN GALVESTON

Beyond the fabulous keynote talks, the 30 scheduled presentations, and the beach, there are enticements for after hours.

The Strand Historical District, named after the famous wharves area of London, is Galveston's old market district located along the wharves on the bay side of the island. There you'll find 22 square blocks of cafes, bars, restaurants, art galleries, music halls, cafes, bars, restaurants, bookstores, outlet stores, cafes, bars . . . (you get the picture).

Moody Gardens is the point of departure for the Colonel Paddlewheeler. The two-hour day cruise around Galveston Bay (\$8) is worth making the effort to get into town on Thursday afternoon. There are also evening cruises with the boat

lighted brightly enough to give Mark Twain something to write about.

Galveston is famous for its Victorian architecture. The more refined among us will be glad to know planning is underway for an architectural tour.

Plans for activities can be read about on the next page.



TYCA-SW CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

*This program may be changed by the time of the conference.
Please refer to the updated program you will receive at the conference.*

Thursday, October 26, 2006

1:30—3:00 p.m.

Treasure Isle Tour Train

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Registration: Hotel Lobby

7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

TYCA Reception and poetry evening.

Meet the Executive Council Candidates



Friday, October 27, 2006

7:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Registration: Hotel Lobby

8:00 – 9:15 a.m.

Continental Breakfast / Business Meeting: The Galley

Featured Speaker: National TYCA

8:00 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Publishers' Exhibits: Second Floor Halls

9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Breakout Session I

10:45 a.m.

Coffee Break

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Breakout Session II

12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Luncheon: Grand Ballroom

Featured Speaker: Tom Jehn, Harvard University

2:15 – 4:30 p.m.

Workshop Conducted by Tom Jehn, Harvard University

“Responding to Student Writing”

Sponsored by Bedford/St. Martin’s

7:30—9:00 p.m.

Ghost Tours of Galveston

9:00—??

Old Town Pub Crawl

Saturday, October 28, 2006

8:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Registration: Hotel Lobby

8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Publishers' Exhibits: Second Floor Halls

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Breakout Session III

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Brunch / Business Meeting: Grand Ballroom

Featured Speaker: D. J. Henry, Daytona Beach Community College

12:30 – 1:45 p.m.

Breakout Session IV

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Regional Executive Council Meeting: The Crow’s Nest

12:30—1:45 p.m.

Second Chance Presentations: See handout for schedule and room assignments

2:00—8:00 p.m.

Moody Gardens Trips

\$25.00 day pass**

Includes the aquarium, rainforest pyramid, IMAX,

Colonel Paddlewheeler, Discovery Pyramid, and 1 ride film (simulator)



TYCA-SW news can be found at
<http://www.gc.edu/TYCA1.asp?SnID=1080370751>

NCTE news can be found at <http://www.ncte.org>

DIRECTIONS TO THE TYCA-SW CONFERENCE



Though the tides may rise and fall with the moon and the sands may shift, fear not. Galveston is still pretty much in the same place as it was last year. Here are a few suggestions that will make your travel to Galveston easier:

- Houston is the nearest major city. Houston's Hobby Airport to the south of town is just under an hour away from Galveston. Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport to the north of town is a 90 minute drive from Galveston.
- Auto rental agencies are available at both airports and might be the best way to get to Galveston, especially if you team up with someone and share the cost.
- Galveston Limousine Service serves both airports on a regular schedule. Rates are \$30/50 for one way/round trip service from Hobby and \$35/60 from Bush. They will take you to or pick you up from the hotel. Reservations can be made by calling (409) 744-5466 online at www.galvestonlimo.com.
- If you are driving and coming via Houston, simply take I-45 South to Galveston and exit on 61st St. Turn right on 61st St. The Seawall and the Gulf of Mexico are about a mile and a half ahead of you. You will dead end at the Seawall, where you just take a right turn and two blocks ahead the Victorian will be on your right.

- If you are driving from Louisiana way or dropping down from parts east and want to skip going through Houston, here's a short cut. From I-10 heading west towards Houston, take Highway 124 south. Signs should read "Winnie-Galveston." In fact, Winnie will be right off I-10. Stay on 124 about 17 miles until it dead ends at the Gulf of Mexico, where you will curl right (west) and merge onto Highway 87/Galveston. From there it's almost 30 miles to the free ferry service to Galveston Island. (Drive the limit as speed traps are common.) There will be signs for the Galveston Ferry. Upon exiting the ferry, continue straight a mile and a half until you dead end at the Seawall and the Gulf of Mexico. Turn right and stay in the left lane to make a left at the second light, which will still be Seawall Blvd. You're on 8th St. Head on up to 63rd and Seawall; the Victorian will be on your right.

- If you're driving along the coast coming through Brazosport from the west, there is a \$1 toll bridge causeway on Highway 87 as you come onto the island. You'll pass through some pretty ritzy beach subdivisions, but after about 20 miles you'll start hitting the numbered streets of Galveston (101st, 81st) to the Victorian, which will be on your left at 63rd and Seawall, just past the Walmart.



- If you're coming by surfboard, you already know more than enough to get there. Be careful, catch a good wave and keep your head above water. And bring Brian Wilson if you can. Tell him we'll let him in free.

THE TYCA-SW 2006 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Print out and mail registration form to address listed below

NAME _____

COLLEGE _____

COLLEGE ADDRESS _____

COLLEGE PHONE _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Make checks payable to TYCA-SW

- \$95 Registration Fee
- \$45 Saturday Only Registration Fee

***NOTE:** Registration fee includes meals but does not include TYCA membership. All presenters and attendees must be TYCA-SW members & register for the conference. TYCA Membership Registration form is below.*

Please check below if you are

- Running for a TYCA-SW office
- Interested in presiding at a session

Please check the appropriate items above and send registration to:

Michael Gos at Lee College, P O Box 818, Baytown, TX 77522; Contact Info.: 281-425-6809; mgos@lee.edu



Membership

The traditional TYCA-SW membership, still and always a real bargain at \$20 for the academic year, entitles members to receive a copy of this newsletter and present at the annual conference. For an annual institutional membership fee of \$200, all of the English faculty at your campus would have the membership privileges described above. Finally, the Lifetime membership, for \$200, might be a way that you could contribute to TYCA-SW coffers in appreciation for its importance in your professional life, or it might be a way to recognize and reward excellence in teaching in your English department. Send your check with this form to Irma Luna, San Antonio College, 1300 San Pedro, San Antonio, TX 78212, iluna@accs.edu.

NAME _____

COLLEGE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

TYCA-SW MEMBER SUSAN FAULKNER PASSES AWAY



Susan Faulkner

AN ABSENT FRIEND

by Michael Berberich

It's an odd mix of feelings that hits as I think about the loss of our friend Susan Faulkner, TYCA-Southwest's Membership Recruitment Chair. There's the weight of sadness, of course. And then from the bottom of wherever that weight resides there comes a distant laughter. It grows. So even in the face of such loss I think, "How can I not laugh?" given that for me, at least, it was simply not possible to be with Susan for more than a minute, time enough to get the hugs out of the way, and then experience the joy of laughing at this quirk or that irony.

Or at the blatant outrageousness of something going on in our world. Then out came the grandbaby pictures ("You have to see this!") followed by tales of grandmotherhood, more joy and laughter. Then came the "What WERE they thinking?" tales of this decision or that bit of nonsense of the kind we've all seen and been left incredulous at. Then her eyes would open wide and we'd move on to the next bit of mirth.

We did that even after she informed me about the cancer. I called, we talked about the treatments, which were going quite well at the time, and before long we were mocking the cancer. So our Susan Faulkner is gone. But the laughter and joy she brought to us isn't. It is, I now realize, the perfect reason why we had her as Membership Recruitment Chair. Well, that and the fact that she knew how to create spreadsheets in Excel. Susan worked so hard to learn Excel the year the Dallas Community College District hosted the TYCA-Southwest Conference. I know she's having a nice chuckle at that last quip. (My little tip of the hat to you, Susan.) We were lucky to have her; she is already deeply missed.

NOMINATE A COLLEAGUE!

THE DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS OCTOBER 15TH

Send your nominations for either of the awards below to:

Lillian Wooley - TYCA Awards Committee Chair

Email: lwooley@lsua.edu

Campus Mail Address: Louisiana State Univ.-Alexandria, 8100 Highway 71 South, Alexandria, LA

SUSAN FAULKNER TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

The TYCA-SW Teaching Excellence Award has been renamed in Susan Faulkner's honor. In order to actively demonstrate our support for the outstanding English faculty who teach at community colleges, the organization awards what is now called the Susan Faulkner Teaching Excellence Award at the yearly fall TYCA-SW conference. We urge you to nominate a friend or colleague who merits special recognition for his or her hard work and inspired teaching. Send your nominee's name and a brief description of his or her outstanding work. In addition, you may include brief comments from this individual's students and peers.

ROBERT W. WYLIE SERVICE AWARD

Each year TYCA-SW honors one person for outstanding contributions made to the profession through long-term service. The Wylie Award is our highest distinction. To nominate a colleague for this award send the nominee's name and a description of his or her contributions to the profession. You may include comments from others in your nomination as well.

BERTHA WISE WINS BOTH AWARDS AT THE 2005 TYCA-SW CONFERENCE

Bertha Wise ended up winning both the TYCA-SW Teaching Excellence Award and the Robert W. Wylie service award at last year's conference in Galveston. Bertha has served on the TYCA-SW Advisory committee for many years as a representative for Oklahoma. She currently works as a faculty member of Oklahoma City Community College.



Poetry

Galveston: the Palm Trees

by John Gorman

On a rainy day
they emerge from grayness
like Personages.

You swing off Broadway, south on 61st,
they appear, centered, each head a flare of spiky rays
as if with galactically important messages.

On the Seawall itself
they look doomed (since they're doomed)
but elsewhere three or five of them
can gather behind a hedge of ligustrum
or jasmine like families out in their yards.

Palm oak, oleander palm oak, oleander
a chain of elegance up and down
the esplanades or a lone palm
a scruffy one we thank them.

Even when our lives are junky—
deadlines, failing cars, no money for new ones
they remind us that, to other eyes,
we're the Local Talent of Paradise on Earth.

Let them never see into us,
those pilgrims who've yearned to find tropic islands,
the folks in the cars
with the color-mottled Kansas plates.

John Gorman serves as one of the original faculty
members of The University of Houston at Clear Lake.
Reprinted with permission from *Spiky Palm*, September
2004. Originally titled "The Palm Trees"



[Sometimes I cannot]

by Lyman Grant

Sometimes I cannot
look at photographs
of children drowned
in city parks
while parents worked

their second jobs.
I cannot stare
at t.v. news
of white-laced girls

raped by moms'
stoned boyfriends,
of a boy's broken
ribs and arms, healed

and hidden until
autopsy glare.
Forgive me. I've
wrapped myself,

frightened thing,
in this cold print,
to cry tonight
at Your closed door.

Lyman Grant is the Dean of the Arts
and Humanities Division at Austin
Community College.

ONLINE TEACHING INSIGHTS FOR FACULTY

BY KAYE SHELTON AND GEORGE SALTSMAN

Teaching online is a little like gardening. Like plants, students need a healthy and fertile environment if they are going to mature and thrive in their online courses. It takes planning, preparation, hard work, and enough knowledge to know what to do (and what not to do) for your labor to yield an abundant harvest.

VanSickle (2003) recognized that a new online instructor should understand how the Internet has changed student expectations. These student expectations, described by Lansdell (2001), include increased levels of feedback, increased attention, and additional resources to help them learn (VanSickle, 2003).

In response to meeting these expectations, alternative methods of instruction and class facilitation have evolved to support student cohesiveness and encourage learning. To successfully challenge the online student, increased communication is required between instructor and student. (White, 2000).

This article from the International Journal of Instructional Technology and Distance Learning discusses four steps for a successful online course.



- **Preparing the Soil—Develop and Structure the Learning Environment**
- **Sow the Seed – Opening the course**
- **Nurture the Growth – Nurturing the Learning Community**
- **Harvest—Plan For the Next Semester**

For details on this paper go to http://www.itdl.org/Journal/Oct_04/article04.htm

A FREE ASSESSMENT SUMMARY TOOL

Traditionally, teaching assessments are conducted at the end of a course - a practice precluding students from offering constructive feedback while they are still in the



course. However, conducting instructor-designed and administered web-based course assessments opens a proactive dialogue with students about teaching, the course, and the entire learning process.

The FAST project is committed to providing users with a simple online tool for assessing their students' impressions of their courses and their teaching. Using the software does not cost anything. Check it out at <http://www.getfast.ca/>

TYCA SOUTHWEST 2006 LEADERSHIP ROSTER

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ROSTER

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