

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- “Everywhere is a Classroom?”
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- Go to tycasw.org to nominate a colleague for an award today!

Welcome to “Everywhere is a Classroom”

Welcome to “Everywhere is a Classroom” by Toni McMillen

This year TYCA-SW members will gather in Frisco, TX to participate in over sixty-five professional presentations related to the theme of “Everywhere is a Classroom.” We are excited to feature Richard Bullock, author and editor of the *The Norton Field Guide to Writing*, who will discuss “Learning—and Assessing—Everywhere.” In addition, Amy Baldwin, author of *The Community College Experience*, will challenge us to teach students to develop “True Grit.”

Please join us on this incredible journey of developing our skills anywhere and everywhere from the face-to-face classroom to the hybrid classroom and the virtual classroom. We are the pioneers of our evolving field.

Local residents of Frisco remember a small town that developed on the black land prairies of North Texas. The most happening place in town was the high school baseball field. As the town has grown exponentially since the 1980’s, the area has filled with new buildings, shopping districts, and industry. The town of Frisco was once part of the Shawnee Cattle Trail. The town’s namesake, the St. Louis/San Francisco Railroad, was constructed by the Pacific Railroad Company.

The shortened name Frisco came directly from this part of the town’s roots.



During planning, our conference committee discussed how the story of the town itself is a metaphor for the growing pains that we face as instructors. Sometimes we are using a single blade plow when we really need a tractor. Other times we have all the equipment necessary, but we need more time to hone our skills. Sometimes we might wish for a back-to-basics movement. However, the reality is that we must continue to move forward as pioneers of our new world.

Our goal was to create a conference that speaks to how we can grow personally and how we adapt to our environments while maintaining integrity in teaching our discipline. As instructors, we

find ourselves challenged as we move from the traditional classroom to the virtual classroom. Like the early settlers who came to this part of the world, we do what we can with what we have. In today’s society, meeting the expectations for maintaining quality in a world of changing technology can be a daunting task. Are we pioneers, farmers, or cowboys? Are we the fore-runners in our field? Are we teachers and leaders? Perhaps the time has come for us to view ourselves as all the above. And like the city of Frisco, our students will grow under the guidance of our leadership.

For more information on the history of Frisco, please go to:
<http://www.ci.frisco.tx.us/aboutus/Pages/FriscoHistory.aspx>



Meet the Speakers for the Annual TYCA-SW Conference.

Have you ever heard the saying "It's in the Syllabus?" This saying was featured by Amy Baldwin in Arkansas and was renewed when a picture of David Lydic wearing the t-shirt went viral on Facebook in 2013.

Dr. Richard Bullock

Richard Bullock received his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. He is currently a professor of English at Wright State University where he directs the writing programs and serves as assistant chair of the English department.

His scholarship and teaching focus on the teaching of writing in college and secondary school. He is the author of *The Norton Field Guide to Writing*, *The Guide to Teaching with The Norton Field*

Guides to Writing, and *The Little Seagull Handbook*. With coeditors John Trimbur and Charles I. Schuster,

Dr. Bullock won the 1993 Conference on College Composition and Communication Composition Book Award for *The Politics of Writing Instruction: Postsecondary*.

Special Friday Afternoon Session:

"Using the Norton Field Guide"



Keynote Speaker, Oct. 24th TYCA-SW

Dr. Richard Bullock Presents: "Learning—and Assessing Everywhere"

Dr. Amy Baldwin

Amy Baldwin, M.A. is the Director of University College at the University of Central Arkansas and author of The College Experience franchise, which includes, *The Community College Experience* and *The First-Generation College Experience*, for Pearson Education. For eighteen years, she taught developmental writing, student success, composition, and literature at Pulaski Technical College and was most recently the Chair of College Studies. She is currently completing an Ed.D. in higher education administration at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The focus of her research is on African-American male student success at the community college. From 2011-2103, she directed the Complete College America grant for nine institutions in Arkansas.

Her other community college connections include serving as co-director of her college's Achieving the Dream initiative and the recent appointment as a technical assistance provider (TAP) to the new Developmental Education Initiative (DEI), funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Amy has presented over 100 conference presentations, pre-conference and in-service workshops, and keynotes on student success topics including student engagement, social media, college culture and transition, critical thinking, and academic success. Her trademarked t-shirt "It's in the Syllabus!" received mention in an Inside Higher Ed article in October 2013 thanks to a fellow TYCA-SW member.



Keynote Speaker, Oct. 25th TYCA-SW

Dr. Amy Baldwin, Presents: "True Grit" a presentation on teaching student resilience and tenacity.

Hiring for the Long Haul: Two Tacks for One Landing by Michael Berberich, Galveston College

Some years ago a friend of mine retired from teaching English. Back in her hometown she found herself filling in full-time for an instructor that had taken ill. At her old school, she had often taken pleasure in the fact that colleagues often went out to lunch and inevitably talk turned to teaching. Faculty returned from conferences and talked about that. It was all very organic, and the conversation was stimulating. She reported that at her new school the “teacher talk” early in the week was about what had happened with the grandkids over the weekend. Midweek “teacher talk” addressed a litany of complaints. End-of-the-week chit-chat looked forward to the coming weekend with the grandkids. Her new colleagues hadn’t attended a conference in years (no wonder they were strangers to my friend!), and they didn’t seem to care much that my friend had requested travel funds to attend the TYCA-SW Conference.

More recently I have attended several presentations of research about the next generation of faculty, those sometimes referred to as Gen X-ers and New Millennials. They are not “joiners,” we are told. They communicate so well via social media that they see no real need to attend conferences in person. And so, by and large, once they get the coveted full-time position, many of them don’t attend conferences. Should we be concerned?

The implications for the profession are highly worrisome. No faculty member should ignore one of the primary means of professional development: attendance (or better yet, presenting) at professional conferences. Developing teaching skills and research knowledge beyond grad school has to be a personal commitment throughout one’s career. Anything less amounts to dereliction of duty.

I maintain that it is in the interviewing of candidates that faculty must address and solve the problem of lackadaisicalness

and disinterest in professional development. It is there that the search committee needs to ferret out those who talk a good game from those who will walk the walk. To that end, here are two suggestions.

Look beyond the razzle dazzle of philosophy statements for evidence of an awareness of the application of theory to classroom practice. In our most recent English position searches we have asked candidates in the first phone interview to name any composition theorist or theory that has influenced their classroom practice. We do not have any pedagogical agenda in terms of landing a new faculty member from the latest guru or the “in” school of composition; we want someone who knows what his or her influences are and has some intellectual tools to bring to the table. All of the candidates are going to tell you how much they care. I don’t want to hire people who care and stop there. I want to hire people who care enough to grow and keep growing because they are impelled by their caring. On our job searches we have always been astonished at the number of phone interviewees who cannot name a single composition theorist or school or composition, much less speak to their own application of ideas into practice.

Look for candidates who demonstrate an awareness of the means of professional development. Candidates, especially those bright and eager candidates with newly coined degrees, need not have attended conferences nor published in any of the journals of the field. It’s alright to have been a poor, starving grad student unable to afford conference registration and travel. But what does it say when you ask each candidate to name any of the organizations that exist to promote growth and professional development and the candidates cannot name NCTE, CCCC, CEA, and most especially TYCA-National, or any of the TYCA regionals? What does it say when you ask candidates to name any jour-

nal related to teaching in a community college and candidates cannot name Teaching English in the Community College, Research in the Teaching of English, College Composition and Communication, or the Journal of Basic Writing?

Recent grads who cannot handle any of these questions (even with gently helpful prompts from the committee to an obviously nervous candidate) are poorly prepared—and I assign blame to their grad programs for poorly preparing them. Seasoned teachers who cannot answer any of these questions have basically not kept up with their profession, much less attended a conference or read a journal lately.

“I want to hire people who care enough to grow and keep growing because they are impelled by their caring.”



From candidates who say they care about teaching, such answers are unacceptable, at least on any search committee I am part of. Such lame responses are the kinds of answers that portend a future of falling into the rut of teaching the same thing over and over for the next 20 years. These are the kinds of answers that portend non-attendance at conferences because there is always the next Little League game not to miss, the next baby shower to attend, the next this, the next that, but somehow year after year there is never quite enough time to learn how to teach better.

I have been part of search committees that have had over 100 applicants. And I can tell you this: there are great candidates in those piles. Take the time to find them, and you will hire the kinds of colleagues that will make you want to show up for work every day and learn from.

Gina Perkins gives advice on what to do in Frisco, saying "...for the adrenaline junkie, iFly Indoor Skydiving will leave you with a great "guess what I did this weekend!" story."

Flying In Frisco, TX by Gina Perkins

If you're looking to do a little more than spend your after-hours curled up in your hotel room with a good book, Frisco has plenty to offer!!

Shoppers will enjoy Stonebriar Centre, IKEA, and the numerous other shops, boutiques, and cafes that Frisco are located in the area.

Both the Frisco Heritage Museum and the Museum of the American Railroad offer the perfect opportunity for the history buff to focus on elements of the city's past.

The Texas Sculpture Garden and Central Park invite visitors to grab the camera and take a stroll.

For the sports-minded, Frisco is the center of the action.

The Dr. Pepper Arena houses the offices and practice facilities for the Dallas Stars; practices are open to spectators and the arena offers public skate sessions daily. The Dr. Pepper Ballpark is home to the Frisco Roughriders, the AA affiliate of the Texas Rangers. Toyota Stadium houses FC Dallas, and the final game of the season is scheduled for Oct. 25.

The Dallas Cowboys broke ground on their new headquarters in Frisco earlier this summer; they will be joining the Frisco contingent in 2016.



Photograph: Gina Perkins

And finally, for the adrenaline junkie, iFly Indoor Skydiving will leave you with a great "guess what I did this weekend!" story for when you go back to work on Monday.

Welcome to Frisco!! We hope you enjoy all this city has to offer!!

Register Now for

"Everyone is a Classroom"

TYCA-SW, Oct. 23-25. Contact

Embassy Suites

to reserve your room NOW!

**GOT TO
TYCASW.ORG TO
REGISTER FOR THE
BEST
CONFERENCE IN
FRISCO, TX.**

TYCA Remembers Dale Adams, by Jill Gos

TYCA-SW Remembers by Jill Coe Gos Lee College (formerly Southwest Texas Junior College)

When I registered online for the 2014 TYCA-SW conference in Frisco, I hesitated a bit on the field that asked the number of conferences I had attended. After a few seconds, my answer was, "Too many to count!" And it's true. My first encounter with this organization was in Bossier City in 1992 when it was still called SRCE. Other conferences well worth remembering are far too many to list in this short space. But what I really want to emphasize is not what I remember but why I remember. It's the people.

Serving as archivist allows me the privilege of taking frequent trips down the memory lane of TYCA-SW, a professional organization that I not only respect but also love since it has allowed me to form close friendships with people from a six-state region. When I pour through those files, I can't help but think about and appreciate those who have paved the way for this organization to become what it is today.

The first person who comes to mind is Dale Adams. I see correspondence to, from, and about him

that proves he was truly a TYCA-SW pioneer, especially as far as the newsletter goes. Because

of the Robert W. Wylie Service Award and Susan Faulkner Excellence in Teaching Award, those names are

certainly on my mind. I read documents by and about people I don't see often: Dennis Kriewald, Terry Stewart (now Mouchayleh), Mike Matthews, Beth Shelton, and others. Then I see the work of people I do not know, yet the files contain evidence that they, too, helped form our modern-day TYCA-SW organization: Bill Shaw, Mike Cooper, Tahita Fulkerson, and several others.

And now we have a plethora of members who have hosted, attended, and presented at marvelous conferences in Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Where would TYCA-SW be without their knowledge, expertise, and vigor for our disci-

pline? It takes us all to make an organization like this succeed year after year. Seasoned members are retiring and turning over their duties to the next generation, who will form new TYCA-SW memories of their own. Someday another archivist will go through these records and reminisce the way I do now. But the nucleus of this organization always has been and will remain being the people.

Jill Gos is formerly Jill Coe of SWTJC.



"Because of the Robert W. Wylie Service Award and Susan Faulkner Excellence in Teaching Award, those names are certainly on my mind."

TYCA-SW REMINDERS

GO TO TYCASW.ORG TO NOMINATE A COLLEAGUE FOR THE ROBERT W. WYLIE SERVICE AWARD AND SUSAN FAULKNER EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD.

Robert W. Wyle 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. Include the information listed below on this form along with any supporting documents.

Susan Faulkner Excellence in Teaching Award

The Susan Faulkner Excellence in Teaching Award is presented at the annual TYCA-SW conference. It honors the memory of Susan Faulkner, professor and coordinator of the English Department at Cedar Valley College in the Dallas County Community College District in Texas. Susan loved teaching, learning, the English language, TYCA-SW, and her grandchildren most of all.

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, if possible.

About TYCA-SW

In 1966, the founding members of the Southwest Regional Conference on English in the Two-Year College (SRCE), the original name of TYCA-SW, met in San Antonio, Texas.

Since then, the Conference has met yearly in each one of the six states making up the Southwest Region: in Denver, Little Rock, Bossier City, Hobbs, Oklahoma City, and in various cities in Texas, including Amarillo, Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Fort Worth, Laredo, and Waco.

Members enjoy not only the professional growth of attending the annual conferences but also the personal interaction with old and new friends that sparks enthusiasm, confidence, and solidarity.

Programs feature speakers of regional

and national reputation. Host colleges traditionally schedule recreational activities that showcase their cities, such as a moonlight cruise in Corpus Christi or a visit to the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City.



Are you interested in hosting a TYCA-SW Conference in your area?

We would love to hear your ideas.

*Please contact:
Toni McMillen at
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