Writing Center Offers Grammar Resources for Students and Faculty

By Christine Bates

I t’s not just English majors who care about the quality of their writing. For instance, Justin Floyd, a senior at the School of Arts, can tell you how concerned about the quality of his papers and to get some help with his writing. So he has visited the University Writing Center several times.

One of his four required writing-intensive courses was in African art history, which he took last semester. Sharon Pratt, who taught the course, required the students to visit their article critique project.

“The Writing Consultant helped me find mistakes and gave me some feedback and advice on how to improve my writing,” Floyd said. “They were making changes to my papers that I could understand; I didn’t feel like my professor had made it on my own,” Floyd said.

Floyd is one of hundreds of students who use the services provided by Adams, counselor for the Online Writing Center, said the center saw more than 400 students last semester, and the University Writing Center provides basic, supplemental instruction to all university students and faculty.

The online center — the writing center’s newest addition — is in its first full year and making significant progress, Adams said.

“The University felt that it must provide the same services to all students—those who are in a traditional classroom setting and those that are distance education students. Because of the growing number of distance education courses taught, the demand for an OWL was growing every year,” Adams said.

For the first three years, the OWL is operating under a pilot study. While in its pilot-pilot future is uncertain, the outlook is positive, Adams said.

According to the OWL’s Web site, “it offers select Distance Education students in the different schools of the university the opportunity to consult with a trained writing center consultant via email.” These students

Students Offer Free Kitchen Re-Designs; Volunteer Clients Needed

S tudents in the School of Human Environmental Sciences’ kitchen design class are looking for volunteer clients for projects this summer.

Volunteer clients must be available May 14 and May 16 for a one-hour meeting at clients’ kitchens at no charge. Kitchens can be contemporary or traditional and must be within a 25-minute drive from campus.

Kitchens can involve enlarging a kitchen by removing walls, adding eating areas and changing door and window locations.

Volunteers will be available May 14 and May 16 for afternoon meeting and visits and final presentations.

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Clients will receive sets of working drawings, appliance specifications and material samples for two or three different kitchen designs.

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In Memoriam

Individuals asked the provost if he would offer Freedom Corps, AmeriCorps and Habitat for Humanity, with other schools in the UNC system and the Association of Colleges and Schools and requirements mandated by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. A question was asked about why the new college does not include the word communication. Swart said he was surprised by the word communication and suggested the name College of Arts and Communications.

• Timeline for changes: Swart said the proposed changes should be placed in the center of the university's system by the end of the spring semester.
• Volunteer opportunities: If the university is going to take the College of Liberal Arts and Broadcasting and the Department of Theatre and Dance, it should do so as a part of the college's system.

Town Meetings:

Several individuals asked the provost if he would continue to hold town meeting-style assemblies to inform faculty, staff and students about upcoming changes and ongoing issues at ECU. Swart said he would like to continue such forums at least twice a semester.

• Honor code: Swart said an honor code formerly in place at ECU was under revision and being reviewed by a committee.
• Accelerated degrees: Several questions were raised regarding the three-year bachelor's and the five-year bachelor's/master's degree. One person asked if such an offering would be possible. Swart said it was a question. He maintained that there is a synergy. “Communication is about reaching an audience,” said a person. “It is more to make a connection than you might think.”

Undergraduate studies: One person asked if the university was sending people in the right direction by dismantling the departments. Swart said there is no need for such an office as it is the responsibility of the individual departments.

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Launching a New Generation of “SMART” Classrooms at ECU

By Jennifer Ferraris

T he Telehealth Research and Interdisciplinary Instructional Technology Research (EUCU Telehealth Research Group) participated in a Super Bowl disaster exercise which coincided with the Super Bowl festivities in Tampa, Florida. The disaster exercise was organized by Dr. David Warner, a fellow in the Emergency Medical Services and Allied Health Sciences, University of Florida, and David Balk, Director of Telehealth Research and Development at ECU.

The exercise, known as Shadow Bowl, was described as an event-driven, reality-based training exercise that demonstrated community readiness and medical response to a catastrophic event. The exercise was organized around the Super Bowl as a backdrop. Outcomes of the exercise will provide a framework for evaluating emergency preparedness and training for personnel who would be involved in the response and recovery efforts of such an event, and not just in the Super Bowl, but in similar events in the future.

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By Bryan Edges

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**New Music: Born in East Carolina**

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**Presented by Michael Crane**

"There has always been new music," says East Carolina composer and musicology professor Michael Crane. "And there will always be new music." Crane has presented works by Robert Bezdorf, Charles P. Wood, David Edward Byrt, and more. "In the world of new music, ECU has always been a one-of-a-kind group." Crane believes that East Carolina University is a true haven for new music, and that the city itself is a place where music flourishes. "If you’re looking for a piece that will always be new music," he says, "then East Carolina is the place for you." Crane has been a part of the East Carolina music community for many years, and he continues to work with students and faculty to bring new and innovative music to the campus and beyond.

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**Presentation by Barbara Barnard**

"The Festival, which runs March 19-22, focuses particularly on vocal composition, but Jacobson promises a variety of spots for the intimate music-making throughout the week," he said. "We encourage everyone to come and join in the experience, and we look forward to seeing you there!" The festival will continue to be held in New Orleans in the future, offering a unique and exciting opportunity for music lovers and composers alike.

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**New Music Ensemble**

The New Music Ensemble is a group of talented East Carolina students who are passionate about creating and performing new music. They have performed at various venues and events around the world, including the NewMusic@ECU Festival. The ensemble has received critical acclaim for their innovative and dynamic performances, and they continue to push the boundaries of contemporary music. "We believe in the power of music to bring people together and encourage creative expression," says the ensemble's director. "That's why we love being part of the New Music Ensemble at East Carolina University."

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**The Jewelry of Robert Bezdorf**

"I thought I was in trouble when he pointed to the image of a Yiddish storefront," says East Carolina University student David Stander, who was one of the 20 students who participated in the program. "But the instructor was just being playful, and it turned out to be a great learning experience." Stander was one of many students who participated in the East Carolina University NewMusic@ECU Festival, which was held in New Orleans in March. The festival featured performances by East Carolina students and faculty, as well as guest artists from around the world. "It was an incredibly emotional experience," says Stander. "We brought in performers who have been a part of our musical tradition here at East Carolina, and it was wonderful to see them perform."

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**Dance Ensemble Blends Local Talent, Nationally Acclaimed Troupe**

"Dance major Eileen Ryan, left, is one of seven ECU students selected to dance in the March 13 performance of the Chuck Davis African American Dance Ensemble. Robert Bryant, right, is one of five students in the performance. (Photo by Marc J. Wainwright)"