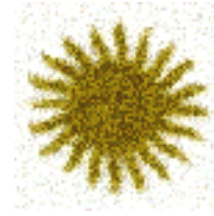


FLORIDA COLLEGE ENGLISH ASSOCIATION



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EDITOR'S NOTE

KELLY MCCAFFREY
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Once again, I am pleased to present the FCEA newsletter. In it is much exciting information, along with numerous opportunities to contribute to this organization. Susan Miller is looking for information on FCEA's history; Jane Jones would like feedback on and ideas for the FCEA website. Susan Hubbard is taking submissions for Writer's Night for the 2000 conference, and Anna Lillios needs nominations for two positions opening up on our Executive Board. *Critical Conflicts* offers an opportunity to publish student research. And I am always interested in submissions for the newsletter! Finally, Valerie Zimbaro will be reviewing presentation proposals for the 2000 conference to be held in Altamonte Springs (visit the



conference site's webpage at holidayinnaltspgs.com).

I encourage you to share your knowledge, expertise, and enthusiasm with FCEA in any or several of the ways mentioned here. Solicit contributions from friends and colleagues as well. To that end, I have included two FCEA membership forms in this newsletter. Renew your membership,

for the conference and these delightful newsletters, and encourage others to become a part of an organization so vital to our state and our profession.

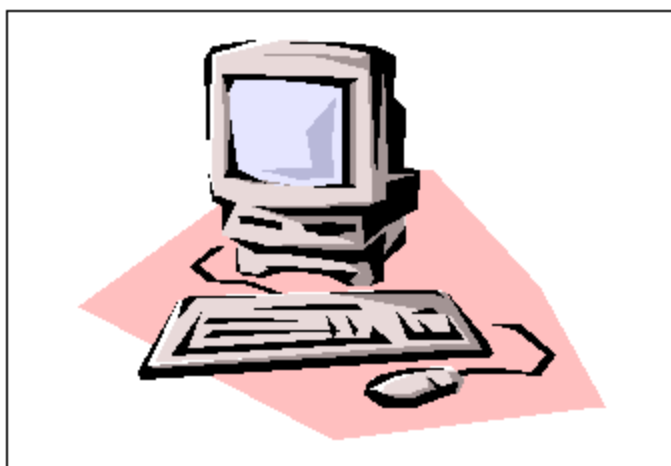
The spring newsletter will contain the conference program and other details about the conference. Please send announcements, editorials, suggestions, and short articles (200-400 words) on pedagogy, Floridiana, literature, composition, professional matters, classroom issues, or any other topics for discussion. I also welcome creative pieces. Deadline for submissions for the spring newsletter is November 19. Thanks to Amanda Shaw for her help in putting this newsletter together. ♦

LAUNCHING OF FCEA WEBSITE

FCEA has just launched its own website. Still in its first developmental phase, the site presently contains the Bylaws, the current newsletter (the very same that you are now reading), information about the 2000 Conference in Altamonte Springs, a membership form for you to print out and mail in with your dues, a list of officers and board members, and a link to the FADE web page. But we have bigger plans for the site.

Susan Miller, FCEA President, is researching the history of the FCEA from its earliest days when it held conferences in members' homes. She's interviewing our founders and would welcome any information or anecdotes from the early days. Contact her at: susan.miller@santafe.cc.fl.us or susanmiller@sfcc.net.

We'd like to see the site become an information center for Florida Literary Studies. There are a couple of links to a Florida Bibliography and



<http://www.sc.mcc.cc.fl.us/DEPTS/English/FCEA/index.html>

Floridiana. We'd like to add more. If you would be willing to share syllabus material about Florida literature or culture, either an entire course or a section of a course, these could also be posted. Send suggestions to Jane Anderson Jones: jonesj@sc.mcc.cc.fl.us.

Another page might contain a list of publications by FCEA members with links to publish-

ers or journals where works might be found. An online survey is in the works; answer it and you may get a link on the web page.

Come visit FCEA on the web at: <http://www.sc.mcc.cc.fl.us/DEPTS/English/FCEA/index.html>. Let us know what you think about the current site and tell us how we can make it better! ♦

WRITER'S NIGHT AT THE 2000 CONFERENCE

Writers of fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction are invited to submit their work for a special Writer's Night at the 2000 FCEA Conference. The reading will take place at 9 p.m. on Thursday evening in the Imperial Room. Wait staff will be available to serve drinks.

This event offers a chance for us to listen to each other's

art in a congenial setting. We're hoping to hear new voices as well as more familiar ones at this event. A display table will be provided for



sales of books by participating writers.

Please send a sample of your work, along with cover letter and brief biographical summary, to Susan Hubbard, Writer's Night Coordinator, P.O. Box 4009, Winter Park, FL 32793. Or, you may e-mail the material to shubbard@ucf.edu. Deadline for submissions is November 1. ♦

NEW FCEA BOARD MEMBERS

◆ Jane Anderson Jones, professor of English and Humanities at the Venice Campus of Manatee Community College, is the co-editor of *Florida In Poetry: A History of the Imagination*. Other publications include a young adult biography of Frida Kahlo and articles on medieval, contemporary, and Florida literature. She also serves on the Board of the Sarasota Institute of Lifetime Learning.

jonesj@sc.mcc.cc.fl.us

◆ Andy Solomon is a professor of English at the University of Tampa, specializing in Shakespeare. He designed the creative writing major there, which has had among its students

Amy Hill Hearth ("Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters First 100 Years"), Steven Boyett ("Ariel"), and Connie May Fowler ("Before Women Had Wings"). He is a regular book critic for *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Boston Globe*, and National Public Radio.

andy@bardolatry.org

◆ FCEA Vice President and 2000 Conference Chair:

Valerie Zimbaro is the Department Chair of Communications for the West Campus of Valencia Community College in Orlando, Florida. Previously, she has served as professor

of English, an online course designer, and the Director of Distance Education at St. Petersburg Junior College. As a specialist in higher education curriculum development, she has also authored numerous teachers' guides, articles, and reference books in composition and literature. Her most recent book is *The Encyclopedia of Apocalyptic Literature*.
scribe53@aol.com

President's Letter

I suspect that I am not the only one for whom the omnipresent millennium hype has become a little tiresome. I freely admit that I am not burying coffee cans of cash in my backyard, nor am I buying Y2K jewelry or clothing. I don't anticipate stockpiling canned foods or gasoline. However, despite my proud escape from many millennial traps and phobias, I am nevertheless entrenched in an equally serious millennial bug: introspection. As a child I would ponder where I'd be living and what I'd be doing when the Big Date occurred. Did I ever consider that I'd be teaching college English in Florida? Heavens, no. And recent conversations with colleagues suggest that few of us who now happily profess English ever anticipated in childhood that we would be doing so.

Those of us in FCEA are not a homogenous group. We teach

a wide variety of literature and writing courses at institutions with different missions to multi-everything students. What bonds us is a shared passion for this profession. Most of us stumbled into this club on our way elsewhere and we haven't left. So, as a means of celebrating both our profession and our own diversity, we are engaging in organizational introspection. We have created an on-line survey for our membership (look for it at the FCEA website around the middle of October). The primarily quantitative information generated by the survey will not express who we are, but it will show us just how diverse we are.

As a means of saluting our spirit, I will be gathering a history of this organization. A new century and a new millennium certainly make us look forward; but so much of who we are and where we're going is

tempered by where we've been. Over the next few months, I'd like anyone who has anecdotal material to share or even old organizational documents to contact me; my goal is to make this history available at the 2000 conference, even if it's a little rough around the edges. At the February conference in Altamonte Springs (see the announcement in this newsletter), we will all have a chance to consider, reconsider, and celebrate our professional lives as college-level English professors/teachers/facilitators/writers/keepers-of-the-flame. I encourage all members of this organization to attend the conference, both as presenters and as devotees of our profession. ◆

Susan Miller
susan.miller@santafe.cc.fl.us

WRITING FLORIDA TEXTS WITH FLORIDA STUDENTS

By Susan Jones
Palm Beach Atlantic College
suncat9@hotmail.com

"Write what you know," we tell our student writers. Then we often assign them topics WE know. One way to engage student writers in the composition process and to develop their concrete writing skills is to create classroom narratives of the Florida they know. Further, by composing a narrative text from the inside out, student writers gain the ability to analyze similar texts from the outside in.

A classroom project that I have used to develop concrete writing skills involves the corporate creation of characters and setting for an imaginary Florida-based novel. We discuss and agree upon the genre we are writing — romance or mystery, for example, — and they are challenged to flesh out the characters. Students rise with remarkable imagination and energy to the challenge of creating charac-

ters. Through a series of questions, I direct the students to consider a full range of descriptive options and writing decisions. These questions require them to make concrete choices about their characters, choices essential to putting their characters into action effectively.

Each class seems to develop characters according to its own nature and spirit, and classes choose very differently. While some classes choose younger and more savvy characters, one class, for example, chose as their protagonist "Bob," a retired New Jersey IRS agent living in Ft. Lauderdale and driving a late 1950s Buick. Bob went every morning to his favorite restaurant for the "99 cent special" of eggs and hash browns (no grits, please, we're Yankees). Bob left his habitual ten-cent tip, added and re-added his bill, and every day argues with the cashier over his change. Bob's adventures began when he gazed beyond the cashier to the wishing-well



outside the plate glass window of his favorite beanyery — and saw a pair of feet in Bruno Magli shoes protruding from it (date the class from the details).

Individuals (or small groups) are then challenged to animate a character in incidents that further develop Florida ambiance, to show the character in action as well as telling us about the character. As a result of this exercise, writing students gain analytical acumen as well as an appreciation for working effective, concrete details into their own writing — painlessly. ♦

FLORIDA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

FCEA members interested in the availability of grant money for projects of special interest may inquire at the office of The Florida Humanities Council at 1725 1/2 East Seventh Avenue, Tampa, FL, 33605. The Florida Humanities Council offers grant money for the visual and performing arts,

as well as grants to individual Florida artists on a non-matching basis to pursue their craft. In addition to these grants and many others involving the arts and the humanities, The Florida Humanities Council seeks speakers for its 1999/2000 Speakers Bureau. The Speakers Bureau serves general audiences

search for ways communities can work together to deal with the pressing issues they face.

For more complete information about The Florida Humanities Council visit their website at www.flahum.org.

for schools and other community groups involved with lifelong arts education projects, for nonrecurring, special projects,

in small towns and underserved areas of the state. The theme of this year's presentation is "Finding a Common Path," a

CRITICAL CONFLICTS

Critical Conflicts, an online publication, presents a forum for writing students to share the findings of their community-based research with the local, state, national, and global communities. Assisted by a community advisory editorial board who serve as human hyperlinks to help point students toward critical community issues, *Critical Conflicts* is designed to help students see that to be a student is to be a citizen, that the communities' problems are their problems, and that education can help both students and communities learn how to make their shared society a better place

to live. Instructors interested in submitting work to *Critical Conflicts* may contact editor-in-chief Ward Scott by e-mail at ward.scott@santafe.cc.fl.us or by writing to him at Santa Fe Community College, 3000

NW 83rd St., Gainesville, Florida, 32606-6200. Submitted articles may be done by students working either individually or collaboratively as research teams. *Critical Conflicts* is scheduled to go online with its first publication in the fall of 2000. ♦



Submit student research to *Critical Conflicts*

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

FCEA is looking for nominations of candidates for the position of Treasurer on the Executive Board. Nominations are also needed for an Executive Board member. Interested colleagues should send a brief biography (50-75 words) to Anna Lillios at:

lillios@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu

News from FADE

The Florida Association of Departments of English (FADE) will hold its annual meeting at the FCEA meeting. FADE will sponsor a panel discussion on issues facing English Departments. Louis Hill Pratt, president, will facilitate, and department chairs from the university and community college systems will serve on a panel.

Dues – \$10.00 for department membership, and \$2.00 for indi-

vidual membership – for the year 2000 can be mailed to Angela Rapkin, English Department, Manatee Community College, Venice Campus, P.O. Box 1849, Bradenton, FL 34206. Make checks payable to FADE.

Dues will be collected at the meeting, as well, so you can bring your checks at that

time. Angela can be reached at (941) 493-3504 ext. 2653, or by e-mail at rapkina@sc.mcc.cc.fl.us

The FADE board would love to hear what you think the issues are and what you think should be done about them.

E-mail Angela! ♦