

Crystal Benedicks

Wabash College, Department of English
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Education

Ph.D. and M.Phil.—English

The Graduate School and University Center of The City University of New York, 1998-2005

Doctorate of Philosophy in English

Master of Philosophy in English

Women's Studies Certificate

- Areas of Concentration: Nineteenth-century poetry and poetics, women's studies, WAC/WID
- Dissertation Title: "Spasmodic Bodies and Victorian Poetics: Biology, Masculinity, and Modernity in Spasmodic Poetry." Committee: Prof. Anne Humphreys, Prof. Gerhard Joseph, Prof. Wayne Koestenbaum

B.A.—English

New College of Florida; Sarasota, FL, 1994-1998

- Thesis: "Strategies of Expression in Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz's 'Reply,' Virginia Woolf's *Three Guineas*, and Hélène Cixous' 'Laugh of the Medusa.'"

Courses Taught

- First-Year Composition
- Writing with Grace and Power (intermediate-level composition)
- Academic and Professional Writing (senior-level composition)
- Victorian Poetry and Poetics
- Introduction to Literature
- Writing about Literature
- British Literature Survey, Romanticism through the Present
- Readings in Poetry/Introduction to Poetry
- Introduction to the Short Story
- Beyond *Frankenstein*: Intersections between Science and Literature
- Adventures on the High Seas: Pirates, Navy Captains, and Sea Explorers
- Shakespeare
- World Literature Survey

Publications

Book:

Co-editor (with Judith Summerfield). *On Liberal Education: Claiming the Public University in the New Millennium*. 2007: Peter Lang Publishing.

Articles:

Under review at *College English*. Spasmodic Writers: Self-Control, Manliness, and the Victorian Legacy in the Composition Classroom. Submitted August 2010.

“The City University of New York and the Shaughnessy Legacy: Today’s Scholars Talk Back.” With J. Summerfield, P. Gray, *et. al.* *Journal of Basic Writing*, Fall 2007 (26:2).

Book Chapters:

“The Shakespeare Portal.” *On Liberal Education: Claiming the Public University in the New Millennium*. Ed. Crystal Benedicks and Judith Summerfield. 2007: Peter Lang Publishing.

“Afterward: On Metaphors and Genres.” *On Liberal Education: Claiming the Public University in the New Millennium*. Ed. Crystal Benedicks and Judith Summerfield. 2007: Peter Lang Publishing.

Reports:

“National Retention Initiatives and Studies: Literature Review” in *Report of the CUNY Task Force on Retention*. Internal Publication, The City University of New York Central Office.

College Publication:

Editor of Queensborough Community College’s Honors Newsletter.

Teaching and Academic Experience

Assistant Professor of English and Coordinator of Writing Across the Curriculum

Wabash College, Fall 2007-present

- Teach freshman composition, intermediate composition, advanced composition, and literature.
- Coordinate college-wide writing education; lead writing-related faculty development

Assistant Professor of English

Queensborough Community College of The City University of New York, Fall 2006-Spring 2007

- Tenure-track appointment to teach composition and literature.

Director for Undergraduate Education

Office of Academic Affairs, The City University of New York, 2004-2006

- Worked under the University Dean for Undergraduate Education on various projects, with a focus on Writing Across the Curriculum.

Portfolio:

- Directed CUNY-wide Writing Across the Curriculum Program
- Chaired Writing Across the Curriculum Professional Education Committee
- Assisted the Dean in coordinating CUNY with national academic bodies such as the AAC&U and the Carnegie Foundation
- Co-directed the General Education Project
- Directed the CUNY Media Across the Curriculum Project
- Served on Vice-Chancellor’s Task Force on Reading and Writing
- Served on Vice-Chancellor’s Task Force on Retention and Student Success

Adjunct Lecturer

Queens College of The City University of New York, Summer 2002, 2003

- Designed and taught composition and literature courses

Graduate Teaching Fellowship

Queens College of The City University of New York, 2000-2002

- Award appointment to teach and develop English Department composition courses, with an emphasis on helping students work through drafts and formal essays while building writing abilities. Heavy focus on evaluation of student writing.

Adjunct Lecturer

Baruch College of The City University of New York, 1998-2000

- Designed and taught composition and composition II courses.

English Instructor

IBEC Language Institute, New York, NY, 1999-2000

- Taught individual or small classes on basic English grammar and conversational English to Japanese business executives.

Writing Across the Curriculum and Writing Program Experience

Director of the Wabash Writing Study

Wabash College, 2007-Present

- Initiated and continue to direct a grant-funded study into the culture of writing at Wabash College, with the goal of creating a Writing Across the Curriculum program with a strong faculty development component.
 - Interviewed each of the college's 17 departments about their writing goals for students, their best practices, and their concerns.
 - Designed and launched a survey of student writing experiences and attitudes.
 - Designed and led focus groups of graduating seniors to discuss their perception of their writing education at Wabash.
 - Designed and led focus groups of students enrolled in Wabash's two general education core courses about their writing experiences in those courses.
 - Led Wabash participation in a Teagle-funded assessment of student writing (Hamilton College, Summer 2008).
 - Using information from the surveys and interviews:
 - Designed and teach a new intermediate writing course
 - Initiated and planned the 2008-09 Year of Writing, a year-long faculty-development series focused on topics of interest to the faculty, from assignment design to giving feedback.
 - Revised college plagiarism policy.
 - Created all-college Writing Statement.
 - Co-designed and teach optional Writing Workshop to boost student retention.
 - Partnered with the Writing Center Director to lead faculty development workshops for faculty, including
 - All-faculty workshops.
 - Two-day summer writing workshops for faculty teaching freshmen seminars.
 - Periodical writing workshops for faculty teaching general education courses.

- Guest speaker series. Guests include scholars James Gee, Gerald Graff, and Sandra Jamieson.

CUNY Writing Across the Curriculum Professional Development Committee

The City University of New York, 2004-2005

- Sat on and, in 2004, chaired the committee to design a new Professional Education Series for faculty and doctoral candidates involved in CUNY's Writing Across the Curriculum/Writing in the Disciplines Program. Designed the following conferences and seminars for this series:

Writing and New Media

- Writing in the Disciplines and Professions
- Teaching versus Scholarship in the Academy
- Plagiarism
- Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
- Writing in Math and Science
- Composition and Publishing
- ESL Writing
- Ongoing Spring conference in which faculty and Writing Fellows present their work

Graduate Writing Fellowship

Hostos Community College of The City University of New York, 2002-2004

- A two-year award appointment to help develop CUNY's Writing Across the Curriculum Program.
- Partnered with chemistry, nursing, and mathematics faculty to design writing components for their courses.
- Worked within the Natural Sciences Department to design a new sequence of environmental science courses that coordinated with courses at other CUNY colleges.
- Led interdisciplinary faculty development seminars.

Professional Awards and Grants

Wabash Writing Study

Two-year Eli Lilly-funded grant to study writing practices, Wabash College, 2007

CUNY Professional Staff Congress Research Grant

CUNY writing grant, 2007

Calder Prize for Distinguished Work in Nineteenth-Century Studies

The Graduate School and University Center of The City University of New York, 2005

Mario Capelloni Dissertation Fellowship

The Graduate School and University Center of The City University of New York, 2004

Grace Calder Fellowship Award

The Graduate School and University Center of The City University of New York, 2003

Invited Talks and Professional Presentations

“Feminism in the 21st Century?” Wabash Women Opening Lecture, Fall 2010.

Organizer and co-facilitator: “Gender Issues in *The Women*.” Talk-back for students, faculty, and the community with the cast of a Crawfordsville Vanity Theater play about gender issues.

“Writing at New College: An Alumna’s Perspective.” Invited talk and workshop on building a writing program. New College, FL. Spring 2010.

“Ten Things I Know About Writing.” Chapel Talk. Wabash College, IN. Spring 2010.

Co-facilitator: “Responding to Inappropriate Student Behavior.” Faculty forum co-sponsored by the Teaching and Learning Committee and the Gender Issues Committee.

Conferences

Workshop co-leader: “Understanding Students’ Use of Sources through Collaborative Research.” *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Louisville, KY. 2010.

“You’re like Venice’: Understanding Student Source Use and Changing Academic Policy.” *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Louisville, KY. 2010 .

“Teaching Grammar in Context” *International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*. Bloomington, IN. 2009.

Proposal reader for *Third National Conference on Innovations in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning at Liberal Arts Colleges*. Wabash College, Crawfordsville, IN. 2009.

“Spasmodic Bodies and Disorderly Empires: A Victorian Poetics of Disability.” *Northeast Modern Language Association*. Boston, MA. 2009.

“The Princess and the Policeman: Negotiating Gender and Power in Fairy Tales.” *Modern Language Association*. San Francisco, CA. 2008.

“The Gentleman and the Spaz: A Report on the Wabash Writing Study.” *Ides of August Conference*. Wabash College, Crawfordsville, IN. 2008.

“Articulating WAC: Defining, Conveying, Situating, Institutionalizing.” *International Writing Across the Curriculum Conference*. UT Austin, TX. 2008.

“New Scholars Talk Back: The City University and the Shaughnessy Legacy 30 Years Later.” Featured Roundtable Panel, *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. New York, NY. 2007.

“Writing WAC into General Education at the City University.” Forum-style Presentation, *Eighth International WAC Conference*. Clemson, SC. 2006.

“(De)Composing Latin Verses: The Composition Classroom in the Urban Public University.” *Modern Language Association*. Philadelphia, PA. 2006.

“Diagnosing Spasmodicism: Literary Criticism and the Victorian Nervous System.” *North American Victorian Studies Association/North American Society for the Study of Romanticism*. Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. 2006.

“Writing WAC Into General Education.” *Eighth International Writing Across the Curriculum Conference*. Clemson, SC. 2006.

“Transforming Institutional Structures: The Reinvention of Higher Education at CUNY.” *American Association of Colleges & Universities Conference*. Washington D.C. 2006.

“Present Progressive: WAC Theory and the Urban Community College.” *Seventh National Writing Across the Curriculum Conference*. St. Louis, MO. 2004.

“The Spasmodic Disease: Sydney Dobell’s *Balder* and the Poetics of the Spasming Body” *Northeast Modern Language Association Convention*. Pittsburgh, PA. 2004.

Panel Chair: “Victorian Dangers.” *13th Annual Central New York Conference on Language and Literature*. Cortland, NY. 2003.

“Responding to Student Error.” *CUNY Writing Fellow Professional Development Seminar*. New York, NY. 2003.

“Spasmodic Visuality: The Retarded Narrative, the Splintered World.” *12th Annual Central New York Conference on Language and Literature*. Cortland, NY. 2003.

“‘All of a Clump’: Hair, Wigs, and the Anxiety of Social Power in Francis Burney’s *A Busy Day*.” *Dickens Universe Winter Conference*. University of California, Riverside, CA. 2002.

Dickens Universe at the University of California, Santa Cruz. July 28-August 5, 2001. One-week conference focused on discussion of *Bleak House*. Led a student discussion group and evaluated student writing.

“Tourism and Terror: Postcards and Taxicabs.” *The Graduate Center at City University of New York’s Annual English Graduate Student Conference*. New York, NY. 1999.

Conference Co-Chair: *CUNY English Student’s Association Annual Conference*: “Locating Love.” New York, NY, 2004.

References

Professor Judith Summerfield, Queens College
Acting Dean for General Education

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Professor Warren Rosenberg, Wabash College
Chair of the English Department

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Ms. Julia Rosenberg, Wabash College
Writing Center Director and Director of Academic Support Services

- Phone: (765) 361-6024
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Professor Peter Gray, Queensborough Community College
Professor of English

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