



Delta State University

Keynote Address

*Writing Well in School:
What We've Learned from Faculty &
Students*

*Dr. Christopher Thaiss
Dr. Terry Myers Zawacki
George Mason University*

February 17, 2005

7:30 p.m.

*Bologna Performing Arts Center
Delta State University*

Welcome to the DSU Writing Seminar Keynote Address!

This evening's keynote address is part of a year-long effort to examine the role of writing in DSU classrooms. Tonight's event features two distinguished speakers who are visiting DSU to help us implement a Writing Across the Curriculum Program. During this visit, the speakers are leading workshops for faculty on design and evaluation of writing assignments. Tonight's address is aimed at a broad audience of teachers, students, and administrators to help us gain an enhanced understanding of teaching writing at the university level.

This series began with a Faculty Writing Forum held in November, 2004. The series continues with another writing seminar in April, 2005, which will focus on Writing in the Disciplines.

***Dr. Bill Spencer**, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of English, is the moderator for tonight's keynote address.*

*Tonight's program was made possible by a grant from the Standards-Based Teacher Education Project (STEP), coordinated at DSU by **Dr. Hines Cronin**. Co-sponsors and organizers of this event are the DSU Writing Across the Curriculum Committee, chaired by **Dr. Karen Bell**, and the DSU Student Engagement Champions, chaired by **Dr. Darlene Crone-Todd**. **Dr. Alan Barton** has coordinated this writing seminar and tonight's keynote address.*

Thanks to the staff of the Bologna Performing Arts Center for their hard work and to the student assistants who helped out with this event.

Delta State University and Cleveland welcome our distinguished speakers to the Mississippi Delta.

Tonight's keynote address is entitled "Writing Well in School: What We've Learned from Faculty and Students."

Dr. Christopher Thaiss is a graduate of the University of Virginia in English, with an M.A. and Ph.D. in English from Northwestern University. He has been a professor of English at George Mason University since 1976. He developed and directed the Writing Across the Curriculum Program at GMU, and also served as director of composition. Dr. Thaiss has been the coordinator of the National Network of Writing Across the Curriculum Programs since 1981. He is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Language and Learning Across the Disciplines*. He has authored or edited ten books, including *WAC for the New Millennium: Strategies for Continuing Programs in Writing Across the Curriculum* (2001), *The Harcourt Brace Guide to Writing Across the Curriculum* (1998), and *Writing to Learn: Essays and Reflections on Writing Across the Curriculum* (1983). He has authored numerous scholarly articles and is currently working on two books, including *Alternative Discourses: Reports from the Disciplines* with co-author Dr. Zawacki.



Dr. Terry Zawacki has a B.A. in English from Southern Illinois University, an M.A. in Communication from the New York Institute of Technology, and a D.A. in Higher Education from George Mason University. She has been on the faculty at GMU since 1990 and holds appointments in English and Women's Studies. In 1995, she developed and directed the Linked Courses Program, a cross-curricular learning community initiative. She has been the director of the University Writing Center at GMU since 1997, and since 1998 she has directed their well-known Writing Across the Curriculum Program. She has authored several scholarly essays on Writing Across the Curriculum and has given numerous lectures and public presentations on WAC. She has consulted with several universities on developing writing programs, and is a section editor for the National WAC Clearinghouse site.

The 3x5 card that you received with this program is to register your attendance. Please write your name and organizational affiliation on the card and drop it in the box near the exit.

We would like your opinion of this program to assist us in planning future events. Please fill out the brief evaluation form and drop it in the box near the exit.

Thank you for joining us at tonight's event!

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