



MEMORANDUM

May 17, 2010

TO: WAC Alliance 2010-2011 Events Stakeholders
CC: Trevor Bilmes, Josephine De Leon, Wynn Goering, Gary Harrison, Gail Houston, Michelle Kells, Linda Livingston, Chuck Paine, Christopher Ramirez
FROM: Erin Penner Gallegos, 2010-2011 Events Coordinator, Writing Across Communities, (epenner@unm.edu)
SUBJECT: Writing Across Communities 2010-2011 Final Report

The following summarizes the work done by the WAC Alliance during the 2010-2011 Academic year, with some background information on the 2009-2010 year, and lays out plans for the 2011-2012 year. This report includes information on the conception and implementation of the Writing Across Communities Initiatives, including fundraising and expenditures, promotion strategies, and partnerships. The report also includes discussion on the difficulties faced in implementing particular strategies, and ultimately makes suggestions for future WAC Initiatives. As the outgoing WAC Events Coordinator, Erin Penner Gallegos has prepared this report. Brian Hendrickson, who has been chosen by the WAC Alliance to serve as the 2011-2012 Events Coordinator has prepared an accompanying memo describing the planned 2011-2012 Initiatives in much greater detail. Please direct questions to Erin Penner Gallegos (epenner@unm.edu) or Brian Hendrickson (bhendric@unm.edu).

Overview

Accomplishments

In 2010-2011, the members of the Writing Across Communities Alliance have:

- Hosted two Write on! Workshops, a Celebration of Student Writing, two guest lectures, a Civil Rights Symposium, a Working with Writers Symposium, and an Earth Day Conference;
- Reached well over 1,000 participants and community members through our events;
- Raised \$9,273 in donations and co-sponsorships (\$1,300 Fall and \$7,973 Spring) and saved approximately \$2,400 to use for the continuation of 2011-2012 WAC events;
- Established connections with departments and faculty both within and outside of the university through both Faculty Outreach and our events themselves;
- Established the National Consortium of Writing Across Communities, with 25 partner institutions;
- Launched *Writing Communities*, the official newsletter of the Writing Across Communities Initiative;
- Rewritten our charter, redesigned our Website, increased our membership, and made lasting connections with students and other entities on and off campus;
- Established the relevance of the Writing Across Communities events and mission to the curricular mission of the English Department's Core Writing Program;

- Attended a meeting sponsored by the Office of Equity and Inclusion to coordinate event dates with other entities on campus that serve graduate and undergraduate students in similar capacities;
- Established the Albuquerque Community Writing Center, in partnership with the main branch of the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Libraries, in downtown Albuquerque.

None of the above would have been possible without the support of our generous sponsors and our incredibly talented, hardworking volunteers. However, we have experienced a few unexpected setbacks.

Setbacks

Despite applying for GPSA funding and SUB space allocation, the WAC Alliance has:

- Been denied space in the SUB (with little to no explanation of the criteria for decision making); after an appeal, we have been placed on a waiting list for both storage and office space.
- Been denied GPSA non-departmental funds because we are unable to demonstrate that our membership is made up at least 50 percent by *students* not from the same department. Although the Alliance also represents staff and faculty from departments outside of English, our student population is still too concentrated within English (although this is slowly changing). After the denial of funding on these grounds, Brian Hendrickson wrote an appeal to the GPSA Council to reexamine the way in which organizations qualify for GPSA non-departmental funding and demonstrate that they serve students outside of their own departments. Should the rules change, WAC will again apply for funding through GPSA. At this time, one-time GPSA project grants are still an option for future WAC leadership.

Looking to the Future

The goal of the WAC Alliance has always been to “support, connect, and enhance the intellectual life of students and faculty engaged in the academic mission of creating and circulating knowledge” (WAC mission statement). We have fulfilled this mission to the utmost this year, especially in connecting our public forums for civic literacy to the classrooms from which our students come. We look forward to doing much more of this kind of work in the future, with the support of our co-sponsors. In addition, however, it is important to note that the WAC Alliance has also always served as a vehicle for tenacious graduate (and now, undergraduate) students to gain a foothold in leadership roles to which they might not otherwise have access. It has become an important part of the WAC Alliance mission, therefore, to empower graduate and undergraduate students with visions for the enhancement of civic or academic literacy to realize their proposed projects, and take on administrative and leadership roles in the process.

WAC Narrative: 2010-2011

In Spring 2010, Erin (Penner) Gallegos applied for assistantships within the English Department, hoping to receive an appointment as the Writing Across Communities GA working under Kells. That position was no longer available. So, over the summer of 2010, working with Greg Evans, Gallegos also made contacts with Karen Olson and Daniel Sanford at CAPS, hoping to find a place for the WAC Alliance to have a home for a paid GA or project assistant. No such position

was available, although Gallegos did work with Olson and Sanford on a new template for the WAC website, which is housed on the CAPS server. Olson and Sanford expressed CAPS support for WAC work; while there were some initial disagreements about both the naming of the website and its functionality, these concerns were resolved between the WAC Alliance and CAPS at the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year. To date, Sudeepti Balepur, an employee of CAPS, has helped the WAC Alliance to maintain its webpage and keep it up-to-date.

At the beginning of the 2010-2011 year, Gallegos and Evans re-chartered the WAC Alliance as a student organization. After the organization was re-chartered, Gallegos took over as Events Coordinator, under the direction of Kells. Since Fall 2010, the following initiatives, both funded and non-funded have been accomplished.

NON-FUNDED INITIATIVES

WAC Website Redesign

Gallegos continued to work with Olson, Sanford and Balepur to construct a website that was functional for the needs of the WAC Alliance and for its partners. Balepur and Gallegos have worked in tandem to maintain the website and get appropriate and relevant information up on it.

In addition, Gallegos has worked, through CAPS, to maintain the WAC Calendar on the WAC website – this calendar includes writing and cross-cultural events for students and the UNM community, and is updated a couple of times a week through a Gmail account set up by CAPS for the express purpose of maintaining the WAC Calendar on the front page of the WAC website. The maintenance of the Website is made possible by the generous contribute by CAPS of Balepur’s time and talent.

WAC Alliance Charter Revision

With Evans’ guidance, Gallegos revised the WAC Alliance charter to account for the changing dynamics of the WAC Alliance. Some of the most important changes included: the addition email voting for WAC Alliance members; the addition of a clause that allows for the removal of an ineffective Events Coordinator; the addition of a clause that allows WAC Alliance members who start projects under the WAC umbrella to maintain control (as committee chair) over their own projects indefinitely. The charter will be revisited again in the Fall 2011 semester when the WAC Alliance is convened, but a current version of the charter is available on the WAC website, WAC Alliance page.

Establishment of WAC Newsletter: Writing Communities

In Fall 2010, Gallegos proposed to the WAC Alliance members that the number and scope of WAC events merited the creation and publication of a newsletter. The first issue of *Writing Communities* was edited by Gallegos, designed by Olubunmi Oguntolu, and contained contributions from Kells, Hendrickson, Oguntolu, Leah Sneider, Lindsey Ives and Brittany Kelley, Carter, and Elizabeth Leahy. The newsletter featured descriptions of upcoming WAC events (for Spring 2011), as well as spotlighted the Community Writing Center (see below), and the work that many non-WAC affiliated faculty are doing with writing and civic or disciplinary discourses within their classrooms.

Partnership with In Progress, a Graduate Student Journal

In keeping with the above changes to the charter, Lindsey Ives and Leah Sneider, two WAC Alliance members, began their peer review journal *In Progress* as an independent project, but have brought it somewhat under the aegis of the WAC Alliance because the journal, which promotes the publication of graduate student work in all disciplines, fits well with the mission and goals of the WAC Alliance. Although Ives and Sneider retain all control, they have the ability to draw on the talented volunteers of the WAC Alliance for support, and have also been promoted through a number of WAC events in 2010-2011. Future partnership may include financial or editorial support for *In Progress*.

Faculty Outreach

Elizabeth Leahy early on expressed her interest in finding out about the initiatives that faculty members across campus have already implemented into their curricula to help make their students more aware as members of their particular disciplines. She was interested in finding out more about writing assignments employed in disciplines other than English, as well as learning about how faculty promote student civic engagement or engagement with their chosen discipline. Much of Leahy's work involved conducting interviews with faculty members who were identified by the chairs of their departments for employing innovative teaching methods in their courses. Leahy's work made up the "faculty spotlight" section of *Writing Communities*, and also came to be a portion of a larger research project that was tied into her final master's portfolio.

Leahy's work helped to make faculty aware of the goals and mission of WAC, but more importantly, the outreach to faculty has broadened the understanding that WAC has of the multifaceted nature of writing instruction and civic engagement across the university. This important work will continue.

National Consortium of Writing Across Communities

UNM is the founding chapter of the newly established National Consortium of Writing Across Communities (NCWAC), representing ten affiliated universities. The NCWAC stakeholders affirm educational principles and cultural practices that promote the maintenance and wellbeing of human communities through literacy and writing. The NCWAC seeks to guide curriculum development, stimulate resource-sharing, cultivate networking, and promote research in language practices and literacy education throughout the nation, and to support local colleges and universities working to serve vulnerable communities within their spheres of influence.

The members of NCWAC will convene during the 2011 Conference of College Composition and Communication in Atlanta to draft its formal mission statement and action items. In the spirit of the past six years of WACommunities at UNM, the NCWAC will continue to advocate for culturally-relevant approaches to literacy education for historically-underserved student populations; promote resource-sharing between faculty and graduate students; mentor graduate students and junior faculty; serve as a clearinghouse for collaborative scholarly projects (conference panels, dissertation committees, research initiatives, visiting scholars, guest lecturers); promote curriculum development. The NCWAC will host a Higher Education Literacy Summit in Summer 2012 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for college teachers and graduate students in communities across the disciplines.

Albuquerque Community Writing Center

In Fall 2010, Brian Hendrickson approached Gallegos to discuss a long-standing idea of his, to establish a community writing center that combined the model of a non-profit, community centered organization with the goals and mission of an academic writing center with a one-on-one model of writing tutoring. Gallegos insisted that she and Kells had had similar conversations, and that the three should meet. Kells supplied Gallegos and Hendrickson with the information she had gathered for just such a possible project, and in November 2010, Hendrickson and Gallegos tentatively established the Albuquerque Community Writing Center. As a first step, Hendrickson contacted the Albuquerque Bernalillo Libraries, and set up a meeting.

The first meeting established that ABC Libraries was interested in working with the ABQCWC, and that they would be able to provide space, advertising, and logistical support for the operations. In late fall 2010, Hendrickson had gauged the interest of other WAC Alliance members in forming a steering committee, and several, including Linda Eleshuk Roybal, Leslie Fishburn-Clark, Stephanie Spong, Deb Paczynski, Tom Pierce, Mellisa Huffman and Genevieve Garcia de Mueller expressed interest either in being on the committee, or in participating in the initiative as tutors, once formed.

Hendrickson established a trial run at both the ABC downtown library and a branch of the Rio Rancho library for two Saturdays in March (11 and 18). Six volunteers worked approximately eight hours between the two locations over the two weeks, and helped around 10 clients. Hendrickson, Garcia de Mueller, and Gallegos then met with Tiffany Rousculp in late March (founder of the Salt Lake City Community College Community Writing Center, and keynote speaker for the Working with Writers Symposium, see below) to discuss next steps. At Rousculp's recommendation, Hendrickson and Gallegos decided to limit the operations of ABQCWC to the downtown branch of the ABC Libraries.

Daniel Sanford of CAPS has also expressed his support for the ABQCWC, and desire to aid in any non-material way possible. On April 8, 2011, Gallegos held a joint meeting between ABQCWC and CAPS tutors, to discuss training ideas, tutoring practices, and next steps. Using notes from that meeting Garcia de Mueller and Gallegos have begun to create a training program. Operations will begin at the downtown ABC branch library in late June 2011.

Curricular Impact & Core Writing Funding

During the 2010-2011 year, WAC made it a priority to connect WAC events to classroom related activities and curricula across the university. Clearly, the Celebration of Student Writing and the Write On! Workshops, each of which served writers in the core writing (101, 102) program, are the best examples of that.

During the 2010 Winter Intercession, Oguntolu taught an English 219, Technical Writing Course, and her class focused on event planning as a theme. In order to provide students with a real-world application for their work, Oguntolu supplied her students with the true situation that WAC was in need of promotional materials for the Working with Writers Symposium. All students collaborated to produce potential materials, and four students, Tara A. Dennison and Waynetta Dennison, both Engineering students, Mary Farrah, a freshman English student, and Vijay Janardhanam, a graduate Physics student, were delighted to have some of their hard work put to good use in the advertising campaign for Working with Writers.

In the Spring, beginning with the Civil Rights Symposium, WAC members also collaborated to produce sequences and assignments that instructors could use in conjunction with the events. Five sequences were sent to instructors in the English Department's Core Writing Program in conjunction with the CRS; an extra credit assignment was sent to teachers in departments participating in the Working with Writers Symposium; and for the Earth Day Conference, a set of discussion questions, assignment prompts, and five assignment sequences tailored to Core Writing needs were sent to both English Department instructors, and to instructors across the university who teach classes related to environmental subjects. Reception of the materials was good both within and outside the department as several instructors either used or modified the materials sent out.

All of the curricular materials are still available on the WAC Website (located on each event's main page), and can still be used and modified by any instructors at UNM or beyond.

Dr. Scott Sanders, Associate Chair for Core Writing, initiated payment to those WAC Alliance members who had contributed curricular materials or time *directly* related to the English 101 and 102 Courses. Thus, those who administered the Fall 2010 Celebration of Student Writing, wrote sequences or extra credit assignments in conjunction with Spring 2011 events, or administered the Write on! Workshops were compensated from the course fees account in Core Writing. The charges were approved by Dr. Gail Houston, English Department Chair.

Note, however, that no funds raised for WAC events were spent on administrative costs. All WAC Alliance members completed their work on a volunteer basis, and the funds paid to WAC Alliance members were for their work on initiatives relating *directly* to the English Department's mission in Core Writing. Although the Core Writing directorship has been passed down to Dr. Chuck Paine for the 2011-2012 year, there is now some precedent that WAC work that has a direct impact within Core Writing might be compensated by the English Department. WAC has no expectation, however, that this will necessarily remain the case; nor does WAC plan to fundraise any additional monies to cover the costs of administering the events and initiatives planned in the future.

FUNDED INITIATIVES: FUNDRAISING AND USE OF DONATED FUNDS

Beginning in Fall 2010, CRS Index had \$206 remaining from the previous year, which had been carried over from the prior year. The first big event, the Celebration of Student Writing, could not be funded with just these monies, and so funds were requested from the Dean of Students Office and CAPS. Together these entities donated \$1,300 toward the CSW.

After the CSW had been successfully executed (and kept under budget), other events came on the horizon: the Civil Rights Symposium, the Working with Writers Symposium, and the Earth Day Conference. Gallegos put together an estimated budget for each potential event, covering travel, hospitality, honoraria, and event-related expenses, estimating that together, these events would cost around \$9,000.

Olson and Dr. Gary Harrison (of OGS, and a member of the Earth Day steering committee), encouraged Gallegos to apply for GPSA funding for the Earth Day Conference, since that event

was geared specifically to graduate students. Since previous WAC Alliance leadership had not secured funding for the 2010-2011 year, Gallegos and Hendrickson applied for WAC Alliance funding through the GPSA Council Appropriations process, and were granted \$2,317.60 at the end of the Fall semester. This amount was less than what had been requested, but still an adequate amount of seed money to begin promoting and planning the Spring Events.

Other events also required funding. In January 2011, Kells sent fundraising packets—with the estimated budgets—to several entities around campus, requesting funds in the amount of \$500.

The following additional sponsors provided monetary support to WAC:

- Center for Academic Program Support (\$500, Fall 2010),
- College of Education (\$500),
- College of Nursing (\$500),
- College of Pharmacy (\$500),
- Dean of Students Office (\$800, Fall 2010),
- Graduate Resource Center (\$855),
- Office of Graduate Studies (\$300),
- Office of Student Affairs (\$1,000),
- Office of Support for Effective Teaching (\$500),
- Office of the President (\$500),
- Office of Undergraduate Medical Education (\$500), and the
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy (\$500)

(For a more comprehensive list of 2010-2011 WAC partners, please see the appendix below; for a comprehensive historical list of WAC partners and sponsors, please see the Partners page on the WAC web site: <http://www.unm.edu/~wac/partners.html>.)

The table below shows the expenditures and remaining balance for each semester.

FALL 2010 WAC EVENT EXPENSES	
EXPENDITURES	
<i>Sub Catering:</i>	
Celebration of Student Writing	718
Doug Fine Reading/Lecture	305
Write On! Workshops	224
<i>Supplies/Banner Taxes</i>	
	33
TOTAL FALL EXPENDITURES	1280
BALANCE REMAINING FROM FALL	226

SPRING 2011 WAC EVENT EXPENSES	
<i>SUB Catering:</i>	
Hall event (CRS)	667
Rousculp event (WWW)	885
Killingsworth event (EDC)	855
<i>Lodging:</i>	
Casas de Suenos (Hall)	437
Casas de Suenos (Rousculp)	314
Casas de Suenos (Killingsworth)	359
<i>Airline Tickets:</i>	
Southwest (Hall)	216

Southwest (Rousculp)	309
Continental (Killingsworth)	468
<i>Honoraria:</i>	
Hall	0
Rousculp	500
Killingsworth	500
Copying/Supplies/Incidentals/Banner Tax	236
TOTAL SPRING EXPENDITURES	5746
BALANCE REMAINING FROM SPRING	2227
TOTAL BALANCE REMAINING	2453

All money was transferred from these entities into the CRS index within the English Department. In total, WAC raised \$7,973 during the Spring 2011 semester, in addition to the \$1,300 donated in the Fall. Thanks to a late contribution by the Graduate Resource Center, the fact that one of our speakers received no honorarium, and that we did not spend money frivolously, WAC has saved \$2,280 from these donated funds. In accordance with the terms of our fundraising and responsibility to our sponsors, all of these funds will be forwarded to next year to use for other events, as already planned and promised to our sponsors.

All expenses were paid directly from the CRS account. In the future, in order to reduce the dependence of the WAC Alliance on Department of English staff, the WAC Alliance will attempt to open an account with the Student Government Accounting Office. Until then, however, the monies in the CRS Index within English must be spent on WAC events and initiatives.

FUNDED INITIATIVES REVISITED

Through the WAC events of 2010-2011, we have reached over a thousand students, faculty, staff, and community members. The Celebration of Student Writing alone involved over 700 undergraduate students and 35 teaching assistants in the English Department. The Spring 2011 events, which were free and open to the public, are estimated to have attracted approximately 500 participants when counted together. In addition, the Write on! Workshops each semester have each helped over 100 undergraduate writers in English 101 and 102 with revisions to their portfolios. Detailed reports for the Celebration of Student Writing (and additional Fall 2010 Events), the Civil Rights Symposium, the Working with Writers Symposium, and the Earth Day Conference have been submitted to sponsors.

Write On! Workshops (Fall 2010 & Spring 2011)

Raab-Faber continued to run the Write On! Workshops, soliciting involvement from teaching assistants and part-time instructors in the English Department. In the Fall, for the first time, Brittany Kelley offered a table at the Write on! Workshop directed specifically to multi-lingual writers, and Evan Ashworth, a Student Manager at CAPS, conducted cover-letter workshops with several groups of students. In Fall 2010, WAC purchased cookies as refreshments for students, but so many were left over that they were not purchased again in the Spring. This does

not seem to have diminished attendance, as the Write on! Workshops were once again overwhelmed by students in Spring 2011.

Celebration of Student Writing (October 21, 2010)

In Fall 2010, Gallegos and Carter approached the Dean of Students Office, through Hallee Kells, and requested funding for the second annual Celebration of Student Writing. The CSW was opened up beyond the sections of 101 taught by new TAs, and was broadened to include both 101 and 102 – approximately 34 sections of Freshman English participated. Carter was also allowed by Dr. Scott Sanders, Associate Director for Core Writing, to require that all new TAs enrolled in English 537 (teaching practicum) participate in the Celebration. Carter and Gallegos also approached Olson, of CAPS, for sponsorship of the program, and were granted funds. Thanks to the success of the second annual CSW, WAC is already planning to partner in the fall with the Dean of Students Office to host a third annual CSW, which will be open to all freshman classes that incorporate writing into their curriculum.

Dr. Michael Coffey & Doug Fine Lectures (November 2010)

In conjunction with Kells English 640, Environmental Rhetoric, course, WAC invited two lecturers to UNM to discuss climate change – Dr. Michael Coffey (father of Laurel Coffey, an MFA student in fiction), and Doug Fine, author and sustainable living activist. Both events were opened to the public and advertised about a month in advance. Expenses for each event are outlined in the final CSW report, as money left over from the CSW fundraising efforts were applied to these two events.

Mental Health and the Community: Civil Rights Symposium (March 4, 2011)

In Spring 2010, Raab-Faber, Gallegos, and Kells discussed the possibility of hosting a Civil Rights Symposium on the issues of Mental Illness and Social Justice. The conversation stemmed from personal struggles that each had dealt with, as well as the tragic murder of Stephania Gray and Hector Torres, and the Emcore shootings that left several dead in Northeast Albuquerque. In October 2010, Kells assembled a steering committee made up of several community members, UNM stakeholders, and concerned students. Together with the guidance of these volunteers, Hendrickson, Gallegos, and Kells assembled a full-day symposium drawing on experts and concerned citizens in the areas of law, medicine, mental health, psychology, disability rights, and those who have personally struggled with mental illness and or discrimination.

Additionally, WAC partnered with the Agora Crisis Center to promote the CRS, and to host the Mental Health Week that preceded the CRS Event. Emerson Epstein, an Agora Crisis Center volunteer, acted as the coordinator for the MHW, along with Hallee Kells and Jeremy Jaramillo. With guidance and suggestions from Gallegos during a meeting over the 2010 Winter Break, H. Kells and Epstein contacted potential stakeholders in departments such as Psychology and Psychiatry, and conceived the MHW logistics. Epstein worked with Jaramillo to execute the MHW, which included free mental health screenings, prize give-aways, and conversation topics for each day. Jaramillo also designed the fliers and programs for both events, helping to coordinate their appeals. Gallegos suggested that the Mental health Week was an appropriate event for WAC to sponsor, but not for WAC to own, so to speak, so both the MHW and the CRS were co-sponsored by both Agora and WAC. In the future, Agora will sponsor and execute the Mental Health Week as its own, stand-alone event.

Funds for the CRS event were garnered through fundraising that began in January 2011, but no WAC funds were spent on the MHW—and no funds from Agora were transferred to WAC.

Working with Writers: Recognizing Diverse Discourses (March 23-25, 2011)

In Fall 2010, Lindsey Ives and Brittany Kelley (each of whom has served as the English Department Mutli-lingual Writer “GA”), proposed to Kells that they wanted to create an interdepartmental conference that would bring together faculty, graduate students, and others who teach writing to multi-lingual writers to discuss best practices and methods for serving students’ needs. Although Ives and Kelley were unsure how to proceed, they had already identified potential partners (OSET, TARC, CAPS, CELAC, and others) and wanted to connect with these stakeholders. With Kells’ guidance, Kelley and Ives brought their program under the WAC 2011 Spring Events umbrella, and relied on WAC to do the fundraising and logistics while they gathered volunteers and did the legwork in creating the panels, finding the presenters, and defining the schedule and scope of topics for the three day conference.

In addition to partnering with entities around UNM, Ives and Kelley also established a working partnership with CNM, which would like to maintain a connection with WAC and the UNM Core Writing program in the future, and especially in future Working with Writers events. At the end of this very successful conference, Dr. Lawrence Roybal of the Graduate Resource Center was so pleased with the collaboration that he funded all catering for the event after the fact. Additionally, CNM, CELAC, CAPS, GRC, TARC, OGS, OSET, and the College of Education (LLSS) are especially interested in continuing this event in the future. Plans are already in place for an event that takes place over the Earth Day Weekend, and combines the missions of the Earth Day, Working with Writers, and Civil Rights Symposium models, while still maintaining what is unique about each event. Plans for these events will be outlined with a steering committee convened in Fall 2010.

Earth Day Conference (April 22, 2011)

Building on the success of the first Earth Day Conference, Gallegos convened a steering committee in November 2011. The committee drew on members from several disciplines, including American studies, English, Communication and Journalism, and Biology. The Earth Day Conference, which was the main event Gallegos had planned on when taking over as the Events Coordinator, featured seven panels, with participants from English, American Studies, Economics, Community and Regional Planning, Landscape Architecture, and more. As noted above, the conference will enter its third year next year, but this time as a combined event with the Working with Writers and the Civil Rights Symposium models. Funds for this event were provided by an appropriation from the GPSA Council, which was sought and granted in early Spring 2011.

In addition to garnering visibility for WAC, the EDC also seems to have attracted potential new members. Elizabeth Caldwell, an undergraduate biology student who designed the posters and promotional materials for the conference, will enter the Community and Regional Planning program in the Fall, and plans to stay involved in WAC; Sarah Love, who helped with promotion and is an undergraduate in Communication and Journalism also plans to become active in WAC. Additionally, many attendees of the Earth Day Conference program indicated their interest in becoming active within Writing Across Communities in the future.

WAC Narrative: 2009-2010

During the 2009-2010 school year, Dr. Michelle Hall Kells, WAC Faculty Sponsor, took a sabbatical, and was absent for most of the first half of the year. The WAC Alliance had, since 2005, been run by Kells and a graduate student assistant (GA in the common, but misleading parlance of the English department, since the student was always a TA who received a course release to also work with Kells on WAC Events). During Kells' sabbatical, the position was no longer available. However, Greg Evans, who was working as the Rhetoric and Writing "GA" and Dan Cryer, each of whom had worked as the "WAC GA" with Kells in previous years, worked with Kells on several initiatives that fell under the WAC Umbrella during that year of her sabbatical.

Core Curriculum Task Force

The major initiative that occupied Kells' and thus Evans' and Cryer's time was the Core Curriculum Task Force. Cryer served with Kells on the task force, and Evans was instrumental in organizing the CCTF's open meetings. In order to ensure that students heard about, and then attended, the open meetings regarding proposed changes to the core curriculum, Evans relied on other WAC contacts to spread the word. Rick Raab-Faber and Erin (Penner) Gallegos, along with Genesee Carter, Mellisa Huffman, and Paul Formisano, were among TAs identified with the WAC Alliance that helped Greg to bring students to the CCTF meetings.

Although the CCTF meetings were only unofficially related to WAC because of Kells' involvement in both, that is where the main "official" WAC energy was directed. On the sidelines, however, WAC Alliance members also started two events: the Celebration of Student Writing (Genesee Carter) and the Earth Day Conference (Erin Gallegos) based on WAC principles, and continued a now long-running tradition of the Write on! Workshops (Evans and Rick Raab-Faber). Each of these two events has come under the umbrella of the WAC Alliance, and has continued successfully thanks to the work of WAC Alliance members.

Celebration of Student Writing

Before the Fall semester, 2009, Carter had proposed to Dr. Wanda Martin, then Associate Director for Core Writing, the idea of hosting a Celebration of Student Writing. Martin agreed to a pilot project, and Carter and Huffman organized the Celebration with the help of other WAC Alliance members, including Paul Formisano, Greg Evans, Dan Cryer, and Daniel Sanford. The first Celebration of Student Writing was sponsored by the Core Writing program, which allowed Carter to recruit new Teaching Assistants in the Teaching Practicum Course (English 537) to participate in the Celebration. Karen Olson, Director of CAPS, also donated money to support the Celebration. Gallegos was a member of the organizing committee, but as a new TA was also required by the program to participate in the Celebration.

Write on! Workshops

The Write on! Workshops have their origin in the early days of the WAC Alliance, when they were conceived as part of one of the original WAC weeks. In Fall 2009, Evans organized the workshops, and Martin supported them by requiring all new TAs to volunteer their time to tutor writers in English 101 and 102 completing their portfolios for at least an hour during the two days of workshops. In Spring 2010, Raab-Faber took over the job of organizing the workshops from Evans, and has continued as the WOW chair ever since, organizing the event and coordinating the schedules of TA volunteers.

Earth Day Conference

Early in the 2009-2010 year, Evans, Formisano, and Raab-Faber had discussed the possibility of hosting a conference related to themes of Earth Day. The idea was placed on the back burner for most of the year, but revived again in February by Raab-Faber and Gallegos. In the course of a month, Evans, Formisano, Raab-Faber, and Gallegos put together a small, interdisciplinary program for Earth Day. While no WAC funds were available at the time (having all been spent on promotions for the Core Curriculum Task Force Open Meetings), the WAC Alliance was able to reserve space for the conference, and again, volunteers from the Alliance helped to promote and run the event.

Fundraising

Because most WAC Events were put on hold or were not officially sponsored or planned by the WAC Alliance in conjunction with the faculty sponsor, no fundraising was completed during the 2009-2010 year. All funds used had been held over in the CRS index within the English department from previous years. Additionally, none of the WAC leadership thought to apply for funding for the 2010-2011 year from GPSA—those applications would have been due during the Spring 2010 semester, and the WAC Alliance was perhaps too loosely organized and otherwise preoccupied at that time to fulfill its obligation to apply for GPSA non-departmental funding.

Conclusion

Since 2005, the Writing Across Communities Alliance, in coordination with the Department of English and many other campus and local entities, has served the educational and civic missions of the university, through everything from curricular enrichment and support to the production of large scale events that encourage public engagement on issues of civic, academic, and political importance.

The WAC Alliance has also proven to be a valuable asset for graduate students, especially within the Department of English, to assume and practice leadership roles.

To date, the WAC Alliance has consisted heavily of volunteers from the Department of English's many branches. However, this year the WAC Alliance has tried to reach beyond these walls, and has succeeded in recruiting interested students in American Studies, Linguistics, Biology, and Communications and Journalism. Among the goals for next year, increasing membership among students outside of the Humanities is a major priority.

Finally, although we are proud of the stellar work produced during the 2010-2011 year, many among faculty and WAC Alliance members have expressed concern that WAC might overextend itself if we attempt to keep up such a breakneck pace. While taking this into consideration, we remain committed to the tasks and projects we have set forth, and will continue to rely on volunteerism, donations, and goodwill as WAC puts on two (just two) major events in 2011-2012: A Celebration of Student Writing in conjunction with the Dean of Students Office in October 2011, and a Writing the World Conference, to combine the Earth Day and Working with Writers concepts into a single, multi-day event in April 2012.

Thank you again for your support and enthusiasm for WAC. Please direct all questions regarding the WAC Alliance or 2011-2012 plans to Brian Hendrickson, bhendric@unm.edu, the incoming WAC Events Coordinator.

Appendix: Additional Partners and Advisors 2009-2011

Organizational or Departmental Partners

- Accessibility Resource Center
- Albuquerque Bernalillo County (ABC) Libraries
- Center for English Language and American Culture (CELAC)
- Center for Life
- Central New Mexico Community College (CNM)
- Department of English
- Department of Psychiatry
- Department of Psychology
- Disability Rights New Mexico
- Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural Studies (LLSS)
- Loma Colorado Library (Rio Rancho)
- National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI)
- New Mexico Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
- New Mexico Solutions
- Office of Career Services
- Office of Support for Effective Teaching (OSET)
- OptumHealth
- Rhetoric and Writing Program
- Salt Lake City Community College Community Writing Center (SLCC)
- Student Health & Counseling
- Student Union Building Marketing & Event Planning
- University Communication & Marketing
- Veterans Resource Center
- Writing Center at CAPS

Individual Partners and Advisors

Megan von Ackerman
Cathy Anseheles
Cathy Arellano
Josephine Arguello
Evan Ashworth
Sudeepti Balepur
Christine Beagle
Tullivan Begay
Connie Beimer
Trevor Bilmes
Cinnamon Blair
Breda Bova
Molly Brack
Lindsay Brown
Amanda Butrum
Francisco Javier Certain

Lisa Cacari Stone
Autumn Collins
Jenna Crabb
Dan Cryer
Daniel Duhigg
Rob Elgie
Lorette Enoch
Emerson Epstein
Greg Evans
Leslie Fishburn-Clark
Paul Fornell
Mitch Garrity
Dylan Gauntt
Felipe Gonzales
Joan Green
Daniel Gutierrez

Tim Gutierrez
Stephanie Hall
Gary Harrison
Carly Hendrickson
Caitlin Henke
Stefani Hines
Richard Howell
Lindsey Ives
Jeremy Jaramillo
Arthur Kaufman
Sam Keith
Brittany Kelley
Hallee Kells
Nancy Koenigsberg
Kim Kloepfel
Harry Linneman
Linda Livingston
Dee Dee Lopez
Jennifer Love
Sarah B. Love
Antoinette Maestas
Frank Martin
Jamal Martin
Wanda Martin
Bruce Milne
Regina Munoz
Jim Ogle
Larry Oliver
Karen Olson
Yajaira Pena-Esparza
Rick Raab-Faber
Carolyn Richardson
Nancy Ridenour
Tiffany Rousculp
Scott Sanders
Daniel Sanford
Jane Selverstone
Gary Smith
Leah Sneider
Julie Sonnenberg
Jana Spalding
Peggy Spencer
Valerie Thomas
Craig Timm
Cheo Torres
Robert Valdez
Amanda Valerio
Elise Wheeler
Amy Wohlert
Marla Wood
Don Zancanella