



WRITING

across the curriculum

NEWSLETTER



WAC NEWS & EVENTS

News and Events

Campus-wide Workshop:
More Student Writing, Less
Teacher Workload

Simple strategies to increase
student writing while decreasing
your own workload using
"writing-to-learn" assignments.

Wednesday, October 22,
12:00-1:15, California Suite, Union.

RSVP to melzer@csus.edu or
(916) 278-6925.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Undergraduate Writing Journal	1
One Book	2-3
A Page from the Writing Center	4

To find out more about the WAC program
or to schedule a consultation, contact Dan
Melzer, University Reading and Writing
Coordinator, at melzer@csus.edu or
(916) 278-6925.

Submit your Students' Writing to a New University Writing Journal

The Faculty Senate Subcommittee for Writing and Reading is now accepting submissions for *Writing the University*, an online journal of undergraduate writing across disciplines at Sacramento State (www.csus.edu/wac/journal). We encourage submissions of writing in any genre (critical analysis, book review, lab report, case study, etc.) from students in courses in any discipline (natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, etc.). A faculty sponsor is required for each submission.

Submission criteria:

- Original work from a Sacramento State undergraduate course in the 2008 calendar year (spring, winter, summer, or fall 2008)
- Any genre of work from any discipline is accepted: critical analysis, book review, lab report, case study, etc.
- One page letter of introduction and description of the assignment from a faculty sponsor
- One page cover letter written by the student describing his or her writing process
- 2,500 word maximum

Submission Guidelines

To submit, please email the following as Word, RTF, or PDF file attachments to wac@csus.edu with the subject line "journal submission":

- A final draft of the work with the author's name and e-mail, the course name and number, and the instructor's name and email
- A rough draft or drafts if available
- A brief cover letter written by the student describing his or her writing process
- A brief letter of introduction from a faculty sponsor that includes a description of the assignment and an explanation of why the piece is an effective example of writing in the discipline

Submission deadline: December 22, 2008

For questions regarding submitting to *Writing the University* contact Dan Melzer, Chair, Subcommittee for Writing and Reading, at 278-6925 or melzer@csus.edu



Can “One Book” Make a Difference?

Can one book make a difference? Perhaps not. On the other hand, many, if not all, of us believe that books—especially when they’re discussed, written about, challenged, identified with, and interpreted through multiple perspectives—can make a difference.

Over the last few years, many “Common Reading” or “One Book” programs have developed on university campuses. All of these programs seek to forge stronger bonds within the community by sharing a common intellectual/learning experience and to promote dialogue among its various members.

One Book Program Goals:

- To provide a common ground for discussion among diverse students, faculty, staff and other members of a university and its extended community.
- To provide an introduction to and engagement in the intellectual and cultural life of the community
- To extend the boundaries of learning beyond the single classroom or course.
- To engage students in college-level literacy skills of reading, thinking, and writing.

In January 2008, Wells Fargo funded a Sacramento State One Book grant under the sponsorship of the English Department and the Community Engagement Center. In 2008-2009, we are inaugurating our One Book program with *Funny in Farsi: Growing Up Iranian in America* by Firoozeh Dumas (<http://firoozehdumas.com/>). Ms. Dumas will join us on campus on Wednesday, October 15. Visit the One Book Web site at www.csus.edu/onebook for more information.

Funny in Farsi “chronicles the hilarious and true misadventures of Firoozeh and her family’s life in America...Funny in Farsi is an unforgettable story of identity, discovery, and the power of family love. Dumas excels at highlighting the values that connect us all, as well as the hilarious details that make each of us unique. Her story will leave everyone laughing—without an accent.”

Program Highlights

First Year Experience:

- Complimentary copies of the One Book at orientation.
- Curricular and extra-curricular activities with instructors and peer mentors.
- Freshman Q&A event with author.

University Community:

- Faculty Development Grants for Curricular & Extra-Curricular Activities
- One Book Program Website: faculty resources, library links to bibliographical and reference materials, events calendar
- Author Day Events
- Additional One Book events (concerts, discussion groups, film series, etc.)
- One Book discounts at the Hornet Bookstore

So how can faculty participate?

Community Engagement (Service Learning) Projects: The Community Engagement Center facilitates partnerships with the greater Sacramento community. Since *Funny in Farsi* is popular with readers of all ages and the lecture will be open to all community members, the One Book program is a perfect foundation for new or existing projects like Writing Partners.

One Book Clubs: Discussion groups can focus on just the One Book or a series of similar books. The book provides ready-made "Reading Group Questions and Topics for Discussion."

Informal ("no-fault") writing assignments: response papers, reflection pieces, lecture reviews, etc.

Class Icebreakers: Often we begin a class with some kind of community-building icebreaker. *Funny in Farsi* provides a couple of short passages that could introduce such an activity. Here's one example:

What's in a Name? In "The 'F' Word" Dumas humorously takes up the question of the problem with Iranian names like Firoozeh, Farbod, and Farshid, rather than American names like William, Sue, or Richard. Beginning with a short excerpt from this delightful chapter, students can introduce themselves and talk a little bit about

their names (this might actually help us and their peers learn those names, too).

Literacy Skill Builders: Regardless of course content or subject matter, we share some common academic skills that need frequent reinforcement across the curriculum.

Information Literacy Quickwrites: Using *Funny in Farsi* or other One Book selection, students can be prompted to recognize when to seek information, where and how to seek necessary information, and how to evaluate and utilize information once they have found it.

Generating Questions Activity: *Funny in Farsi* or other One Book selection can be used to practice constructing interview or discussion questions.

Other topics and themes in *Funny in Farsi*:

- Education
- Family
- American popular culture
- Diverse cultural traditions
- Body image and health issues
- Consumerism

“ On behalf of the Sacramento State One Book program, I invite faculty, students, staff and alumni to make a difference.”

For further information, please visit our One Book website: www.csus.edu/onebook.



THE UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER AND WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM MERGE



Writing Center contact information:

Phone: 278-6356

Email: writingcenter@csus.edu

Web site:

www.csus.edu/writingcenter

In fall 2008, Professor Cherryl Smith is stepping down after a decade as the Writing Center Coordinator. Cherryl took over as Writing Center Coordinator in 1997, and during Cherryl's tenure, the Writing Center grew from a small tutoring center focused on supporting English Department courses to a campus-wide service that attracts students from across disciplines and employs more than 20 paid tutors and interns a semester. The Writing Center now serves more than 1,000 students a year and gives more than 8,000 tutoring sessions. Under Cherryl's guidance, the Writing Center has grown to serve the entire campus while also maintaining a collaborative, student-centered environment. Cherryl was beloved by the many tutors she worked with. As one tutor, Bob Kelly, said, "I think the key word for me in working with Cherryl is that I worked with her and not for her. She treated the Writing Center staff as colleagues and friends instead of as students." The Writing Center will continue to be the welcoming and supportive environment for students and for tutors that Cherryl cultivated in her years as Coordinator.

Since the Writing Center serves students from across the curriculum, it was a logical move to combine it with Writing Across the Curriculum. Dan Melzer, the Coordinator of Writing Across the Curriculum, will coordinate the Writing Center with the help of Mandy Real Proctor, a lecturer in the English Department and a former Writing Center tutor who will serve as the Assistant Director of the Writing Center.

For more information about the Writing Center, including fall 2008 hours, visit our Web site at www.csus.edu/writingcenter.