



# Writing Across the Curriculum

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/wac>

**Newsletter 2**  
**June 2003**

## THIS ISSUE

WAC Goes to CityU and PolyU	1
University Writing Committee Formed	1
WAC Workshop Scheduled on August 5	1
What We Can Offer Professors	2
Feedback on Student Writing, Conferences and Workshops	2
Interview with Prof. Bryce McIntyre – Exemplary WAC Participant	3
Members of the University Writing Committee	4
Participating Professors & Their Courses	4
How to Enrich Your Courses With Writing Assignments	Insert

## OUR TEAM

### Principal Supervisor

Prof. George Braine

### Co-supervisors

Prof. Joanna Radwanska-Williams

Prof. Carmel McNaught

Prof. Ken Hyland (CityU)

### Teaching Assistants

Derek Chan (MPhil)

Paulina Cheung (MPhil)

Tracy Cheung (MA)

Iris Lin (MPhil)

Stacey Ng (MPhil)

## WAC Goes to CityU and PolyU

Starting from Term 2, the WAC Program has extended to City University and Polytechnic University. Three courses in the Faculty of Science and Engineering at CityU and four courses in the Faculty of Construction and Land Use at PolyU have been affiliated with the

Program. A total of nine workshops were conducted by our TAs for the students at the two universities on writing essays, avoiding plagiarism, summary and paraphrase skills, proper citation, and writing business proposals. Students also received written and oral feedback

on their drafts during conferences. The project proved effective as students have shown improvements in the structure, organization, consistency, and the use of proper citation in their writing.

## University Writing Committee Formed

In keeping with the overall objectives of the WAC Program, a University Writing Committee has been formed at CUHK. The committee will conduct year-end and end-of-project evaluations of the WAC Program. The evaluations will be based mainly on reports from teachers participating in the program and students' evaluations

of the teaching assistants. In addition, the committee will discuss the nature and promotion of writing seminars to be conducted for teachers and possible accreditation criteria for WAC courses. The first meeting of the committee was held on June 3.

The committee consists of the three supervisors of the Program at CUHK and four teachers from repre-

sentative academic departments. They are David Johns from Sports Science & Physical Education, Janny Leung from Systems Engineering & Engineering Management, Beatrice Ma from the English Language Teaching Unit (ELTU), and Bryce McIntyre from Journalism & Communication.

## WAC Workshop Scheduled on August 5

A workshop titled "How to Enrich Your Courses with Writing Assignments" will be conducted on Tuesday August 5 in

Room 125 of Fung King Hey Building, from 10.00am to 12.00. If you wish to attend the workshop, please register with

Prof. Braine at [george-braine@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:george-braine@cuhk.edu.hk) Early registration is advised as only 20 places are available.

## What We Can Offer Professors

Our full-time teaching assistants, who hold postgraduate degrees in English applied linguistics, are trained to provide feedback on students' writing and to conduct writing enhancement workshops.

You are invited to participate in the WAC program if you include writing assignments in your courses. At your request, a TA will be assigned to your course(s) to provide oral and written feedback to your students on their writing assignments, specifically on organization, cohesion, and grammatical accuracy. Writing enhancement workshops can also be offered to your students.

If you wish to participate in the WAC Program, please contact Professor George Braine at the English Department of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. **Send him an outline/ syllabus of the course which you wish to have affiliated with the WAC Program. The outline/ syllabus should clearly indicate the writing assignments required in the course.** If you wish to incorporate new writing assignments or activities, please refer to the enclosed handout titled "How to Enrich Your Courses with Writing Assignments." You are also invited to attend the WAC Workshop on August 5. See Page 1 for details. Thank you.

## Feedback on Student Writing, Conferences and Workshops

Our TAs have been attending the lectures/tutorials of WAC-affiliated courses and collecting course syllabuses, handouts and relevant materials. This has been done to familiarize themselves with these courses in order to conduct better writing conferences and workshops for students.

One-to-one writing conferences of 15 to 30 minutes each were conducted by our TAs with students on their papers. Written and oral feedback were provided on students' writing in terms of organization, structure, language (grammar), coherence, flow, and citation style.

In Term 2, the TAs provided feedback on **1329** papers and conducted **363** one-to-one writing conferences. In addition, the TAs conducted a total of **34** workshops for students of the WAC affiliated courses. The workshops generated positive responses from the students and were successful in motivat-

ing students to come for advice on their drafts.

The workshops are listed below. They are available upon request by Professors.

- How to be a Better Writer (30 min.)
- Process Writing (25 min.)
- Making an Effective Oral Presentation (35 min.)
- Meanings, Problems and Functions of using Connectives (40 min.)
- Plagiarism – What it is and How to Avoid it (45 min.)
- Tenses (30 min.)
- Planning, Organizing, and Writing Business Reports & Proposals (40 min.)
- Writing a Fieldtrip Report (30 min.)
- Writing an Engineering Management Proposal (25 min.)
- Writing a Scientific Report (30 min.)
- Writing a Venture Idea Proposal (50 min.)

*TA Derek Chan with a student*



### Contact

Prof. George Braine  
Email: [georgebraine@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:georgebraine@cuhk.edu.hk)  
Tel: (852) 2609-7445  
Fax: (852) 2603-5270

Department of English  
The Chinese University of  
Hong Kong  
Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong

Website:  
<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/wac>

## Interview with Prof. Bryce McIntyre — Exemplary WAC Participant

*Prof. Bryce McIntyre of the Department of Journalism & Communication teaches a course titled English News Reporting II affiliated with the WAC Program. He is the founder of the award-winning Varsity magazine, which celebrated its 10th anniversary this year.*

### **Q: How did you enter the field of Journalism?**

A: I am a career academic who accidentally got sidelined as a journalist because I needed a job between periods of postgraduate study. I became a journalist totally by accident, as I'd never even dreamed of being one. I never trusted the mass media – and still don't today, in fact – and I thought of journalists as people who had sold their souls to the establishment. To me journalists were pawns of big business and shoe shiners of big government. Anyway, I worked in the profession for almost seven years before finally rediscovering my longing for academia.

### **Q: You have been teaching news writing for about 25 years. What do you like the most about your job?**

A: The academic world is like an island in society where smart people live and work. I feel privileged to be able to live and work in the university. I work in academia not because of the salary and the benefits. Worldwide, professors are respected by society. I like being part of the community that is respected. I like the people; they are more accomplished. We respect each other and get along pretty well. Also, there are really fine moments of reward when you see your students who have succeeded, students who just seemed to suddenly light up, really take to the subject matter and excel. There are not very many of those. When these students come along, you feel all those years are worthwhile. Even among students who are not such great achievers, you still have fine relationships there. They are fun; they keep you young by reminding you how old you are.

### **Q: What are your beliefs about writing?**

A: I think writing is a dangerous activity for many people. It's hard for them to understand their problems in writing. I think writing is scary; it's frightening. On the other hand, writing is very good for clarifying ideas. When you are planning to put ideas down the paper, you have to give them additional thought. The more thought you give to them, the sharper the ideas become, and the stronger the relationship between the concepts and the ideas. Writing is a good way to sharpen your views and hammer out your ideas.

There is an intellectual component of writing which I like very much because of its abstractness. Writing is one of the highest forms of human activity, in terms of its complexity.

### **Q: How important is writing in your courses?**

A: Writing is the most important thing. After writing comes reporting. Reporting is collecting the facts. Writing is putting them down in text form. A person can be a top-flight reporter and a lousy writer. A good editor can always fix up a poorly written item.

### **Q: You are the founder of CUHK's Varsity magazine. How does the magazine help your students?**

A: *Varsity* is called a "practicum" publication. *Varsity* provides a means for students to practice journalism and gives students the first additions to their portfolios that they can use when job seeking. *Varsity* is run like a professional magazine, so students learn how to work within this kind of organization – issue planning, deadline structure, copy flow, and so on.

### **Q: What is the impact of the WAC program on your courses?**

A: I have a WAC teaching assistant who works closely with me and with my students. Writing is an intensely personal activity, and teaching it requires one-on-one interaction. Professional help is sorely needed and very much appreciated. My WAC TA actually reminds me many times about my cultural gaffes, and she consoles heartbroken students in their native language after I have savaged their papers. She also explains things to them in Cantonese that I have trouble explaining in English. Ever since WAC provided me with a TA last year, I have seen an improvement in student work that can be attributed to no other source. My TA meets with students during the planning stages of their writing projects and as the projects near completion. She has also given a few lectures.

*Prof. McIntyre with  
WAC teaching assis-  
tant Paulina Cheung*



## Members of The University Writing Committee



Prof. George Braine  
English



Prof. Carmel McNaught  
CLEAR



Prof. Joanna Radwanska-Williams  
English



Prof. David Johns  
Sports Science &  
Physical Education



Prof. Janny Leung  
Systems Engineering &  
Engineering Management



Dr. Beatrice Ma  
ELTU



Prof. Bryce McIntyre  
Journalism &  
Communication

## Participating Professors and Their Courses

*In Term 2 of 2002-2003, the following Professors have joined our Program:*

### WAC@CUHK

#### Faculty of Arts

Prof. Steve Luk

HIS 3250 History of Modern Japan, 1800-2000

Prof. Caroline Pluss

HIS 3505A Topic Studies of Hong Kong History: Ethnic Minorities

#### Faculty of Business Administration

Prof. Bee Leng Chua

MGT 2040F Human Resource Management

Prof. Ping Ping Fu

MGT 2040H & I Human Resource Management

Prof. Jessica Kwong

MKT 2010L & Q Marketing Management

#### Faculty of Education

Dr. Eunice Tang

LED 2810 ELT Theory & Methodology

Prof. David Johns

SPE 3720 Sociology of Sport & Leisure

#### Faculty of Engineering

Prof. Ho Fung Leung

CSE 2520 Data Structure

CSE 4010 Final Year Project

CSE 4020 Final Year Project

Prof. Janny Leung

SEG 3450A & B Engineering Innovation and Entrepreneurship

#### Faculty of Medicine

Prof. Yuan Yuan Ho

Biochemistry Final Year Project

#### Faculty of Social Science

Prof. Gordon Mathews

ANT 3560 Globalization & Cultural Identity

Prof. Jeffrey Cody

ARC 2321 Architectural History & Theory III

ARC 4302C Studies of Selected Periods or Works of Architecture: the Renaissance

Prof. Bryce McIntyre

COM 2180 English News Reporting II

Prof. James Kenny

COM 2932 Film Genres: Love, Death & Laughs

Dr. Teresa Fung

ECO 1310 Current Hong Kong Economics Issues

Prof. Junsen Chang

ECO 790T MPhil. Thesis Research

Prof. Lawal Marafa

GRM 3224 Recreation Planning & Management

Prof. Catherine McBride Chang

PSY 3530B Child Psychology

Prof. Chack Kie Wong

SWK 0320E Student Oriented Teaching II

Prof. Jik Joen Lee

SWK 0320A Student Oriented Teaching II

### WAC@CityU

#### Faculty of Science and Engineering

Prof. Florence Mong

CS 2332 Object-oriented Programming

CS 3501 Industrial Placement

Prof. Kwai Sang Chin

MEEM 4025 Quality Management

### WAC@PolyU

#### Faculty of Construction and Land Use

Prof. Linda Fan

BRE 292 Management for Building & Real Estate

Prof. Edward Yiu

BRE 335 Procurement & Contract Administration

Prof. Lo Yin Chan

CSE 203 Environmental Studies

Prof. Hong Chua

CSE 231 Environmental Science