

2008 CCCC Exemplar Award Winner

CCCC honors Patricia Bizzell, professor and past chair of the Department of English at the College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts, with the 2008 Exemplar Award, the most prestigious award we are privileged to give a colleague. This award recognizes her outstanding accomplishments in three areas: teaching, scholarship, and leadership.

Pat Bizzell's voice is that of an entire generation of composition teachers and researchers, a voice CCCC members began to hear in the 1980s. It is a voice that continues to support and challenge us in 2008. She has published on basic writing, writing across the curriculum, cognition, contact zones, feminism, classical and contemporary rhetoric, social constructionism, and critical consciousness—influencing just about every disciplinary niche comprising our profession. In addition to her significant articles and review-essays, she is perhaps best known for five books: *Academic Discourse and Critical Consciousness* (1992), *Negotiating Difference: Readings in Multicultural American Rhetoric* (1995), *The Rhetorical Tradition: Readings from Classical Times to the Present* (2001), and *ALT/DIS: Alternative Discourses and the Academy* (2002). From the outset, she has sought to bring marginalized student groups to the front of our discussions. We see in the care with which she writes and speaks about teaching her commitment to negotiating difference, towards strongly egalitarian ends.

Professor Bizzell impresses us with how she positions and repositions herself in relation not only to what she is thinking but to what others have to say. As one nominator put it, "The essence of positioning is making clear where you stand and then listening for the differences in others' positions that can help you move forward. In doing this, Pat's scholarship in rhetoric and composition is exemplary, a model for all to follow." To paraphrase another nominator: as a scholar, Pat doesn't get stuck. She grows intellectually, adjusts her thinking in response to criticism, and changes her mind or refines her argument after listening to people. She engages in real scholarly dialogue, and she makes her intellectual growth public.

Professor Bizzell has always worked at a liberal arts college as a teacher of undergraduate students, especially basic writers. This is not an exemplar on a distant pedestal but a teacher-researcher-administrator who understands the daily realities of our work and who continually engages, with us, the issues that impact our teaching and the lives of our students. Her excellence as a teacher is evidenced in part by having brought her undergraduate students to our annual convention so that they could hear and participate in our conversations. Her active participation in CCCC meetings, her continuing presence among us, was a significant factor in her selection for this award.

As a leader, Professor Bizzell has served CCCC with exemplary service on the Nominating Committee and the Committee on Bibliography. Early in her career she also served on the NCTE Commission on Composition. She has supported CCCC for over twenty years by reviewing manuscripts for our journal, for NCTE's *College English*, and for other important juried journals in our profession. She has enriched our annual conventions, generously delivering two dozen papers over the years, including in 2001 as a featured speaker.

Professor Bizzell's influence on our profession outside of CCCC has been extraordinary as well. She is perhaps best known for her leadership of the Alliance of Rhetoric Societies, for which she has served as president of the Board of Directors, and the Rhetoric Society of America, whose members have elected her to its Board of Directors, then its president. For the National Council of Writing Program Administrators, Pat has served as a member of the Research Grant Committee and the Executive Committee. She also has held a three-year term on the Committee on Publications for the Modern Language Association.

Pat Bizzell's work as a teacher, scholar, and leader in our profession, especially CCCC, merits not only our recognition but also our deep gratitude. Please join us in congratulating her.