

## Greetings from the 2004 PROGRAM CHAIR



Doug Hesse

### Greetings

Welcome to San Antonio and the 55th annual meeting of the Conference on College Composition and Communication!

My greetings come on behalf of all who built this meeting: proposal writers, reviewers, planners, and workers both local and national. Your gathering at this place, now, revitalizes each of us, in discussions crucial for our students, our field, and the literate practices of our society.

When I chose the conference theme fourteen months ago, I hoped it would perturb some comfortable assumptions. The past year's professional and political events reinforce that impulse. I'd hoped that we might treat our scholarship and practices not only as smart exchanges among ourselves but also as vital transactions with a world often not in our meetings, except by implication. How might we matter to students, citizens, and institutions—and still, of course, ourselves?

As you will see in the pages that follow, we'll surely grapple with that tough question, beginning with the keynote address. Kathleen Blake Yancey, in "Made Not Only in Words: Composition in a New Key," juxtaposes the recent release of several critical national reports, many drafted without our expertise, with the recent emergence of discursive practices that function largely outside schools, as "an underground economy of composition and communication."

Hundreds of speakers will join Kathleen's issues and others equally compelling. We are, this week, 502 concurrent sessions, 13 featured sessions, 35 workshops, 51 special interest groups and caucuses, and over a dozen special events, all in a program chosen from three times as many proposals. We teach in two- and four-year colleges, universities, and high schools, in every state and several countries. We are historians and theorists, writers technical and creative, rhetoricians, administrators, tutors, researchers, first-timers and veterans who first came 40 years ago. (I think most pointedly of Wayne Booth and Ken Macrorie, both on this program.) We will conduct business in committees, caucuses, and the Saturday morning business meeting, to which everyone is heartily invited.

Of course, the formal program is only part of us. We are constituted as much by exhibits, receptions, and lobby talk, by ideas generated and connections made in plazas, parties, coffee shops, and dance halls, along the river and streets of San Antonio, whose histories, languages, and people harbingers an American future. It's good to be here.

### Dedication

Since we last gathered, 1960 Chair Glenn Leggett passed away, as did John Gerber, our first chair and founder. Jix Lloyd-Jones remembers him in the pages of this Program. Closer to our organizational heart is the passing of Wendy Bishop, 2001 CCCC Chair, whom we will remember and celebrate in the final session Thursday afternoon. What is best in this program I dedicate to our memories of Wendy.

## Acknowledgments



Lori Ostergaard



Sue Hum



Linda Woodson

Lori Ostergaard has been the ideal program assistant: articulate, creative, independent, poised, flawlessly responsible, and, perhaps most importantly, willing and able to tell me when enough is enough. Someday she'll likely write a paragraph like this one about her own assistant.

Sue Hum and Linda Woodson have been more than gracious hosts, though that is plenty enough. They've done the hard and vital local work—things impossible not only for me but even the august NCTE staff—accomplishing everything with timely good cheer. Thanks to the very fine local committee that Sue and Linda gathered: Carlos Salinas, Carol Ann Britt, Camille Langston, Drew Loewe, and Judith Gardner. Together, they've opened San Antonio's doors—and streets and river—in ways that will simply delight us all.

Our colleagues at NCTE did the kind of heavy lifting without which a meeting of this scope would fail to budge. Kent Williamson's leadership was superb, as always, and Paul Bodmer and Kristen McGowan provided timely information. Sue Gallivan handled countless details with aplomb, and Tom Jaczak and the rest of the NCTE design and publications folks were splendid. Jacqui Joseph-Biddle and Eileen Maley shared their unparalleled experience and expertise, along with joyful lunches at the best Mexican cafe in Urbana: a sort of Texas training. They solved every problem and remained unflappable despite my best efforts to flap them. I valued every minute of the days (literally) we spent on the phone, and Eileen, especially, has my endless gratitude.

The "senior" CCCC officers fledged me on the wings of their masterful collective experience. John Lovas, Shirley Logan, Kathleen Yancey, Joyce Neff, and Marilyn Cooper: I'm appreciatively humbled. Thanks, Erika Lindemann.

Again this year, several of the savviest scholars, leaders, and teachers in our field provided online coaching for proposal drafts. Over 70 people received personal feedback from Wendy Bishop, Rick Gebhardt, Paula Gillespie, Cheryl Glenn, Joseph Harris, Brian Huot, David Jolliffe, Judy Kirkpatrick, Ken Lindblom, John Lovas, Barry Maid, Paul Matsuda, Georgia Newman, Cindy Selfe, Tony Silva, or Martha Townsend.

Two expert reviewers read each submission. Generously providing expertise at Stage I were Linda Adler-Kassner, Tom Amorose, Chris Anson, Nancy Barron, Charles Bazerman, Wendy Bishop, Deborah Brandt, Lee Brasseur, Brenda Brueggemann, Deany Cheramie, Bill Condon, Marilyn Cooper, Nancy DeJoy, Scott Lloyd DeWitt, Ronda Dively, Sid Dobrin, Patricia Donahue, Suellynn Duffey, Patricia Dunn, Amanda Espinosa-Aguilar, Sheryl Fontaine, Tom Fox, Richard Fulkerson, Richard Gebhardt, Eli Goldblatt, Roger Graves, Jeanne Gunner, Carolyn Handa, Paul Hanstedt, Gail Hawisher, Anne Herrington, Will Hochman, Susan Jarratt, Richard Jenseth, Jim Kalmbach, Carrie Leverenz, Scott Lyons, Sue McLeod, Hans Ostrom, Mike Palmquist, Paul Puccio, Donna Reiss, Nedra Reynolds, Keith Rhodes, Duane Roen, Stephen Ruffus, Carol Rutz, Raul Sanchez, Pearl Saunders, Stuart Selber, Beatrice Smith, Kip Strasma, Jeff Sommers, Kurt Spellmeyer, Bonnie Sunstein, Howard Tinberg, David L. Wallace, Irwin Weiser, Kathleen Ethel Welch, Demetrice Worley, Sheldon Wrice, Anne Frances Wysocki, and Morris Young.

Stage II Reviewers met three days in Urbana to read, rate, combine, title, and counsel. Thanks to Catherine Hobbs, Sue Hum, Jaime Mejia, Peter Mortensen, Lori Ostergaard, Kate Ronald, Freddy Thomas, Sterling Warner, and Jay Wootten.

I thank Ron Fortune and the English Department at Illinois State University for providing assistantship funding and Jan Shane, Associate Provost, for cheerful tolerance when I needed to turn my professional gaze away from Normal. My staff and colleagues in the Center for the Advancement of Teaching provided practical and intellectual support, as did students and faculty friends at Illinois State.

Kathi Yancey has been as much friend and confidant as mentor. Thank you, dear one, for every idea, encouragement, reality check, family story, hopeful thought, and 6 a.m. e-mail.

Dearest have been Monica, Andrew, and Paige, who learned even at night to dial Dad's office phone first. And Becky, whose support beyond any decent expectation is matched only by her talents and my love.

## **Commencement**

In some American city each spring I learn new things, make new friends, join new efforts. Each meeting renews my belief in the work we do. This week, here, I look forward to meeting you.

Doug Hesse  
Illinois State University  
Program Chair