

Greetings from the 2012 PROGRAM CHAIR



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Writing
is the mind's
gateway to the heart.
— Anonymous

Welcome to St. Louis . . . the gateway to the 63rd annual meeting of the Conference on College Composition and Communication. It has been almost 25 years since we last convened in this vibrant and historic city. In those years, both the city and our profession have, as our conference will demonstrate, experienced much change.

Although a rich assortment of workshops and other pre-convention activities will have taken place by Thursday morning, the opening session is our threshold to this year's conference. Our chair Malea Powell's address,

"Stories Take Place," will draw our attention to threads of narrative that weave us into being individually and into the tapestry of our collective work. This session is also our opportunity to welcome each other, fête the recipients of several important awards, and thank the many people who have contributed to planning the conference. Rachel Bagby, award-winning writer, vocalist, and advocate of women's voices, will show us how to compose and share *dekaaz*, ten-syllable texts (2/3/5) that will express our conference experiences and reflections over the next three exciting days.

As we transition from the opening session, a thousand experiences await us: opportunities to be reunited with friends and colleagues and to work with them on ongoing projects; over 500 concurrent sessions focusing on a rich array of research studies, important issues and problems, curricular and instructional successes, new ventures, and cutting-edge information; an exhibit area featuring the latest books, journals, author signings, and digital innovations; meetings of SIGs, CCCC committees, caucuses, and task forces that make our work visible, useful, and empowering; and, of course, opportunities to mingle at many receptions and other social gatherings and special events.

Our conference theme is about passageways and transitions we experience as a profession and as teachers, writers, administrators, and scholars. It's also about the transitions our work enables for learners in all higher-education contexts—and about the forces that stand in the way of those transitions. I invite you to imagine the many experiences you have at this year's conference as part of your own transitions—toward greater knowledge and insight, toward new opportunities for you personally and professionally, and toward your contributions to a profession that continues to advocate for and enact humane, informed, enlightened, and effective practices.

In addition to all the good things you've come to expect from the convention, this year you'll also find some innovations and experiments.

- We are using a QR code this year at CCCC (posted here and there throughout the convention). They look like this:



This code can be read by smart phones, tablets, and certain other mobile devices and will provide instant access to the CCCC Connected Community site, where you can find links to materials such as handouts, entire conference papers, and other resources that panelists have made available in advance of the conference. To read the QR code with your device, simply download a free QR reader app and scan the codes you see located around the convention.

- If you're new or relatively new to CCCC, we continue to expand and enhance opportunities for you to feel welcomed into our large and diverse organization and to learn about the many ways that it can help you in your work and involve you in its work. In addition to the Newcomers Orientation, Newcomer's Coffee Hour, and other regular events, consider attending the Featured Session "Gateways to Leadership" on Thursday at 4:45 p.m., which will showcase some of the ways that you can participate in CCCC. Another session, "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Publishing But Were Afraid to Ask" (Thursday at 12:15) will introduce you to the main CCCC journals, whose editors will invite you to contribute to our ongoing scholarly conversations and offer helpful advice.
- An *undergraduate poster session* will showcase the work of over a dozen students from across the U.S. who have been engaged in research on writing. They'll be presenting their posters on Thursday, March 22 in the foyer of the Majestic Ballroom, Renaissance Hotel. After their live presentations, they will leave their posters for registrants to look at throughout the conference.



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- We have dedicated a room in the convention center for scheduled *working sessions of CCCC committees, task forces, SIGs, and caucuses* to share their progress on specific initiatives and get feedback from registrants. These meetings are in addition to the regularly scheduled Friday SIG sessions, and you'll find them announced at the end of each concurrent session slot.
- To bring the voices (and images) of important international scholars to the CCCC who are not able to grace us with their physical presence, for the first time we are holding several *digitally enabled international sessions*. One or more scholars in Argentina, England, Israel, Colombia, Venezuela, Belgium, and New Zealand will join members of in-person international panels on screen.
- An innovative *access happening*, in the spirit of the Happenings of the 1950's and 1960's, will break with the norms of conference sessions and help us to focus on issues of access in composition.
- As promised at the 2011 Annual Business/Town Meeting, heightened focus on *basic writing* will be noticeable this year, kicked off with a session featuring Mike Rose, Lynn Quitman Troyka, and Peter Adams that asks, "Should Basic Writing Be Put On the Endangered Species List?"
- Registrants can contribute to a *composition genealogy*, a project designed to trace and make public all the ways that we are interconnected through our graduate mentors and others who have influenced us and our work. Sondra Perl and colleagues' session (Thursday at 10:30, "Composing Genealogies: A Family Tree of Composition/Rhetoric") will explain the project, and then contributions can be made in the foyer area of the 200 rooms, Level 2, at the America's Convention Center.
- We have a dynamic lineup of *featured speakers*, including *Susan Blum*, an anthropologist whose recently published book examines college plagiarism from a cultural perspective. Award-winning poet and author *Jimmy Santiago Baca* will share how literacy became for him a gateway from prison to a new life; *Deborah Appleman* will provide a response that highlights some of her literacy work in prisons. NCAA president *Mark Emmert* will reflect on the relationship of literacy and college athletics. *Adam Banks*, author of the just-published *Digital Griots: African American Rhetoric in a Multimedia Age* will give us "Technologizing Funk/Funkin Technology: Stevie Wonder's Talking Book as Gateway to a Black Digital Rhetoric." In an address cosponsored by the CWPA, the august *Richard Lanham* will engage and inform us with "'That Stuff Hasn't Changed Much in 2500 Years, Has It?' Rhetorical Terms in an Attention Economy." And writer, vocalist, composer, and inspirer Rachel Bagby, author of *Divine Daughters: Liberating the Power and Passion of Women's Voices*, will lead a dynamic session focusing on a new poetic form, the *dekaaz*.

Among those already mentioned are seventeen *featured panel sessions* that will trace the development of our discipline and organization, celebrate important professional anniversaries, bridge the past and the future, explore problems and controversies, and offer us new insights and perspectives. Hundreds of other panel sessions

and roundtables will offer us a rich array of opportunities to learn, share information, and engage in rich dialogues about every facet of our work.

And after all that, there's the city of St. Louis to enjoy. I need only advise you to read Local Arrangements Chair Vince Casaregola's spirited and detailed welcome to get you inspired about all the places you can visit to recreate or learn from, and all the terrific restaurants you can sample while you're here.

Finally, a personal note: As I started to assume the role of Program Chair, I was clueless about the effort it takes to put on a national convention that brings together over 3,500 people who participate in 500-600 sessions and countless other events. I imagined what Eero Saarinen, architect of the St. Louis arch, must have felt as he walked the grassy space by the Mississippi River where his remarkable structure would go up, piece by piece, into the Missouri sky. But he knew—as I learned—that monumental work gets done only with the contribution of countless minds and hands. Among those who have made this year's conference possible are well over a hundred proposal reviewers, coaches, and Stage 2 reviewers; a smart and dedicated Local Arrangements Committee; an amazing staff at the NCTE/CCCC headquarters, especially conference coordinators extraordinaire Eileen Maley and Jacquie Joseph-Biddle, and administrative liaison Kristen Suchor; my two incredibly hard-working graduate assistants Meagan Kittle-Autry and Dana Gierdowski, who graciously and unflaggingly took on conference-related work in the midst of their graduate programs and other duties; an Officers team that I relied on far too much for advice and counsel; and dozens of friends and colleagues who allayed my almost constant doubts and fears with their wisdom and calm responses. Countless people worked tirelessly to bring you all that you will experience here. My thanks to them are immeasurable.

Chris Anson
2012 Program Chair



Acknowledgments

Online Coaches

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In Memoriam

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