



Professional Development Day

Texas A&M University-Commerce

May 9, 2008

Workshop Overview

Karl Fisch and Scott McLeod's video "Shift Happens" chronicles the rapid and ongoing changes making the world our students will enter following graduation very different from anything we can now imagine. These changes force us to rethink the classroom--at all levels and in all disciplines.

The objective of this day-long professional development workshop is to explore together--via multiple concurrent sessions--the shape and function of the 21st century classroom that is "full of shift." Today English and History teachers, librarians and administrators, join together to explore writing, research, history, and technology choices that will help prepare our students for this changing world: in college and beyond.

Participants will be offered a multitude of sessions, each led by A&M-Commerce faculty (in English, History, Art, and our university Library) and area teachers in English and History. Please see schedule for a brief description of each offering. The day ends with a showing at our new Planetarium and a reception at our beautiful new Science Building.



Karl Fisch and Scott McLeod's "Shift Happens" (June 2007)

Schedule Overview

8:00-8:15 Registration/Breakfast (continues through 8:50)

8:15-8:50

Welcome

Derryle Peace, Director of Alumni Relations

Dr. Salvatore Attardo, Head, Department of Literature and Languages

Dr. Ricky Dobbs, Head, Department of History

Introduction, “Shift Happens” video

Dr. Shannon Carter, Associate Professor of English

**Breakfast sponsored by the Texas A&M University-Commerce Alumni Association*

9:00-10:00 Session One (select session)

10:00-10:15: Break

10:15-11:15 Session Two (select session)

11:30-1:00 Lunch/Keynote

Introduction: Dr. Sharon Chambers, Interim Associate Provost, Texas A&M-Commerce

Keynote Address: Dr. Leah Wickersham and Wendy Gruver

**Lunch sponsored by Office of the Provost*

1:15-2:15 Session Three (select session)

2:30-3:15 Planetarium Show in Science Building

3:15-4:00 Reception in the Science Building

Dr. James Klein, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

**Reception sponsored by College of Arts and Sciences*

Schedule (Detailed)

8:00-8:30 Registration/Breakfast

8:15-8:50 Introduction/Welcome

9:00-10:00 **Session One** (Please choose a session)

A. Teaching Women in World History with Drs. Sharon Kowalsky and Melissa Gormley, A&M-Commerce (Department of History) **Meeting Room: Bluebonnet**

This session will examine strategies and methods for integrating the teaching of women's history in the World History curriculum, focusing in particular on Latin America and Russia.

B. College Readiness Standards with Dr. Ricky Dobbs, A&M-Commerce (Department of History), and Dr. Jonathan Lee, San Antonio College **Meeting Room: Leadership**

Currently, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and Texas Education Agency are working to draw up P-16 College Readiness Standards that will greatly influence the revision of the state's TEKS curriculum in coming years. Phase One is complete, and two survivors will tell all. Dr. Lee and Dr. Dobbs will discuss the process, politics, potential and implications of this effort. In addition, they will share their reflections on the P-16 process as well as advice for those trying to prepare high school students for college..

C. The Ultimate in AP English Projects with Karen Endicott, Van Alstyne High School, and Susan Fleming, A&M-Commerce (Department of Literature and Languages) **Meeting Room: Caddo**

Want to get away (from the tedious AP Exam prep)? Want to challenge your AP students? Want to highlight your AP Program? Want to impress your principal, superintendent, and school board? If your answer is yes, this session is for you! We will provide insightful, creative, and cross-curricular projects that include lesson plans and rubrics for the ultimate AP English projects.

D. Who's Afraid of Ideology? Ideology in Children's and Adolescent Literature with Dr. Susan Stewart, Texas A&M Commerce and Dr. Karen Roggenkamp (Department of Literature and Languages) **Meeting Room: Rio Grande**

The term "ideology," for most people, conveys negative images—the "ideologues," for instance, who insist their way is the only way. In reality, however, ideology is somewhat neutral, neither good nor bad. Ideology is simply a system of beliefs. It's what a person, a group, or a culture does with that ideology that can be so deadly. And, ideology is everywhere. So it shouldn't be surprising that ideology is part of what our youth learn through the books they read, whether they're reading a picture book like *The Rainbow Fish* or an adolescent novel like *The Giver*. During this session, which will be conducted in the form of a workshop, we will discuss the role of ideology in the books students and children read, how ideology works, and how you can help your students identify ideology regardless of their age. It is ultimately a conversation every teacher should have with students, and one that they might enjoy!

E. *What's Up in Docs! . . . Government Documents for Secondary Curriculum* with David Rankin of A&M University-Commerce (Gee Library) **Meeting Room: East/West Trinity**

The United States Government is the most prolific provider of information in the world. The James Gee Library at Texas A&M University - Commerce serves as a United States Federal Government Depository. This session will provide information about the vast range of resources which can be utilized by teachers and students for educational and research purposes.

10:00-10:15 **Break**

10:15-11:15 **Session Two** (Please select one)

A. *Increasing Rigor and Including Historiography in the Pre-AP Classroom* with Jarred Stewart, Richardson ISD. **Meeting Room: Bluebonnet**

Considering current demands of the AP Exam, college expectations, and demands of increased rigor, historiography and research skills must be a part of the Pre-AP curriculum. Participants in this session will consider what AP courses expect of the Pre-AP teacher, how to increase the rigor of Pre-AP courses, and how to integrate both historiography and research into the Pre-AP classrooms.

B. *New Media "on the Cheap": Teaching 21st Century Literacies in 20th Century Classrooms* with Dr. Shannon Carter and Dr. Donna Dunbar-Odom, A&M-Commerce (Department of Literature and Languages) **Meeting Room: Caddo**

This session will offer practical strategies for integrating multiple modes of composition into English curricula (visual, written, aural). Given the realities of limited budgets and, for many of us, dated equipment, "New Media on the Cheap" will explore the many options available to teachers who wish to explore with students new ways of composing yet must do so within the limits of available equipment and expertise.

C. *Reading the Land: Cynicism, Nostalgia, and the Contemporary Landscape* with Vaughn Wascovich, A&M-Commerce (Department of Art) **Meeting Room: Leadership**

The American landscape occupies a central theme in both writing and visual arts, but the reality of environmental degradation in the late Twentieth Century has created challenges in the stories that we tell about the land. Engaging written and visual traditions in thoughtful dialogue, Vaughn Wascovich's photography presents a newer vision of the land that, while critical, is not altogether devoid of the heroic or the nostalgic. The work - in turns melancholic and humorous - ultimately reminds us that any journey into nature is a journey into oneself.

D. *Picture This: Strategies for Teaching Comics and Graphic Novels* with Derek Royal, A&M-Commerce (Department of Literature and Languages) **Meeting Room: Rio Grande**

Let's face it, we live in an image-based culture. Not only do students privilege visual media, but educators as well are increasingly employing visual strategies to achieve their desired learning outcomes. Given such an environment, the significance of the graphic narrative cannot be underestimated. This session will focus on the ways in which educators can use comics and graphic novels in the classroom, moving beyond simple thematic analysis—e.g., superhero as new myth—to highlight the literary potential of the medium. It will explore how educators, using comics and graphic novels, can help students become sophisticated readers of the form, thereby better preparing them for the many visual narratives that make up our culture.

E. AP English and AP Social Studies Working Together Tracey Hurst, Richardson ISD (Director of Secondary Advanced Academic Studies) **Meeting Room: East/West Trinity**

The AP English Language and Composition course and the AP United States History Course complement each other well, as do AP English Literature and AP European History. Students benefit from teachers who work cooperatively, setting up their scope and sequence to support one another, by reducing the quantity of work and increasing the depth which can be covered. Learn how teachers in Richardson ISD are working together to increase student performance on both AP Exams and expanding opportunities for teachers and students.

11:30-1:00 **Lunch/keynote**

Keynote Address: *Help! There's a Millennial in my Classroom!*

Dr. Leah Wickersham, Associate Professor of Education at A&M-Commerce, and Wendy Gruver, Director of Student Assessment and Advising/ P-16 Special Advisor

The Millennial Generation is a group of students born between 1982 and 2002 and make up the largest (more than 80 million) and most diverse population to enter our classrooms. Millennials have a "can do" attitude, enjoy teamwork, and they are upbeat and engaged. Technology is a way of life for them; however, they need help in managing the mass amounts of information that comes their way every second. What do you do with the Millennials in your classroom?

1:15-2:15 **Session Three** (Please select one)

A. Building a College Readiness Program Tracey Hurst, Richardson ISD (Director of Secondary Advanced Academic Studies) **Meeting Room: East/West Trinity**

Exposure to the rigor of college-level courses in high school offers students a taste of the higher education experience. Richardson ISD graduates over 2,000 each year (4 high schools), with approximately 20% earning the equivalent of 12 hours of college credit through AP exams and dual credit. Learn about the dual credit/AP overlay where Richardson ISD teachers are credentialed to teach the AP course for dual credit; non-AP dual credit offerings both at the high school campus and the community college; how adopting the College Board's Open Enrollment philosophy has resulted in a steady increase in AP enrollment and participation in exams (up 10%-15% at each of the four high schools in 2008); and how College Board and other data drives decision making for the College Readiness program. This presentation will offer ideas to schools of all sizes interested in advanced programs.

B. College Readiness Standards with Dr. Jonathan Lee, San Antonio College **Meeting Room: Caddo**

This session will provide an inside look at the new state college readiness standards presented by those involved with their development.

C. Teaching Women in World History with Drs. Sharon Kowalsky and Melissa Gormley, A&M-Commerce (Department of History) **Meeting Room: Bluebonnet**

This session will focus on strategies and methods for integrating the teaching of women's history in the World History curriculum.

D. We Remember: Honoring Those Who Served in World War II with Greg Mitchell, A&M University-Commerce (Director of Libraries) **Meeting Room: Rio Grande**

A Digital Library is a collection of text, images, sounds and videos accessible world wide, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on the Internet. Gee Library is collecting oral histories from area WWII vets, and video/audio archives of these important stories are available to your students. This session will share the WWII Project with participants and discuss the many possibilities embedded in this important resource.

E. Graduate Opportunities in English and History with Dr. Donna Dunbar-Odom (Department of Literature and Languages) and Dr. Ricky Dobbs (Department of History) **Meeting Room: Leadership**

This session offers participants the chance to explore graduate opportunities in English and History at Texas A&M University in Commerce.

2:30-3:15 **Planetarium Show in Science Building**

Please join us for a showing at our Planetarium in the new Science Building

3:15-4:00 **Reception in Science Building**

Please join us for a reception in the Science Building. Professional Development Certificates will be handed out at this time.

