



THE WRITE TRACK



OCTOBER, 2009

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings UAPB Family,

This newsletter, *The Write Track*, is intended to provide our readers with current information about the activities in the Writing Center. We hope our publication will be both beneficial and informative.

The staff at the Viralene J. Coleman Computerized Writing Center is excited about the services that the center provides for the UAPB student body. As we continue with a productive semester, we look forward to having our students visit the center and take advantage of the services that we provide.

The Writing Center is partially funded by the Title III Program and the Neal Blakely Writing Initiative. Because of their generous support, we have recently hired Ms. Sheena Terrell, a UAPB alumna and a 2009 graduate of Arkansas State University. Ms. Terrell brings an added dimension to our program, and we welcome her back to UAPB and especially to the Writing Center.

Operating under the auspices of the English Department, the Writing Center serves as a support for classes.

Students who need assistance writing the paragraph, essay, research paper, or those who have grammar concerns are encouraged to visit us for assistance. Along with our new writing instructor, the center employs three students with demonstrated writing skills who work as writing tutors. Also, the center houses the English component of the TRIO Student Support Services Program. This program also tutors students with writing concerns. With our available manpower, we are able to ensure that the writing needs of our student clientele are being met.



Mrs. Patricia Meadows, Director

Watch for our monthly editions to keep abreast of Writing Center activities. We are here to help with all of your writing needs. Stop by the center and let us help you make a difference with your writing.

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Let's Give Them Something to Write About

After months of planning and hours of labor, the Viralene J. Coleman Computerized Writing Center is newly remodeled and better than ever. On April 26th, the center opened its doors with a new look. It is now furnished with new computers for our students, as well as with elaborate pictures that document the captivating beauty of our campus and our generous sponsors.

We are committed to promoting outstanding student achievement by providing an environment that is conducive for learning. In order to maintain this standard, we have a three-point mission as follows:

- we assist students in identifying writing problems,
- we discuss methods for improving student writing, and
- we encourage students to use their own thought processes as they write in order to foster stronger, more confident writers.

The improvements to our center have allowed us to serve our students better and the entire University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff community better. In addition to the changes to the facility, we have also made some technological advances. The Writing Center now has a website, www.uapbwriting.org, which contains useful information about writing. The site has links to various sources that provide information for documentation and more. It also contains our contact information, which includes our email address: writingcenter@uapb.edu. The use of email allows us to serve our students better who commute from long distances.



Our students are eager to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Writing Center.



MEET OUR STAFF

The V. J. Coleman Computerized Writing Center staff includes: Dr. Page– Chair, Dr. Paul Lorenz– Project Coordinator, Mrs. Patricia Meadows– Director, and Ms. Sheena T. Terrell– Writing Instructor. We’re also assisted by student tutors.



Ms. Sheena T. Terrell– Writing Instructor
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff,
B. A. Mass Communications
Arkansas State University,
M. S. Mass Communications

“Words to a story are like notes to a musical piece. The right combination can create a beautiful melody, and the perfect words are like music to my ears” ~ Sheena Terrell



Dr. Paul Lorenz– Project Coordinator
Michigan State University, B. A. English
University of Wisconsin, M. A. Literature
and Linguistics
University of Houston, Ph. D. English



Dr. Yolanda Williams Page, Chair
English Department
Dillard University,
B. A. English and Business Management
Louisiana State University,
Ph. D. English Literature

“The time to begin writing an article is when you have finished it to your satisfaction. By that time you begin to clearly and logically perceive what it is you really want to say.” ~ Mark Twain

“Effective writing courses involve analysis of and written response to both traditional and popular cultural texts. For me, a successful course is one in which students learn to respond critically, both in discussion and writing, to their discursive milieus.” ~ Yolanda Page

Let the Writing Center tutors get you on "The Write Track!"



Name: Joi Bowers
Classification: Senior
Major: English- Non teaching
Hometown: Novi, Michigan
Why did you choose to attend UAPB?

I chose to attend UAPB because of my legacy... Both my mother and father attended UAPB, and they are major supporters of this university.

What is your writing philosophy/favorite quote?

“The greatest ‘dramatist/writer’ shows a mirror of his society to his audience.” ~ Imlac



Name: Joseph Cogshell
Classification: Graduating Senior
Major: Business Marketing
Hometown: Little Rock, Arkansas
Why did you choose to attend UAPB?

I chose to attend UAPB because whenever I had the opportunity to visit, it felt like home.

What is your writing philosophy/ favorite quote?

“I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life, as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.” ~ Booker T. Washington



Name: Chairman Saintil
Classification: Graduating Senior
Major: Criminal Justice
Hometown: Jonesboro, Georgia
Why did you choose to attend UAPB?

I wanted to take advantage of the authentic care and attention which the school offers to those who aspire to become successful scholars in life.

What is your writing philosophy/ favorite quote?

Read to learn new words, then write to express those words. Writing should express one’s creativity and personality.



DR. VIRALENE J. COLEMAN BIOGRAPHY

In 2003, the English Writing Lab was named after Dr. Viralene J. Coleman. Dr. Coleman shared her love for the world of literature for 37 years and retired as chairperson of the Department of English, Theatre, and Mass Communications at UAPB. A passion for the world of literature was kindled in Viralene J. Coleman at a very early age in a little school (where her father was her first teacher) at Snow Hill, a small settlement five miles south of Smackover, Arkansas. She later moved to Rosston to live with her grandfather and attended Oak Grove School where she was valedictorian of her 1946 graduating class, earning her a scholarship to AM&N College. In 1950, she earned her bachelor's degree in literature and in 1959 a master's degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. She would later return to Fayetteville to earn a Doctor of Philosophy degree, becoming the first AFRICAN AMERICAN to do so.



Dr. Coleman

Before joining the faculty at AM&N in 1960, she taught English at Immanuel High School in Elmyra and at Townsend Park High School in Pine Bluff. She composed the school's alma mater, "Oh We Cherish Townsend Park High."

When Dr. Coleman was appointed chairperson of the Department of English, Theatre, and Mass Communications, her duties included the supervision of the programs in Humanities, Religion and Philosophy, and Modern Foreign Languages.

During her tenure, she established a chapter of Sigma Tau Delta (a national English fraternity), developed a degree granting program in journalism, established a "state-of-the-art" foreign language lab, revised the freshman writing program, and expanded the English curricula. Dr. Coleman was active in many state and national professional organizations while serving as head of the department.

Nationally recognized for her innovative approaches to technical composition and literature, she served as a test developer and read for the Educational Testing Service (ETS), the College Board (CLEP), and she served as a test reviewer for the National Endowment for the Humanities. Dr. Coleman is the recipient of numerous fellowships and received funding for more than 50 proposals. She was a co-director for the initial proposal for the Keepers of the Spirit Project that led to the development of the University Museum and Cultural Center. In 1984, she was named Arkansas Humanist of the Year and she was also awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award by the UAPB faculty. Although she retired from full time teaching several years ago, she is still quite active in campus and community organizations.

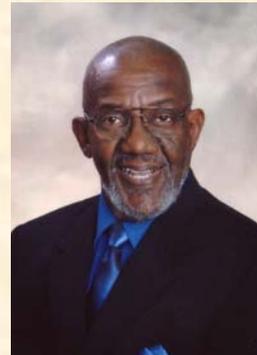
Editor's Note: The Coleman Biography and Blakely Initiative stories are compliments of the Title III Program..

THE NEAL BLAKELY WRITING INITIATIVE

The Neal Blakely Writing Initiative is a program that was developed on the UAPB campus as the result of an extraordinary bond between two friends. Cornell Scott's life path led him to AM&N College (now UAPB) around the same time another young man, Neal Blakely, had enrolled. Blakely and Scott lived in the same dormitory and despite having different academic interests, their personalities, code of ethics, and general belief that education was the answer to many obstacles in life, all helped to create the bond that existed between them.



Cornell Scott



Neal Blakely

to ensuring young African Americans are equipped with the academic tools necessary to succeed in life.

Mr. Blakely passed away in October 2006, but his friend Cornell Scott, did not forget him. Mr. Scott contacted Mrs. Blakely and pledged to make a contribution to UAPB in the name of friendship. However, Mr. Scott passed away in August 2008. Later that fall, Mrs. Blakely received news that Mr. Scott bequeathed an endowment totaling more than \$210,000 to UAPB in her husband's honor. The funds will provide state-of-the-art upgrades to the university's current writing

After graduation, their paths led them in different directions but their bond remained intact. Mr. Scott moved eastward to earn a master's degree in Public Health from Yale University School of Medicine in New Haven, CT. Over a period of forty years, Mr. Scott worked to provide people living in Connecticut's inner cities with access to affordable and quality healthcare. His commitment to the underserved resulted in the opening of 17 community health centers across the state. Blakely's path would lead him to Atlanta University, Grambling University, and Henderson State University. In Arkansas he served as a counselor and teacher in the public school system, and was also a Civil Rights activist.

The saga of these two friends is impressive in the way that their camaraderie is a testament to the powers of friendship and the kind of relationships cultivated at a school like UAPB. Cornell Scott left to become a champion for the poor, while the Blakely family has dedicated their lives

lab and support programs designed to improve students' abilities to write and communicate competitively in the professional arena. Some of the goals of the initiative include: conducting various workshops on APA and MLA documentation, providing information about personal statements to senior students preparing for graduate school, exposing students to professional writers, organizing and facilitating essay writing workshops, and extending the hours of the Writing Center. Some of these goals are currently in progress, while others will be implemented in the near future. In regards to the goals of the Writing Center, Dr. Carolyn Blakely states, "I am truly excited about the additional services that will be accessible to our students in the Writing Center because of the support of the Neal Blakely Initiative. I am certain that my husband would be pleased with the expanded opportunities now available to students to help them enhance their communication skills."

Our Patrons

KATTARRA MCNEAL SOPHOMORE

"The Writing Center is an excellent place to go for help. The staff is very knowledgeable about English and they give you their all. I like that they are available to work with you until 7:00 p. m. My first year at UAPB, I started attending the lab, and from then on, I just started coming very often."

Not convinced about
our awesome services?

Read what our student patrons are saying!

DESHANTA BANKS FRESHMAN

"The Writing Center is a great place to come and study. The tutors are very helpful. If you're having trouble in your English class, the writing center is the place to go to get help. The tutors are always very patient and understanding, and they give lots of good advice on revising papers."

NAKITA LOVELADY SENIOR

"The Writing Center is great! It is very convenient for students. It provides access to computers, Internet, and most importantly, tutoring for English and writing. The staff is friendly and is always willing to help! I spend more time in the lab than the library!"

SHARNISE B. WHITAKER JUNIOR

"The staff in the Writing Center is always very kind and helpful to me. I come in almost weekly and I am always greeted with a smile. The center is clean and quiet, and that is why I love to come in."

THE WRITING CENTER WORKSHOP SERIES

The Viralene J. Coleman Computerized Writing Center presents its Writing Center Workshop Series. This series will consist of workshops that will enhance the writing skills and techniques of the UAPB community.

Our first workshop is titled, *Expressing Thanks: The Art*

of the Thank-You Letter. This workshop is scheduled for Tuesday November 17th at 11:00 a. m. inside the Writing Center, which is located in Corbin Hall 105. The workshop will discuss the importance of a thank-you letter and provide an outline that a thank-you letter should follow.

Our first workshop, *Expressing Thanks: The Art of the Thank-You Letter*, will be held on Tuesday November 17th in Corbin 105.

Our future workshops include: an English Proficiency and Essay Writing workshop, an MLA Documentation workshop, an APA Documentation workshop, Plagiarism workshop, and many more. These workshops will teach students how to write an essay in correlation with the guidelines for the English Proficiency Examination, the correct way to use the APA and MLA formats, and how to avoid plagiarism.

We look forward to your attendance during our Writing Center Workshop Series. If you have any suggestions or concerns, please contact the Writing Center.

Produced by the
Viralene J. Coleman
Computerized Writing Center
Sheena T. Terrell- Editor

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To make an appointment, call 870-575-8696
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Email: writingcenter@uapb.edu.

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Monday- Friday

8:30 a.m.- 7:00 p.m.

