

The Nor'Easter

for the Two Year College English Association

Fall 2011 Articles:

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TYCA Northeast 2011 Conference in Portland, Maine

Portland has been described many ways—historic, literary, beautiful, charming (all of which are true)—but any way you describe it, this city is an ideal setting for a fall conference. This year's theme, Teaching in a Tidal Space: Navigating the Ebb and Flow of Student Learning, focuses on the challenges we all face teaching in today's community colleges. We invite you to engage in what promises to be a lively interchange of perspectives and ideas for enhancing teaching and learning as we navigate these currents.

The conference theme focuses our interaction on how we meet the challenges of a changing society in our classrooms—diverse student populations, electronic social interactions, underprepared students, families facing financial and personal crises, adults becoming students after a life in the work force, high school students getting an early start on a college education. Creating an environment that responds to all students requires us to be flexible and skillful educators. From a broad and

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Ten Reasons to Come to Portland This November

Meet with colleagues from around the region and share ideas about teaching and learning. The conference features workshops, discussion groups, and presentations by writers and educators, as well as informal opportunities over meals, cocktails, and fun local activities.

New conference activities include a film screening and discussion, discussion of a conference book, and roundtables about professional issues we share.

Meet **local writers** Monica Wood and Baron Wormser, and listen to excerpts of their work as you relax after lunch.

Food and drink—Portland is rumored to have more bars and restaurants per capita than any other city than San Francisco, featuring food that pleases nearly every palate. Many are within easy walking distance of the Eastland.

Working **waterfront** coexisting with greenspaces, trails, retail stores, restaurants and tourist access and accommodations. Ferries serve the Casco Bay islands and lobster and fishing boats unload their catch at the piers.

The arts—many galleries, museums, shops, performance venues, and street art in the Eastland Hotel neighborhood.

Walking—Portland is easily walkable, and most services and entertainment can be found within blocks of the Eastland. Walking Portland's several harborside trails takes you to some of the scenic corners of the City. Be sure to bring your walking shoes. If walking doesn't suit you, call a cab and you'll be where you need to be in minutes.

Shopping—Congress St and the Old Port area offer small shops and boutiques for

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Registration information

is detailed on the registration form, available at the TYCA NE website:

<http://www.tycanortheast.org>.

Be sure to register before October 14 to get the discounted rate.

Online Registration:

This year, for the first time, conference attendees can register online as well as via the mail. Our online registration is low-tech high-tech; registrants need to complete BOTH the online registration form and the PayPal button that are visible on the registration page, so that we get your registration information AND your PayPal payment. Online registration costs \$5 more than paper registration to cover processing fees. Online registrants will receive a receipt from PayPal for the transaction.

If you have questions, contact Registration Chair Dianne Fallon of York County Community College at dfallon@yccc.edu. To register online, visit the TYCA NE website at <http://www.tycanortheast.org/registerfortycane2011.html>.

Mail-in Registration:

Make checks payable to TYCA NE, and send to:

Dav Cranmer,
TYCA NE Treasurer
New England Institute of
Technology
2500 Post Rd.
Warwick, RI 02886

TYCA NE 2011 (continued from Page 1)

deep pool of proposals, we've chosen a rich program of topics and speakers for one-hour workshops throughout Friday and on Saturday morning.

We invite you to join a few [new activities](#) this year, including the screening and discussion of the documentary film, discussion of a conference book, late afternoon roundtable discussions, and regional meetings to allow you to meet your colleagues and your state reps over breakfast.

Lunches, as is traditional at TYCA conferences, we will feature writers from our area—novelist and educator [Monica Wood](#) and former Maine poet laureate [Baron Wormser](#)—who will read and talk about their work, and we hope, will introduce you to a new author and poet whose work you will come to know and admire. Each of these writers will also present a small, interactive workshop during our regular workshop schedule.

A trip to Portland is not complete without spending some time in our vibrant and eclectic community. (See accompanying articles about Portland's charms.) Arriving on Thursday will give you time to poke around the city before the cocktail reception and evening activities. Or, stay until Sunday to make the most of your trip to Maine's largest city. We look forward to hosting you and we wish you an energizing and rejuvenating conference! See you in November.

Amy Havel, Local Arrangements Chair

ahavel@smccme.edu

Lucinda Coombs, Program Chair

lcoombs@cmcc.edu



If you haven't yet reserved your room, please do so soon, as we have a limited number of overnight rooms reserved for this group.

Eastland Park Hotel reservations

<http://www.eastlandparkhotel.com>

888-671-8008
207-775-5411

Reference TYCA NE for the conference rate, \$119 double room.

Participants may pick up registration packets beginning at 1 pm on Thursday the 3rd in the lobby of the Eastland Hotel.

2011 TYCA Northeast Conference Program

Thursday, November 3

1-7 pm Registration, Lobby
 Evening Cocktail reception, sponsored by Bedford/St. Martin's
 Dinner and Comedy Club outing departs from Eastland
 Film screening and discussion: *As Seen Through Their Eyes*
 Dinner on your own

Friday, November 4

8-9:30 am Opening breakfast, sponsored by Bedford St Martin's
 Featured Speaker: Lynn Quitman Troyka, founding member and long-time friend
 of TYCA, will talk about about teaching, her books, and her professional
 involvement with our organization.

9:45-10:45 Session #1 Workshops
 11:15-12:15 Session #2 Workshops
 12:30-2:30 Lunch, Eastland Ballroom
 Writer Monica Wood will read and talk about her writing. For more information
 about Ms. Wood and her work, see the profile of conference speakers in this
 newsletter or check out her website: www.monicaewood.com. Her books will be
 sold by Longfellow Books, an independent bookseller of Portland Maine. A book
 signing will follow.

2:45-3:45 Session #3 Workshops
 4:15-5:15 Session #4 Workshops
 5:15 Discussion of the Conference Book, *The College Fear Factor: How Students and
 Professors Misunderstand One Another*
 Poetry Roundtable
 Adjunct Faculty Roundtable

Evening Portland's Finest Martini Crawl
 First Friday Artwalk
 Hosted Dinners
 Portland Museum of Art (free admission from 5-9)
 The Good Theater production of *August: Osage County*
 Explore Portland on your own, or check out other nearby venues (see
 Conference Activities description in this newsletter)

Saturday, November 5

7 am Neighborhood run, led by seasoned runner, Portland resident, and conference
 planning committee member, Mike Bove

8-9 Continental Breakfast and state/regional gatherings. Eastland Ballroom

9:15-10:15 Session #1 Workshops
 10:45-11:45 Session #2 Workshops
 12-2 Buffet, Eastland Ballroom
 Former Maine Poet Laureate Baron Wormser will read and talk about his poetry.
 For more information about Mr. Wormser, see the profile of conference speakers in
 this newsletter or check out his website: baronwormser.com. Collections of
 Wormser's poetry will be sold by Longfellow Books, an independent bookseller of
 Portland, Maine. A book signing will follow.

Afternoon Activities Self-Guided Walking Tours of Historic Portland
 Maine Historical Society and Museum/Longfellow House
 Portland Women's History Walking Tour (Guided)
 Peak's Island via Casco Bay Lines
 Explore Portland on your own

Ten Reasons to Come to Portland (continued from Page 1)

your shopping pleasure—clothing, gifts, art, books and just about anything you can think of with a lobster on it. In fact, arrange to have fresh lobsters packed for your trip home.

Relaxed atmosphere—No crowds—the summer crowd and the leaf peepers have all gone home by early November, so you'll see Portland as the Mainers see it. No lines, no crowded sidewalks.

Maine is the **great outdoors**. What to wear? You'll find Maine to be more casual than some other spots in the northeast, and in early November, the weather could be almost anything. Watch the National Weather Service forecast for Portland and, if you dress accordingly (think LL Bean), you'll be just fine. As the Norwegians say, "There's no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing."

Portland Welcomes You!

By Mike Bove

As you spend this weekend experiencing all the conference has to offer, we do hope you'll take some time to enjoy the sights and sounds of our city. To that end, we've compiled a sampling of activities reflecting Portland's rich history, its dedication to the Arts, and certainly not least, its food.

Settled in 1633 as a trading and fishing village, Portland has evolved into Maine's largest city. Explore its unique history at the Maine Historical Society's museum and library on Congress street, right next to the family home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and a short walk from the Eastland Park Hotel. Take a self-guided tour of the historic Western and Eastern cemeteries, or trace the progress of abolition on the Portland Freedom Trail. If breathtaking scenery is what you crave, climb the steps of the celebrated Portland Observatory for a bird's eye view, or relax with a snack at the Eastland's own Top of the East.

Artists of all kinds call Portland home, and you can meet many of them during the First Friday Art Walk. On the evening of the first Friday of each month, many of the local galleries and studios open their doors to the public for a walking tour of Portland's vibrant visual arts scene. Stroll from door to door, chatting with the artists and nibbling hors d'oeuvres. Don't forget to slip inside the Portland Art Museum, right across the street from the Eastland, free and open to the public from

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TYCA MEMBERS—GET INVOLVED!

Dialog with colleagues on the benefits or pitfalls of teaching "shared conventions of academic discourse" in the first-year college writing course.

To encourage member discussion of important theoretical and pedagogical issues, the TYCA journal, Teaching English in the Two-Year College, has initiated a series of online conversations within the NCTE Connected Community about selected TETYC articles. The first article chosen for discussion is Teresa Thonney's article, "Teaching the Conventions of Academic Discourse," May 2011: 347-362. See the May TETYC "Editorial" (337) for additional information. This new online discussion feature, **TETYC Talk**, will be a regular part of each future TETYC publication. To join TETYC Connected Community conversations, go to www.ncte.connectedcommunity.org or use the Connected Community link at www.ncte.org. **Note:** Only current NCTE members can access the Connected Community site; to join NCTE and National TYCA, go to www.ncte.org.



TYCA National News

Judy Angona, Northeast Region National TYCA Representative
Do you have questions, comments, or suggestions for National TYCA*?
Contact me: jangona@ocean.edu

The Two Year College English Association (TYCA) is an affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). As such, it operates within the governance structures of both NCTE and its college section, the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC). The National TYCA Executive Committee meets annually in either March or April at the CCCC conference and in November at the NCTE conference.

- Highlights of the April 2011 National TYCA Executive Committee Meeting
(*Conference on College Composition and Communication: Atlanta, GA, April 9, 2011*)
 1. National TYCA Chair Carolyn Calhoun-Dillahunt described a 2011-2012 focus to recruit and nurture a new generation of TYCA regional and national leaders. (Note: If you've thought about becoming more active in TYCA Northeast, this is a great time to come forward. Just send me your name, and a TYCA Executive Committee member will contact you to discuss what you might like to do.)
 2. Kent Williamson, NCTE Executive Director, outlined four key NCTE/TYCA initiatives:
 - a. Expand TYCA participation in the NCTE Connected Community online discussion site, where members can join issues-oriented conversations. To join Connected Community conversations, go to www.ncte.connectedcommunity.org or use the Connected Community link at www.ncte.org. **Reminder:** Only current NCTE members can access the Connected Community site; to join NCTE and National TYCA, go to www.ncte.org.
 - b. Promote TYCA growth by encouraging interested members of all NCTE constituencies to become TYCA members and to submit articles for publication in the TYCA journal, *Teaching in the Two-Year College (TETYC)*.
 - c. Confront the serious national issues of shrinking educational resources and negative public perceptions of education with thoughtful NCTE/TYCA responses that address the concerns of legislators, parents, and the general public.
 - i. An upcoming NCTE position paper, "Frameworks for Success in Postsecondary Writing," will clearly identify essential 21st century educational and workforce literacy skills. The "Frameworks" paper will also reference an Association for Career and Technical Education (www.acteonline.org) document, "What Is Career Ready?" detailing essential skills for technical and career program graduates.
 - ii. NCTE's new definition of teacher competence will call for both earned credentials and demonstrated instructional excellence.

TYCA National Minutes (continued from Page 5)

- d. Collaborate with other groups to maximize public and political support:
 - i. NCTE is partnering with the Council of Writing Program Administrators to issue a joint document identifying a spectrum of relevant twenty-first century literacies (including writing) as the foundation of all meaningful learning.
 - ii. With funding from the Ball Foundation, NCTE is producing a series of detailed case studies that illustrate the superior educational outcomes of collaborative faculty planning.
 - iii. NCTE will work with the National Center for Literacy Education, the Literacy Coalition, the Connected Learning Coalition, and the American Institutes for Research to lobby Congress and the federal Department of Education for adequate levels of funding for literacy education, faculty research, and faculty professional development.
 - iv. Thursday, April 28, was identified as Literacy Education Advocacy Day. On that day, NCTE members joined members of other advocacy groups in Washington DC to lobby Congress for support of literacy programs. Future concerted advocacy efforts will be announced on www.ncte.org.
3. The following reports were presented by National TYCA Committees and Task Forces:
 - a. A revised "Faculty Research" document will be published in the September issue of *TETYC* and distributed at the 2011-2012 TYCA regional conferences.
 - b. A committee on Guidelines for the Academic Preparation of English Faculty at Two-Year Colleges is crafting a position statement on effective preparation of two-year college faculty. A final statement is due in 2012.
 - c. A task force has been appointed to research the legal issues of incorporation and liability insurance coverage for TYCA regionals; the task force will offer findings and recommendations in November 2011.
 - d. A Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment Committee is developing a position statement on the various dual credit high school-college course options. The committee will also conduct research into DC/DE writing program assessment and develop a forum for sharing best practices and model programs. A progress report is due in early 2012.
 - e. A national task force is charged with revising the TYCA by-law structure to provide more flexible procedures for regional operations. A progress report is due in November 2011.

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Portland Welcomes You
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5:00 to 9:00 Friday evening. Local theater is also available, with discounted ticket prices for conference attendees.

Famished after a full day of workshops and presentations? Hit the town for a taste of the city's culinary offerings. Seafood abounds at Dimillo's floating restaurant, or head to Norm's on Congress Street for some barbecue. For a quick fix in a casual spot, be sure to grab a burrito at El Rayo Taqueria. Indian, Thai, Japanese, Mexican; Portland has a little of everything to suit most every palate. And don't fret about those extra calories, there are plenty of fun ways to work them off. Portland Trails has lots of walking paths close by, including a scenic three and a half mile loop around Back Cove. Take a short walk to the Old Port, Portland's charming and eclectic shopping district, or hop a Casco Bay Lines ferry and explore one of the nearby islands.

Throughout the weekend, we encourage you to explore and experience some of what Portland has to offer. We hope you enjoy your stay in our lively little city.

The Diana Hacker Award Goes to The Step Up Program at Howard Community College by Jen Garner

Step-UP is a grassroots program; the idea evolved from the 25 member, cross-functional Developmental Education Committee that, in 2003, sought to create a program to improve the success and retention of developmental education students. The objective was to design a program that would provide positive support and encouragement to students as they make the often difficult transition and adjustment to college. After researching programs and interviewing students, a model for Step UP was created.

Students who volunteer to participate in the program are randomly paired with a faculty or staff "coach" who also volunteers. Using a life-coaching model, "coaches" meet with their students once a week for an hour throughout the semester during which time the coach offers support, encouragement, guidance and attentive listening. The intention is to assure that students in Step-UP know that they matter.

One unique feature of Step UP is that coaches receive "life-coaching" training before they begin working with students. In addition to the required four hour training, monthly coaches' workshops are held to build community and teach new coaching skills. Today, coaches come from all constituency groups, including the president, two vice presidents, and a member of our board of trustees, full-time faculty, full-time staff, adjunct faculty and part-time staff, all of whom are volunteers.

The program began with fifteen coaches and students in spring 2005. It was a rocky beginning, and after a two-semester trial, it seemed that the program was doomed. However, in spring 2006, a new model was introduced. Instead of recruiting students at the beginning of the semester, Step UP coaches visit classrooms in the third week to explain the program and encourage students to participate. That model has worked well, and in spring 2011, the program has grown to 114 coaches and 134 students.

The population of students served by Step-UP has also grown and expanded. Originally, only developmental education students were invited to join the program. Today, our students come from programs throughout the college. ESL students have embraced it as a means of assimilating into American culture.

Howard Community College is an institution that values assessment. Therefore, from the outset, Step-UP adopted a philosophy of continuous quantitative and qualitative evaluation. For participating students, assessment includes demographic analysis, pre-surveys and post-surveys, focus groups to collect qualitative formative data, and analysis of academic progress. For coaches, assessment consists of surveys, anecdotal stories, training workshop evaluations, and forums to listen to their ideas for improving and changing Step UP. Analysis of the program has consistently shown that Step UP students achieve higher GPAs and higher retention rates than a random matched group.

Step-UP is readily transferable as a program. What is crucial to its success, though, is an organizational culture that encourages innovation and its inherent risks. Also vital is a community of employees willing to step outside of their day-to-day work to give their time, energy and compassion to students at the college without additional compensation.

In creating Step UP, lessons were learned that might help other institutions interested in creating such a college-wide program. 1) Start as a grassroots effort. Step-UP was born at the committee level, and it was the Developmental Education Committee that assumed total responsibility for making the program work. 2) Select cross-discipline leadership to invite participation from individuals in all areas of the college. 3) Begin small and be prepared to re-imagine the concept. Step-UP began with only a few coaches and students. When the original model didn't work, a new plan was formulated and tried. 4) Finally, build alliances throughout the college. Perhaps Step UP's biggest success is that the college community comes together on behalf of students.

TYCA National News (continued from Page 6)

- f. The following *TYCA 2020 Vision Statement* was approved by the Executive Committee:

[By 2020,] TYCA will have advanced public understanding of the critical role two-year college English programs and faculty play in promoting academic, workforce, and civic success. To accomplish this, TYCA will provide a forum for rich professional development, support scholarly research in multiple literacies and classroom practices, and recognize outstanding programs and faculty. In addition, TYCA will forge collaborative relationships with other writing and literacy programs and organizations. At state, regional, and national levels, legislative and organizational policymakers will recognize and rely upon the expertise of two-year college faculty in addressing the diverse needs of adult learners.

4. This year, 2011, is the fifteenth anniversary of the formation of National TYCA. Members are asked to add photos taken at past TYCA conferences to a digital photo archive. You may send digital photos to lwalters@ncte.org.
5. The next meeting of the National TYCA Executive Committee will take place at the NCTE Conference in Chicago, on Saturday, November 19, 2011.

The Nor'Easter

welcomes submissions of articles, poetry, and brief essays for the Spring 2012 issue.

Please send submissions to Caroline S. Kelley, Editor, at ckelley@bergen.edu.

TYCA NE Executive Committee

Chair	Laurie Lieberman
Vice Chair	Tammy Peery
Secretary	Stacy Korbela
Treasurer	Dav Cranmer
Membership	Leigh Jonaitis
Representative to National TYCA Executive Committee	Judith Angona
Future Sites	Jen Garner
Nominating Committee	Stasia Callan, Chair
	Stephen Pierson
	Stacy Korbela
	Lucinda Coombs,
Conference Program	
Chair	Amy Havel
Local Arrangements	Diane Fallon
Conference Registration	Caroline Kelley
Newsletter Editor	Tim McLaughlin
Archivist	Jill Kronstadt
Web Tender	

Attention, TYCA Northeast Members! We need your input.

Please respond to the following brief survey to share your perspectives on the issue of plagiarism for an upcoming article in the "TYCA to You" column in the December issue of *Teaching English in the Two-Year College*. I'll need your responses rather quickly—no later than September 26.

Before you begin the survey, kindly indicate whether you give me permission to use your name and/or Your college's name (should any of your responses be featured in the article) or whether you prefer your responses to remain anonymous.

Download the survey questions, type your responses directly into the document, and email to jangona@ocean.edu as a *Word* attachment. Thanks!

Judy Angona, TYCA Northeast National Representative

Name: _____

College: _____

_____ I prefer to remain anonymous.

Survey: Plagiarism in the College Classroom

1. Does your college have a formal plagiarism policy?`
 - a. Yes _____
 - b. No _____
2. Under your college's policy, which of the following qualifies (qualify) as plagiarism? (Check all that apply)
 - a. Having an essay substantially edited by someone else
 - b. Submitting a essay written by someone else
 - c. Cutting and pasting information from unidentified online sources
 - d. Quoting or paraphrasing information from unidentified print or online sources
 - e. Writing an essay for another person
 - f. Other: _____
3. What plagiarism penalties does your college's policy specify?
 - a. Failing the assignment
 - b. Failing the course
 - c. Academic suspension
 - d. Placing a letter in the student's permanent record
 - e. Other: _____
4. How much professional discretion is granted to individual faculty members in enforcing your college's plagiarism policy?
 - a. Faculty enforce the policy.
 - b. Faculty enforce the policy with appropriate administrative review.
 - c. Faculty enforce the policy with opportunity for student appeal.
 - d. A faculty committee enforces the policy.
 - e. An appropriate administrator enforces the policy.
5. How much support does your college offer to faculty in the enforcement of plagiarism cases?
 - a. Strong support
 - b. Moderate support
 - c. Minimal support
6. Have you modified either your definition of plagiarism or the likelihood you will charge a student with plagiarism as a result of 21st century information technologies?
 - a. Less rigorous now
 - b. More rigorous now
 - c. About the same now
7. If your college subscribes to an online plagiarism detection service, such as www.turnitin.com, describe how well this service is working for you.

A Letter from TYCA NE Chairperson
Laurie Liebermann



Two-Year College English Association

Eastern Council of Teachers of English, 1111 W. Kearsy Road, Carson, CA 91001-1006
Phone: 217-328-8870, 1-800-369-NCTE, Fax: 217-328-0977

Sept. 22, 2011

Dear Colleague,

I know, I know you get all kinds of emails from strange folks and institutions. Who of us has the time or inclination to read all that? But if you have made it this far, you are just the kind of person that belongs at the Two Year College English Association Northeast Conference where we cater to the open-minded, the inquisitive, the collaborative, and dare I say, the friendly?

We have an exciting conference planned November 3-5 in the beautiful and historic city of Portland, Maine. Join us as we engage in a dialogue about the current trends and challenges we face as English teachers in higher education, not only at the community college but also at four year institutions. Draw inspiration from our line-up of excellent presentations and keynote speakers. TYCA is more than a highly professional annual conference; it is an opportunity to make connections, refresh your teaching strategies, and network with our members throughout the year.

After a day of stimulating discourse, get to know Portland. It is a city surrounded by water views and historic sites. Your hotel, the Eastland Park, is in the heart of the arts district and only minutes from excellent dining, museums and galleries, theatre, music, and yes, cute stores. Stroll around on your own or venture out for one of the lovely activities that have been planned for you.

I love being a part of TYCA NE; I love the people, the quality of our conferences, and the unique locations where we all come together and learn. I strongly encourage you to join us and become a part of this scholarly and collegial association. And when you do, come and say hello to our wonderful team who planned this event for you.

Please check our website www.tycanortheast.org for more information. The program will soon be made available to you.

Warmest Regards,

Laurie Lieberman -- Chair of TYCA NE

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