



a journal of first-year writing

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VERA VARIS

Knights Write Showcase Special Issue | Spring 2017

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Knights Write Showcase

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From the Guest Editor

The Department of Writing and Rhetoric here at UCF held its 7th Annual Knights Write Showcase on February 1, 2017 in the Pegasus Ballroom of the Student Union. This is one of the most anticipated events in our department because it features the exceptional work produced by students in our first-year writing courses, ENC 1101: Composition I and ENC 1102: Composition II. Over 6,000 students enroll in our ENC 1101 and ENC 1102 courses in any given year, so the pool of submitted essays for the Knights Write Showcase is quite large and the review process by the selection committee is extensive. Some of the projects submitted are featured as poster presentations on the day of the Showcase while a few authors are selected to present on faculty-moderated student panels, which allow students to share and discuss their work.

The student essays featured in this special issue are courtesy of the 7th Annual Knights Write Showcase panelists. This year we had two panels, the first of which is titled, “The Work of Writing in the World.” This panel was moderated by Marcy Galbreath and featured work from four students who took an interesting look at questions surrounding this topic.

In Karla Geigel’s essay, “ADHD: Defying the Stigma,” the author looks at some of the issues associated with the diagnosis of ADHD and the stereotypes that go along with it. This essay not only discusses the origins of the misconceptions about children with ADHD, it also proposes a holistic way to look at the person diagnosed with the disorder for a better understand of those affected by ADHD.

Taylor Rayfield was the next presenter on the panel, and his essay, “The Desktop Doctor: Medical Rhetoric in the Emergent Online Context,” looked at how users engaged with four different websites that provided medical information. Rayfield discusses the rhetorical content of each of the online medical resources and also conducts a survey about how users interact with the information

provided and their individual motivations for using such sources. He also discusses the implications of such information use as it relates to the clinical professional community.

A look at the eating habits of college students is presented by Brooke Saller in her essay, "Are College Students Really Eating Their Fruits and Vegetables?" Saller explores what influences students' decision-making process when it comes to eating fruits and vegetables and also looks at access local produce including organic options. Saller hopes to inform the community of UCF students about the importance of developing healthy eating habits that they will take with them into their futures.

The fourth presenter on this panel was Teresa-Anh Nguyen, with her essay, "Sink Your Teeth into This: The Effects of Dental School Writing Experiences on the Specialization Goals of Dental Students," which looked at genres related to the profession of dentistry. Nguyen's interest and passion for this profession was a motivating factor in the research process, and after examining current conversations in the field, she focused her question on how genre mastery in the field related to professional identity formation. In order to answer these questions as they related to students, Nguyen conducted a study that included interviews and textual analysis, allowing her to draw some conclusions on the writing experience of students in the field of dentistry.

The second student panel that presented was titled, "The Rhetoric of Representation." This panel was moderated by faculty member Steffen Guenzel and looked a variety of issues in this area. This panel is a great example of how students can turn their observations of the world around them into meaningful and insightful research projects.

One of the authors that chose to use their own experiences as inspiration for their ENC1102 research project was Dana Mikkelsen, with the essay, "'Write' and Wrong: An Analysis of the Linguistic Differences in Men's and Women's First-Year Technical and Engineering Writing." This study examined first-year engineering and technical writing by cisgender students. The textual analysis of multiple genres of writing by men and women was broken down into twelve categories. Mikkelsen is able to compare the results of the study with other scholars and also make some recommendations for creating a more inclusive environment in these fields.

Alexis Gray addressed an important issue in her essay, "Islamophobia in the Digital World," which included an analysis of how Islamophobia is demonstrated on three platforms: Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. The author discussed the implications of primary examples on each of the platforms, but also included an analysis of reactions to each one of those examples as well. Gray then compared each of the platforms and showed how they have contributed to the demonstration of Islamophobia in the United States.

In "The Female Justice League: The Misrepresentations of Women in Comic Books," Taylor Turberville conducts an extensive review of previous research on how women are portrayed in comic books and then presents some of her own research on the question. Turberville studies the perceptions and opinions of ten college women on the nature of the representation of women in comic books and whether or not these women felt that they were the intended audiences of these texts. Her essay provides an insightful look into the slowly changing community of comic book artists and authors.

The final presenter in the second student panel was Vera Varis, with the essay, "Performing Athletic Identity in Twitter: Differences in Status and Gender." Varis' experience as a student and an athlete in Finland and the United States became the inspiration for this study, which asks the question about how identities are performed at various levels of athletic achievement. Twitter was the social media platform selected for this analysis, and Varis selected female athletes at the collegiate and professional levels, and did find differences in how issues of identity were addressed.

All of the essays presented in this special issue are excellent models for how students are able to develop their areas of interest, personal experiences, and observations of the world around them into successful research projects. The variety of topics presented in this issue are a testament to the diverse areas of interest that our first-year writing students possess. The Knights Write

Showcase is a very special event where you can see and hear from our talented group of students here at UCF, and on behalf of all of us from the Showcase we invite you to experience some of that work here in this issue and hope to see you at next year's event. If you're interested in submitting your own work for consideration to the Knights Write Showcase, simply ask your ENC 1101 or ENC 1102 instructor for details. And, if you would like to get a sense of what the day looks like and to hear the authors published in this special issue of *Stylus* actual present their work, please visit our website at <http://writingandrhetoric.cah.ucf.edu/showcase.php>.

Nick Gardiakos
Knights Write Showcase