

CALL CONFERENCE 2012 – MEET OUR PRESENTERS

Beth Agnew has been integrating technology and communication for more than 30 years. She emphasizes turning information into knowledge to make technology easier to understand and use. An accomplished writer, marketer, educator, and business consultant, Beth teaches technical and business communication at Seneca College, as well as classes on technology and culture. She is the Co-ordinator for the 1-year post-graduate certificate Technical Communication program.

Anna Ainsworth is a part-time Professor at Seneca College in the School of English and Liberal Studies and she is in her third year of a Ph.D. at York University on the Rwandan Diaspora. Her interests range from the intersection of gender, race and class to international human rights, diaspora politics, migration studies and genocide studies.

Rhett Andrew (BFA, MA) has over ten years' post-secondary teaching experience, and has worked at Humber, Seneca, and Sault colleges. At Sault College, he was responsible for initiating an academic dishonesty policy review that resulted in the formation of the Sault College Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) comprised of faculty, support, and administrators from across the college schools and services. Working closely with the committee, Rhett was instrumental in revising the Sault College academic dishonesty policy and procedures, which is slated for implementation in fall, 2012. With the policy soon to be in place, AIC has turned its focus from policy and protocol development to fostering a culture of academic integrity within the college, and aims to open up the discussion to a province-wide, post-secondary network.

Cecilia Aponte-de-Hanna, M.A Linguistics (York, 2012), has been teaching with the School of English and Liberal Studies at Seneca College since 2010. Her areas of interest include sociolinguistics, the effects of teacher feedback on L2 writing, and multimodal literacies. Cecilia is also a member of the Ontario College of Teachers, and TESL Ontario.

Diane Berry An FCET instructor at Seneca College, Ms. Berry has experience teaching English to adults of all ages. Certified by the Ontario College of Teachers, Ms. Berry has been teaching for over thirteen years. Her education includes: an Honours BA with a Specialists Degree in English from the University of Toronto, and an Adult Training Certificate from Durham College. She has devoted her time and experience in the classroom in hopes of developing pedagogy that aids both instructors and students to maximize their potential.

Christine Boyko-Head practices her creative vision in the Language Studies Department at Mohawk College, Canada. Previously, she spent ten years teaching for the Creative Arts in Learning Division at Lesley University, Cambridge MA. From Alaska to Vegas to Israel, she explored the empowerment of Integrated Arts across the Curriculum. Her works appear in *Slippery Pastimes: A Popular Culture Reader*, *Journal of Pedagogy, Pluralism, and Practice*, *Journal of Canadian Studies*, *Consciousness, Literature and the Arts*, *Baylor Journal of Theatre and Performance*, to name a few. Her poetry has appeared in numerous publications and her theatre company, *Parnassus Rites* (1984-1999), toured original, social issues plays to youth

audiences across Canada. Recently, she completed writing her first novel, and is working on a collection of poetry and photography inspired by her years of teaching and travels in Israel. She lives in Dunnville with her husband and three children.

Marilyn Boyle-Taylor teaches English and Contemporary Novel at Seneca College, S@Y. In order to make her classroom relevant to the college student, she integrates current events, trends, and contemporary culture with the core educational aims. As well as making the curriculum interesting for her students, she finds that this approach is exciting for her as an instructor, as her desire for lifelong learning is satisfied every semester. By exploring new perspectives and current technology, she learns from her students as they learn from her.

Scott Bunyan has had the good luck to work at Mohawk since 2003. My doctoral work in literature left me with a love of reading, and a love of teaching...and perhaps a slight fear of numbers. Through my work with the partner colleges and HEQCO for this project, I've learned that numbers are not necessarily scary, and come to realize that quantitative and qualitative primary research offers the potential to answer a number of questions that I have been implicitly asking myself since I started teaching. I'm looking forward to taking these lessons back into the classroom in order to understand my students needs more fully, and meet those needs more effectively.

Rose Caruso: I have been teaching at Seneca in the School of English and Liberal Studies since 1995. My teaching background is in ESL. I have taught for over 20 years with both the Toronto District School Board and Toronto Catholic District School Board. In addition, I am presently, teaching French for the School of Travel and Tourism and at the University of Toronto in the School of Business and Professional Studies.

Burke Cullen is a full-time professor at Seneca@York, where he also serves as Seneca's Academic Liaison for York University's partnered Programme in Professional Writing. He holds a PhD in English from UofT. His research interests include Professional Communication, English Composition, Canadian Literature, and Canadian Folk Music. He has published and presented on a range of Canadian topics and figures, most recently on Far West Fiction. He is currently researching new areas of Professional Communication and trying to write folk songs.

Amanda Darling discovered the joy of teaching when she became a fencing coach at York University while pursuing her master's degree. She worked as an English language assistant in the south of France for two years before returning to her native Toronto. With a teaching philosophy devoted to developing creativity in the classroom, Amanda Darling taught elementary-, middle- and high-school students before moving to the college and university level. She currently teaches English full-time at College Boreal and part-time at Laurentian University in Sudbury. In addition to teaching, she is an award-winning local screenwriter. She has been known to eavesdrop on her students' conversations in her quest for the perfect line of dialogue.

Nirmal Dass is a teacher, translator and writer, with several books to his credit.

Phillip Dimitroff is a Professor of English Language and Literature currently teaching at George Brown College—and part-time at Seneca College. He also has taught at the University of Toronto, Ryerson University, and at Humber, Sheridan, and Centennial Colleges. He is the author of Write on Track: A Concise Guide to Better Writing (Trilobyte Press)—and holds a B.A. in English from York University, an M.A (with a specialization in Coleridge and English Romanticism) from Queen’s University, and undertook Doctoral Work again on Coleridge and the Nineteenth Century at McMaster University.

Professor Dimitroff is currently at work on a biography and Exhibit of his grandfather’s photographic legacy as one of Toronto’s first professional photographers—to be commemorated in the new Cabbagetown/Riverdale Museum.

He is the recipient of numerous teaching awards—one from the University of Texas at Austin—and twenty-five scholarships and awards for his own research.

Howard A. Doughty has logged forty-five years as a classroom teacher, mainly in the social sciences, and mostly at Seneca College, but with sojourns at the University of Hawai’i, York University and Hawai’i Pacific University (barely missing Sarah Palin). He has lectured at St. Mary’s, Queen’s, McMaster, OISE, and the Punahou Academy (barely missing Barack Obama). Owner of a Glendon College BA and graduate degrees in political science (Hawai’i and York), and in history and the philosophy of education (Toronto), he cheerfully spreads rancourless disenchantment as ashes from which a Phoenix may ultimately arise. He is Book Review Editor of *The Innovation Journal* and *The College Quarterly* and has amused himself writing hundreds of articles, dozens of academic papers and about ten books—few, mercifully, still in print. More positively, since 1975, he has held numerous provincial and local positions with OPSEU, and is Union Steward at Seneca’s King Campus.

Patricia Glogowski has an MA in Applied Linguistics from York University and a TESOL Certificate from the University of Toronto. She has been teaching English as a Second Language since 1999. Her experience teaching ESL learners includes private school, universities, and colleges. She also has an extensive experience in teacher training; she has trained English as a Foreign Language (EFL) professors from the University of Shanghai, various other universities and colleges in China, Japan, and Korea. Patricia’s personal focus in ESL/TESOL field is technology in language learning, especially mobile learning. She is TESOL Program Coordinator/ESL Professor at Humber College.

Karen Golets Pancer (B.A., U of Toronto, B.Ed., U of Saskatchewan) earned her M.A. in Composition, Rhetoric, Language, and Professional Writing from the University of Waterloo. A professor at Humber College since 1993, she has taught numerous writing courses, primarily to first- and second-semester diploma students. As well, she was Humber's Writing Across the Curriculum consultant for several years and was a team member on the Ontario College Writing Exemplars project.

Professor **Jennifer Hennekam** teaches in the School of English and Liberal Studies at Seneca's York University facility, and is entering her 26th year at Seneca. Jennifer holds a Ph.D in English from U of T. She coordinated Seneca's four Learning Centres for many years and wrote the Centres' Policies and Procedures Manual. Currently she is extending Seneca's Language Across the Curriculum Initiative in five Schools as part of an Innovative Funding Proposal she was granted through Seneca's Centre for Academic Excellence. Professor Hennekam teaches Poetry, Canadian Literature, College English, The Short Story, Business Communication and a course she designed which examines the depictions of family life in literature.

Ava Homa is author of [*Echoes from the Other Land*](#) which was nominated for the world's largest short story award: 2011 [Frank O'Connor Prize](#). Her collection has a running theme of resistance by modern Iranian women. The stories are told on a universal scale, depicting human endurance, desire and passion. Ava's writings have appeared in periodicals such as *The Toronto Quarterly*, *Windsor Review*, the *Toronto Star* and *Rabble*. Ava Homa teaches The Art of the Short Story, Composition and Intercultural Communication in George Brown Colleges. She is a writer-in-residence for Minden Hill Cultural Centre and Open Book Toronto & Ontario. Ava Homa is also a translator and a researcher. She loves outdoor activities, music, movies and fine arts.

Meg Howald teaches Writing at Fanshawe College and is a novelist, represented by The Rights Factory Inc. in Toronto. Meg has completed her third novel and shows original art in Ontario and Nova Scotia. Visit her website: www.art-sas.com.

Christina Hunter (PhD, The University of Southern Mississippi) currently works as a professor in the Department of English at Humber College. Her work has appeared in scholarly journals, including *The Tennessee Williams Annual Review* and *The South Atlantic Review*, as well as on websites such as www.womencandoanything.com and www.teenagepaparazzo.com.

Bruce Hunter is a Professor in the School of English and Liberal Studies at Seneca College.

Mara Bordignon is a librarian with Seneca Libraries who specializes in teaching information literacy skills to college students.

Tony Iacovino: I have had a long history of interest in student writing. After receiving an M.A. in English literature, I taught basic English courses at Concordia University for several years. When my stay at Concordia came to an end, I began a new career as a professional editor in the Toronto publishing industry. After several years as an editor, I started my own technical writing and editing business and practised for over a decade. In 2004 an opportunity arose to teach at Seneca and I have been here ever since. I gave a presentation and workshop at the last CALL Conference. My main teaching emphasis has been student writing. Out of the frustration of trying to bring student writing up to the college level in a short time, I conceived of the grammar checker study. The current presentation is a summary of the progress so far and a discussion will follow the presentation.

Barbara Jobber has a background in journalism and has taught a number of English and Liberal Studies courses at Seneca College for the past few years.

Irene Kanurkus is a professor and coordinator in the School of English and Liberal Studies at Seneca College, where she has taught a variety of English courses for the last twenty-five years, ranging from Developmental and College English to literature electives. Over the past two years, she has been the lead instructor in a project funded by HEQCO (Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario) exploring the impact of tablets on the core writing skills and level of engagement of developmental English students. Irene's pedagogy in developmental English is grounded in her vision that developmental writers require the impetus and inspiration to ignite their imaginations and develop their skills as writers and critical thinkers. Tablet technology offers such an impetus by equipping both the teacher and students with a unique tool to create a focused, interactive and dynamic reading and writing environment.

Kathleen Elizabeth Kells holds a doctorate from the University of Western Ontario where she wrote a dissertation on the poetry of Quebec poet, Anne Hébert. She is a member of the Ontario College of Teacher and has been teaching at Seneca College since 1972. She has published papers on the lyrical poetry of the Middle Ages as well as modern Quebec poetry in Studies in Canadian Literature.

Tyler Krimmel is a professor, certified trainer and instructional designer with nearly a decade of experience working in post-secondary and adult education, and has delivered teaching and training to more than 25,000 clients and students. As a member of the Centre for Construction and Engineering Technology at George Brown College, where he is a Professor within the School of Computer Technology's programming, his non-teaching duties include program coordination, as well as analysis and development of new programming - with an emphasis on business and systems analysis, and informatics. Further, he is actively involved in research projects and industry liaison activities for the school, acting as the principal Investigator on multiple research projects, and project lead with industry. Specific areas of research interest include green and sustainable building technologies, as well as health technologies.

Lina La Rocca studied English literature at York University in Toronto and soon after, developed her illustration and design skills at Seneca College where she studied Design Arts. Her love of children and involvement in social services lead her to Mothercraft College where she graduated with a diploma in Early Childhood Education. After spending several years as a nursery school teacher, she decided to pursue a Master's of Science degree in Education in Buffalo, New York. Lina presently teaches English and Communications at Seneca.

Heather Lash has been working in adult literacy for many years, both in community-based and college settings. She is a researcher and writer on issues surrounding the impacts of violence on learning; much of her recent work in curriculum is found in the student kit "Helping Myself Learn" at www.learningandviolence.net. She is currently an instructor in upgrading/access ACE-level programs at George Brown College in Toronto, Canada.

Alexandra MacLennan

Nancy Miyagi, B.Comm., is Manager of Institutional Research for George Brown College. Nancy and her team provide strategic support to the college in three key areas: quality assurance, accountability, and planning. Nancy has recently been seconded to Academic Excellence, where she'll continue to conduct research and evaluation of special initiatives and projects for the offices of Students Affairs, Program Review and Community Partnerships.

Suzanne Moore has taught business and academic writing at the college level for over 10 years. Before coming to Humber in 2006, she began her teaching career at George Brown College. Suzanne has extensive corporate experience, having worked for 10 years as an international writing consultant for a large, Toronto-based communications training company. She has presented workshops in business writing and presentation skills for major business, technological and pharmaceutical clients. The art of writing e-mail messages is one of her many passions, in addition to opera singing, ballroom dancing, long-distance swimming, and competitive cycling.

Jessica Paterson is an Ontario-registered teacher with a graduate degree in Adult Education and Community Development. An advocate for arts-based learning, she is always looking for creative solutions to teaching and learning in a diverse community. She is a professor of Communications in George Brown College's upgrading/access program. Jessie actively develops curriculum as part of her teaching and academic co-ordinating roles.

Janet Rivera has an M.A. in Education and a Learning Disability Specialist Certificate (Assistive Technology). **Sherri Parkins** has an M.A. in Assistive Technology, a B.A. (focus on special education), a Childcare Worker Diploma; Special Needs, and ASL interpreting training.

Both Sherri and Janet regularly conduct workshops and presentations to students, staff and faculty both internationally and locally on assistive technology and learning strategies. They are passionate about the application of technology in education, and the role of strategies for student success and retention!

Vera Samarkina has turned her passion for Literature, Languages and Cultural studies into a lifetime occupation. With a PhD in Literature and Arts, she began her academic career at Kazan State University (Russia), lecturing on modern literature of the Western World and its relationship with Visual Arts. Simultaneously she worked as an EFL instructor, often using texts by English-speaking authors in order to create cultural context in her classroom. Upon arrival in Canada in 2009, she didn't give up her love for literature, but developed and taught ENG3U, ENG4U credit courses for a private high school while studying TESL at George Brown College. As a recent immigrant she is also interested in the cultural aspects of adapting to a new environment, and how literature portrays these issues. Currently Vera divides her time between teaching College English for ESL at Seneca and Intensive English in the ESL Program at George Brown.

Harvey Starkman, Professor, ELS Seneca College

Franc Jamieson, Writing Centre Coordinator, Humber College

Kasia Dziwak, Manager...Learning Centre Services, George Brown College

Cara Naiman, Manager, Centre for Academic English, Centennial College

Danielle Millar, Manager, Learning Centres, Sheridan College

We are a varied group of Writing Centre professionals – faculty, coordinators, and managers – with a deep commitment to student success and a strong belief that responsive, creative Writing Centres can create learning conditions that will support that success.

John Stilla is an English Professor at Seneca and Humber. He teaches composition, literature, and ESL. His current research interests include the intersection of composition theory and the communicative approach to teaching ESL.

Kevin Topalian has taught English/Gen Ed courses at Seneca since 1986. But don't let his advanced age fool you...he has kept up with technology, using computer labs and various programs in all his courses since 1990. He holds a BA in English literature, and a BEd and MEd in computers and education from the University of Toronto. Since 2004, he has created new blogs for each class in his Gen Ed courses. Students very much enjoy the extended discussion and the multi-media features that blogs permit.

Marino Tuzi has taught a variety of English and Liberal Studies courses at Seneca College, such as English Literature, Canadian Studies and Cultural Studies. He has done graduate work in English Literature and has an interest in cultural studies and literary theory.

Kristian Weihs received his honors BA in the arts and humanities from New College Florida and his MA in psychology from the State University of New York at New Paltz. He has several years of post-secondary teaching experience at a number of schools including, the State College of Florida, York University, Humber College, and Seneca College. Currently, Kristian is a senior doctoral student in the history and theory of psychology program at York University and a part time professor at Seneca College in the English and liberal studies department. Kristian's research interests include humanistic and constructivist approaches to personality and psychotherapy, historiography, cognitive justice, educational psychology, pedagogy, and the teaching of post-secondary introductory courses.

Abra Whidden has an MA in English (Acadia University) and an MFA in Creative Writing (University of Guelph). She began teaching English at Acadia, and now teaches at Humber and George Brown. Her creative writing has appeared in *Grain Magazine*, *Other Voices*, and *TRANSverse*, and is forthcoming in *Prairie Fire Magazine* and on British Columbia's Grade 12 English exam.

Abdollah Zahiri taught in Iran and Australia before moving to Canada in 2002. His research areas are postcolonial theory, anti-colonial theory, Iranian Cinema. He is currently contract faculty at Seneca College, King Campus