Innovative Approaches to Teaching Technical Communication

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Barry Batorsky has taught technical writing for twenty years at NYIT, Polytechnic University, Tufts, and now at DeVry University where he also teaches dramatic literature and 20th Century Fine Arts. His Ph.D. is in Comparative Literature from the Graduate Center of CUNY with a dissertation on the theater of Brecht and Beckett.

Gary Bays teaches composition and technical communication courses at The University of Akron Wayne College and oversees a certificate program in workplace communication. Bays currently serves as editor of The Journal of the Ohio Association of Two-Year Colleges and has worked as a freelance corporate writer for many years.
Mark Charney, Beth Daniell, Tharon Howard, Susan Hillgoss, Martin Jacobi, Carl Lovitt, and Art Young participated in the founding of Clemson’s MA program in Professional Communication (MAPC); they were joined later by Christine Boese, Barbara Heifferon, Bernadette Longo, Sean Williams, and Kathleen Blake Yancey. Since the completion of this chapter, the composition of MAPC faculty has changed, with some colleagues leaving—Christine Boese to CNN, Beth Daniell to Alabama, Bernadette Longo to Minnesota, and Carl Lovitt at Penn State Berks-Lehigh Valley—while others have joined us—Teddi Fishman, Morgan Gresham, Deb Morton, Michael Neal, and Summer Smith Taylor. Among our current projects is development of a Ph.D. in Professional Communication that we hope to begin offering in fall 2005.


James Dubinsky directs the Professional Writing Program at Virginia Tech. His teaching and research interests include service-learning and civic engagement, rhetorical theory, and the history of writing pedagogy. In 2000, he was awarded Virginia Tech’s Student Leadership Award as the Outstanding Service-Learning Educator.

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LAURA SULLIVAN teaches English and journalism, both print and electronic, at Granite City High School. Ms. Sullivan, using her working knowledge of technology, opens up the English classroom to communications, helping her students to better apply the curriculum to their lives and the world around them.

PHILLIP SWEANY, Associate Professor of Computer Science at University of North Texas, has taught several courses where students work in teams to complete a significant software project. Writing submitted in such courses has led to a profound appreciation of the need for good communication skills.

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