

J. Thomas Wright
Department of Writing and Rhetoric
University of Central Florida
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Education

PhD in Rhetoric and Scientific and Technical Communication.

University of Minnesota. 2016.

Dissertation: "Darwin, Huxley, and the Nineteenth-Century Rhetoric of Science."

Committee: Carol Berkenkotter, Richard Graff, Mary Schuster, Donald Ross, Jr.

MA in English with a concentration in rhetoric and composition.

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. 1994.

Thesis: "Helping the Deaf Become Literate."

Committee: Gerald Nelms, David Blakesley, Lisa McClure.

BA in English, *summa cum laude*.

Emporia (Kansas) State University. 1990.

Senior honors thesis: "Teaching English to the Profoundly Deaf."

Committee: Gerrit Bleeker, Teresa Mehring.

Awards and Honors

- UCF Department of Writing and Rhetoric Excellence of Equity in Teaching Award. Given with \$1000 in research funds. 2022.
- Presented one of four Top Papers for the Kenneth Burke Society. ("Division in Antiquity: Kenneth Burke's Puzzling Omission.") Annual Convention of the National Communication Association. 2010.
- Nominated for recognition of teaching excellence in the First-Year Writing Program, University of Minnesota. 2007.
- Cerner Team Contribution Award, Cerner Corporation. 1999.
- Darrell E. Wood Award for Excellence and Promise in Teacher Education, Emporia State University. 1994.
- Nominated for recognition of teaching excellence in the Clinical Center Achieve Program, Southern Illinois University. 1991.
- MA Fellowship at Southern Illinois University. 1990-91.
- Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. 1989.

Academic Employment

University of Central Florida. Instructor/Lecturer in Writing and Rhetoric. 2011-present.
Core faculty in the Texts & Technology PhD program. 2021-present.

Courses taught (asterisk indicates course I helped develop for the department):

- Composition I and II.
- Writing about Science and Technology.*
- Writing about Health and Medicine.*
- Argumentative Writing.
- Persuasive Writing (graduate level).
- Rhetoric and Civic Engagement (some sections service-learning).*

UCF courses taught (con't.)

- Research Methods in Writing and Literacy Studies.*
- Literacy and Technology.
- Writing in Digital Environments.
- Directed Experience in Writing (Independent Study: the rhetoric of graffiti).

University of Minnesota. Graduate Instructor. 2006-2009; 2010-2011.

Courses taught:

- Introduction to Scientific and Technical Communication.
- Professional and Technical Writing (online and face to face).
- Writing on Issues of Science and Technology.
- Writing to Inform, Convince, and Persuade.
- University Writing.

Research Assistant for Carol Berkenkotter, University of Minnesota. 2009-2010.

Edited *Patient Tales: Case Histories and the Uses of Narrative in Psychiatry*, by Carol Berkenkotter. University of South Carolina Press. 2008.

Kansas City Kansas Community College. Adjunct Faculty. 1995-1997; 2003-2006.

Courses taught:

- Honors Composition I and II.
- Composition I and II.
- Pre-composition.
- Introduction to Fiction.
- Honors Seminar: Cancer in the Community. Co-taught with Stacy Tucker, Honors Program Director and Service-Learning Director.

Kansas City Kansas Community College. Writing Lab Tutor. 2004-2006.

Wentworth Military Academy and College. Lexington, Missouri. Adjunct Faculty. 1996.

Course taught:

- Public Speaking.

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Graduate Teaching Assistant. 1991-1992.

Courses taught:

- Composition I.
- Computer-assisted Composition (first year the department offered it).

Corporate Employment

Cerner Corporation, Kansas City, Missouri. 1997-2002.

A billion-dollar medical software company with clients worldwide.

Senior Quality Analyst. 2002.

- Tracked and evaluated quality issues for all projects performed by forty-person Learning Services Team with annual revenues of \$13 million.
- Trained project managers in QA policies and procedures.
- Wrote lessons-learned reports to help managers improve future projects.

Corporate Employment (con't.)

Quality Analyst. 2001-2002.

- Designed, proposed, and implemented quality control program for twelve-person team making computer-based training programs.
- Supervised software testers (usually three to five).
- Wrote reports on improving quality for each computer-based training project.
- Delivered presentations on quality control.

Multimedia Writer. 1997-2000.

- Supervised documentation development for company's first successful virtual class (in radiology information management, 1997).
- Supervised documentation development for virtual classes in creating pharmacy, surgery, and scheduling management databases.
- Wrote training materials for classes (both virtual and instructor-led) in radiology, pharmacy, surgery, scheduling, and health information management.
- Wrote script for *SAVI: Security Awareness Video Instruction*, an hour-long video on security and privacy issues surrounding medical software.
- Wrote text for computer-based training in electronic medical record keeping.
- Wrote text for DataQuest, a computer game designed to give medical personnel a painless introduction to relational databases and electronic medical record keeping.
- Performed usability testing on DataQuest.
- Developed two Web pages and maintained three others for five products on the company's intranet.
- Created Web page (with assistance of a graphic artist) giving required information for all new employees.

Publications

- "Finding a New Voice." Forthcoming from *Anti-ableist Composition*.
- "In Memoriam: Carol Berkenkotter (1940-2016)." *WPA: Writing Program Administration* 40.2 (Spring 2017).

National Presentations

- "Division in Antiquity: Kenneth Burke's Puzzling Omission." A Top Paper of the Kenneth Burke Society. Annual Convention of the National Communication Association. San Francisco, 2010.
- "Strategic Ambiguity in Darwin's *Origin of Species*." Annual Convention of the National Communication Association. Chicago, 2009.
- "Burke, Pasteur, and the Rhetoric of Science." Annual Convention of the National Communication Association. San Antonio, 2006.

Local Presentations and Workshops

- Offered poster development workshop for students presenting at Knights Write Showcase. UCF's Department of Writing and Rhetoric. Orlando, 2016-2018.
- Offered e-portfolio development workshop multiple times with various colleagues. UCF's Department of Writing and Rhetoric. Orlando, 2012-2016.
- "Darwin, Huxley, and the Nineteenth-Century Rhetoric of Science." Research talk at UCF's Department of Writing and Rhetoric. Orlando, November 2013.
- "Darwin's Polysemy: Survival of the Fittest Meaning." The Parlor Series of the University of Minnesota's Department of Writing Studies. Minneapolis, 2009.
- "Teaching Web Development." Invited presentation at the Tech Talk Series of the University of Minnesota's Department of Writing Studies. Minneapolis, 2008.
- "Burke, Pasteur, and the Rhetoric of Science." The Parlor Series of the University of Minnesota's Department of Rhetoric. St. Paul, 2006.
- "A Moo Cow Coming Down the Road: Teaching Composition Through the Writing of Fiction." Dialogue presented with Kari Fisher at Southern Illinois University's Literacy Conference. Carbondale, 1992.
- "Teaching English to the Profoundly Deaf." Public presentation of a senior honors thesis. Emporia, Kansas, 1990.

Academic Service

- Serving on committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric, University of Central Florida. 2021-2022.
- UCF Texts & Technology PhD dissertation assessment committee. Fall 2022.
- Mentored new MA student in Rhetoric and Composition. 2021-22.
- Served as reader for UCF's *Convergence/Rhetoric*. 2020-2022.
- Served on committee for Honors in the Major Program in Health Sciences (Pre-Clinical). "Outcomes Assessment within Prostate Cancer Interventions for Couples: A Narrative Review," by Andrea M. Siguenza.
- Mentored new upper-division instructor in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric, University of Central Florida. 2015-2016.
- Mentor new graduate teaching assistants in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric, University of Central Florida. 2013-2017.
- Serve as a reader for Knights Write essays. Department of Writing and Rhetoric, University of Central Florida. 2012-present.
- Served on search committee for five instructors in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric, University of Central Florida. 2013-2014.
- Served on search committee for associate professor in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric, University of Central Florida. 2012-2013.
- Serving on curriculum development committee for the Department of Writing and Rhetoric, University of Central Florida. 2011-present.
- Serving as Faculty Library Representative for the Department of Writing and Rhetoric, University of Central Florida. 2011-present.
- Served on discourse community revision task force for the Department of Writing and Rhetoric, University of Central Florida. 2012.
- Served on Composition II assessment committee in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric, University of Central Florida. 2012.

Academic Service (con't.)

- Served on search committee for full professor in the Department of Writing Studies, University of Minnesota. 2008-2009.
- Served on the Kansas City Kansas Community College Learning Communities Team. Year of service culminated in five-day conference at the Washington Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Education, Olympia, Washington. Drafted proposal for creating learning communities, which was later implemented. 2005-2006.