

Karen Kaiser Lee

Purdue University
Department of English
500 Oval Drive
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2038
kkaiserl@purdue.edu

Education

Ph.D. in English	Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN (expected May 2011)
Primary area:	Rhetoric and Composition
Secondary areas:	Professional and Technical Writing Rhetoric, Technology, and Digital Writing
Dissertation:	<i>From Telling to Transforming: Invention, the Scientific Method, and the Research Paper</i>
Committee:	Richard Johnson-Sheehan (Chair), Patricia Sullivan, Linda Bergmann, Jennifer Bay
M.A. in English	Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 2007
Areas of study:	Early Modern Literature, Publishing and Editing
B.A. in English	The University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 1990
Minor:	Journalism

Teaching Experience

Purdue University
Graduate Instructor
2006 – present

Technical Writing (ENGL 421) Students learn effective strategies for communicating about and with technology, creating presentations of technical material in written and visual formats that are user centered, with an emphasis on audience awareness and writing for different contexts. In-class work encourages collaboration. Projects include a technical description, instruction set with a multimedia component, and an analytical report. Computer mediated.

Business Writing (ENGL 420) Teaches students the rhetorical principles and writing practices necessary for producing effective business letters, memos, reports, and collaborative projects in professional contexts. Focuses on writing in context, project management, document design, and teamwork. Weekly blog posts and responses augment class discussion. The main assignments are employment documents and white paper reports; the semester culminates in a collaborative service learning project. Computer mediated.

Business Writing Online (ENGL 420Y) Students meet in a common online space (a website maintained using Drupal, an open source content management platform) to learn about effective business communication, share feedback on their writing, discuss course content, and collaborate on writing projects. Projects include employment documents, reports, memos, press releases, and collaborative service learning. Computer mediated.

Multimedia Writing (ENGL 419) Emphasizes principles and practices of multimedia design, communication, and publishing with discussion, analysis, and hands-on activities. Collaboration is encouraged with peer review sessions and collaborative projects. Weekly blog posts and responses augment class discussion. Projects include an exploration of personal branding, design software tutorial, a documentary video, and a digital portfolio. Computer mediated.

Introduction to Research Methods for Professional Writing Majors (ENGL 203)

Develops ideas and methods for conducting research work in professional writing. Activities include collecting print and online information and analyzing these sources; interviewing, surveying, and conducting observations; and evaluating, summarizing, analyzing, and reporting research. Major assignments include an academic paper, research project proposal, multimedia instructional project with usability testing, and leading class discussion. Computer mediated.

Introductory First-Year Composition (ENGL 106) Emphasizes rhetorical knowledge, critical thinking, reading, writing, and technology. Multimedia work includes a written component asking students to explain their rhetorical strategies. Projects include music videos, podcasts, visual essays, and website design and analysis. Computer mediated.

Florida State University

Graduate Instructor

2004 – 2006

First-Year Composition and Rhetoric (ENC 1101) Presents writing as a recursive and often collaborative process of invention, drafting, and revising. Emphasizes writing as both a personal and social act. Students conduct peer review sessions on each project. Computer mediated.

First-Year Writing Research (ENC 1102) Focuses on critical writing and reading as well as engaging in all phases of the composing process, with an emphasis on research practices. Students conduct peer review sessions on each project.

Special Topics in Composition: Writing About Fashion and Style (ENC 1145) Semester long course that focuses on teaching research and analytical reading skills. This was a course that I designed; lessons and assignments were arranged around historical and scholarly writing on the topic, along with clothing and fashion in popular culture.

Individualized Instruction in Writing (ENC 1905) Working together in small tutorial sessions, students receive particularized instruction and response to written work with the goal of assisting their overall development as writers.

Administrative and Mentoring Experience

Assistant Director, Professional Writing Program

2010 – Present

- ◆ Provide support in the transition between faculty program directors
- ◆ Assist in conducting review and evaluation of policy statements, job descriptions and duties, and work flow of the program
- ◆ Mentor graduate student teaching assistants and continuing lecturers
- ◆ Conduct yearly teaching observations for program instructors
- ◆ Work with Professional Writing Club members to coordinate activities for undergraduates
- ◆ Schedule and assist in the running of PW Advisory Counsel meetings and yearly meeting for all program instructors
- ◆ Keep weekly office hours to assist both instructors and undergraduates
- ◆ Maintain instructor e-mail list

Initiatives

- ◆ Create a policy and pedagogy manual for professional writing instructors
- ◆ Introduce a series of professional development presentations for instructors
- ◆ Coordinate “Purdue Writing Showcase,” a day-long event highlighting innovative projects and assignments in the program along with the Introductory Composition Program

Mentor, Professional Writing Program 2009 – 2010

- ◆ Worked with graduate student instructors new to the teaching of professional writing, answering questions about program policy, courses, and assignments

- ◆ Assisted in teaching a semester-long orientation course for new instructors
- ◆ Provided tutorial sessions for new instructors on design and multimedia programs such as Audacity and DreamWeaver

Initiatives

- ◆ Instituted informal luncheon meetings to give instructors opportunities to gather informally and exchange advice and information about teaching professional writing
- ◆ Arranged guest speaker session for new instructor orientation course

Mentor, Students Engagement and Activism (@SEA) 2008

Program for undergraduate Professional Writing majors that emulated elements of a study abroad semester and a service learning project.

- ◆ Served as mentor to the @SEA students, evaluating their performance on a variety of workplace and leadership skills
- ◆ Conducted workshops for students on design programs
- ◆ Acted as a liaison between students and community partner

Writing Across the Curriculum Writing Assessment 2008 – Present

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Purdue University

- ◆ Conduct group holistic assessment sessions of second year engineering students' writing samples
- ◆ Evaluate senior year engineering students' written work such as design reports, essays, and employment documents

Scholarship

Publications

“The Baby Thesis and the Research Instruction Bath Water.” *Research on Research: (Exa)Mining Student Writing in the Digital Age*. Randall McClure and Jim Purdy, editors. Forthcoming.

“Working it Out: Community Engagement and Cross-Course Collaboration.” With Jennifer L. Bay, Michael Salvo, and Mark A. Hannah. *Programmatic Perspectives 2.2* (September 2010).

Conference Presentations

“Research 2.0: Reconfiguring the Research Paper Assignment.” Computers and Writing Conference, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, June 2010.

“Thawing Frozen Minds: The Possibilities of Using Re-enactment and Re-creation as a Way to Teach Students Research Skills.” Forty-fifth International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2010.

“The Areas of Their Expertise: Amateur Experts, the Internet, and Popular Culture Research.” 2010 Joint Conference of the National Popular Culture and American Culture Associations, St. Louis, MO, April 2010.

“Using Web-Based Self-Publishing Services in the Composition Classroom.” Poster presentation, Professional Writing Showcase, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, October 2008.

“Virtual Spaces, Places and People: Exploring Second Life and First-Year Composition.” Panel presentation with Mark Pepper, Morgan Reitmeyer, and Catherine Shuler. Conference on College Composition and Communication, New Orleans, LA, March 2008.

“The Poor, Italian Ladies: The Women of Italy as Viewed by English Travel Narrative Writers in the late 17th Century.” Renaissance Comparative Prose Conference, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, November 2005.

“Courtesans, Nuns, and Imprisoned Wives: Venetian Women in Early Modern English Travel Narratives.” Aphra Behn Society for Women in the Arts Conference, Daytona Beach FL, October 2005.

“Instructing Hunters, Teaching the Nouveau Riche : Early Modern Hunting Manuals as Conduct Books”. Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association Conference, Jackson, WY, June 2005.

In preparation

“Eureka! Rhetorical Invention, the Scientific Method, and the Research Paper Assignment.” Conference presentation.

Honors

William H. and Ruth E. Crouse Scholarship, Promising Scholar in Professional Writing, Purdue University, 2007

The Quintilian Award for Teaching, Top 15 Percent, PICES Teacher Evaluations
Department of English, Purdue University, 2007

Workplace Writing Experience

Technical writing and editing, corporate communications

Beckwith Electric Company, Largo, FL 2001 - 2004

- ◆ Edited technical papers for professional conferences and publications
- ◆ Wrote and revised technical documents such as instruction manuals, specification sheets, and application notes for various power system protection and control products
- ◆ Wrote copy and designed layout for print advertisements and other promotional materials
- ◆ Prepared technical and sales presentations
- ◆ Served as corporate webmaster, in charge of updating web content and generating statistical reports on web site traffic

Corporate communications, technical writing

Image One, Tampa, FL 1996 - 2001

- ◆ Wrote and designed layout for document imaging software
- ◆ Inaugurated company newsletter, responsible for writing, editing, and producing the publication on a quarterly basis
- ◆ Wrote copy and designed layout for advertisements and other promotional materials

Corporate training

Pantograms Manufacturing Company, Tampa, FL 1991 - 1995

- ◆ Created comprehensive training course for three levels of design software
- ◆ Wrote and designed instructional materials and tutorials
- ◆ Instructed customers on operation of commercial embroidery design software and equipment by conducting training sessions lasting one, two, or three days
- ◆ Wrote and edited quarterly company newsletter

Service

Session chair, “Multi-Authored Realities: Exploring Receptions of and Depictions of Game Worlds.” Computers and Writing Conference, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, June 2010

Member, Professional Writing Program Goals, Means, Outcomes and Textbook Review Committee, 2009

Member, Composing With Popular Culture Introductory Composition at Purdue (ICaP) Syllabus Approach Development Committee, 2008

Web Master, Writing Your Way into Purdue ICaP Syllabus Approach Committee, 2006-07

Member, First-Year Writing Committee, Florida State University, 2005-06

Selected Graduate Course Work

Purdue University

Rhetoric and Composition

Introduction to Composition Theory	Shirley Rose
Composition Studies: Classical	Richard Johnson-Sheehan
Composition Studies: Modern	Shirley Rose
Composition Studies: Postmodern	Thomas Rickert
Empirical Research in Writing	Michael Salvo
Practicum in Teaching First Year Composition	Richard Johnson-Sheehan

Professional and Technical Writing

Professional Writing Theory	Michael Salvo
Advanced Professional Writing	Jennifer Bay
Qualitative Research Methods	Dwight Atkinson
Professional Writing Practicum	David Blakesley
Seminar in Writing Across the Curriculum	Linda Bergmann

Rhetoric, Technology, and Digital Writing

New Media	Samantha Blackmon
Digital Rhetoric Studio	David Blakesley
Computers in Writing and Rhetoric	Samantha Blackmon
Gender, Rhetoric, and the Body	Jennifer Bay

Professional Memberships

National Council of Teachers of English
Conference of College Composition and Communication
The Association of Teachers of Technical Writing
Council of Writing Program Administrators
Modern Language Association

References

Richard Johnson-Sheehan, Professor of English
Purdue University
500 Oval Drive
West Lafayette, IN 47907-1356
(765) 496-2205
rjohnso@purdue.edu

Patricia Sullivan, Professor of English
Director of the Graduate Program in Rhetoric and Composition
Purdue University
500 Oval Drive
West Lafayette, IN 47907-1356
(765) 494-3746
sullivanatpurdue@gmail.com

Michael Salvo, Associate Professor of English
Director of the Professional Writing Program
Purdue University
500 Oval Drive
West Lafayette, IN 47907-1356
(765) 494-3730
salvo@purdue.edu

Jennifer Bay, Assistant Professor of English
Purdue University
500 Oval Drive
West Lafayette, IN 47905-1356
(765) 494-8122
jbay@purdue.edu

Dossier

Julie Henderson, Credentials Coordinator
Department of English
Purdue University
500 Oval Drive
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2038
(765) 494-3746
jhenders@purdue.edu