

## **Cynthia H. Whitesel**

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### **SUMMARY**

For more than 35 years, I have taught literature and writing in community colleges, universities, and for organizations, both in the classroom and online, and worked in industry and government. My primary teaching interests have been in Liberal Arts, Communication Studies, and Education. My research interests are in classroom assessment research and effective online teaching strategies. My distance education experience ranges from faculty training and mentoring, instructional design and teaching for online classes, and course design and classroom research, for all undergraduate levels. Currently, I am completing a dissertation in Education Policy and Leadership at the Department of Education, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, and hope to complete the PhD in Education within the year. My dissertation research is a phenomenological hermeneutic study in the lived experience of teaching within technology.

### **EMPLOYMENT**

#### **Visiting Lecturer, English and Mass Communication**

Lincoln University  
Lincoln University, Pennsylvania  
September 2004 –

#### **Collegiate Associate Professor, Communication Studies**

##### **Professor of Practice**

##### **Faculty Development/Training Specialist**

University of Maryland University College  
3501 University Blvd East  
Adelphi MD 20783  
301-985-7625/ 301-985-7787  
Since 1976 –

#### **Adjunct Instructor, English**

Park University Online Programs  
8700 River Park Drive  
Parkville MI 64152  
816-741-2000  
Since 1996 –

#### **Consultant in Distance Learning**

Specializing in Best Teaching Practices, Instructional Design, Course Development, Pilot Programs, Strategic Planning for Online Programs, and Faculty Training

### **PREVIOUS INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT**

#### **Lead Technical Writer/**

#### **Information Analyst**

July 1990 – April 1995

Data Computer Corporation of America, Inc.

5310 Dorsey Hall Road

Ellicott City, MD 21043

410-992-3760 Mr. David Bower, President

**Lead Technical Editor/  
Documentation Manager**  
(Oct 1983 - Jul 1990)

IIT Research Institute  
185 Admiral Cochrane Drive  
Annapolis, MD 21401 410-573-7005 (Mr. Randy Crawford)

**Cryptanalyst, NSA**  
1982-83

Fort Meade, MD

## EDUCATION

University of Maryland

Pursuing Ph.D. in Education Policy and Leadership: Curriculum Theory [2006]

University of Maryland  
College Park, MD 20740

MA in Comparative Literature, 1973.  
BA in Comparative Literature/English, 1970.

Johns Hopkins University

MS courses in Information Systems, Human Resource Management, Managing Technological Innovation, Organizational Theory, and Management Styles, 1986-87.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Attend Education Research Conferences and present research.

Facilitate online and site-based workshops on best practices in distance learning.

Serve on Advisory Board for American Association for Liberal Learning (AALE): serve as distance education expert to advise AALE on their FIPSE grant activities.

Mentor new online faculty members each semester for UMUC.

Faculty sponsor to several co-op students each term.

Consultant in Distance Education and Curriculum Development

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

Distance Education Fellow USM's Web Initiative in Teaching Project (WIT)

United States Distance Learning Association

Society for Technical Communication

American Education Research Association

Society for Phenomenology and Human Science Research

National Council of Teachers of English

College Composition and Communication

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Nominated six times for Stanley Drazek Excellence in Teaching Award (UMUC)

Received Stanley Drazek Teaching Recognition Award, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2002 (UMUC)

Received Award for Outstanding Contributions in Faculty Mentoring, 1996 (UMUC)

Nominated by UMUC for Board of Regents Excellence in Teaching Award, 1999

Nominated by UMUC for Board of Regents Excellence in Teaching Award, 1998

## PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

*Bringing imagination to the distance classroom: Strategies for engaging learners at a distance.*

(September 1997), guide for distance education faculty.

"Connecting with the Other through Technology," presented at the Society for Phenomenology and Human Sciences, October 5, 2001, at Goucher College, Baltimore, Maryland.

*Guide to Writing and Research*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (September 2002), University of Maryland University College. A guide for students who write college assignments and the teachers who teach them. This Guide is also available online at <http://www.umuc.edu/writingguide/>.

Hypertext. Narrative. Art. Tech. Technique, structure, and technology: From Weblog to Webtale. Round table on hypertext as narrative, Weblogs as writing assignments, and technology for teaching critical thinking. May 10 – 11, 2003, Boston.

“Reflections from a virtual paladin,” (Spring 1997), *Faculty Focus: A newsletter for the faculty*, University of Maryland University College.

“Reframing our classrooms, reframing ourselves (The virtual learner),” (January/February 1998), *Chapter Relations – Communications*, American Society of Association Executives.

“Reframing our classrooms, reframing ourselves (The virtual teacher),” (April 1998), *The Technology Source*, HORIZON E-Journal, Microsoft Corporation. Also delivered as Keynote Address at Fall 1997 Faculty Meeting.

Encountering the Other in text. Presented at the Society for Phenomenology and Human Sciences, November 10, 2003, Boston. Paper was requested for a special issue of Human Studies; currently preparing paper with the editor.

“Tips for collaborative learning assignments,” (Spring 1998), *Faculty Focus: A newsletter for the faculty*, University of Maryland University College.

UMUC-Verizon, Virtual Resource Site for Teaching with Technology. (2000). Module Two and contributed to the design and content of this award winning virtual teaching resource site. Available online at <http://www.umuc.edu/virtualteaching/>.

UMUC Faculty Research Grant, 2000-2001. Discovering the experiences of teachers teaching online. Presented at a brown bag lunch for the UMUC Graduate School Fall 2001.

UMUC Office of Evaluation, Research, and Grants, Best Online Instructional Practices (BOIP) Study, presented at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Distance Teaching and Learning Conference, Monona Terrace, Madison Wisconsin, August 5, 2005.

"Virtual conversations: A modest means for engaging faculty at a distance," (1999). Written and presented jointly with John Floyd. *15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Distance Teaching and Learning Conference Proceedings*. Madison: University of Wisconsin.

“What kind of writer are you? Identifying and honing your talents,” (November 1991), *Chesapeake Chapter of Women in Communications*.

## Teaching Summary

### **Lincoln University, Lincoln University, PA**

English 101 Basic Composition Skills II

English 102 Freshman Composition I

English 208 World Literature II

Faculty Advisor for The Lincolnian student newspaper

### **University of Maryland, College Park, MD**

English 101 Introduction to Composition and Literature

English 210 World Literature

### **Anne Arundel Community College, Arnold, MD**

English 002 Developmental Writing

English 111/112 Composition and Literature

CE Business Communications (Internet-based) FirstClass (client-server)

CE Business Writing (Internet-based) FirstClass

### **Associate Collegiate Professor, Communication Studies –University of Maryland University College**

English 101 Introduction to Composition and Literature

English 291 Introduction to Expository Writing

English 293 Introduction to Technical Writing (developed and taught the first class)

English 289 English Grammar and Rhetoric

English 391 Advanced Expository Writing

English 393B Business Writing

English 393 Technical Writing (developed and taught the first class in 1976)

English 457 The Modern Novel

English 498 Advanced Creative Writing - Writing the Novel

English 498 Advanced Creative Writing - Writing the Short Story

English 489B Advanced Technical Editing

English 493 Advanced Expository Writing: The Art of Narration

COMM 300 Communication Theory

COMM 390 Writing for Managers (Designed and taught Web-based version) (classroom,  
Web-based, and voice mail formats)

COMM 393 Technical Writing

COMM 394 Business Communications

COMM 490 Seminar in Technical Communications (classroom, Web-based, and ITV)

COMM 491 Technical Editing (classroom and Web-based format in 1999)

COMM 496 Writing for the Computer Industry

Reviewed and edited the *Co-operative Education Manual for Students and Faculty* (2000).

Evaluated in-coming graduate students for UMUC's **Graduate Business Programs** and developed and taught an online writing seminar to bring students up to standards.

Ongoing Faculty Sponsor for UMUC's Cooperative Education Program each term.

**Adj. Assoc. Professor (since 1995):** Park College, Parkville, Missouri

EN306A Scientific and Technical Writing

EN306B Business Communications

EN317 American Literature I: Colonial Period to Civil War

EN319 Modern Literature

**Writing Center - Anne Arundel Community College:** tutored remedial and dyslexic students as well as others who needed help in literature and writing.

**UMUC Writing Center:** Developed the UMUC Writing Center in 1977-78. Won MAHE award of \$500. Tutored and developed materials.

**Bellevue Community College, Bellevue, Washington**

As a consultant, I wrote their distance education strategic plan document in 2002 and continued to consult with their DE faculty committee to implement changes to their planning and course development.

**FACULTY DEVELOPMENT (since 1993)**

**Ongoing Faculty Mentor (UMUC) for new faculty teaching online in Communication Studies**

**Developed and taught the following workshops:**

Effective Writing Workshops – Teaching Writing across the Curriculum

Engaging Learners – Strategies in the Online Computer Conferencing Environment

Deliver the Goods – Tips for Collaborative Writing Assignments

WebTycho Faculty Training – Teaching using UMUC's WebTycho Virtual Classroom.

Developed and taught the original training program (1995) and mentored subsequent trainers as program expanded.

Structuring Your Class using Allaire's Cold Fusion Conferencing Software

FirstClass Boot Camp – Using Softarc's FirstClass software and taking Internet classes

Imagination in the Distance Classroom – Techniques and Strategies for Engaging Learners

Teaching Writing at a Distance – Strategies for Managing Writing Assignments

Integrating Web Resources – Techniques for Integrating Information Literacy in the Virtual Classroom

Verizon grant to develop a Web resource site for teachers to integrate multimedia into Web-

enabled classes <http://www.umuc.edu/virtualteaching/>

Maryland System's Web Initiative in Teaching (1998-2000) Conference presentation May 1999 on facilitating conference discussions online. WIT Fellow and Mentor for three years.

### **Distance Education Training Workshops**

Anne Arundel Community College – series of five workshops, funded by Maryland technology grant. Delivered in the Verizon classroom and broadcast.

Harford Community College – Strategies for Teaching Online; Developing Courses

Allegheny Community College – Pedagogical Strategies for Teaching Online

UMUC Faculty Training Workshop online – Facilitate Best Practices in Distance Teaching

### **COURSES DESIGNED FOR WEB-BASED FORMAT**

#### **Park University, Parkville, Missouri**

EN319 Modern Literature, developed in multi-media format

EN306A Scientific and Technical Writing (Content Expert/Designer)

#### **University of Maryland University College, Adelphi, Maryland**

COMM 390 Writing for Managers (Content Expert)

COMM 393 Technical Writing (Peer Reviewer)

COMM 394 Business Writing (Peer Reviewer; contributed online activities for individual, peer, and small group work; integrated Web resources)

COMM 490 Seminar in Technical Communication

COMM 491 Technical Editing

CO-OP 300 Co-op Studies (Peer Reviewer; contributed pedagogy to design of class and online activities; edited the Co-operative Education Manual)

#### **Private Industry**

American Society for Association Executives Executive Writing – pilot course for ASAE's Desktop Training Program (Content Expert/Designer)

Technical Writing, customized version of Comm393, for Institute of Illinois, Technology Research Institute, Annapolis, Maryland