

Word Search

By Kevin Kallmyer

a p e s o r e l y t h o y s p i t
u r r g i l a y r s n b k b a e n
t e u g o l o n o m a i r m t o t
d s t b d e b a t e n l u o h s y
e e c c l v b i a t x e d c o e h
p n e l b i d e r c i c e c s i t
t t l t n s z o o d e r c i e a e
t a s l o a d z e n t i n c l z e
c t m c e u l u a k y f n k o i n
a i t s c s g a n r l e r l q e o
n o i t a r a l c e d e l o u a a
g n i k a e p s c i l b u p e l u
l o a l h p d t f n g p t e n r o
n o o e l e i n e o n o m s t r a
o n g i m o o b a m a s l a t r m
o a c o n c l u s i o n e t h o s
i s e g s n e a o p o t c s k e v

combs
hample
public speaking
debate
blizzard
obama
inflection
persuasive
logical
credible
eloquent
declaration
lecture
talk

monologue
presentation
rant
oratory
pathos
ethos
logos
anxiety
confidence
argue
introduction
conclusion
anecdote



Speaking Center
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Visit our new web page at www.umw.edu/cas/speaking/speaking_center for current hours of operation, faculty and student resources, and useful links, among other information.

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Director's Corner



The Chinese character for "affectionate relationships" reflects the essence of the meaning of those words in idiographic form: Threads of words are interwoven to reflect the thoughts of the

mind. Literally, the pictograph of "threads," "words," and "mind" are presented in intertwined meaning.

The relationships formed at the University of Mary Washington Speaking Center are an apt expression of these Chinese pictographs. We are the site where we study and finesse the weaving threads of words, to express our thoughts and minds. Not only do our staff members work with UMW students to do this, but our words have woven together a community of minds among the present and past staff members of the Speaking Center. I am particularly pleased that the fabric of the relationships formed at the Speaking Center has led to enduring relationships among our staff members and community. In this article, I'd like to share a bit about our amazing staff members, what they are

doing, and how the Speaking Center has affected and been affected by them.

I could not be more pleased with the caliber of our current Speaking Center staff members: Among the staff we have a member affectionately dubbed our "computer guru," as he has taken our new software system and run with it, making changes and "debugging" the software. (You can read about the exciting new software in a separate article in this newsletter.) We have quite a few extremely talented debaters on our staff as well, and they help add a deeper level of rhetorical criticism to student speeches. Other talents abound, including a love for math classes and speaking other languages fluently. A common thread among all staff members, though, is that they simply enjoy doing what they do, and they do it with gusto. From helping out with team projects to assisting students daily, they truly enjoy taking ownership of the Speaking Center. Our center staff members have a strong sense of community, assisting and encouraging one another. That is the fabric of the culture at the Speaking Center.

Our graduates are equally as impressive: Speaking Center alumni are working toward graduate degrees (master's and doctoral), studying to be teachers, professors, and experts in their fields. Some have taken jobs with the federal government or with private firms. Many are in law schools around the country, both far and near. From time to time I get requests for a recommendation for a job

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Class Participation Tips

By Alyssa Davis

Built into most class syllabi is a section on class participation. These points can either greatly help your overall grade or hurt it. Here are some tips to maximize these points so that they not only help your grade, but you also learn through participating.

First, the most important tip has absolutely no bearing on public speaking, and this is to avoid missing classes. It is the easiest way to lose participation points. Aside from this, it all depends on your discussion skills. Walk into a class discussion with the realization that you are there to learn and not to show off your knowledge. This mindset will greatly help with any anxiety you might feel toward it. Also, being prepared and bringing the materials that the class will be covering will help with anxiety and your ability to participate.

In the midst of the discussion, concentrate more on asking questions that you have or commenting on things that you found especially interesting instead of spouting off facts from the material. Also, avoid asking "yes" or "no" questions, as the purpose of participation is to start up discussion. Remember, it is not your job to bring up all the new topics; give insight into someone else's comment or ask a question related to it. However, if a new topic is started and you still have questions about what was just under discussion, it is alright to wait until your turn and then bring the class back to what you had a question about.

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The Speaking Center's Most Frequent Patron

By Karl Livingston

Sun Jung Hong, or Alice, visits the Speaking Center more than any other student on campus. Not only does she schedule around four consultations a week, but her time spent one-on-one with a consultant lasts between 45-50 minutes each visit. In light of the fact that Alice is a student with the Korean Exchange Program, the services that she requests fall above and beyond a typical consultation. Normally, we will work on her English by practicing pronunciation and intonation. During consultations, we also help her prepare speeches for her various communication classes. Last semester she took an introduction to communications class, and this semester she is taking two upper level Speaking Intensive courses.

A consultation for Alice will either involve practicing for an upcoming speech or reading the editorials in The New York Times. In Korea, graduate schools require students to complete an oral interview in English concerning current events. By practicing with the editorials, Alice is not only brushing up on her worldly knowledge, but she is also learning how to become conversant in English in order to prepare for graduate school.

Alice's dedication to her future and to learning the ins and outs of the English language are commendable. Through using such a valuable campus resource, Alice is nearly fluent in English and doing quite well in her Speaking Intensive courses. When asked what is most helpful about the Speaking Center, Alice replied that the Speaking Center has helped her build confidence. Everyone should learn a lesson from Alice and embrace the Speaking Center as a valuable tool to both improve in class as well as to gain self-assurance.

New Online Scheduler Enjoys Successful Launch

By David Moore

At the end of last semester we launched the beta version of our groundbreaking new online appointment scheduler. The online scheduler was created as a tool that takes care of everything students need in the appointment scheduling process. Students can request appointments in just minutes using the online form, and they can even see if their requests have been confirmed or remain to be confirmed by logging into the system.

Since our big launch, over a hundred students have scheduled appointments online and submitted anonymous feedback on their consultations. In general, feedback has been positive and only a few bugs have been reported. Our consultants have been busy monitoring and correcting the few bugs that students have found. While we are unable to foresee every problem, we are prepared to expect the unexpected and solve problems as they arise.

Our goal is to ensure that the scheduler serves your every need without fail. Your feedback is invaluable in the process of improving our online scheduler. Please share with us anything you would like to see included or removed from the scheduler. Email the Speaking Center with your thoughts to spkc@umw.edu.

Check out the online scheduler today: <http://elsweb.org/speak/login.php>

Meet the New Consultants

By Alyssa Davis



Rachel McGuirk

Rachel McGuirk is a sophomore and Economics major at Mary Washington. She has a long history of involvement with the art of communication. In addition to taking several Speaking Intensive courses, forensics, and even sojourning with the UMW Debate team, she enjoys a good cup of joe while mulling over antique books, and she walks the occasional forest path. She has never been able to sit still very long (maybe it's the coffee); nonetheless, she looks forward to sharing her passion for rhetoric at the Speaking Center.



Danielle DeVille

Joining the Speaking Center staff at the end of the fall semester, Danielle DeVille is a freshman at Mary Washington and intends to major in psychology and music. She has a passion for advocacy and has lobbied in Washington, D.C., for the Eating Disorders Coalition, for health care reform, and for mental health parity; she was also an invited speaker at a Congressional Briefing in 2009. In addition to working at the Speaking Center, she loves to write, read, and play the flute. She looks forward to working with the Speaking Center throughout her time at UMW.



Abigail Yirrah

Hi folks, Abigail Boaduwa Yirrah is my name but I like to be called Abbie. I am fortunate to be a part of the consultant team at the Speaking Center, and what excites me the most about working here is the fact that I will be able to help myself in the process of learning from others. Interacting with people is my favorite thing to do, and I look forward to a great year and many more while working at the Speaking Center. I am a Pre-Law Philosophy major seeking to be an attorney, a member of the Public Debate Team, and a representative on the Judicial Review Board for the Class of 2013.



The Speaking Center staff

An Interview with Timothy O'Donnell

By Benjamin Saunders

Originally from the Northside of Pittsburgh where he went to North Catholic High, Dr. Timothy O'Donnell says that his blood was converted to black and gold at a young age by watching Terry Bradshaw and Mean Joe Greene dominate the gridiron. It was only natural then that O'Donnell wound up as a Wake Forest Demon Deacon, where he pursued a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. During these years, O'Donnell learned his passion and flair for communicative activities as a debater under the tutelage of one of the activity's greatest mentors, the late Ross Smith. Since then, he has given his own energy to teaching, earning a doctorate in communications while coaching debate at Wake Forest and the University of Pittsburgh. Since his arrival in Fredericksburg, he has served as the director of UMW Debate with an impressive track record, leading the program to consistent top-20 rankings.

I sat down with O'Donnell in his office overlooking the intersection of College and Williams streets. I think that this is one of the most appropriate places for someone like O'Donnell to be placed by the UMW administration, given that he, like this intersection, is very much a nexus for the movements of the university and the world at large. His ability to calmly articulate the very intense activities inherent to international, national, and even personal policymaking reflects his appreciation for the deliberative process and idea sharing. I was thus very eager to hear his thoughts on the Speaking Intensive offerings at UMW and what we as students can do to reach the communicative nirvana he has seemed to achieve.

SPKC: How long have you been at Mary Washington?

O'Donnell: Ten years

SPKC: Wow, why the long stay?

O'Donnell: It's the beauty of students understanding the ideal of liberal learning – it's what an undergraduate education should be about.

SPKC: What would you change about Mary Washington, if you could?

O'Donnell: We need a Communications major. We're losing students that are going to other universities because we don't offer it, and any institution that's serious about growing – as UMW says it is – has to consider it. For as much lip service as we pay to interdisciplinary studies, it would seem to be a natural fit because communication is naturally interdisciplinary. [The] criticisms of "communication" are in some ways correct; it lacks a rich subject matter of its own in some of the ways that Plato thought, but its ability to stand at the nexus of conversation within the knowledge generating enterprise that is higher education is truly remarkable.

SPKC: What would you like to see out of us, as undergraduate students, as we emerge from UMW?

O'Donnell: Communications is the number one skill – the ability to speak, to argue, to listen; it's the number one skill that employers want irrespective of the field.

SPKC: If you could name one thing that students need from the Speaking Center and Speaking Intensive courses, what would it be that students should pay attention to?

O'Donnell: Students need to work on inventing, creating, and refining messages. Students need to find something to say. Find something to write. Find an argument. You've gotta be able to enter a conversation. It's about figuring out what your message is and then preparing it for delivery. That need is apparent in every walk of one's life, from the personal to professional to social to family life.

SPKC: How do you find the message?

O'Donnell: Enter the waters. Find the ongoing controversies. Research them thoroughly.

SPKC: That seems like a message that says students need to find conflict. Is that what you mean?

O'Donnell: All knowledge is the product of conflict. You can't be a participant in knowledge seeking if you're unwilling, or refuse the dia/multilogic* process that is human communication; it is tantamount to refusing your own humanity. If you're a student at UMW, there's no excuse for leaving here unprepared to be an effective oral communicator. The opportunities that exist are plentiful and students refuse them at their own peril. We live in an age where orality is becoming increasingly central. Technologies like the Internet make it so that the written word is becoming more and more prevalent, and less and less valuable on its own.

When combined with the oral word, and the visual image, these things are growing in complexity....They're growing to a point that was unimaginable just a decade ago. We spend so much time preparing people to be technical writers, but the best textbooks, the best manuals, they'll be multimedia, and oral and visual mediums will be essential for their fusion.

SPKC: I'll leave you with an easy one: What's the most useful thing you've learned at UMW?

O'Donnell: Sometimes we [the professors] need to get out of the students' way. Sometimes students can generate and produce important, great things, and sometimes we can insert ourselves so much that we impede the process of creating and refinement.

**Authors' note: While a great communicator, O'Donnell is also a fan of the postmodern*

Participation *continued from page 1*

It might help those of you with particular anxiety problems to come up with a list of topics you want to talk about before the class and to set a goal to make sure that you bring up or comment on one or more of these ideas. Overall, class discussion is a tool to help you learn through asking questions and hearing your classmates insights, so do not lose sight of that in your quest for participation points.

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or internship, so despite their busy lives in the real world, they do keep in touch. But the most rewarding moments are when the alumni drop by. Two such visits were made recently by Becky Sklepovich and Mary David, who stopped by to say hello. I asked them to write a short update about what they are doing. Here is what they said:

Mary David

After spending one year as Miss Greater Baltimore through the Miss America Organization championing a platform of combating and preventing human trafficking, Mary interned for Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley in the office of Community Initiatives. Concurrently she served as deputy chair of public awareness on the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force to publicize, reduce, and prevent human trafficking in the state. Mary is now a J.D. candidate at the George Washington University Law School, where she hopes to continue her work for the underserved.

Becky Sklepovich

Becky (UMW '06) moved to Brooklyn right after graduation to teach 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Social Studies with the Teach for America program. She currently works for the organization as a program director, coaching and collaborating with 40 secondary humanities educators across New York City. Her experience at the Speaking Center has been invaluable to her current role in which she often provides one-on-one consultations and facilitates groups of young and adult students.

As you can see, our current and past Speaking Center staff continue to do amazing things. But the most amazing thing is that we have created relationships among ourselves and with other students. As the Buddhist saying goes, "Even if your sleeves may make contact while passing, that also is a human relationship." At this juncture, as I anticipate the upcoming graduation of many of our talented staff members, I reflect on the relationships that make up our Speaking Center. Staff members may join us and then leave to graduate, but the fabric of our culture of valuing relationships will remain. I hope that the Speaking Center will keep helping the students at UMW weave even more varied and interesting stories that will continue to strengthen our relationships and our UMW community.

Esther Lee Yook, Ph.D.

Speaking Center Workshops for Spring 2010

By Amanda Gardner

Every semester, the Speaking Center sponsors several speaking-related workshops for UMW students. In the past, these have ranged from tutorials on speech basics, to how to give a presentation in a second language, to how to debate. Last semester's workshops were a big hit among UMW students looking to improve their speaking skills, and we are expecting this semester's workshops to have the same effect. All of our workshops are led by our experienced, creative student consultants and come complete with pizza and light refreshments! Call x1347 or email spkc@umw.edu to reserve a spot. It's never too soon to become a better speaker!

• Introduction to Public Speaking February 2, 5 p.m. in Combs 139

The first workshop of the semester is all about the basics. It will focus on basic speech structure and delivery – a must-see for those looking to better their speaking ability or to become the next Steve Jobs, Martin Luther King Jr., or Barack Obama of the speaking world.

• Proceed with Caution March 18, 5 p.m. in Combs 237

Our second workshop deals with giving speeches on controversial topics. Arguing an unpopular point can undermine your presentation, unless you play your cards right. Come to the workshop to learn how to give a speech on a controversial topic without alienating your audience.

• Effective Visual Aids and Alternatives to PowerPoint April 6, 6 p.m. in Combs 139

We've all seen hundreds of PowerPoint presentations – what we rarely see are fresh and innovative technologies that bring a new spin to visual aids within speeches. Come learn new and unique ways to brighten up your presentations and boost your grades. We will highlight what NOT to do with PowerPoint and introduce new presentation methods such as Prezi.

“Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”

By Manda Simmons



On June 12, 1987, President Ronald Reagan delivered one of the most famous presidential speeches in American history with the famous words “Tear down this wall!” Given amidst political and social turmoil between Communist Soviet-led East Berlin and democratic West Berlin, Reagan delivered a poignant address to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The speech was given in front of

the Brandenburg Gate, by the Berlin Wall or, in German, der Berliner Mauer, which had separated East and West Berlin since its construction in 1961. Since 1961, access had been restricted to the West, with barbed wire and armed guards serving as patrols who shot trespassers on sight. Travel was restricted and people lived in fear of the Stasi, the secret police who arrested possible dissenters.

Reagan's past experience with acting gave him an intricate understanding of emotional appeal, which he emitted throughout his speech by varying his inflection to emphasize the more sensitive words. His eyes sought faces in the audience and his tone became strong and precise as he glossed over statements such as “Today I say: As long as this gate is closed, as long as this scar of a wall is permitted to stand, it is not the German question alone that remains open, but the question of freedom for all mankind.” Although Reagan also spoke about nuclear arms reduction plans and the spread of democracy, the speech is best known for the following words followed by a thunderous round of cheers, “General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”

Two years later, after a long and arduous struggle from the German people, the wall opened on November 9, 1989, deemed the Wiedervereinigung, or the reunification, of East and West Berlin. One who thinks this event hasn't affected the Mary Washington community need only look to Mary Washington's own German professor Marcel Rotter, who gave a speech last semester marking the 20th anniversary of the wall's destruction and describing his own experiences growing up in East Berlin.

Ronald Reagan's words have left a lasting impact on American political speeches. This and other memorable speeches given during his term earned Reagan the nickname from the general public, “The Great Communicator.” By using his body language, varying inflection, and understanding the language in general, Reagan gave us a shining example of exemplary speech. The conclusion of the speech is perhaps the most striking. “This wall will fall, for it cannot withstand faith; it cannot withstand truth. The wall cannot withstand freedom.”

Speaking Center Myth Busters

By Maliha Adams

Myth 1: The Speaking Center is only open Monday-Friday.

Truth: Too hectic of a week for an appointment? We are open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Myth 2: I will definitely be accommodated if I book an appointment last minute at the end of the semester.

Truth: Our busiest time is during the weeks leading up to final exams. Although we will do our best to accommodate you, guarantee yourself a spot by booking an appointment one to two weeks ahead of time.

Myth 3: I can only schedule an appointment by calling or stopping by.

Truth: You can book an appointment without leaving your laptop. Simply create an account at elsweb.org/speak/register.php and submit a request for an appointment.

Myth 4: Consultants are only English and Communication majors.

Truth: We have consultants majoring in a wide spectrum of disciplines from Computer to Political Science.

Myth 5: Consultants cannot assist students with presentations for foreign language classes.

Truth: We have consultants fluent in French and Spanish and some who have studied German, Chinese, and Arabic. Also, delivery styles, visual aids, and speech construction are not bound by language, so there are always areas in which we can assist you.

Myth 6: The Speaking Center is open during exam week.

Truth: Unfortunately, we are closed during this time. If you have a final presentation, make sure to book an appointment prior to the final week of school.

Myth 7: My speech has to be fully written prior to an appointment.

Truth: Unless specified by your professor, your speech does not have to be fully prepared. Request a brainstorming session, come with ideas and research, and your consultant will help you get the ball rolling.