

9/9/2013

## Annual Report on the First-year Composition Program, 2012-2013

**Christy Desmet (Director of First-year Composition)**  
**Deborah Church Miller (Associate Director)**  
**Lisa Bolding (Assistant Director)**  
**Beth Beggs, (Assistant Director of UGA Writing Centers)**  
**Jane Barroso (Administrative Assistant to the Director)**

The First-year Composition Committee (FYCC) met twice during the 2012-13 academic year. During this time, its members were Christy Desmet, Director of First-year Composition (Chair); Deborah Miller, Associate Director, FYC; Lisa Bolding, Assistant Director, FYC; Beth Beggs, Assistant Director, UGA Writing Centers; Chris Alexander, Carmen Comeaux, Joshua King, Ida Stewart, Beth Kozinsky, Laura Weaver, Miriam Brown-Spiers, and Chris Eaket.

### I. COURSE DEMOGRAPHICS:

During the 2012-13 academic year the First-year Composition Program taught the following number of sections and students (broken down into Total, ESOL, Online, Learning Community, Honors, Freshman College, and Special Topics sections of English 1101, 1102, and 1102M).

#### TOTAL SECTIONS

	<b>ENGL 1101</b>	<b>ENGL 1102</b>	<b>ENGL 1102M</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Summer 2012 (20 student max)	1	3	1	5
Fall 2012 (22 student max)	68	65	20	153
Spring 2013 (21 student max)	14	64	33	111
<b>TOTAL</b>	83	132	54	269

From the above totals, the following sections are broken down as follows:

**ESOL Sections (limited to 15 students)**

	<b>ENGL 1101</b>	<b>ENGL 1102</b>	<b>ENGL 1102M</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Summer 2012	0	0	0	0
Fall 2012	2	0	1	3
Spring 2013	1	0	2	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	3	0	3	6

**Fall:** Teachers were: Lindsey Harding (1/ENGL1101); Signe Wegener (1/ENGL1101 and 1/ENGL102M)

**Spring:** Teachers were: Signe Wegener (2/ENGL1102M); Lindsey Harding (1/ENGL1101)

**ON-LINE Sections (limited to 15 students)**

	<b>ENGL 1101E</b>	<b>ENGL 1102E</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Summer 2012	0	0	0
Fall 2012	0	2	2
Spring 2013	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	0	2	2

**Fall:** Teachers were: Nathan Camp (1/1102E); Cynthia Pengilly (1/1102E)

**Learning Communities Fall 2012 Sections (limited to 20 students each)**

	<b>ENGL 1101 and 1102/1102M, combined</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Fall 2012	5	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	5	5

Learning Communities are combined sections of ENGL1101 and ENGL1102 or ENGL1102M offered only during Fall semester. Students who attend these sections take all of their classes together throughout the semester. The total number of these sections was 5. They were taught by: Chris Alexander (Business); Ben Hudson (Life Sci-Biochem); Joshua King (Mass Comm); Lisa Bolding (Life Sci-Nutrition); and Danielle Bray (Global Experience).

Learning Communities sections of FYC have a maximum of 20 students taught during fall semester only, although most sections are smaller because some (indeed, perhaps, an increasing number) of students in each LC place out of English Composition altogether.

**Honors First-year Composition Sections (limited to 15 students)**

	<b>ENGL 1050H</b>	<b>ENGL 1060H</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Summer 2012	0	0	0
Fall 2012	3	3	6
Spring 2013	3	3	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	6	6	12

**Freshman College, Fall 2012**

An FRC section was not taught during Fall 2012.

**Special Topics Sections of FYC**

	<b>ENGL1101</b>	<b>ENGL1102</b>	<b>ENGL1102M</b>	<b>ENGL 1101S</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Summer 2012	0	0	0	0	0

Fall 2012	0	4	2	1	6
Spring 2013	3	5	2	0	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	3	9	4	1	17

**Fall 2012:** Paulina Bounds (2/“Southern Characters”); John Weatherford (1/“Service Learning”); Beth Kozinsky (2/“Disney”); Cynthia Pengilly (1/Film & Multiculti); and Mirian Brown-Spiers (1/Native American).

**Spring 2013:** Chris Alexander (2/“Writers at Work”); Paulina Bounds (2/“Southern Characters”); Beth Kozinsky (2/“Analyzing Disney”); Cynthia Pengilly (2/“Film/MultiCultural”); Robby Nadler (1/Social Justice); and Karl Mohn (1/Identity)

For ease of scheduling and in an effort to keep classes as flexible as possible, we have limited somewhat the number of special sections that may be offered and allowed those who seem within the guidelines for FYC to be offered as “regular” sections.

### Totals

From the above totals, the breakdown of specialized FYC courses (ESOL, On-Line, Learning Community, Service Learning, and Special Topic courses are as follows):

- The total number of ESOL sections (3 ENGL1101 and 3 ENGL1102M) of First-year Composition was 6; the total number of students was 75.
- The total number of First-year Composition Learning Community sections (combination of ENGL1101/1102/1102M) was 5; the total number of students was 72.
- The total number of First-year Composition Special Topics courses was 16; the total number of students was 335.
- The total number of On-line courses was 2. The total number of students was 33.
- The total number of sections of Honors First-year Composition was 12; the total number of students was 167.
- The total number of “Service Learning” sections was 1; the total number of students was 18.

### Breakdown of total students included in 2012-2013

	<b>ENGL1101</b>	<b>ENGL1102</b>	<b>ENGL1102M</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Summer 2012	19	45	17	81
Fall 2012	1433	1428	393	3254
Spring 2013	313	1384	625	2322
<b>TOTAL</b>	1765	2857	1035	5657

FYC classes had 21-22 students per class. The total number of FYC sections, including the Honors sections, taught during 2011-12 was 269, with a total number of students for the year being 5657.

## II. TEACHER DEMOGRAPHICS

During the 2012/13 school year, the teaching staff consisted of 5 teachers during summer 2013; 77 teachers during fall 2013; and 61 during spring 2013 – the number of FYC sections taught throughout the year were 267 (these numbers do not include TA units assigned to the Writing Center, Computer Support, sophomore support, ENGL4000 support, or for teaching sophomore sections, creative writing and upper-division classes).

## III. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENTS

### 1. Administration and Program Supervision

#### A. Office Events:

In 2012-13, the UGA First-year Composition Program completed our participation in research for Cohort 6 of the Inter/National Coalition of Electronic Portfolio Research; project members included Christy Desmet, Ron Balthazor, Elizabeth Davis, and Deb Miller. Our project focused on the potential for comparative assessment of ePortfolios and the possibility of learning “transfer,” using as our data set a group of forty portfolios, twenty from the FYC program and twenty from the Writing Certificate program. We ran a series of three portfolio assessment sessions, hiring three groups of graduate students and instructors to complete evaluative readings of the portfolio set using different assessment methodologies. In September 2012, we traveled to Washington DC to give an interim report on our research and to participate in meetings and completed our participation in the Cohort with a trip to Salt Lake City in March 2013 to make our final report, which can be found here:

[http://incepr.org/finalreports/cohort6/uga\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://incepr.org/finalreports/cohort6/uga_final_report.pdf).

Here is a sample of the discussion at our Boston Spring 2012 meeting about standardization vs comparability in assessment related to student learning:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2mAdP8iq90&feature=youtu.be>

In 2012, UGA's First-year Composition Program was co-winner of the USG Regents Excellence in Teaching Award for Departments and Programs. Drs. Desmet and Miller, along with President Adams, received the award at the June meeting of the Regents in Atlanta. An article in the University of Georgia Columns noted the award. <http://news.uga.edu/releases/article/board-of-regents-awards-041312/>

#### B. CAI in First-year Composition an :

**Fall 2012:** Lisa Bolding, Assistant Director of FYC was in charge of the computer-assisted classroom assistants (“Frogs”). The staff included: Joshua Boldt, Beth Kozinsky,

Maria Chappell, Tareva Johnson.

**Spring 2013:** Lisa Bolding, Assistant Director of FYC was in charge of the computer assisted classroom assistants (“Frogs”). The staff included: Tareva Johnson, Sarah Harrell, Jeff Fallis, Maria Chappell.

### **Emma Developments:**

Ron Balthazor, Christy Desmet, and Sara Steger received a 2013 Innovative Instructional Faculty Grant to continue development of Emma, the suite of web-based writing tools used in First-year Composition courses at UGA. The Emma development team is using the grant to build a platform for instructor-moderated, rhetorically-aware peer review and peer assessment. The new platform will facilitate collection and analysis of learning data useful for just-in-time instruction for individual students, as well as long-term programmatic and institutional development.

In Spring 2013, three teachers (Ron Balthazor, Nathan Camp, and Sara Steger) successfully piloted a completely revised instance of Emma, specifically focusing on developing a more robust peer review application and preparing to deploy the new completely open-sourced version program wide in Summer 2013. The investment in the rebuild has been a two year development process, including outside training and support with five volunteer developers from UGA and around the country, thousands of lines of code and hundreds of hours of coding, plus new hardware bought, installed, configured, and tested.

### **C. UGA Writing Center in Park Hall:**

During Summer session 2012 the Writing Center was not open due to a lack of funding. In Fall 2013, Beth Beggs continued to be the Assistant Director of the FYC Writing Center. Her consultants during this semester were: Stephen Brooks, Lily Brown, Nicholas Crawford, Elizabeth Cunningham, Joshua King, Megan Morgan, Ida Stewart, Clayton Tarr, Julia Maher, Joshua Hussey. In the Spring of 2013, Beth Beggs again served as Assistant Director with the following consultants: Joshua King (who was apprenticing as “co-director” of the Writing Center), Polly Reid, Katy Van Wyk, Lily Brown, Matthew Nye, Ida Stewart, Stephen Brooks, Nicole Camastra, Beth Kozinsky, Cynthia Pengilly, Spenser Simrill, Liz Hammock.

### **D. Apprentices and Fall Orientation:**

In 2012/13, the FYC Program trained a total of 19 apprentices; 6 in Summer 2012, 10 in Fall 2012, and 3 in Spring 2013. Fall 2012 Orientation was held over a four-day period (July 30 – August 2) This was an unusually early date for Orientation, and by avoiding the usual interruptions for Grad Office and Graduate School Orientations, was shortened to four days. Classes started on Monday, August 13 in Fall 2012, so the 22 new FYC teachers (15 new PHD TAs, 5 new MA TAs, 2 new PHD Ling TAs) attending Orientation were able to spend a full week completing syllabi and settling in before classes started. The 2012 Orientation was facilitated by the collaborative leadership of five faculty/administrative/staff personnel (Drs.

Balthazor, Bolding, Desmet, Miller, and Ms. Barroso), five current FYC teachers as grading trainers/mentors (Beth Beggs, Joshua Boldt, Megan Morgan, Sara Steger, Katy Van Wyk), and the financial support of the Department (\$250) and our textbook publishing company, Bedford/St Martin's, who provided a box lunch on Tuesday along with two trainers (Marjorie Adler and Nick Carbone) to guide our teachers through a session on using the E-version of the *Handbook*. We added a unit on "Sustainability" and a campus walk to our usual schedule of orientation events. Kevin Kirche from the UGA Office of Sustainability presented a brief guide to sustainability-related efforts on campus and showed off some of the more interesting campus sites.

### **3. Assessment**

**Success and Retention:** In AY 1998-99, the FE Program was asked by (then) VPAA Jim Fletcher to study the department's placement procedures for First-year Composition. This study is ongoing. We have been tracking the number of students who receive C-'s, D,'s and F's and the reasons for their performance; we have also been tracking the numbers and reasons for student W's and WF's.

#### **Fall 2012**

**WP: 56**

**WF: 3**

**C-/D/F: 35**

#### **Spring 2013**

**WP: 85**

**ENGL1102M**

Student: Erin Marie Galvin-McCoy “Dances, Dreams, and Crazy Horse: Cultural Fusion in Sherman Alexies’s *Flight*”

Teacher: Nathan Camp

**2. Michael G. Moran ePortfolio Awards****ENGL1101**

Student: Kaj Hansen

Teacher: Marni Ludwig

**ENGL1102**

Student: Meredith Elder

Teacher: Sarah Turula

**ENGL1102M**

Student: Stephanie Tan

Teacher: Laura Weaver

**3. Teaching Assistant Awards and Activities**

For the period of 2012-2013, the following Teaching Assistants were nominated by the Department for the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards given by the Office of the Center for Teaching and Learning:

Clayton Tarr  
Miriam Brown-Spiers  
Caroline Young  
Caroline Ramsey  
Rosemary Luttrell  
Joshua Hussey

We did not nominate anyone for the Excellence in Teaching Award for 2012/13.