

**European Writing Centers Association Regional Report
November 2003
Submitted by Anna Challenger on behalf of EWCA Regional**

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REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

2003 EATAW and EWCA Conference:

A conference of the European Association of Teachers of Academic Writing (EATAW) and the European Writing Centers Association (EWCA) was held in Budapest from June 23-25. The Conference theme was: "Tutoring and Teaching Academic Writing". Two Board Members gave presentations:

Dilek Tokay:

Writing Centers' Liaison with High Schools to Promote the Motto: Verba volant, scripta manent.

The argument brought to the attention of the workshop participants was: If university writing centers establish a liaison with high school educators, they can promote an earlier awareness of writing in learners and with shared knowledge and attitude, teachers can build a threshold in young writers, which later makes the job of university faculty and specialists more rewarding. The focus in the strategies followed was how to establish the interaction with high

school educators. A university writing center's institutional goals, needs analysis, program design, and evaluation strategies were compared with those of a high school and a model action plan, including needs analysis surveys, student-teacher forums, teacher conferences, recorded interviews, and on-the-job training of teachers was presented to the participants, leading to discussions on setting priorities.

Tracy Santa:

“European Writers/American Institutions: Eastern European Graduate Assistants in American Universities”

In addition to Tracy, this panel included four former AUBG (American University in Bulgaria) students, two of which had presented at the initial EWCA meeting in Sandansky, Bulgaria in March 2000, which Tracy had organized.

Expansion and Formalization of Board:

In conjunction with the June meeting in Budapest, the EWCA Board was expanded and formalized, with Mariella Antoniadou and Dilek Tokay formally joining what had to that point been a three-member informal board consisting of Anna Challenger, Mary Skondras, and Tracy Santa, the three persons who had worked together to get the EWCA off the ground from the start.

The 2nd conference of EATAW/EWCA was the last. The two organizations will not work in conjunction with one another henceforth, and if in a Regional Report there is any place for advice, my advice to other Regionals is to not link up with other organizations apart from IWCA, as such links are time-consuming, can detract focus from writing center work, and can be ripe for potential conflict.

April 2004 Seminar in Istanbul, Turkey:

“How Do We Make Writing Centers Matter to Bilingual Communities?”

Aim: The dual aims of this seminar are to establish a supporting network of writing centers, developing and functioning within the bilingual context in Turkey, and to strengthen links with the writing centers at an international level.

Location: Sabanci University Campus Tuzla Istanbul

Date: April 16-18

Keynote Speaker: Anna Challenger

Two EWCA Board members are planning to participate as presenters.

For further information please contact Dilek Tokay. Proposals should be e-mailed by February 13 to writingcen@sabanciuniv.edu

Late September 2004 EWCA Conference in Greece:

The Board has decided to host an EWCA Conference in Fall 2004. The exact date and conference theme have not been decided upon. Location will be Halkidiki (outside of Thessaloniki by the sea). Details about the conference will be announced soon.

New EWCA Website:

The Board made the decision, in large part due to its separation from EATAW, that a new image would provide an opportunity to renew contacts with those who originally supported the formation of the EWCA, and with other contacts cultivated since, informing those contacts of the most recent developments in EWCA. To this end, Dilek Tokay put together a new website with listserv, which was activated on November 11th. All those members on the previous listserv will be personally contacted about the change of website address. The theme of the homepage—“Let's build bridges to connect”—is so appropriate and visually beautiful.

Website address: www.EWCA.sabanciuniv.edu

Progress towards Regional By-laws:

Anna obtained from Michele Eodice, at the suggestion of Paula Gillespie, a copy of their 1994 and 2001 MWCA (Midwest Regional) by-laws, according to which we have begun the process of drafting a set of by-laws which we deem appropriate to our own Regional.