

Yvonne R. Stephens

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Education

Kent State University

Ph.D. in Literacy, Rhetoric, & Social Practice

Spring 2013

Doctoral Candidacy Earned

2011

Dissertation Title: “The Discursive Construction of Embodiment: Age, Disability, and the Body in Elderly Identity”
Adviser: Dr. Pamela Takayoshi

My dissertation investigates the ways the body and age get construed in seniors’ discourse. Through qualitative analysis of interviews, the study explores the subtle ways seniors make connections between the ailing body and age. Furthermore, the study explores how seniors use literate practices to manage the aging body. Findings contribute to research areas in writing and disability as well as in literacy and cultural rhetorics.

University of Dayton

M.A. in English, Writing Track

2009

Ohio University

B.S. in Journalism

2004

E.W. Scripps School of Journalism
Concentration in Magazine Writing

Publications, Peer-Reviewed

Stephens, Y. (2012). Transcending the border between classroom and newsroom: An inquiry into the efficacy of newspaper editing practices. In C. Bazerman, C. Dean, J. Early, K. Lunsford, S. Null, P. Rogers, and A. Stansell (Eds.), *International Advances in Writing Research: Cultures, Places, Measures*. Anderson, SC: Parlor Press.

- The chapter was one of thirty selected from more than 500 presentations at the 2011 Writing Research Across Borders II Conference.
- Link to open access version: <http://wac.colostate.edu/books/wrab2011/>

Stephens, Y. (2011). ‘I just absolutely loved what I did’: The rhetorical construction of a disabled identity. *Disability Studies Quarterly*, 31(3).

- This article is published in a special issue of *DSQ* called “Disability and Rhetoric” edited by John Duffy and Melanie Yergeau.
- Link to article: <http://dsq-sds.org/article/view/1679>

Teaching Experience

University of Dayton | Lecturer in ESL and Composition

2012-Current

- **Freshman Writing Seminar:** Sections include students from both non-English speaking and English-speaking backgrounds.
- **Freshman Writing Seminar, Stretch:** Section for basic writers with non-English speaking backgrounds. Course is “stretched” over two semesters to give students more time to focus on skills-based learning.

DeVry University | Adjunct Instructor

2011- 2012

- **Fundamentals in Composition:** Students review reading and writing skills essential to college-level study, including reading comprehension, paragraph writing, and thesis writing.
- **Journalism:** Students research and write news and feature stories and learn the basics of the journalism trade. Course culminates in the publication of a student newspaper.
- **Introduction to Composition:** Students learn basic writing skills including how to write thesis-driven essays in academic contexts.
- **Public Speaking.** Students practice researching, composing, and presenting speeches for a variety of rhetorical situations.
- **Professional Communication.** Students learn the basics of professional communication, including how to write e-mails, how to deliver positive and negative news, and how to write business reports.
- **Introduction to Humanities.** Students hone critical thinking skills by reading and writing about the arts from ancient times to present day.

University of Dayton | Adjunct Instructor

2011-2012

- **Honors Freshman Writing Seminar.** Students acquire academic writing skills by studying and writing about language and power. Students read scholarly articles studying how language is used in various ways to leverage power, such as in conversation and in the media. Students finish the course by conducting original discourse analyses of artifacts they choose.

Kent State University | Teaching Fellow

2009-2011

- **College Writing I.** Students acquire college-level writing skills by studying the rhetorical situation, learning academic discourse, and doing research.
- **College Writing I: Writing in the Discipline of Business.** Majors study the rhetorical situations and tactics of business plans and other business communication documents. The course culminates in students’ writing and presenting their own business plans.
- **College Writing I: Writing in the Discipline of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology.** Students in the major are introduced to the field’s discourse community. They choose a topic for their research proposal project in which they ask a research question, review the literature, identify a relevant niche, and describe how they would fill the niche with a study they design.

Institute of Reading Development | Teacher

Summer 2010

- **Learning to Read (Kindergarten – Grade 5):** Students’ reading abilities are carefully studied so that the teacher can recommend readings at the appropriate level. Meeting students at their levels allows them to thrive in a supportive environment.
- **Developing Study Skills and Increasing Reading Speed (Grades 6-12):** Students learn the basics of reading skills including pre-reading and note taking. Students grow their reading speeds and comprehension skills.

- **Adult Speed Reading (Ages 18 and up):** Students enhance reading speed and comprehension skills using techniques designed by the Institute.

University of Dayton | Teaching Fellow

2008-2009

- **Freshman Writing Seminar:** Students explore their own and others' literacy practices while writing in the academic discourse community.

International and National Presentations

“Seniors’ Uses of Literate Practices to Manage the Aging Body.” Presentation at the Conference on College Composition and Communication (Las Vegas, Nevada, 2013).

“The Elderly Body as Text and Argument.” Presentation at the Nova Scotia Centre on Aging 20th Anniversary Conference, “Our Future is Aging: Current Research on Knowledge, Practice and Policy” (Halifax, Nova Scotia, 2012).

“Digital Literacy Acquisition in the Newsroom.” Presentation at the Computers and Writing Conference (Raleigh, North Carolina, 2012).

“The Reciprocal Ethic of Care: Theorizing the Borderlands between Students’ Classroom and Personal Lives.” Presentation at the Conference on College Composition and Communication (St. Louis, Missouri, 2012).

“Discursive Construction of Identity and the Body Among Members of a Yoga Group at a Senior Center.” Presentation at the Southern Humanities Conference (Louisville, Kentucky, 2012).

“Researching Writing in the Social Network.” Panel presentation at the Computers and Writing Conference (Ann Arbor, Michigan, 2011).

“Transcending the Border between Classroom and Newsroom: A Comparison of Revision Practices.” Presentation at the Writing Research Across Borders II Conference (Washington, D.C., 2011).

“‘I Just Absolutely Loved What I Did’: Identity Construction in the Discourse of a Disabled Individual.” Participation in the Qualitative Research Network Forum at the Conference on College Composition and Communication (Louisville, Kentucky, 2010).

Local Presentations & Workshops

“Alternative Methods to the Discourse Community Ethnography.” University of Dayton English Faculty Workshop (Dayton, Ohio, 2012). Paid Presentation.

“Transcending the Border between Classroom and Newsroom: The Efficacy of Newspaper Editing Practices.” University of Dayton English Department Research Colloquium (Dayton, Ohio, 2011).

“Real Occasions, Real Audiences: Making Argumentative Writing Relevant to High School Students.” Panel presentation at the College English Association of Ohio Conference (Athens, Ohio, 2009).

“Teaching Argumentation through Current Events.” Presentation at the Ohio Council of Teachers of English Language Arts (Columbus, Ohio, 2009).

Additional Academic Project

Paid to Compile Index: Dunmire, P. (2011). *Projecting the future through political discourse: The case of the Bush doctrine*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing.

Academic and Professional Service

Member, Composition Track Curriculum Committee University of Dayton	2012-2013
Member, Composition Committee University of Dayton	2012-2013
Member, Digital Composition Subcommittee University of Dayton	2012-2013
Graduate Student Mentor University of Dayton	2012-2013
President, Association for Graduate English Students	2010-2011
Member, Association for Graduate English Students	2009-present
Public Relations Committee Member, University of Dayton LitFest	2009
Judge, National School Public Relations Association Ohio Achievement Awards	2008

Academic and Professional Awards and Honors

Graduate Student Senate Professionalization Grant Kent State University	2012
Professionalization Grant in English Kent State University	2012
Graduate Student Senate Professionalization Grant Kent State University	2011
Professionalization Grant in English Kent State University	2011
Graduate Student Senate Professionalization Grant Kent State University	2010
Professionalization Grant in English Kent State University	2010
Cincinnati Society of Professional Journalists 2 nd Place Beat Reporting	2006
Cincinnati Society of Professional Journalists Honorable Mention	2006
Robert E. Trevas Award in Ethics Political Philosophy Ohio University	2004

Relevant Graduate Coursework

Kent State University | Ph.D.

English 75022: Greek and Roman Rhetoric
 English 75011: Intro to the Field of Writing Studies
 English 75035: Linguistics for Rhetoricians
 English 85042: Discourse Analysis
 English 85024: Domain Rhetorics and the Social Construction of Knowledge | Focus on Feminist Theory
 English 75012: Research on Writing
 English 75044: Research Design | Research Team Facebook Study
 English 85041: Field Research Methods | Research Team Facebook Study
 English 75027: Role of Composition in Writing Studies
 English 85033: Extended Discourse | Focus on Political Discourse Analysis

University of Dayton | M.A.

English 590: Teaching of College English
 English 601: Introduction to Graduate Studies in English
 English 624: Teaching Writing in High School and College
 English 629: Writing Non-Fiction
 English 588: Studies in Criticism | Rhetorical Criticism
 English 585: History of Rhetoric
 English 596: Composition Theory

Professional Writing Experience**Freelance Writer | Self-Employed | Dayton, Ohio** 2007-2009

- Managed the conception, writing, editing, and production of a local township's newsletter.
- Handled the public relations responsibilities for companies, writing press releases and pitching stories to the news media to help market their brands.
- Contracted with a marketing firm to generate public relations materials to promote the success of a local city's \$1.1 million economic development initiative.

Graduate Assistant | University of Dayton | Office of Communications 2007-2008

- Wrote feature stories and news articles on alumni and students for *University of Dayton Quarterly*, *Dayton Business Leader*, *Dayton Educator*, and *Dayton Lawyer*.
- Gathered information and wrote press releases for newsworthy events.
- Coordinated and wrote stories on interesting students, faculty, and staff for the university home page.

Reporter | *Dayton Business Journal* | Dayton, Ohio 2005-2007

- Generated stories for the Web site and newspaper through research and networking with local business leaders
- Met frequently with sources and attended business functions to generate new contacts.
- Spoke on a regular basis with leaders in such sectors as government, economic development, commercial real estate, law, advertising and marketing, agriculture, and the arts.
- Wrote news stories for the weekly business publication.
- Generated and wrote Web content under hourly deadlines.
- Crafted feature stories for monthly special publications.