



# Master of Arts in

# Newsletter

## Professional Communication

January 2002

### Student Focus Groups to be held!

by Ashley Cowden

Would you like to have input on the types of courses offered in the MAPC program? Do you find it difficult to get advising? The student focus group is an open and confidential place to express opinions, ask questions and voice concerns. Together we will decide what issues need to be brought to the MAPC committee. The first focus group of the semester is on February 13, from 4-5, in 206 Strode. Don't miss your opportunity to let your voice be heard!

### A Visitor's View

by Keri Peterson

Dr. Meg Morgan, a visiting professor from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, shared some details of her teaching experience at Clemson University. Dr. Morgan joined the Clemson staff in the Fall 2001 semester. She taught "Introduction to Professional Writing," the core writing course requirement for MAPC graduate students, as well as Freshman Composition and "Composition for Teachers." When asked to compare her visiting position with a full-time faculty on-staff position, Dr.

Morgan said, "It has many benefits. You get a chance to step away from what you normally would do on a day-to-day basis as a full-time member. You take on a new role. I learned to look at the teaching situation with a new set of glasses. It's like being on a vacation in some sense.



Dr. Morgan discusses career plans with Jessica Hicks.

When you are in a full-time faculty position, the demands are much more intense. While I have been at Clemson, I have not had to serve on many committees. This has allowed me to focus more on teaching. This, Morgan added, has allowed her to get back in touch with her teaching skills. She has used her time to closely review disciplinary material and various pedagogies, which has increased her confidence level and redefined her as a teacher.

The program has several strengths, according to Morgan, beginning with the faculty. "The faculty are internationally recognized and genuinely concerned about the students," said Dr. Morgan. She also said that "students at Clemson are bright, motivated, and much like the students in her classes at UNC at Charlotte." Dr. Morgan noted that one pleasing aspect of the MAPC program is the diverse cross-disciplinary assistantships that are available for students. One example she provided was the number of MAPC participants who work in Edwards for the Nursing Center.

(story continued on p.2)

### Deadlines

#### January 7

If you are planning to graduate in May, then you should have already completed all forms and ordered your cap & gown.

#### March 15

Project reviews should be scheduled prior to this date. Please allow your committee at least a week to review your project. Give your portfolios to your committee a week prior to your review date.

### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### Can I graduate in the summer?

Yes. However, the faculty are on 9 month contracts and often pursue other work and commitments outside of Clemson during the summer. If you plan to graduate in the summer, make sure all of your committee members will be available.

#### How can I best prepare for orals?

The MAPC committee will be discussing problems and ways to better prepare students for oral exams. Send your questions and concerns to Ashley Cowden, the MAPC committee student representative.

### MATRF Hours

Sunday	12:00pm-10pm
Monday	8:00am-2:00pm 3:45pm-10:30pm
Tuesday	10:45am-12:30pm 1:45pm-3:30pm 3:30pm-6:15pm
Wednesday	8:00am-2:30pm 6:45pm-10pm
Thursday	10:45pm-12:30pm 1:45pm-3:30pm
Friday	8:00am-2:00pm
Saturday	10:00am-4:00pm

## A Visitor's View, cont.

Dr. Morgan said this strength benefits students because they have the opportunity to match their interests with a position on campus that builds applicable work experience during the semester.

“One of the contributions of this program is it encourages students to look for some source, like a faculty member, or a program of support that will help them through the uncertainties students experience in their first semesters of graduate school.” For example, Dr. Morgan said, “Students took initiative last semester to form a 10 hour-long study and support session for the course in Rhetoric.” She said that every program should promote and maintain some kind of support network to keep students motivated and interested in what they are learning. Dr. Morgan emphasized this “regardless of whether it is emotional support, study support, or to aid those who are job hunting.” She also advised that students should not fret over finding a job and should recognize that faculty members want to see them succeed.

Dr. Morgan said that one of her most memorable experiences this year includes attending the homecoming game between Clemson and UNC Chapel Hill. Dr. Morgan's daughter, who attends UNC, accompanied her for a full weekend of game festivities. “It was my first experience where I witnessed intense loyalty about football. Homecoming at Clemson is truly a mind-boggling experience. We looked around and saw nothing but orange and this tiny section of Carolina blue. I got a great sense of what it means to be at Clemson.”

Spring 2002 is Morgan's last semester as a visiting professor at Clemson University. She is teaching “Research” this semester, as well as freshman composition again and an English literature course. She generously offers her time for any students who wish to discuss academic interests or uncertainties.

## Student Profile: Angie Rogers

by Keri Peterson

Angie Rogers, a second-year MAPC student, is presenting her MAPC project at the Conference on College Computers and Composition in March. Her project involves developing an on-line course for the Troops-To-Teachers Alternative Route to Certification Program.

Rogers said, “The TTT program will allow retiring military personnel to become certified to teach during the last 18 months of their service in the military. This means that they will be immediately placed into the classroom upon retirement.” The dilemma is that most of these individuals have had little to no contact with the culture typical of high schools today. Therefore, Angie's course, “The Culture That Is School,” is being designed to introduce them to this culture.

“In order to encourage the cognitive coaching that is typical of other mentoring programs, such as the student teaching experience, it is necessary that this course be centered around human interaction. One of the ways that I'm doing this is through a CD that I created based on a typical high school in the upstate, Berea High School. I interviewed students, teachers, parents, and staff about what a high school culture really is. In addition, I went to football games, pep rallies, and just spent a few days at school shooting footage of what the typical day is like,” said Rogers. This CD (in conjunction with reading assignments, discussion boards, interactive quizzes, etc.) is designed to inspire human interaction/cognitive coaching that she is looking for in the course. At the conference in March, Rogers will use a poster presentation to show how she employed these multimedia devices.

## Ashley Cowden is appointed MAPC Committee Representative

The MAPC Director has appointed Ashley Cowden as the MAPC student representative to the MAPC Committee so that graduate students have a chance to influence policy decisions in the program. Ashley is a second semester MAPC student who has a background in graphic design. Any students who have questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding future changes for the MAPC program should see Ashley Cowden or send her an e-mail at [acowden@clemson.edu](mailto:acowden@clemson.edu).