

# ***Duke University Writing Studio E-News***

## ***Volume 2, Issue 6, March 2008***

The E-News is a monthly newsletter featuring writing-related questions and upcoming events at the Writing Studio. For more information about the Writing Studio, visit our Web site at <http://uwp.aas.duke.edu/wstudio/>. Appointments with writing tutors can be reserved in advance online.

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In this issue:

- **Event of the Month: March Madness Crossword Challenge**
- **Some Light Reading About Reading Comprehension**
- **Upcoming Workshops and Writing Groups**
- **Grammar Notes: The Glamour of Grammar**
- **Quotation of the Month**

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### ■ **Event of the Month: March Madness Crossword Challenge**

Think you know everything there is to know about Duke basketball? Blue Devil fans are invited to help us create a Duke basketball crossword puzzle. Facts, trivia, players, coaches, supporting staff, rivals (you know who you are, grrrr!) – all are possible topics. **Just submit a question (or two or three) via email to [wstudio@duke.edu](mailto:wstudio@duke.edu) by March 18.** The Writing Studio will compile all of these questions into one GIANT Blue Devil crossword puzzle. See if you can stump your fellow fans!

We will send out the finished crossword puzzle on our listserv, just in time for the first round of March Madness on March 20. Test your Blue Devil knowledge on the crossword puzzle you helped to create. **Submit completed crossword puzzles to the Writing Studio by March 30.** From the pool of correctly solved crossword entries, we will randomly select three lucky winners to receive a prize!

### ■ **Some Light Reading about Reading Comprehension**

Accodrign to a rscheearch at Cmabrgde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer what oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprometnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a total mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.

Source: "The Significance of Letter Position in Word Recognition." Graham Rawlinson, unpublished PhD dissertation, Nottingham University, 1976.

## ■ Upcoming Workshops and Writing Groups

### MARCH WORKSHOPS

Improving Your Writing Style: Clarity (Tues., March 4, 2 PM, 112 Perkins Library or Thurs., March 20, 9 PM, Lilly Library Training Room)

Improving Your Writing Style: Conciseness, Cohesion, and Coherence (Tues., March 25, 2 PM, 112 Perkins Library or Thurs., March 27, 9 PM, Lilly Library Training Room)

Check the Web site on the Workshop/Group Sign-Up page for updated dates, times, and locations: <http://aaswebsv.aas.duke.edu/cgi-bin/calendar/writing.pl?option=4>.

### WRITING GROUPS

**CREATIVE WRITING:** Contact Facilitator: Rod Frey ([rlf5@duke.edu](mailto:rlf5@duke.edu))

**SCI FI/FANTASY:** Contact Facilitator: Jen Welsh ([jlw23@duke.edu](mailto:jlw23@duke.edu))

**DISSERTATION GROUP:** Contact Facilitator: Richard Musselwhite ([rmusselw@duke.edu](mailto:rmusselw@duke.edu))

**NON-NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS GROUP:** Contact Facilitator: Jayoung Min ([jayoung.min@duke.edu](mailto:jayoung.min@duke.edu))

## ■ Grammar Notes: The Glamour of Grammar

According to an article by John McIntyre in the *Baltimore Sun*, “It turns out that *glamour*, a word we customarily associate with beauty or charm or a high level of attractiveness, comes from the same root as *grammar*. . . .

The *Oxford English Dictionary* explains how this came about:

‘In classical Gr. and L. the word denoted the methodical study of literature (= “philology” in the widest modern sense, including textual and æsthetic criticism, investigation of literary history and antiquities, explanation of allusions, etc., besides the study of the Greek and Latin languages. Post-classically, *grammatica* came to be restricted to the linguistic portion of this discipline, and eventually to “grammar” in the mod. sense. In the Middle Ages, *grammatica* and its Rom. forms chiefly meant the knowledge or study of Latin, and were hence often used as synonymous with learning in general, the knowledge peculiar to the learned class. As this was popularly supposed to include magic and astrology, the OF. *gramaire* was sometimes used as a name for these occult sciences. In these applications it still survives in certain corrupt forms, F. *grimoire*, Eng. **GLAMOUR**.’

The word *glamour* came into English by way of Scotland, where it originally meant, the *OED* says, ‘Magic, enchantment, spell; esp. in the phrase *to cast the glamour over one.*’ It made its way to beauty by way of magic, since the allure secured by magic was illusory and dangerous.”

Source: “The Glamour of Grammar,” by John McIntyre, *Baltimore Sun* online, Jan 22, 2008.  
[http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com/news/mcintyre/blog/2008/01/the\\_glamour\\_of\\_grammar.html](http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com/news/mcintyre/blog/2008/01/the_glamour_of_grammar.html)

■ **Quotation of the Month:**

“Prose consists less and less of *words* chosen for the sake of their meaning, and more and more of *phrases* tacked together like the sections of a prefabricated henhouse. . . . What is above all needed is to let the meaning choose the word, and not the other way around.”

– George Orwell

To unsubscribe from the DWS listserv, log into the Duke Mailing List Manager at <https://lists.duke.edu/sympa>, then select “Writing Studio” and “unsubscribe.”