

# Erin Elizabeth Karper

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## Education

### Ph.D., English, Purdue University (2004)

**Primary area:** rhetoric and composition

**Secondary areas:** rhetoric, technology and digital writing, professional writing

**Dissertation title:** "*Ordinary people do this*": Rhetorical examinations of novice web design

**Committee:** David Blakesley (chair), Patricia Sullivan, Samantha Blackmon, Johndan Johnson-Eilola

### M.A., English, Purdue University (2000)

**Specialization:** rhetoric and composition

### B.A., Writing and Spanish, Loyola College in Maryland (1998)

**Honors:** *summa cum laude*

**Minor:** French

## Awards, Honors, and Distinctions

Technology Maven Award, Computers and Writing Conference, 2003

*Kairos/Lore* TA/Adjunct Award for Distinguished Service, 2003

First Finalist, Janice M. Lauer Dissertation Fellowship, 2003

Information Technology at Purdue Digital Content Development Grant (Dr. Linda Bergmann, Principal Investigator), 2003

Teaching Assistantship, Department of English, Purdue University, 1998-2004

Dean's List, Purdue University, 1998-2004

Dean's List, Loyola College in Maryland, 1994-1998

Renk Spanish Medal (awarded by Loyola College in Maryland, 1998)

Writing and Media Department Medal (awarded by Loyola College in Maryland, 1998)

Phi Beta Kappa, 1997

Phi Delta Pi (national French honor society), 1997

Sigma Delta Pi (national Spanish honor society), 1996

## Professional Memberships

Council for Programs on Technical and Scientific Communication

Online Writing Center Consortium

Society for Technical Communication

Modern Language Association

National Council of Teachers of English

## Teaching Experience

### Department of English, Niagara University

#### **Communication for Executives (Spring 2005)**

<http://www.karper-crain.net/courses/mba565>

Designed syllabus and course materials and taught all classes of a required graduate-level class in Niagara's Saturday MBA program. The course covered various forms of business communication at the managerial level, including genres of business writing, oral communication (including conference calls and meetings), and use of technology in business communication. Incorporated technology.

#### **Grant Writing (Spring 2005)**

<http://www.karper-crain.net/courses/eng351>

Designed syllabus and course materials and taught all classes of a course on grant writing, focusing specifically on writing grants for non-profit organizations and institutions, including audience analysis, researching organizations, and writing persuasively. Incorporated computer technology, including laptop carts, online research journals, and course Web page.

#### **Writing and Thinking (Fall 2004; Spring 2005)**

<http://www.karper-crain.net/courses/wrt100>

Designed syllabus and course materials and taught all classes of an informative and persuasive research-based writing course, taught all classes, conferenced with students, incorporated computer technology and created a course Web page.

#### **Writing for the Web (Fall 2004)**

<http://www.karper-crain.net/courses/cms222>

Designed syllabus and course materials and taught all classes of a course on writing for and with the World Wide Web, including genre theory, audience analysis, principles for Web writing and design, and development of the Web as a technology, taught in a computer-based classroom. Extensive use of technology, including course Web page.

### Department of English, Purdue University

#### **Technical Writing (Fall 2002)**

<http://www.karper-crain.net/purdue/teach/courses/421/>

Designed syllabus and course materials for technical writing course, using a case-based approach with three major projects (analyzing professional documents, revising professional documents, and writing, testing, and revising documentation), taught all classes in computer networked classroom, conferenced with students, created course web site.

**Professional Writing Practicum (Fall 2000, Spring & Fall 2001, Spring & Fall 2002)**

<http://www.karper-crain.net/purdue/teach/courses/505/>

In conjunction with various professional writing staff members, assisted in course planning, created course materials for learning about computer classroom technologies, taught sessions on using computer technologies, lead discussions related to professional development and pedagogical strategies, worked one-on-one with instructors, contributed materials to course web site.

**English Composition I (Fall 1999, Spring 2000)**

<http://www.karper-crain.net/purdue/teach/courses/101c/>

Designed syllabus and course materials for a computer-based research and exploratory writing course (projects included research papers, annotated bibliographies, personal web pages, group Web research projects), taught all classes in computer networked classroom, conferenced with students, created course web site and electronic and print course packs.

**English Composition II (Spring 1999)**

<http://www.karper-crain.net/purdue/teach/courses/102/>

Designed syllabus and course materials for a research-based argumentative writing course, conferenced with students, incorporated computer technologies and created a course web page.

**English Composition I (Fall 1998)**

<http://www.karper-crain.net/purdue/teach/courses/101/>

Designed syllabus and course materials for an expository, argumentative, and research-based writing course, conferenced with students, incorporated computer technology and created a course Web page.

**Rassias Foundation, Dartmouth College**

**Assistant Teacher of Spanish, Advanced Language Program (Summer 1999)**

Conducted language drills with beginning Spanish learners, and participated in one-on-one tutoring sessions with individual students.

**Publications and Presentations**

**Publications**

Karper, Erin. "Focus on Research Column: Dissertation Research." [Invited write-up of dissertation research]. *Business Communication Quarterly* 68.2 (2005; in-press).

Karper, Erin, and Karl Stolley. "New Wings for an Old OWL: Database Solutions for Small and Large-Scale Writing Center Web Sites." *Databases in Higher Education: New Media Discourse in Composition and Rhetoric*. Ed. Rich Rice and Jeffrey White. (forthcoming).

Karper, Erin. *Encore MOO Guide* (2nd Ed). 2003.

<<http://pw.english.purdue.edu/technologies/MOO/guide>>.

Karper, Erin. "Web Usability and Creating an OWL." in *The OWL Construction and Maintenance Guide*, ed. James A. Inman and Clint Gardner. IWCA Press: 2002.

Bates, Jonathan, Ianetta, Melissa, and Erin Karper. Review of David Coogan's *Electronic Writing Centers: Computing the Field of Composition*. *The Writing Lab Newsletter* 22.8 (2001): 3.

Huffman, Debrah, Karper, Erin, and Julie Woodford. "A Reading from The Book of Academics: Or, A Creation Story." *The Writing Instructor*. 2001.  
<<http://www.writinginstructor.com/digresso/creationstory.html>>.

## Conference Presentations

### Computers and Composition

"Disciplinary Identity and WAC on the Web." 2003 Computers and Writing Conference. Purdue University.

"Writing Underfoot: Using Sidewalk Chalk To Expand on Students' Understandings of Genre." 2002 Conference on College Composition and Communication.

"Creating Virtual Spaces and Real Opportunities for Digital Publication." (full-day workshop with David Blakesley et.al). 2001 Computers and Writing Conference. Ball State University.

### Professional Writing

"Student-Teacher Communication in Professional Writing." 2003 Pedagogy and Technology Showcase. Purdue University.

"PW Program Technologies." Professional Writing Program Technology and Pedagogy Showcase." Purdue University. October 2002.

"Past, Present, and Future PW Program Technologies." Professional Writing Program Technology and Pedagogy Showcase. Purdue University. December 2001.

"The ViEW Project." 2000 Teaching Learning and Technology Showcase. Purdue University.

"Professional Writing Program Technologies." Professional Writing Program Technology and Pedagogy Showcase. Purdue University. December 2000.

### Writing Labs

"The Who, How, and Why of OWL Access." 2002 Computers and Writing Conference. Illinois State University.

"OWL Are You?: Uses for and Users of Purdue's Online Writing Lab." 2001 Computers and Writing Conference. Ball State University.

"Purdue's Online Writing Lab: Reaching New Frontiers." 2003 Teaching Learning and Technology Showcase. Purdue University.

"Purdue's OWL and Multimedia." 2002 Teaching Learning and Technology Showcase. Purdue University.

"The Purdue OWL: PowerPoints and Multimedia." 2001 Teaching Learning and Technology Showcase. Purdue University.

## Service to Niagara University

### Department

#### **WRT 100 Technology Workshop (2005)**

Presented workshop on using technologies in teaching Writing 100 courses at a Niagara University Writing 100 instructor workshops in 2005.

#### **Web Site Management and Design (2004-present)**

Added and edited Web site content; surveyed department members in preparation for a site re-design.

#### **Job Search Committee (2004-2005).**

Participated in the search for a new full-time faculty member in composition.

### School of Liberal Arts

#### **Strategic Planning Initiative (2004-present)**

Contributed information to the development of the new strategic plan.

### University

#### **Niagara Reads Committee (2005-present)**

Participated in choosing a book for the Niagara Reads initiative as well as in developing online initiatives to accompany the program.

## Service to the Field

### Conferences

#### **Moderator (2005)**

Conference on College Composition and Communication

#### **Reviewer (2003)**

Computers and Writing 2004 Conference

#### **Technology Maven (2002-2003)**

Computers and Writing 2003 Conference

#### **Web Development Committee (2002-2003)**

Computers and Writing 2003 Conference

#### **Communications Management Committee (2002-2003)**

Computers and Writing 2003 Conference

#### **Moderator (2001)**

Computers and Writing 2001 Online Conference

### Journals

#### **Communications Editor (2001-present)**

*Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy*

(<http://english.ttu.edu/kairos/>)

#### **Technology Maven (2000-present)**

*The Writing Instructor* (<http://www.writinginstructor.com>)

## Professional Experience

### Educational Consulting

#### **Thomson Publishers (2003-2005)**

Developed projects and exercises for *The Thomson Handbook*.

#### **Prentice Hall (2000-2005)**

Developed a chapter on document design and web design for the *Simon and Schuster Handbook for Writers 6/e*. Reviewed textbooks and ancillary materials for composition and Web writing textbooks.

#### **Allyn and Bacon/Longman Publishers (2003-2004)**

Developed a chapter on visual and document design for *Academic Research: Fields of Study and Inquiry*. Reviewed textbooks and ancillary materials.

#### **Houghton Mifflin (2001)**

Reviewed textbooks and other composition materials.

#### **Pearson (formerly Allyn and Bacon) (1999-2000)**

Created content and edited web pages for *Professional Writing Online*, a web-based online textbook available at <<http://www.abacon.com/pwo/>>.

### Administrative Experience

Online Writing Lab (OWL) Technical Coordinator                      May 2000-August 2004  
Purdue University Writing Lab  
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

#### **OWL administrative/support tasks**

Administered two web, mail, and file servers which served as <http://owl.english.purdue.edu> (Purdue's Online Writing Lab/OWL), which received approximately 23 million hits during the 2002-2003 academic year. Administered electronic mailing lists. Supported online writing lab tutors in replying to over 1500 online tutoring requests per year. Designed materials (web pages, quizzes, graphics, workshops, and PowerPoint presentations) for the OWL website and revised existing materials. Redesigned the entire site in August of 2000. Hired and managed OWL consultants. Corresponded with OWL site users. Handled requests related to permissions for use of materials as well as copyright and fair use issues. Created and produced the Purdue OWL News, a weekly email newsletter with over 10,000 subscribers. Generated yearly reports on OWL use. Promoted OWL at on and off-campus workshops, conferences, and other venues.

**Writing Lab administrative/support tasks**

Purchased, installed, configured and maintained computers and peripherals for the Writing Lab. Provided technical support to Writing Lab faculty and staff. Updated and maintained database for user tracking. Generated statistical analyses and reports. Answered grammar hotline calls. Collaborated with the Department of Child Development and Family Studies to develop print and online materials for a Writing Across the Curriculum initiative funded by an ITaP Digital Content Development Grant. Helped convert over twenty volumes of the *Writing Lab Newsletter* from print to digital format and made them available over the World Wide Web.

**Technology Coordinator**  
**Purdue University Professional Writing Program**  
<http://pw.english.purdue.edu/>

**August 2000-August  
2004**

**Administrative tasks**

Helped run orientation sessions for new teaching assistants and provided mentoring. Provided technical support to program faculty and staff. Assisted the director with purchasing technology for the program. Provided support to staff using technologies in their classrooms. Helped coordinate the Technology and Pedagogy Showcase for 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003, which included recruiting participants, creating publicity, and providing technical support. Redesigned the program's website in August of 2000.

**Technology-related tasks**

Administered three servers which provided web, mail, and file service for the Purdue University Professional Writing Program, the Purdue University Rhetoric and Composition Program, the Computers and Writing 2003 Conference, and *The Writing Instructor*. Produced documentation for using program technologies. Upgraded and configured the Instructional Multimedia Production Lab (IMP), a small lab of Macintoshes, PCs, printers, and scanners and the Electronic Publication Lab (EPL), a small electronic publication lab. Created MOO spaces, wwwthreads boards, online journals, and mailing lists for faculty and staff. Generated reports on server use.

**Web Development Experience****Purdue OWL pages**

"Annotated Bibliographies" (with Geoff Stacks). Available at

<[http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/general/gl\\_annotatedbib.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/general/gl_annotatedbib.html)>

August 2001.

"Practice Exercises." (22 Interactive Online Exercises). Available at

<<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/interact/index.html>>. May 2003.

"Resources for Documenting Sources." Available at

<[http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r\\_docsources.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_docsources.html)> June 2001.

"Using THOR." PowerPoint presentation. Available at

<<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/pp/thor.ppt>>. August 2000.

"Writing A Thesis Statement." Available at

<[http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/general/gl\\_thesis.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/general/gl_thesis.html)>. August 2002.

## Documentation for Instructors and Students

### **Accessing Your Career Account From Non-ICS Machines (Windows)**

<http://pw.english.purdue.edu/resources/doc/homedir/win.shtml>

### **Accessing Your Career Account From Non-ICS Machines (Macintosh)**

<http://pw.english.purdue.edu/resources/doc/homedir/mac.shtml>

### **Creating ProNoun accounts**

<http://pw.english.purdue.edu/technologies/MOO/accounts.shtml>

### **Dreamweaver MX Cheat Sheet**

<http://pw.english.purdue.edu/technologies/dreamweaverbasics.pdf>

### **FTP with WS\_FTP**

<http://pw.english.purdue.edu/resources/doc/homedoc/index.shtml>

### **Mac Lab Basics**

<http://pw.english.purdue.edu/resources/maclabbasicsosx.pdf>

### **MacOS X in ICS Labs**

<http://pw.english.purdue.edu/resources/osxics.pdf>

### **PC Lab Basics**

<http://pw.english.purdue.edu/technologies/xpbasics.pdf>

### **Updating and Deleting ProNoun Accounts**

<http://pw.english.purdue.edu/technologies/MOO/account2.shtml>

### **Using WWWthreads**

<http://pw.english.purdue.edu/technologies/wwwthreads.shtml>

## Other Web Sites

### **Purdue University Jewish Studies Program (2003)**

<http://www.sla.purdue.edu/academic/idis/jewish-studies/>

Redesigned entire program web site, including graphics, edited content, produced digital versions of print materials, trained program staff to update site.

### **Bill Walker Kte'pi (2003)**

<http://www.ktepi.com>

Designed professional web site for artist and writer Bill Kte'pi, including graphics. Set up online weblog. Taught author to update his own pages.

### **Colloquium on Violence and Religion (COV&R) (2002)**

<http://www.sla.purdue.edu/academic/idis/jewish-studies/cov&r/index.html>

Developed conference website, including graphics, digital versions of registration forms, and digital archive of conference papers. Created and edited page text.

### **Michelle Dockrey: Illustration and Graphic Art (2002)**

<http://www.michelledockrey.com/>

Designed website for freelance illustrator Michelle Dockrey, including graphics and digital image galleries and displays. Created and edited page text.

### **Midgard Studios (2002)**

<http://studios.midgard.org/>

Created web site for small independent film production company. Designed menus, templates, graphics, and style sheets. Created and edited page content.

**Purdue Professional Writing Program (2002-2003)****<http://pw.english.purdue.edu/>**

Created web pages, updated resource pages, created online forms for showcase proposal submission and technology request submissions. Uploaded content to the web site.

**Computers and Writing 2003 Conference (2002-2003)****<http://www.cw2003.org/>**

Created e-mail accounts, mailing lists and weblogs for the conference staff and attendees. Designed and wrote documentation on using the mailing accounts. Updated web pages and created resource pages and digital image galleries.

**GYRE Reduced Gravity Robotics (University of Washington) (2001-2003)****<http://depts.washington.edu/gyre/>**

Designed web site for use by the GYRE research team as well as the general public. Created graphics and web pages. Produced digital image galleries and electronic versions of print documents. Created and edited page text.

**Technology Experience****Server-based applications**

Analog (web log analysis software)  
 Appleshare IP and MacOS X server (web, mail, and file server)  
 Apache (web server)  
 AspSeek (search engine)  
 Encore (MOO server/database)  
 Filemaker Pro (database and web server)  
 Greymatter (web log/journal software)  
 LiveJournal (online journal application)  
 Ht://dig (search engine application)  
 Mailman (mailing list server)  
 Macjordomo (mailing list server)  
 Movable Type (web log/journal software)  
 Phantom (search engine application)  
 Retrospect (backup application)  
 wwwthreads (web-based bulletin boards)  
 WordPress (blog application)

**Design applications**

Adobe Acrobat  
 Adobe Pagemaker  
 Adobe Photoshop  
 Better Markup Language (BML)  
 CSS (Cascading Style Sheets)  
 HTML  
 Macromedia Dreamweaver  
 Macromedia Fireworks  
 Microsoft FrontPage  
 Microsoft PowerPoint  
 Microsoft Publisher  
 Microsoft Word

**Operating systems**

Linux (Red Hat, Slackware)  
 Macintosh (OS 8, 9, and 10)  
 Windows (95, 98, 2000, XP)

**Internet applications**

Blogger  
 E-mail  
 FTP  
 MOO  
 Usenet  
 World Wide Web

## References

**Dr. David Blakesley, Director, Professional Writing Program and Associate Professor of English**

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**Dr. Linda Bergmann, Director, Purdue Writing Lab and Associate Professor of English**

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West Lafayette, IN 47906  
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**Dr. Muriel Harris, Founding Director, Purdue Writing Lab and Professor Emerita of English**

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**Dr. Patricia Sullivan, Director, Rhetoric and Composition Program, Professor of English**

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## Dossier

**Julie Henderson, Credentials Coordinator**

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