

# Verbal Equinox

Spring 2010

## Editor's Note

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by Kathrine Reeder  
Editor in Chief

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In this edition of Verbal Equinox, the focus is on the importance of tutoring. Sometimes people forget how beneficial tutoring can be. However, when a student enters a session willing to engage in it and to work with a peer tutor, the growth from one session can be dramatic. The insights from our tutors and faculty in this edition provide a strong testimony of the important support tutoring centers give.

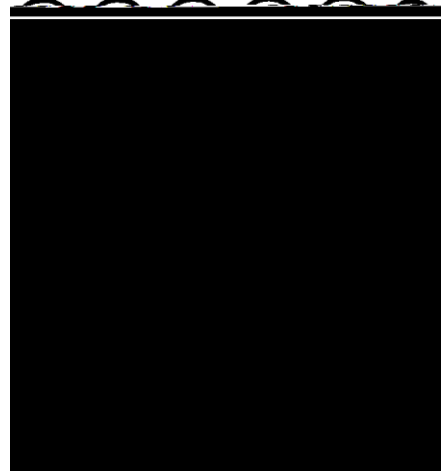
I wanted this edition to remind everyone how tutoring works best. Our tutors, especially the ones who contributed to the edition, are no strangers to tutoring. Because the tutors double as tutees themselves, they understand what our students are thinking and feeling when they enter the Developmental English Learning Center (DELC) and the Writing Center here on campus.

Some of the articles in here are personal accounts of how tutoring has helped the writers improve. Other articles are about ways to engage in effective dialogue with students about tutoring.

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### IN THIS EDITION:



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# I See It in Their Writing

by Marilee Mason

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As an instructor of the English 0955 course, I have a great appreciation for the services provided by our DELC tutors. Every semester, I watch as varying levels of anxiety cross the faces of my students when we go over the syllabus, and they learn that it is not just suggested but required that they take each Major Writing Assignment to the Writing Center to receive tutoring. Some students have expressed fear at the idea of being subjected to an unknown critic while others tell me that they think it will be "stupid," that they can manage without the tutoring, and besides, they "don't have time" in their desperately busy lives to go to the center outside of class time. But while some students probably could "manage" without tutor input, and although it's true that it takes some serious time-management to build time into a hectic real-life schedule for tutoring sessions, those students who give the center a chance to serve them always come back with a positive response to the time spent there. Students find the tutors to be kind, enthusiastic, and personally and genuinely committed to helping them discover what it takes to write a grammatically sound paper. Students in English 0955 come to discover that writing is a process which, when observed, can reduce the anxiety of having to write a paper. Part of that process includes having a rough draft read by at least one other person.

Another reader can help the writer catch errors and awkward

