Introduction—Lynée Lewis Gaillet

Win Horner taught me about epideictic rhetoric, praise and blame—its forms and uses. Certainly as a citizen, teacher, especially as a mother, I have engaged in the modern, causal interpretations of this Greek art almost daily. But in assembling this tribute, I feel the ceremonial weight of the term, the responsibility of trying to capture in a short space the magnificence and influence of one life. I have the privilege of both being Win's student and friend, and also being in the presence of other wonderful friends and family members who knew her and enthusiastically share their stories and memories. What a pleasure and honor it is to work with Win's daughter, Beth Horner, in compiling the following pictures, tributes, stories, and anecdotes. Assembling these artifacts has been part of a joyful process for me, particularly since I am not very good at goodbyes. Perhaps fittingly, I woke up on Mother’s Day morning, with the deadline for this tribute looming, and found a peacefulness that came from the materials Beth so generously and thoughtfully shared with me over Mother’s Day weekend and the comfort of knowing that Win isn’t gone, but like any effective mentor, lives on in those she directly influenced and through us, subsequent generations of both familial and academic students.

Win Horner’s visit to Georgia State University, 2000 [Photo courtesy of Lynée Gaillet]
When I met Dr. Horner, I was a newlywed, in a strange town, and confused about what to do in my professional life. At that pivotal moment for me, she quietly and inconspicuously served as a model of possibilities. I knew much about literature, but didn’t want to devote my life to studying/teaching it. I wanted to teach writing, but knew what that meant, particularly for women at the time—not a career but a part-time job. Dr. Horner taught me about this thing called “rhetoric” and literally changed my life. She believed in me when others did not. She encouraged me, in the most straightforward and no-nonsense manner. Dr. Horner taught me not only about archival research and publishing, Scottish rhetoric, and composition instruction, but also how to blend the responsibilities of wife, daughter, mother, teacher in ways that still left time for me and research. She literally opened the eyes of a southern young woman, one taught always to be deferential and self-effacing, to the powers of self-efficacy.

When we got together, Win and I first talked about our work, then our children (collectively, seven), and eventually our gratitude to our husbands—wonderful men who quietly and without fail offer support over the long haul. For twenty-five years, Win Horner has been the person I call with good (and bad) academic news and my sounding board for new ideas. Her inspiration breathes life into every new project and reminds me that perhaps the most important job I have is to mentor new students and colleagues. While I miss knowing she is physically in the world, I continue to hear Win’s sage advice whispered in my ear.

What Follows:

- Win Horner’s obituary, written by Win herself
- A Memorial to Winifred Bryan Horner, written by Krista Ratcliffe for Rhetoric Society of America Newsletter
- A chorale of three voices, capturing snapshots of Wins's influence and mentoring through the Coalition of Women Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition, written by Barb L’Eplattenier, Lisa Mastrangelo, and Kate Adams
- A collaborative Memorial written by three of Win’s favorite students/mentees: Nancy Myers, Sue Hum, and Kristie S. Fleckenstein
- A Tribute by Michelle Eble, a second-generation Win student
- Marty Townsend's remarks delivered at Win's Celebration of Life service in Columbia, MO
- Win at Texas Christian University (TCU) by Linda Hughes
- Remarks delivered at Win’s Celebration of Life service by her husband, David Horner, Sr.
• “My Turn,” a piece about life and death, written by Win
• Lyrics to “Ninety Years” By Leela and Ellie Grace. Originally written in celebration of WBH/Mama's 90th Birthday on August 31, 2013. Also sung at “A Celebration of Win’s Life”, March 29, 2014

**Obituary—Written by Win**

*Appeared in the Columbia Daily Tribune, February 6, 2014*  
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Winifred Bryan Horner was born Aug. 31, 1922, in St. Louis, the youngest of four children and daughter of Winifred Kinealy and Walter Edwin Bryan. She graduated from Mary Institute in 1939, a high school attended by both her mother and mother-in-law. Horner then graduated from Washington University in 1943 and married David A. Horner Sr. that same year. During World War II, she worked as a secretary while moving with her husband to four Air Force bases during his service in the Air Force Weather Service.

In 1946, they used their WWII savings to make a down payment on Wind River Farm near Huntsdale in Boone County and were actively engaged in full-time farming and community service. Winifred was community leader of the Huntsdale 4-H club in 1948. During this time, she also did freelance writing. One of her articles was published in *The New Yorker’s* “Talk of the Town.” In 1948, *The Saturday Evening Post* published her feature article about the challenges of life on a farm. The article was subsequently entered into the U.S. Congressional Record by Sen. Stuart Symington and commended by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Horner also received the University of Missouri Journalism Award for another article in 1958. She and David had four children.

In 1960, when the youngest was 4 years old, she earned her master’s degree in English at the University of Missouri.

Horner joined the English department at the University of Missouri in 1961, working as an adjunct and an instructor. In 1973, at the age of 51, she entered the Ph.D. program at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She completed her Ph.D. in English language, literature and linguistics in 1975. When Dr. Horner returned to MU in 1976, she was assistant, associate and then full professor of linguistics and served as the director of the composition program. She chaired the committee that initiated the first official “Writing Across the Curriculum” program at the University of Missouri, a program that still flourishes at the university. She also was the first scholar at the university to unite rhetoric with composition. She considered these two accomplishments the most important in her career.
Young Win, Reading [Photo courtesy Beth Horner, for the family of Winifred Bryan Horner]
In 1985, Dr. Horner was offered the Radford Chair of Rhetoric and Composition at Texas Christian University, a position she held for 12 years while commuting between Columbia and Fort Worth, Texas. In 1994, she held the Ida and Cecil Green Distinguished Lecturer position at TCU, a position that allowed her to spend the bulk of the year at home in Columbia.
During her academic career, Dr. Horner wrote and published nine books and more than 30 articles. She wrote each of her nine books after the age of 62. A third edition of one of her books was published in 2010, edited by one of her former graduate students, Lynée Gaillet, a professor at Georgia State University. Dr. Horner’s work focused largely on writing and on 18th- and 19th-century Scottish rhetoric and its influence on American education. To pursue this research, she worked many summers in Scottish university libraries. She also co-wrote three editions of the “Harbrace Handbook,” for many years the best-selling college textbook. Win traveled widely, giving lectures and presenting papers at, among others, the Universities of Amsterdam, Aberdeen, Gottingen, Edinburgh, Tours and Oxford.

In 1982, she received the University of Missouri Alumni Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Education of Women. In 1991, the
Southern Illinois University Press published a collection of essays in honor of Winifred Bryan Horner. She received the Distinguished Alumna Award from the University of Missouri in 1990 and from Washington University in 2001. In 2003, she was awarded the Exemplar Award, the highest award of the National Council of Teachers of English, given to “someone who is an example of excellence in scholarship, teaching and service to the profession of English.” Dr. Horner served as president of the Rhetoric Society of America and the National Council of Writing Program Administrators in addition to holding offices in other national academic organizations. She also received research grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Council of Teachers of English, the University of Missouri and Texas Christian University, and was awarded research fellowships from the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Edinburgh. Dr. Horner retired in 1996 but continued to write and teach, teaching a course in memoir writing in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Missouri. In 2008, the University of Missouri English Department named a fellowship in rhetoric
In her honor, and in 2010 the Coalition of Woman Scholars in the History of Rhetoric named their annual book award in her honor.

Win Horner is survived by her husband, David A. Horner Sr.; daughter Win Grace of Columbia; son Richard L. Horner of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; daughter Beth Horner and her partner, Ron Gurule, of Evanston, Ill.; and son David A. Horner Jr. and his wife, Merrill, of Columbia and Steelville. She is also survived by her brother John K. Bryan and his wife, Doris, of Chapel Hill, N.C.; and her seven grandchildren, Leela Grace and fiancé Seth Barr, Ellie Grace, Gabriel Horner and fiancée Andrea Williamson, Wesley Horner, Miski Horner, Alexandria Horner and John Horner.

Over her career, Dr. Horner encountered numerous single women with young children returning to the university in order to earn an education to be able to support their families. As a result, Dr. Horner and her husband, David A. Horner Sr., endowed a scholarship for such women. In lieu of flowers, gifts to this fund are appreciated. Donations can be directed to the University of Missouri, Winifred Bryan Horner Scholarship, 109 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, MO, 65211.

RSA Mourns the Loss of Winifred Bryan Horner
—Krista Ratcliffe

Winifred Bryan Horner (Professor of English Emerita, U of Missouri and Radford Chair of Rhetoric Emerita, Texas Christian U) contributed greatly to the re-emergence of the discipline of rhetoric and composition in the 20th-century. Win contributed to the professionalization of RSA by helping set up its organizational structure. Win was one of the early members of the RSA who helped promote it, serving on the Board of Directors from 1981-87 (elected) and as President 1987-89 (elected). Win played an important part in establishing the RSA Constitution. On the RSA website Kathleen Welch writes: “The constitution has been revised approximately six times by two committees that met at RSA, SCA, and CCC meetings. Former RSA presidents Winifred Bryan Horner and Richard Leo Enos devoted an extensive amount of time in leading these committees and in applying the results of their long experience to this important document”. Win has contributed to rhetorical scholarship in major ways that helped bring it to prominence again in the 20th-century. Her work on Scottish rhetoric was ground-breaking. Before Win, the assumption was that there was little or no rhetoric in Scotland; her work in the archives resulted in articles and books that disproved that claim and put Scottish rhetoric on the map. She subsequently was awarded the position of Fellow at the University of Edinburgh. And she mentored students who continued her work...
Win as a research fellow in Scotland, 1988 [Photo courtesy Beth Horner, for the family of Winifred Bryan Horner]

in Scottish rhetoric (e.g., Lynée Gaillet) as well as other students who have become prominent in the field (Hui Wu who works on comparative rhetorics and Nancy Myers who works on women's rhetoric). Moreover, Win's book Present State of Scholarship in the History of Rhetoric is a classic that has been published in three editions and is probably responsible for more dissertation topics in rhetoric during the past 28 years (first edition was in 1983) than any other single publication. Win has contributed to rhetoric textbooks. For years, she was the editor of Harbrace Handbook and supplemented its traditional grammar focus with rhetorical process theory. In addition, she authored Rhetoric in
the Classical Tradition, which put Ed Corbett’s work into practice for TAs and first-year students alike and which subsequently inspired many commercial rhetoric textbooks. Finally, Win is a pioneer in the field of rhetoric … as a role model and mentor for women. One of the first women in the field, she paved the way for the rest. If you stop women in the halls at RSA or CCCC conferences and ask them about Win Horner, they all have a story. She helped them learn how to write conference papers. She helped them get a job. She helped them get a book published. She helped keep them sane as they began their careers. She invited them to work with her on projects. She gave advice on how to get tenure. She wrote tenure letters and then more tenure letters and then letters for promotion to full professor. She motivated women to work to achieve full professor. And all the while, she modelled how to have it all—a career, a family, and a grand sense of humor. She institutionalized this mentoring in CCCC by serving as a founding member of the Coalition of Women Scholars in the History of Rhetoric, helping to assure that rhetoric did not disappear from the C’s. For all of these reasons, RSA is privileged to honor Winifred Bryan Horner. She will be missed. Source: http://associationdatabase.com/aws/RSA/pt/sd/news_article/85504/_PARENT/layout_details/false.

1996 Distinguished Alumni Awards

The Arts and Science Distinguished Alumni Awards, established in 1984, allow the College each year to recognize some of its many alumni whose professional contributions have enhanced their respective disciplines and the quality of life for humankind, and in so doing have reflected well on the College of Arts and Science.

Photo of Distinguished Alumni, MOSAICS Magazine, Winter 1997 [Courtesy of MOSAICS Magazine, University of Missouri College of Arts and Sciences]
I just remember Win as a funny, vibrant woman who clearly loved the Coalition, its work and was deeply vested in its success and the success of young scholars. (Really, scholars younger than she!).

I sort of think of her as a dame in the 1950’s sense of the word: classy but not suffering fools gladly and actively involved in whatever she was doing. Our discipline has been so lucky to have Win and women like her at the forefront. We are all better because of her teaching, her scholarship, and her very person as a role model.

My first encounter ever with Win was at the Young Rhetoricians Conference in Monterrey, California. She was being awarded the “Young Rhetorician of the Year” award. She sat next to me at lunch, and I was completely surprised that...
someone who was as well established and well-lauded as Win would sit there and ask me about my dissertation, give me advice on my committee, and encourage me to keep working.

It’s not a big story, but her words were so inspirational to me, and so needed at that particular moment.

Kate Adams, Loyola University

One time, years ago at the Penn State conference, I gave a talk and Win Horner came up afterwards and introduced herself. I was thrilled to be speaking with her. I will never forget her kind smile and kinder words: “You are doing such fine work.” I walked right out of there and into an art show on the Penn State campus, where I bought a framed photograph that is still in my office. It’s my Art from a Win Horner Moment. Through the years later, I always felt like I was one of her students. She could not have been more generous, a model leader who set the best tone for our field.

“Win’s Angels”—Nancy Myers, Sue Hum, and Kristie S. Fleckenstein

Years ago when we began to read and respond to each other’s work, Win started to refer to us as her “three angels.” Every CCCC conference and most RSA conferences the angels and Win would meet for dinner to celebrate the year and the friendship. These were rollicking good times—catching up, moving forward, seeking-and-giving advice, sharing news about everyone’s lives.
and careers. Win liked that although our individual work was all different and wide-ranging, we supported each other’s successes, empathized through the hard times, and mentored each other through different phases of our lives, both personal and professional. She also liked that we represented different generations, not just age, but that Sue was Nancy’s student, then Sue was Win’s student as was Nancy and that Nancy and Kristie had worked at the same institution in marginalized teaching positions early in their friendship but both moved to tenure-track ones in other institutions not long after. It was those webs of interwovenness that created who we are—our ongoing relationship with each other—that encapsulated the name “angels.” Our relationship embodies what Win believed for the profession and what the profession enables.

It is our experience of this robust mentorship and the gentle face of gendered networks—ones that create who we are and empower us to believe that anything is possible—we wish to emphasize in this short list of Winnerisms. These are one-liners that kept us on track in the profession that we pass on regularly to our graduate students and that we hope will help others too.

From Win to You:

- All ideas are meant to be shared.
- A good dissertation is a done dissertation.
- Your graduate school classmates are your future community in your discipline.
- Professors should always ask what graduate students are working on: ask their ideas.
- Quit flagellating yourself and get on with your writing.
- You can always take your publications with you to a new position.
- You’ve got to stand up for yourself because no one will give you anything unless you do.

A Tribute from Michelle Eble (East Carolina University), a Second-Generation Win Student

Without a doubt, I am the teacher, mentor, researcher, administrator I am today because of Dr. Winifred Horner’s influence on my life and career. The really telling fact is that I only knew her after she retired, yet she continued to serve and help shape the profession and field in a wide variety of ways. I met Dr. Horner while a graduate student at Georgia State University through my mentor and dissertation director, Lynée Lewis Gaillet, one of Dr. Horner’s
former students. Lynée invited Dr. Horner to speak to the Graduate Teaching Assistants at the fall 1998 orientation. Dr. Horner’s love of teaching, scholarship, and service and her passion for the profession inspired me as I was beginning the doctoral program. I had the distinct opportunity, while a graduate student, to tour Amsterdam with her when we both attended the International Society for the History of Rhetoric conference, and I gave one of my very first conference papers on Scottish rhetoric.

Win and Michelle Eble in front of the Sex Museum in Amsterdam at the ISHR Conference, 1998 [Photo courtesy of Michelle Eble]
Over the years, I always looked forward to seeing Dr. Horner at the Coalition meetings on Wednesday nights. One of my fondest memories of her (besides touring the sex museum with her in Amsterdam) was when my ECU colleague, Wendy Sharer, and I interviewed her for a documentary on the history of the Coalition. I still remember what she said about the Wednesday night gatherings: “This is my world; these are my people.” Yes, Dr. Horner always welcomed new faces and new ideas, and this legacy continues on with her students and her students’ students and all those influenced by her over the years.

Remarks delivered at Win Horner’s “Celebration of Life” memorial service, First Christian Church, Columbia, Missouri, March 29, 2014, by Martha A. Townsend, Associate Professor of English, University of Missouri (MU)

In honor of Win’s 90th birthday a year ago last August, MU Campus Writing Program (CWP) director Amy Lannin and her colleagues hosted a reception at which they invited Win to reflect on her role in chairing the English Composition Task Force twenty-eight years earlier. The work of that Task Force led to the creation of MU’s writing-across-the-curriculum program, thriving now at its thirty-year mark. Everyone at that birthday reception already knew that key to incoming Dean Milton Glick’s supporting the new writing program had been Win’s delivering a picnic basket to his home on move-in day filled with sandwiches and beer.

Amy and her thoughtful colleagues at CWP planned a lunch for those attending this 90th birthday celebration. What did they serve? Sandwiches and beer. The story was reported in the English Department’s newsletter that fall and was picked up by a Texas alum [none other than Rich Haswell] who promptly re-posted it to WPA-L [the Writing Program Administrators’ listserv], quoting, “The Campus Writing Board recognized Win Horner, professor emerita, for her work in establishing the Writing Across the Curriculum Program by presenting her with a six-pack of beer.” Whereupon another colleague [known to us as Ed White], who was oblivious to the inside story, indignantly replied, “She deserved champagne.”

I was invited to introduce Win at that birthday celebration, and, at Win’s request, I’m reading today what I said in that introduction:

For as long as I can remember, Win Horner has been championing two things in higher education: graduate students (especially women) and good
writing in all its forms (especially across the curriculum). I was privileged to come under her tutelage in 1987 when she gave a keynote address at Arizona State University where I was doing my doctoral work. Win delivered an hour-long inspirational speech to the faculty who were attending our nascent writing-across-the-curriculum program's first symposium. She then proceeded to mentor me about program building every moment thereafter until I delivered her back to the airport—a mentoring process that really never ended. At that time, I had NO idea that four years later I would have the opportunity to succeed Doug Hunt in directing the program she had helped start here at Missouri, a job I held for fifteen years. It is not exaggerating to say that I learned more from Win about being a professor of Rhetoric and Composition than from all my other professors combined—without ever taking a formal class from her.

By chairing the Task Force commissioned by Dean Glick, Win effectively became Campus Writing Program's founding godmother. (I sort of want to say “fairy godmother.”) Doug Hunt, Don Ranly, Jean Ispa, Ted Tarkow and others who served on that Task Force will remember those days well. Win likes to recall that because the only time this campus-wide committee could gather was at 7:00 o’clock in the morning, she insisted their coffee be served in china cups. There'd be no Styrofoam™ for her special group. That Task Force laid the foundation for the program that you are part of today, a program that has
become a national model renowned for the integrity of its Writing Intensive courses and for faculty and administration’s support of student writing.

It’s difficult to explain to scholars who are not in Rhetoric and Composition how distinguished a figure Win is in our field. It was difficult for the English Department at Mizzou to understand exactly what she did, and in 1982 they denied her bid for promotion to full professor. The larger University understood it, though, and awarded her the promotion anyway. The rest of the field understood it, too, because just one year later, Win was named the first female endowed chair of rhetoric in the country, by Texas Christian University. In their book *Rhetoric: Concepts, Definitions, Boundaries*, William Covino and David Joliffe include her biography along side none other than Aristotle, Cicero, Isocrates, and Plato. Theresa Enos published a festschrift in her honor. Our major national organization, CCCC, recognized Win with its highest honor, the Exemplar Award. Virtually every woman in the field has a story to tell about Win’s mentorship. And we have now the opportunity to celebrate her legacy with the Campus Writing Program on her 90th birthday.

**Win at Texas Christian University (TCU)**
—Linda K. Hughes, Addie Levy Professor of Literature

My first memory of Win and TCU was at an Modern Language Association Missouri party shortly after Win had taken the job. She was wearing a blazer – red? – and holding her shoulders in a way that conveyed confidence, excitement, complete delight at being named the first holder of the Lillian Bryan Radford Chair of Rhetoric and Composition. She was the consummate professional, an exemplar of academic success that can come to one who has made a mark in scholarship and has the requisite personal skills to go with exceptional achievement. Win had started out at University of Missouri as Assistant to the Director of Freshman Composition on the Third Floor and been passed over when the directorship opened up. This fact made her endowed chair at TCU all the more impressive and meaningful to those of us taking note.

My next memory of Win and TCU is again at MLA, this time in San Francisco in 1987, when I was interviewing for a job and she was in the room. That year TCU did not obtain a suite for interviews, which took place instead in the hotel room of department chair Fred Erisman. He sat on the bed across from me, and Harry Opperman and Win sat in two other wing chairs. Imagine how awkward it would have been had Win not been there! And her presence was all the more reassuring because she was the dear friend of my beloved mentor Mary Lago. That scenario was a fore glimpse of the difference Win would often make in my life and career at TCU.
If I wanted to roll out only a sanctified version of Win, I would skip another detail from the interview. Harry was explaining to me that once hired, a candidate was unlikely to be denied tenure—“unless you streaked naked across campus or something,” he added. At this point Win piped up, “or maybe Linda would get tenure because she streaked across campus naked!” It was anything but “politically correct.” And many would raise eyebrows over this. But my first and second memories of Win, TCU, and MLA are linked: it was because Win was so secure in herself and her achievements that she could say what others would not risk. Her ability to move from highest professionalism to low-down candor and humor was part of what made Win so lovable. She was so GOOD at what she did professionally. She had such ethos as an endowed chair. She grasped with unerring judgment the workings of power and networks. But she was also so much fun because her conversation was unpredictable and often incredibly funny. No wonder so many of us were drawn to her: colleagues who knew what a good hire they had made, the graduate students who adored her, and TCU women faculty across campus.

Win had the ability to make each graduate student feel special, partly by entering in so enthusiastically to their ideas, hopes, and plans, partly by letting them share her companionship and vision. She never hesitated to suggest that a student take up this or that project, submit to just the right conference, or meet others in the field. She also guided students expertly when they came to her about touchy situations with a faculty member or peer. One of the testimonies to Win’s ties to her graduate students, besides the outstanding success of Lynée Gaillet at Georgia State, is that Win continued to meet a group

Win with Sharon Fairchild and Linda Hughes  [Photo courtesy Beth Horner, for the family of Winifred Bryan Horner]
of former students—including Nancy Myers (Assoc. Prof., U of North Carolina, Greensboro) and Sue Hum (Assoc. Prof., U. of Texas, San Antonio)—at 4 C's conferences for a number of years after her retirement from TCU. They revered her, and I think they meant the world to Win, not only as a set of four people she cared very much about but also as continuing testimony to the difference she had made in the academy and above all in the lives of women faculty.

Win and I met weekly for dinner on Wednesday nights unless Win was out of town, and Win joked that we were actually running the English Department from our dinner table. We did talk lots of politics and ideas for enhancing the department. But most of all I remember the fun of these weekly dinners, and the laughter—oh, the laughter. It's no wonder that those years when Win was my TCU colleague were my golden days at TCU, when opportunities seemed boundless and every week was a joy.

What I will miss most of all is the chance to laugh with Win, and to learn from her about life situations. Part of her lessons emerged from her own past. Just this semester, before the startling news of Win's sudden departure from this world arrived, I told students in my Victorian novel class about Win standing up at a typewriter, trying to write with her young children pulling at her skirt and imploring her for undivided attention. I was trying to illuminate for students the real-life pull between career and family that many women writers in the nineteenth century faced (and that persists today—one of my best students, married with 2 children, nodded as I told the story of an endowed chair's earlier days). That story Win had shared with me said so much at once about her drive and talent but also her recognition of her family's claims upon her.

Win's lessons continued even after Win retired from TCU. I always called Win on her birthday, and besides sharing news we always got down to the realities of life as she was experiencing it. She candidly noted changes that came with aging yet did not dwell on them, teaching me about what to anticipate while also modeling a life well lived into one's nineties. And how grateful I was to be able to visit her a couple of times at home in Tremont Court. My memory of those visits is suffused in light, partly on account of the real light that streamed in through the windows of this home. But Win herself was also a center of light. I could see that when family members dropped by on ordinary errands or just to say hi, they entered in to the light that Win radiated and shared.

I end with a vivid memory of Win in my office at TCU in the early 90s. She was dressed in a leopard-skin print top and pants and was gesturing in that confident way she had. I suddenly realized that here she was, in her late 60s or early 70s, looking sexy and playful as well as like a woman having the time...
of her life. (She was highly deliberate about dress, as about everything else, experimenting with different styles after moving to Texas and commenting, when she wore blazer, blouse, and pleated skirt, “This is how married women dress at Missouri”). This may seem an odd place to stop, perhaps even politically incorrect on my part. But that happy memory of Win in a leopard-skin print is also one of the gifts (and lessons about aging) she left with me.


The way I remember meeting Win was that I was with my family in a wooden, flat-bottom boat paddling across this big river. Although it actually wasn’t a big river, it was a small river that just seemed big to me as a five-year old.

When we got to the other side, there was another boat, another family: mother, father, one boy almost grown, two boys a little older than me, and a small kid, smaller than me, splashing around in the shallow water, making a lot of noise, and getting a lot of attention.
What she was saying was: “I'M SWIMMING, I'M SWIMMING!” I was impressed. I didn't know how to swim, and she was younger and smaller than I was.

As I got closer, I could see that technically she wasn't swimming, she was propelling herself through the shallow water with her hand on the gravelly bottom of the river.

I know now, what was in her mind then. It went like this... “What's with this swimming they are talking about? It doesn't look that difficult. If my older brothers can do it, I can do it... Maybe better than they can.”

Several years later that same attitude prevailed. She was starting to work on a scholarly treatise and said: “This book will practically write itself.” I suppose she was right, if you discount a year's hard work that followed.

What struck me, what riveted me about that kid splashing in the river a long time ago, was a spark, a spirit, and energy, a determination that I had never encountered, and I was intrigued.

Recently, in just a few hour's time, that spark was gone. I couldn't believe it. How could that be? After all this time.

With this gathering of individuals that knew Win, I will concede that some of that spirit is still around, in a different form.

I make the observation that if Win were here, absolutely no one would have as a good a time as she would. She would visit with each person, inquire as to what was going on in his or her life, and have a word of encouragement. She would feel really bad when the meeting was over if she learned that she failed to see someone that was here.

Her remarks were usually right on, once in a great while, a little off the wall. With great pleasure, I remember a time when she and I were circulating in a large gathering, and I introduced her to a really good person who happened to own and operate a Ford automobile agency here.

Win was at that time mostly in Fort Worth at Texas Christian. So I said, “Win. This is Joe Machons. He has the Ford dealership.” She greeted him warmly and said: “I just love my new Nova,” a car she had recently bought in Fort Worth.

I said, “Win, think Ford.” So she said happily to Mr. Machons: “But you don't also have General Electric.” I bring this up not to downgrade her knowledge of cars, which was pretty good, but to remember that Joe, right away, really liked Win. You could tell that he picked up on the spirit that was there.

The details were really irrelevant.
My Turn, Written by Winifred Bryan Horner at Approximately Age 80

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The articles were short and the facts were bare. Carolyn Heilbrun, well-known feminist and Columbia University scholar had committed suicide at the age of 79. Her son was quoted: “She always wanted to control her own destiny.”

A series of conflicting emotions washed over me as I read: sadness, disappointment, loss and then deep anger. I didn’t understand why I was reacting so strongly. Twenty-five years earlier my mother, to whom I had always been close, committed suicide and I had handled that well I thought. I felt no guilt – she had long supported euthanasia and I knew how she dreaded illness and aging. Years later after the long dying of a good friend, I had even joined the Hemlock Society.

I hardly knew Heilbrun. The sadness especially surprised me. One year we were both featured speakers at a conference for chairs of University English departments and we were both early feminists. On that occasion I had gathered an informal group of women to discuss problems that they might have as women chairs of departments composed largely of men. We assembled...
in a large sunny general-purpose room. While we talked several of the men, including my own boss, nervously circled our group. Carolyn turned to me and whispered, “They're not going to let you off the plantation again.” Several years later I had occasion to write her about some professional matter. It was the beginning of the technology era and in her response she said that the printing from my dot matrix printer reminded her of her grandmother’s needlepoint. She had a keen eye and a way with words. My personal acquaintance rested on those two events.

But I knew her best through her books most of which I had read and some I had taught. In all of these she was a staunch supporter of women. I had read her last book, The Last Gift of Time, and just recently reread it. It spoke eloquently to me of the “gains that age might hold.” I had read it earlier before my retirement and I had been so busy living that I had not been particularly impressed. Twenty years later as a different person I had reread it and this time the words spoke to me. She speaks of being old at a time when she is “surer of what her life is about” with “less self doubt to conquer.” Having considered at one time that life properly ended at sixty and that that milestone seemed the appropriate time to end the journey she confesses that at seventy she looks back on “her sixties with pleasure astonishing.” But as the three score years and ten approached her doubts returned. “Quit while you’re ahead was, and is, my motto”, she wrote, and at the age of 79 she quit.

I could understand my feeling of loss. Her books had long inspired me and I was disappointed that there would be no more. The sadness was somehow, I realized, connected through some dark threads in my subconscious to the suicide of my mother. At the time of my mother’s death I was in the midst of pursuing my PhD at the University of Michigan. I was fifty years old and having my own struggles. I pushed my mother’s death to the back of my mind. I thought I had handled it well, but I realized now that I hadn’t handled it at all. Like Heilbrun, my mother was in her late seventies and in good health. She still walked several blocks to her health club where she swam each morning. I thought then that she had so much more to give the world and her family. My work was easing up and I looked forward to reconnecting with my mother, and I was planning a trip that we might take together in the following year. I thought how proud she would be when I got my PhD and I looked forward to having her at the graduation ceremonies. I felt a loss and a disappointment.

My mother like Heilbrun had long spoken of her plans to end her life at a time that she chose. She too spoke of taking control while she still could and not waiting until her body and the medical profession took over. She was not a deeply religious person but she, like all of us, dreaded the long painful dying, not the death itself. For me I finally realized there was sadness, disappointment, and loss.

*Peitho Journal: Vol. 16, No. 2*
So why was I so angry at these two strong intelligent women. In a way I realized that they had just cancelled out the days they had left as worthless. Perhaps I was angry because I wanted Heilbrun to write another book. I wanted her to share her insights into living beyond the three score and ten. Perhaps I was angry because I wanted my mother to share the moment when I received my doctor’s hood. She would have been so proud. I, like them have now passed the allotted number of years. I, like all people in the late seventies and eighties had aching joints, and weaker muscles. I have to go to the bathroom more frequently these days and I forget names of people and places. I breathe harder walking up hills and my children rush to help me out of those low slung car seats. I read more slowly because there are more real life experiences to connect with, and I write more carefully because the words have to be drawn from a deeper well these days. There are other issues between me and my doctor that don’t bode well for the long haul.

But today I value my family and friends with more understanding, less judgment and more real love no matter where, no matter why. I still savor the return of the forsythia, the sound of the birds in the early morning, the wonderful smell after a spring rain, the reds and oranges of the turning leaves, the surprising blaze of an autumn sunset. I feel angry that my mother and Heilbrun did not value these things as I now value them in a new and more significant way. How could they leave all this glory! I feel angry that they feel that they had nothing left to give, that my life – my eighty years – have nothing left to offer to myself or anyone else. Each day is a gift that I shall use for myself and others. I’m in it for the haul – long or short. I too dread the slow dying, but I shall live out my life to the end. I love this life with all of its joys and sorrows and dying is an integral part of that life – dying prepares me and my loved ones for the final act. I am not quitting. Today I have cancelled my subscription to the Hemlock Society.
 Ninety Years By Leela and Ellie Grace  

Little sister, only girl  
Grew up strong to face this world  
With the fire in your eyes  
Would it come as a surprise  
All the lives that you would change  
In your ninety years?

Chorus:  
Ninety years of a life on fire  
Blazing trails, walking on a wire  
Ninety years lived with love  
Fighting hard to rise above  
You’ve showed us how to really live  
For ninety years

From Missouri to Michigan  
Edinburgh and back again  
And every spring in a Texas town  
We saw your students gather round  
And all the walls you’ve broken down  
In your ninety years

River days and city nights  
All in bed in the morning light  
From Washington to London town  
You’ve taken us this world around  
All the stories written down  
In your ninety years
Curriculum Vitae (compiled by Win)

Winifred Bryan Horner
Professor of English Emerita, University of Missouri
Radford Chair of Rhetoric Emerita, Texas Christian University

EDUCATION

A.B.  Washington University, St. Louis, MO, Major: English
M.A.  University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, English Literature
Ph.D. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, English Language and Literature
       and Linguistics, 1975

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

English Department, Texas Christian University
   Ida and Cecil Green Distinguished Tutor
   Radford Chair of Rhetoric and Composition and Professor of English

English Department, University of Missouri, Columbia
Professor of English
   Chair, Lower Division Studies
   Director of Composition Program

Win on her 90th birthday with three of her seven grandchildren: Alex Horner, Leela Grace, and Ellie Grace [Photo courtesy of Ronald W. Gurule, photographer]
Before I went into academia I worked as a freelance writer and published articles in popular publications including feature articles in *Farm Journal* and the *Saturday Evening Post* and a short item for *The New Yorker*. In the April 14, 1956 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post* I published an article that was read into the U.S. Congressional Record by Senator Stuart Symington.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**SELECTED BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS**

*The Present State of Scholarship in the History of Rhetoric*, with Lynée Lewis Gaillet, Professor of English, Georgia State U. 2010


**ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS**: During my academic career I have published over fifty articles and chapters in scholarly books and given over thirty lectures in the United States. I have also lectured internationally at the Universities of Aberdeen and Edinburgh, Scotland; Oxford University; University of Amsterdam, the University at Tours; and the University of Gottingen.

**ARTICLES ABOUT HORNER**


*Peitho Journal*: Vol. 16, No. 2
Sally Harold and Jean Harris “Growing Up Female in Composition: Lessons in Power, Lessons in Weakness.”


AWARDS

The Win Horner Award For Innovative Writing Intensive Teaching. Recognizes faculty who are starting out with a new WI course or taking a new direction with their WI teaching. This may include a new, innovative WI course, or a new strategy and approach within an existing WI course. University of Missouri.

2007 Fellowship in Rhetoric named The Winifred Bryan Horner Fellowship, University of Missouri
2003 CCCC Exemplar Award: “For someone who is an example of excellence in scholarship, teaching and service to the profession of English...the highest award of the National Council of Teachers of English.”
2001 Distinguished alumna, Washington University
1990 Distinguished Alumna: University of Missouri
1990 National Council of Teachers of English Research Grant
1990 Texas Christian University Research Grant
1985 Visiting Distinguished Professor, Texas Woman's University
1987 Fellow in the Institute for the Humanities, University of Edinburgh
1982 University of Missouri Alumnae Anniversary Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Education of Women, $1000
1982 Summer Fellowship, National Endowment for the Humanities, $2500
1981 Visiting Research Associate, University of California, Berkeley
1981 Grants from University of Missouri Research Council
1973-4 Special Assignment, University of Missouri: To explore ways of improving instruction in Basic English
1958 Award for “Best Article of the Year,” University of Missouri School of Journalism

MAJOR PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL OFFICES AND COMMITTEES

Rhetoric Society of America
   Board of Directors, 1981-87 (elected)
   President, 1987-89 (elected)
Coalition of Women Scholars in the History of Rhetoric: President

Modern Language Association
   Chair: Teaching of Writing Division, 1981 (elected)
   Member: Delegate Assembly, 1981--
   Chair: Language and Society Division, 1990

Midwestern Modern Language Association
   Writing in College Section: Advisory and Nominating Committee, 1984

National Council of Teachers of English
   College Division Nominating Committee, 1981 (elected)
   Chair: Braddock Award Committee, 1982 (appointed)
   Member: Resolutions Committee, 1982 (appointed)
   Member: Executive Committee, CCCC, 1983 (elected)
   Member: David J. Russell Award Committee, 1985-86 (appointed)
   Chair: Status of Women Committee, 1985-87 (appointed)

National Council of Writing Program Administrators
   President: 1985-1987 (elected)
   Vice President: 1977-1985 (elected)

Member Exxon and WPA Board of Writing Program Consultants
Selection Committee: 1989--
President: Missouri ACCORD, 1975.
Missouri Governor's Ad Hoc Committee on English for the College Bound, 1979

Peitho Journal: Vol. 16, No. 2
RESEARCH AND TRAVEL

Visiting Research Associate: University of California at Berkeley, 1981.


REVIEWS: I have reviewed manuscripts for the University of Chicago Press, the University of Missouri Press, Southern Illinois University Press, Texas Christian University Press, Oxford University Press, and the Modern Language Association. I have also reviewed numerous Freshman English texts for every major publisher in the United States.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

WORKSHOPS
Writing Across the Curriculum: Brigham Young U., 1990
Writing Across the Curriculum Workshop: University of North Dakota, 1989
Association of American Colleges, Workshop on Writing Program Evaluation, New Orleans, January 1985
University of Iowa, June 1979, 5 day workshop
University of Iowa, May 1980, 2 day workshop
Beaver College, June 1980, 5 day workshop

CONSULTING AND EVALUATION OF WRITING PROGRAMS
University of Nevada, Las Vegas, November 1980
University of Indiana, Gary, March 1982
St. Mary’s College, South Bend, IN, January 24-25 1982
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, March 1982
City College, City University of New York, March 1983
Medgar Evers College, City University of New York, March 1983
New York City Technical College, City University of New York, April 1983
Metro State University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, April 1983
Herbert Lehman College, City University of New York, May 1983
Wayne State University, Detroit, May 1985
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, October 1985
Arizona State, Phoenix, October 1987
Brigham Young University, October 1990
University of Utah, October 1990
University of Tennessee, October 1990

FULBRIGHT SELECTION COMMITTEE: 1986-1989

ARCHIVES
Horner notes from research in eighteenth-century Scottish rhetoric housed in English Department at Georgia State University—Contact Professor Lynée Lewis Gaillet.

Horner collection of nineteenth and early twentieth century textbooks on rhetoric and composition housed in English Department at the University of Texas at Austin—Contact Professor Linda Ferreria-Buckley.