

## The "Write" Stuff: Experience the Writing Center

By Rhonda Nestrud

The goal of the Writing Center is to "serve all the students on campus in an equitable manner," said Tom Friedrich, the newly appointed Director of the Writing Center on campus. Friedrich, who is an English Professor, has been a tutor at the center since last fall, and since Aug. 1 has served in the administrative position.

The Writing Center, located in the tunnel near the switchboard, is open Monday through Friday and various hours on Sunday. During that time, students are able to bring in their work - essays, letters,

are asked to fill out a paper stating exactly which part of the writing they would like to review. The tutor, over the extent of a half-hour session, will guide the writer to take a reflective and critical stance on his or her own writing.

Though the primary focus of the Writing Center is to work one-on-one with students on their individual assignments, the center is not limited to this single form of interaction. Group tutorials are also a possibility. A men's writing group has been started and meets on a regular basis to discuss its members' assigned and extracurricular

Writing Center, then, is both the act of taking writing out of the classroom and placing it in a context where writers are exclusively writing for themselves and for an audience of peers. Writing as a social activity happens on a range of levels in our Writing Center.

With the new year and new administration came new goals for the Writing Center. The future holds many exciting advances including on-campus seminars addressing composition in the college environment, a newsletter highlighting the center's activities and writing-related experiences of both students and faculty members, and even a Concordia system-wide online writing lab (OWL).

The online center will broaden the service that the center provides to all Concordia students - especially off campus students, non-traditional students, and College of Graduate and Continuing Studies students. Students will be able to submit their work online to a tutor who will evaluate the situation and return the work to the student via email. Though this project is soon to be tested out on a group of students from the CU-Portland campus, Friedrich noted that OWL would be available to St. Paul students next year.

"The Writing Center concentrates on making better writers, not just better writing," reflected Friedrich, who is



Friedrich helps Masa Tada, a Japanese student, go over his paper.

Photo by Michelle Wolfram

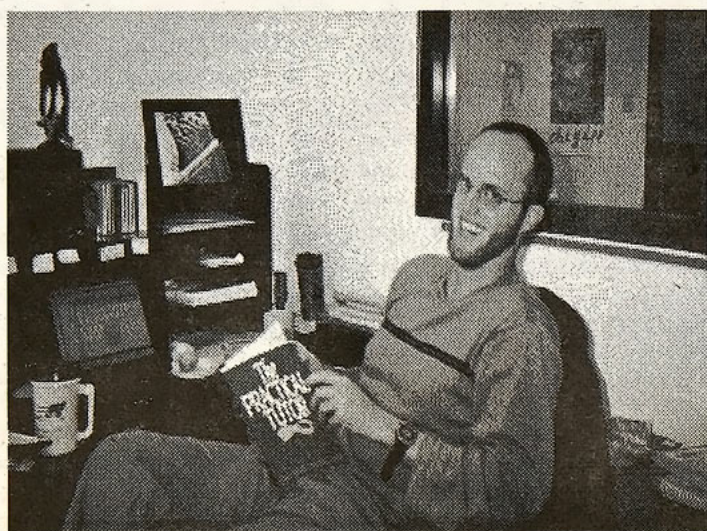
always looking to be of service to the Concordia community. Being one of the tutors available, Friedrich encourages all students and staff to become part of the program. "We are not limited to English majors, any professor can donate their time to help," he continued. To become a tutor, a student needs to enroll in English 324: Teaching Writing 1:1. Students who are in and have completed this course are qualified to work in the center. Friedrich said, "Being a tutor gives you the chance to see people saying what's meaningful to them and as that work develops, so do the tutors."

With all the opportunities, advances and activities taking place in the Writing Center, there are many reasons to go and take a look in AD 121. Students may find helpful advice, answers to their ques-

tions, or even life-long writing mentors. "The thing I would stress the most," concluded Friedrich, "is that the Writing Center is for everybody. It is not limited to one type of student, and it is not limited to one type of writing. Everyone involved benefits from the experience."

Check out the Writing Center by signing up for a half-hour time slot:

**Monday** 8:30-9:20a.m.,  
11:10-10a.m.  
**Tuesday** 8:30a.m.- 8p.m.  
**Wednesday** 8-11a.m., 12-5p.m., 8-10p.m.  
**Thursday** 8:30a.m.-10p.m.  
**Friday** 8:30-11a.m., 1-5p.m.  
**Sunday** 6-7:30p.m.



Tom Friedrich, Director of the Writing Center  
Photo by Michelle Wolfram

portfolios, and resumes to go over with a faculty or student tutor. Students are encouraged to bring in any work, at any point in their writing, and they

lar work. "I hope to see other writing groups come out of the center - those that are for men and women only and those that are mixed," said Friedrich. The

## Crime Around Campus

By Jonika Stowes

Crime has been a part of society since the beginning of time. Concordia is not exempt from this part of society. It is probably because of Concordia's urban location that several crimes have been reported recently.

Since this year's Welcome Week, five laptops have been stolen and none of them have been recovered. Could this crime be by a student who already has a laptop? It takes fewer than five minutes for someone to steal a laptop.

When a laptop is stolen, the student must file a report with the Safety and Security Department and also the St. Paul Police Department. When the Help Desk Staff has received a security report with a St. Paul Police Case Number, a student may have a laptop reissued. At this time, they must pay a 50-dollar fee. Many students have insurance which covers the remaining portion of the laptop cost to them which is 700 dollars, but many students do not have insurance so they end up paying the full cost.

Students need to be careful with laptops around campus - especially commuters because laptops have been stolen out of cars. Laptops should be stored in trunks if they are not needed for class.

The Safety and Security Department encourages individuals never to leave their laptops unattended. It takes fewer than eight seconds for someone to enter an office or unoccupied area and remove a laptop, purse or other item. Safety and Security also encourages the campus community to report an activity or individual whose behavior looks suspicious.

Concordia University encourages prompt reporting of any sort of crime. To report crimes that occur on campus, first a student should call Concordia University Safety and Security at 0 or (651) 641-8278, then call the St. Paul Police for a non-emergency situation and information (651) 291-1111 or 911 for emergencies. Concordia makes an effort to keep students safe, but students should feel free to use any of these numbers when in need.

## Let's Speak Another Language

By Masayuki Tada

A Japanese Language Club exists at Barnes & Noble in the Har Mar Mall in St. Paul, Minnesota. It is very interesting to me how people study another language. Japanese - especially - is different from English in terms of grammar, writing and speaking. Because of these differences, some people are able to speak wonderful Japanese, while others do not have that ability. In this group, it was much the same. Despite this range of performance, they were having a good time speaking Japanese.

They were talking about one Japanese woman who got a gold medal for Judo. The Japanese woman also competed in the Barcelona Olympics and Atlanta Olympics; however, she did not get a gold medal at those games. I was very interested in one of the group members; his name is Michael Creel. He was very excited while they were talking about the Japanese woman.

Creel has been studying Japanese since he was in col-

lege. Creel was telling people how this Japanese woman worked so hard to get her gold medal. When Creel went to Japan in 1997, he went to see a Judo competition with his friends; he loved the Judo match. After he came back to the United States, he was looking for a Judo club here; however, Judo is not a famous sport in the United States, so he

**"Let's make a Judo club instead of continuing this Japanese Club."**

could not learn it. Creel said, "Let's make a Judo club instead of continuing this Japanese Club." Everyone laughed.

The reason why Creel started learning Japanese was that he had a Japanese roommate when he was in college. He did not know anything about Japan before that experience. When Creel saw his roommate's pictures, he started to become interested in Japan. After that, he said, "I want to go to Japan." He had never been

to another country before he went to Japan; his roommate's pictures made him to want see another nation - another way of life.

Most of the Japanese Club members have never been to Japan. They said that they planned to go to Japan sometime in the future, so they wanted to speak good Japanese before the time came. Not only do they study Japanese, they also study the Japanese culture. There is so much that is different between American culture and Japanese culture. Their attitude seemed much better than that of Japanese teenagers because they are always polite and bow to people. If Japanese teenagers were to see their attitude, they might be reminded of the real quality of Japanese culture.

The Japanese Club members are very nice people and love Japan a lot. Before they left the club, they bowed to each other and said "Sayonara," which means good-bye.