

## MEDICAL HUMANITIES WRITER'S GROUP

While pursuing their own graduate studies, three Drew University Medical Humanities students saw the need to create meaningful opportunities to come together for scholarly exploration and inquiry outside of the classroom. The trio proposed that such opportunities would provide themselves and other students with time and space to explore and present their particular academic interests, learn from each other, and strengthen their bonds as fellow practitioners of the Medical Humanities. The creation of a writer's group grew from this vision.

The Medical Humanities Writer's Group was established in the fall of 2005 as a place for graduate students to submit their evolving theses and dissertation manuscripts for peer review and mutual support. The group, which has met regularly during the past three academic years, has become a working committee, providing feedback and camaraderie during the usually isolating period of scholarly research and writing. All Medical Humanities students are welcome, including those involved in writing course research papers and literary endeavors in the field of Medical Humanities beyond the requirements of their studies at Drew. The Writer's Group takes pride in the many members who have successfully completed their papers and gone on to graduation.

The Group has also hosted numerous events to which faculty members were invited to make presentations concerning all aspects of the dissertation process from research methodology, to defense of the dissertation, to offering writing tips and personal reflections.

The Writer's Group further expanded its role by conceiving of, and implementing, the Drew Medical Humanities Symposium, Bridging Health and Human Experience. The Symposium brought recognized academicians and authors to the Drew campus for an exchange of ideas that explored the current and potential future effects of Medical Humanities on the community, health, and health care.

– Rosemary McGee, MMH