

President's Message

Dear Colleagues:

The job of the WPA on campuses all over the country continues to grow in complexity as issues of hiring, faculty development, testing, and cross-curricular writing programs all fall within the general responsibility of the person who directs the college program in written composition. To provide help in dealing with that changing and growing responsibility the Council of Writing Program Administrators has tried to offer a variety of services to its membership. I'd like to highlight our progress in this effort during the last year or so.

Our journal, *WPA*, edited by Kenneth A. Bruffee, identifies major issues that face the administrator. Our December, 1981, issue provided the first annual bibliography of current textbooks in writing with descriptive annotations provided by publishers. For the harried WPA who needs a quick overview of new texts at book-ordering time, the bibliography will be enormously useful. Joseph Trimmer's thoughtful work in organizing and gathering together the list of texts deserves special thanks from all of us.

Now in its third year, the consultant-evaluator program, sponsored in part by the Exxon Education Foundation, continues to provide on-site consultation by experienced WPAs to institutions seeking advice about their writing programs. WPA teams have visited more than 20 campuses in the United States and Canada, and I have now more than 50 new requests for applications.

As guest editors we produced for *Forum*, the publication of the Association of American Colleges, an issue describing varied comprehensive writing programs at colleges and universities throughout the country. This issue serves the useful function of identifying many program models for AAC's member institutions. Also, Elaine Maimon and I, representing WPA, gave a workshop on comprehensive writing programs at the AAC conference in Boston on January 10, 1982, for more than 70 college and university presidents, provosts, and deans.

For the year to come we are planning, with Northeastern University, a jointly sponsored 10-day summer workshop at Martha's Vineyard for writing program administrators. Here both experienced and inexperienced WPAs will gather to share problems and solutions that grow out of day-to-day program management. An announcement of this workshop appears in this issue and a flier announcing details will be available in the next few months.

To the newly elected members of the WPA Executive Committee—Ben W. McClelland, English Department chairperson at Rhode Island College, and Linda Peterson, WPA at Yale University—I offer congratulations and wishes for a productive term of office. To the outgoing board members—Elaine Maimon, associate dean of curriculum at Beaver College, and Harry Crosby, Rhetoric Department chairperson at Boston University's College of Basic Studies—I offer thanks on behalf of the entire organization for their hard work over the years.

Harvey S. Wiener