

President's Message

Dear Colleagues:

The Council of Writing Program Administrators continues to provide new services for members and to support programs already recognized for their utility to those who supervise writing programs. The 1982-83 year is another one for which to pat ourselves on the back.

In August, WPA and Northeastern University ran the first in a series of summer workshops for WPAs on Martha's Vineyard. Participants from Alabama, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, the Virgin Islands, and Virginia explored a wide range of issues from curriculum to staff to program management. Despite some uncooperative weather we found time nonetheless for frolic on the island beaches and for a backyard clambake. We worked hard, but we also had fun. I hope that you will think of joining us this summer. The enthusiasm generated by this meeting of WPA minds encourages us to try to gather the faithful more often!

The WPA journal is now one of the best in the profession. Under the joint interim editorship of Ben McClelland, Rhode Island College, and Bill Smith, Utah State, WPA publishes essays that address the special needs of program administrators. Our annual bibliography of writing texts—last year, just an idea suggested to me by Chuck Christensen, publisher of Bedford Books—is now an indispensable part of every WPA's library. In one issue appear names, publishers, types of books, and brief descriptions of every new composition text. Publishers submit all information themselves according to a format established by the WPA editors. Special thanks go to Barbara Weaver at Anderson College for her superb work in preparing the bibliography this year, and to Joe Trimmer at Ball State for his planning and for his systematic efforts last year.

With a third grant from Exxon we continue to offer our consultation-evaluation service to requesting institutions at minimal costs. The City University of New York has requested evaluations for all seventeen of its campuses this year, and that will bring to more than forty the number of institutions to which we have offered guidance about program management. If your institution would like to be part of this program, write to me for details.

I hope to see many of you at the various professional conferences this year. And if there's anything that you think WPA should be doing that is not doing currently, please let me or one of the other executive committee members know. We aim to make the organization serve your interests, but we need to hear from you in order to achieve that aim.

Harvey S. Wiener