

## Announcements

*“Discerning WPAs: Discourse/Diversity/Accountability”*

Council of Writing Program Administrators Conference 2009

Conference Chair: Joseph Janangelo, Loyola University, Chicago

Radisson University Hotel

Minneapolis, Minnesota

July 16-19, 2009

Website: <http://wpa2009.umn.edu/>

Registration: [http://register.cce.umn.edu/Course.pl?sect\\_key=182703](http://register.cce.umn.edu/Course.pl?sect_key=182703)

We invite you to attend WPA 2009 in the heart of the Twin Cities. The 2009 conference, workshop, and institutes will unfold in Minneapolis, the City of Lakes. The annual WPA Workshop (an intensive experience July 12-15, prior to the conference, for new and renewing WPAs), Institutes (one-day learning experiences on July 16th led by national experts), and Conference (a highly interactive chance to present your work and talk with other national leaders) will be the heart of our gathering.

The conference hotel is the Radisson University Hotel, on the edge of the Minneapolis campus of the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. The hotel is conveniently located near a number of Twin Cities sites: the Weisman Art Museum on the University of Minnesota campus; downtown Minneapolis; St. Paul's shopping districts; many miles of walking and biking paths along the Mississippi River and lakes; and more.

WPA 2009 is hosted locally by the Department of Writing Studies, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, and members of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. The conference will begin at 6 P.M. on July 16th and end at 10:30 a.m. on July 19th with a Town Hall Meeting.

All registration for WPA 2009 is online. Register for the Conference, an Institute, and/or the Workshop.

### *Proposals*

Proposals are due no later than May 1. Proposals submitted by March 23 will receive expedited review, and you should expect to hear a decision on your proposal by April 7th. Authors of proposals submitted after March 23 will be notified after May 1. Submit your proposal to WPA 2009 here: <http://wpacouncil.org/wpa-2009-proposal-submission>

The conference will begin Thursday evening, July 16 with a banquet and opening plenary talk, and continue through Sunday morning, July 19. We invite proposals for individual presentations, panels, workshops, forums

roundtables and other sessions addressing the conference theme, “Discerning WPAs: Discourse/Diversity/Accountability.” We welcome your creativity in addressing the conference themes. Please contact Joe Janangelo (jjanang@luc.edu) with any questions or ideas you have about addressing the theme.

WPA also invites attendees to prepare poster presentations or other exhibits of their programs’ special initiatives, research projects, or signature areas. To allow conference attendees to begin planning as soon as possible, review of proposals for individual presentations, concurrent session panels, roundtables, poster sessions, and multimedia presentations will occur on a rolling basis after February 15, with notifications also sent on that basis. Proposals received after March 23 will be considered on a space-available basis only.

Our goal is to continue the rich conversations that we experience as WPAs – about discourse, diversity, accountability, and other important aspects of our work lives. We invite you to join us in July to work with in community with other scholars on these compelling issues and questions. Contact Joe Janangelo (jjanang@luc.edu) if you need anything. See you in Minneapolis!

*Pre-Conference Workshop: 2009 Workshop for WPAs  
July 12-15, 2009*

Join new, prospective, and continuing administrators of all varieties of writing programs—including FYC, writing centers, WAC, ESL, and basic writing—in 3.5 days of workshopping and conversation addressing the theoretical, curricular, and political demands of our work.

Participants will gather Sunday afternoon, July 12, meet daily through Wednesday afternoon, July 15, and will have the opportunity to consult individually with workshop leaders in the evenings. In the workshop, participants will be encouraged to raise issues from their own professional situations, which have in the past included liberal arts colleges, two-year colleges, regional and flagship state universities, and major research institutions.

**Chris Anson** is University Distinguished Professor of English and Director of the Campus Writing and Speaking Program at North Carolina State University, where he helps faculty in nine colleges to use writing and speaking in the service of students’ learning and improved communication. Prior to moving to NC State in 1999, he was Morse-Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor at the University of Minnesota, where he worked in the Program in Composition and Communication for fifteen years, eight as

its director. He has written or edited 14 books and has published over 80 articles and book chapters. He has spoken widely across the United States and in 17 foreign countries. He is past president of the Council of Writing Program Administrators.

**Carol Rutz** has directed Carleton College's writing program since 1997, where she teaches writing and provides leadership for Carleton's robust faculty development program. At Carleton, WAC faculty development involves a partnership with a learning and teaching center as well as a number of assessment and cross-cutting literacy programs, such as quantitative reasoning and the use of images in argument. Rutz regularly presents at professional conferences (AAC&U, CCCC, NCTE, RSA, WPA, and others) and publishes on writing assessment, responding to student writing, and assessment of faculty development. She consults frequently at campuses interested in WAC, assessment, and faculty development. She is past secretary of CCCC and a current member of the WPA Executive Board.

### **WPA is delighted to offer two new day-long Institutes at WPA 2009:**

#### *The WPA Renewal Institute*

Join with other mid-career WPAs for a day-long investigation of the joys and challenges of sustaining administrative leadership and professional development. Participants will have the opportunity to explore ways to generate greater investment in program administration, highlight connections to research and teaching activities, and explore future career possibilities. We'll talk about increasing institutional demands and how to juggle them, as well as how to keep personal and programmatic development moving forward.

Who is a mid-career WPA? Anyone who's been in the position long enough to stop feeling new! We assume most people in attendance will have 5 or more years of administrative experience.

Institute leaders Susanmarie Harrington, Doug Hesse, and Duane Roen bring to bear their experiences in varied administrative roles: first year writing programs director (freestanding and English-department based); director of a centers for teaching and learning; department chair; and dean. In addition, they have held professional positions in WPA, NCTE, and CCCC.

#### *Institute: Writing Program Administrators as Writers*

All Writing Program Administrators (WPAs) have stories to tell about the details and particulars, evocative images, and day-to-day pleasures and challenges of directing a writing program. The demands of the academic

year offer little time for reflection and contemplation, let alone writing, and it is often difficult to find a quiet moment to compose these stories. What if one had the opportunity to spend an entire day with fellow WPAs in a writing community—writing, listening, reading one another’s drafts, and participating in a community of readers and writers?

In this day-long Institute, we will spend the morning writing; and in the afternoon, we will break into workshop groups to offer and receive responses to our work. The Institute is designed both for WPAs who want to spend the morning brainstorming to find an idea for an essay, as well as for those who have a draft waiting to be developed. One goal of the Institute is to create a community of WPAs as Writers who will read and respond across the drafts, from workshop through publication. Our hope is to publish a collection of essays that emerge from the Institute.

Join us for a day of writing fellowship and collaboration, even fun, as we compose our WPA stories.

**Nancy Sommers:** For twenty years, Nancy Sommers led Harvard’s Expository Writing Program, where she directed both the first-year writing program and the Harvard Writing Project, and held an endowed directorship, the Sosland Chair in Expository Writing. Under her leadership, over 30,000 Harvard freshmen received instruction in the Writing Program. She also directed the Harvard Study of Undergraduate Writing, tracking the college writing experiences of 400 students to understand the role writing plays in college education. Prior to teaching at Harvard, she taught in the Rutgers English Department and directed the University of Oklahoma Writing Program. Currently, she teaches at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education, where she teaches writing courses and mentors new writing teachers. Her articles “Revision Strategies of Student and Experienced Writers” and “Responding to Student Writing” are two of the most widely-read and anthologized articles in the field. She has received numerous awards for her teaching, research, and writing, including the Braddock Award, which she has received twice. She has also created two films—*Shaped by Writing* and *Across the Drafts*—as ways to bring the voices of student writers into a larger discussion about writing instruction.