

## From the Editors

We are pleased to present the fall 2014 issue of *WPA: Writing Program Administration*. As the new editors, we've instituted a number of changes—some visible and some behind the scenes—so we'd like to discuss them briefly.

The most obvious change is the cover facelift. Each stripe (red, tan, and white) pays homage to the previous covers and editorships while the blue cover aligns the journal with the current branding of the Council of Writing Program Administrators (CWPA). Kenneth Bruffee chose red for the original cover in 1979 when the newsletter became a journal. Under Doug Hesse's editorship, the cover changed to tan, and under editors Dennis Lynch and Marguerite Helmers, the cover became white with red lettering. Additionally, we want to note that this year marks the thirty-year anniversary of the WPA logo, which first appeared on the journal in 1984.

On a side note, our cover art archival work revealed the editorships of the journal, reminding us that we stand on the shoulders of giants. We share the legacy of the journal here:

- Harvey Weiner (1978/Newsletter)
- Kenneth Bruffee (Spring 1979–Fall /Winter 1983)
- William Smith (Spring 1984–Spring 1988)
- Christine Hult (Fall/Winter 1988–Spring 1994)
- Doug Hesse (Fall/Winter 1994–Spring 1998)
- Dennis Lynch and Marguerite Helmers (Fall/Winter 1998–Fall/Winter 2001)
- Dennis Lynch, Marguerite Helmers, and David Blakesley (Spring 2002–Fall/Winter 2002)
- Dennis Lynch and David Blakesley (Spring 2003–Spring 2004)
- Duane Roen, Greg Glau, and Barry Maid (Fall 2004–Spring 2007)
- Deidre Pettipiece, William J. Macauley, Jr., and Timothy Ray (Fall/Winter 2007)
- Deidre Pettipiece and Timothy Ray (Spring 2008–Fall/Winter 2008)
- Alice Horning, Debra Dew, and Glenn Blalock (Spring 2009–Spring 2011)
- Alice Horning and Debra Dew (Fall 2011–Spring 2014)

A second modification, perhaps less obvious, is the changing of the book review editorship. Dr. Edward White's term as book review editor has ended with this issue. He has served as book review editor for the past ten issues of the journal, and we are thankful for Dr. White's extensive expertise and continued support of the journal.

With Dr. White's departure, we welcome Dr. Norbert Elliot (New Jersey Institute of Technology) as the book review editor and Dr. Jacob Babb (Indiana University Southeast) as the associate book review editor. Dr. Elliot has been a great and generous friend to the journal in his capacity as an Editorial Board member, and we look forward to working with both him and Dr. Babb. In the spring issue, look for a letter discussing their plans for the book review section. They may be contacted at [bookreviews@wpacouncil.org](mailto:bookreviews@wpacouncil.org)

Finally, we've changed the composition and role of the Editorial Board. Past editorships have relied on the Editorial Board as the main source of reviewers for submissions. We've shifted that role somewhat and are instead relying on the Board for assistance in policy development, guidance in decision-making, and the mentoring of authors. Our discipline is a rich and thriving one with a great many interests, and we are thrilled to be able to rely on the talent and expertise of our membership. Reviewers now are drawn from both the Editorial Board and subject matter experts in the field on the subject matter of the manuscripts.

We have instituted a three-year term limit on members of the Editorial Board to continue the vitality of the Board while retaining important institutional history of the journal. To help us institute this policy and make room for new Board members, several long-standing Board members volunteered to step off. We would like to take the opportunity to thank each of them for their dedicated service: Anne Beaufort, Russel Durst, Patricia Freitag Ericsson, Greg Glau, Eli Goldblatt, Rich Haswell, Brian Huot, and Shirley Rose. Each has generously continued to give their time to the journal, as a reviewer, as a mentor, or by contributing ideas for future issues.

In their place, we welcome ten talented Editorial Board members—see the front matter of the journal for a list of the current Editorial Board. We want to call attention to a new standing position, which is allocated for Writing Program Administrators-Graduate Organization (WPA-GO) representation. At the request of WPA-GO, the person in this position will change each year. We have attempted to assemble a Board that represents a wide range of diverse institutions where WPAs work. We look forward to a productive working relationship with the Editorial Board and have already benefitted greatly from members' expertise and wisdom.

We also call your attention to an announcement that directly follows this letter. Readers will find a call for a CWPA People of Color Caucus that was presented by Genevieve García de Müeller at the July 2014 Executive Board meeting and endorsed by the CWPA Executive Board. Additionally, you will find the CFP for the CWPA 2015 conference titled “Sustainable Writing/Program/Administrators” in this issue. We encourage you to submit a proposal.

In these pages, you’ll find a range of articles on thought-provoking topics. Building on the foundation laid by the previous editors, Alice Horning and Debra Dew, we have worked with each author or author team to move their manuscript into print.

Dylan Dryer and Irv Peckham’s “Social Contexts of Writing Assessment: Toward an Ecological Construct of the Rater” complicates the assessment picture with a detailed examination of how raters are influenced by their surroundings.

“Thinking Liminality: Exploring the (com)Promising Positions of the Liminal WPA” introduces a fourth category—liminal WPAs—to the hierarchy of gWPA, jWPA, and sWPA. With this new categorization, Talinn Phillips, Paul Showlin, and Megan Titus raise important ethical questions for our discipline to consider.

Ann Dean’s article “Understanding Why Linked Courses Can Succeed with Students but Fail with Institutions” uses the intellectual and historical development of institutions to examine critical issues in our discipline through the lens of linked courses: post-bureaucratic labor practices, the exchange value of educational experiences, and the tremendous social and economic pressures surrounding higher education.

In “Relentless Engagement with State Educational Policy Reform: Collaborating to Change the Writing Placement Conversation,” Heidi Estrem, Dawn Shepherd, and Lloyd Duman describe how they turned a writing test placement score mandated by the Idaho State Board of Education into a fruitful conversation with state legislators and a “focal point for careful, faculty-led research and experimentation.”

The revised and updated WPA Outcomes Statement 3.0 is presented here as well. In the accompanying piece, “Revising FYC Outcomes for a Multimodal, Digitally Composed World: The WPA Outcomes Statement for First-Year Composition (Version 3.0),” representatives of the Taskforce—Dylan B. Dryer, Darsie Bowden, Beth Brunk-Chavez, Susanmarie Harrington, Bump Halbritter, and Kathleen Blake Yancey—share the processes of and timeline for revision, examine what has changed from the 2000 version and the 2008 version, and offer commentary on what this

document is and how it can be used. The WPA Outcomes Statement 3.0 also can be found on the CWPA website, [www.wpacouncil.org](http://www.wpacouncil.org)

Finally, Norbert Elliot's review essay "Writing in Digital Environments: Everything Old Is New Again," which reviews an impressive number of books, explores what writing means in the world of Web 2.0.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the many hands and eyes that have made this issue possible. We would like to thank the authors whose work appears in this issue and for their patience during the transition of the editorship. We are grateful to David Blakesley, Rita Malenczyk, Alice Horning, Debra Dew, and Susan Miller-Cochran for fielding numerous questions; to our assistant editor, Jarod Daily, and to our ads manager, Kelsie Walker, for their thoughtful work which has been critical to this issue. We commend Jennika Smith for her eloquent design work of the new cover; we are humbled by her donation of time and expertise. We thank Joel Wingard for his generous offer to copy edit and proof the journal before it went to press. We are indebted to our Editorial Board for their wise and swift counsel and the many reviewers who provided careful and thoughtful feedback to the authors. We are thankful to the University of Delaware for distributing the journal and for the continued support of our colleagues at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Finally, we would be remiss if we did not thank the readers who continue to support the journal. It is your support that makes the journal possible.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact us with ideas or concerns. We encourage you to respond to the call for articles, and we hope you enjoy this issue. As Harvey Weiner would say, "We want to hear from you!" Our email is [journal@wpacouncil.org](mailto:journal@wpacouncil.org)

Barb and Sherry

