

Letter from the Editors

Dear Readers,

We welcome you to the journal's Spring 2016 issue. Once again, we are pleased to bring you an issue filled with a variety of materials: articles, a symposium, our annual Travelogue, and book reviews.

We open the issue with a Symposium on Challenging Whiteness and/ in Writing Program Administration and Writing Programs. From the rich submissions we received, we selected seven to be published. These submissions cover a variety of topics, addressing race-based issues pertaining to WPA work such as supporting faculty and graduate students in writing studies, choosing textbooks, de-normalizing whiteness, and in general, becoming more thoughtful and attentive to issues of race as administrators. Although some of the authors have published in these pages before, most are new to these pages, and we look forward to their continued contributions to the field of Writing Studies and writing program administration.

In a happy coincidence, two of our articles explore how big data can help us become better teachers and administrators. Joe Moxley and Dave Eubanks' "On Keeping Score: Instructors' vs. Students' Rubric Ratings of 46,689 Essays" investigates the effectiveness of having students score one another's intermediate essay drafts and explores the correlation between student ratings and instructor ratings; as the title states, the study draws its conclusion from 46,689 reviews of student papers from 482 sections of composition.

Similarly, Susan Lang's "Taming Big Data through Agile Approaches to Instructor Training and Assessment: Managing Ongoing Professional Development in Large First-Year Writing Programs" shows us how big data can help us provide better support and professional training to our teachers. Using concepts such as big data and agile taken from information technology, Lang explores ways that WPAs make our own work more productive, responsive, and fulfilling for teachers.

Finally, Michelle LaFrance's "An Institutional Ethnography of Information Literacy Instruction: Key Terms, Local/Material Contexts, and

Instructional Practice” moves us in a different direction as she explores the use of the term *information literacy* on campuses. LaFrance’s work finds that most WPAs and instructors define the term on a highly individualized—and often radically different—basis. This creates tension in the way that assignments and methods of research are conceptualized and taught.

As has been the tradition for the past few years, Shirley K Rose interviewed Chris Anson and Jessie Moore, two of the local hosts for the upcoming WPA conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, for the Travelogue. The 2016 conference will be a joint hosting effort between two institutions and the regional Carolinas WPA affiliate, reflected in the conference’s theme of “Engaging Multiple Perspectives in and about Writing Program Administration.” We hope you enjoy the Travelogue as a preview to the conference.

The book review section closes the journal. Once again, Norbert Elliott and Jacob Babb have selected books for review that will inform and enhance the work of WPAs. We hope you enjoy them. At any time, feel free to contact Norbert and Jacob at bookreviews@wpacouncil.org.

Much unseen labor goes into the production of the journal, and copyediting is perhaps one of the most important but least recognized. Joel Wingard has consistently been kind enough to provide volunteer copyediting at the proof stage, and we remain immensely grateful to him. Alora D. Crooms provided fresh eyes at the final stages, and Sarah Ricard continues to assist us at every stage of production, tracking down questions on obscure style and copyediting-related topics. Lastly, student interns Catherine Godlewsky and Jonathen Munoz helped with odd tasks and formatting issues, for which we offer them our thanks. We also extend our gratitude to our ads manager, Kelsie Walker.

We hope to see you at the CWPA conference, and we’d love to talk with you. As always, please don’t hesitate to contact us with ideas or concerns. Our email is journal@wpacouncil.org.

—Barb, Lisa, and Sherry