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From the President

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From the President

Ten years may seem like a long time, but to many of us who began writing centers within the last decade, the time has flown. I remember in the early 1980's hearing the names Stephen North, Lil Brannon, Ken Bruffee, Muriel Harris, and Thom Hawkins when I asked college acquaintances about starting a high school writing center. There weren't many of us out there. College writing center people were busy establishing their own centers, finding other centers, organizing the network that would become the National Writing Centers Association. The names Jeanette Harris and Joyce Kinkead became part of all writing center conversations when they took over the publication of *The Writing Center Journal* from Brannon and North. Directors waited eagerly each year for the issue that included Jay Jacoby's bibliography of sources for the year on writing centers. Each year at the annual NCTE convention, NWCA offered writing center workshops. Unfortunately, in those earlier years high school writing center directors had little involvement in the organization; college directors presented workshops telling high school people how to start writing centers. At the same time, high school directors were presenting other workshops at NCTE or CSSEDC on high school writing centers. Finally, the high school-college alliance began through the efforts of people like Muriel Harris, Joyce Kinkead, Lil Brannon, Jay Jacoby, and Bonnie Sunstein who encouraged high school people to become involved in the National Writing Centers Association.

Now both *The Writing Center Journal* and *The Writing Lab Newsletter* regularly publish articles written by writing center directors at all academic levels. This alliance that began in the mid 1980's seems to be growing stronger in the nineties, thanks to the belief in common goals for writing centers. In the last few years, the NWCA workshops have been run by people of all academic levels and backgrounds. We even sponsored a joint workshop in 1989 with the Assembly on Computers in English.

Ever aware of the necessity to improve, the National Writing Centers Association continues to grow and listen to the voices of its membership. Within the next year we hope to have a national directory of writing centers. Our regional groups continue to offer innovative conferences, and new, powerful regional groups are making their voices heard. The membership will determine the direction of the association just as the articles in *The Writing Center Journal* will keep us informed of what is happening in writing centers throughout the country. Is our next step reaching further to other English-speaking countries? Will technological advancements change our roles in the writing center? These are just a few of the questions that we will need to consider in the next decade, and, as in the previous one, we will depend on whoever follows in the footsteps of Brannon and North, Harris and Kinkead for the possibilities. On behalf of anyone who has ever read this top quality professional journal, a heartfelt thank you to our editors, past and present. To our new editors, we wish the best of luck and the strongest of character to continue the tradition with a touch of their own innovation.

Pamela B. Farrell, President
National Writing Centers Association