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## From the Editors

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## From the Editors

*Diana George, Nancy Grimm, Edward Lotto*

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Because writing centers exist on the boundaries of institutions, they often are the first places to feel and respond to issues that will become important to the larger community. That is certainly true of the articles contained within this issue of *The Writing Center Journal*. The concerns raised by our contributors are concerns raised, as well, by the National Council of Teachers of English, the Conference on College Composition and Communication, the Council of Writing Program Administration, and many other small and large conferences taking place across the nation this year and next. In the last few months even the popular press has begun to address curriculum conflicts, student population shifts, budget changes, and other such issues that have dramatic implications for education today. But instead of simply noting these changes, our contributors offer productive ways of thinking about and dealing with the complex shifts that face writing centers and the university as a whole today, shifts that involve political, pedagogical, and cultural struggle—all topics writing center practitioners have been thinking and writing about for several years now. They offer no simple answers but argue for the importance of incorporating into the conversation multiple perspectives, particularly student perspectives.

The selections that follow represent our editorial position. They view everyday practice through the lens of contemporary theory. They acknowledge voices often silenced in the larger institution. They complicate issues once considered simple.

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As editors and teachers, we believe writing centers can position themselves to function as agents of change in the academy, and we hope that *The Writing Center Journal* can open a dialogue that leads to such change.

No project of this size can come together without the help of many hard working people. Those include our contributors who have addressed complicated issues in a reasoned and responsive way and who were willing to rewrite manuscripts and double check copy before publication. The Editorial Board helped to choose and shape manuscripts. We appreciate the time and care with which they have taken on this responsibility. In particular, we thank those members who will be leaving the Board this year—Kevin Davis, Donald McAndrew, and Ellen Mohr—and welcome those new members who will take their positions and carry on the work of the organization. Locally, we have benefitted from the dedication of graduate students willing to give their time and good sense to this project. Managing editor Tim Fountaine keeps us on task. Associate editor Susan Guitar is responsible for the look of this issue spending hours at the computer to put these pages into camera-ready copy. Martha Marinara contributed this year's bibliography and served as liaison with the printer. Betsy Aller, Kate Latterell, and Jean Blanning served as copy editors and proofreaders. And, we welcome Rob Wood who joined us in the final stages of preparation. Finally, we wish to thank graphic designer Fern Logan for her new cover design. She called it "simple but elegant." We agree.