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From the Editor

Dave Healy

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From the Editor

Dave Healy

This issue of *The Writing Center Journal* probably looks much the same as what's been showing up in your mailbox for the past three years. And indeed, many things about *WCJ* have not changed, even though there is a new name on the masthead. We are still committed to publishing the best of writing center scholarship, to promoting the mission and advancing the cause of writing centers, and to helping develop better writing and better writers in secondary and postsecondary schools. The heart and soul of *WCJ* will, I hope, survive a change of editors.

I've found myself employing the editorial "we" in these remarks even though the designation "editors" has changed from plural to singular. I do so for several reasons. First, I am receiving valuable assistance from Mike Condon. My relationship with Mike has been an example of one of the nicest things about being involved in education: the opportunity to see students move on and take their place in the world. Mike is a former undergraduate writing consultant in our center who is now a graduate student in composition and rhetoric at SUNY-Albany, where he is the assistant director of the writing center.

I also gravitate toward plural pronouns when discussing *WCJ* because of the important role played by the Review Board. I am fortunate to have twenty-nine colleagues around the country who read and respond to manuscripts. This journal could not continue without their valuable efforts. Each manuscript submitted to *WCJ* is read by three reviewers, and the work they do not only helps maintain our high editorial standards, it also contributes to the development of researchers and scholars in our field through the

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helpful and constructive feedback that reviewers provide.

A final reason I find myself saying “we” quite often is, quite simply, because I work in a writing center, and writing center people, as most of you know, are a collaborative bunch. It is part of the creative tension of our workplace that much of the interaction we engage in is one-to-one, yet the spirit that prevails in most writing centers is decidedly collegial and collaborative. That spirit has helped nurture and sustain me professionally for the past nearly fifteen years.

Although much will stay the same with *WCJ*, there will be a few changes. One that will not be directly observable, but that I think will make our operation more efficient, is my encouragement of electronic submission of manuscripts and correspondence. I’m hoping that the review process will be enhanced by the growing capability to distribute text electronically. Contributors without access to such electronic means should not worry, however. We will continue to accept things via the post (or “snail” mail as it has come to be called).

A change that *will* be visible is the addition of a Comment and Response section to *WCJ*. Readers are encouraged to respond to articles by writing to me. When appropriate, authors will be given an opportunity to respond to reader comments. I’m hoping this kind of exchange will extend the life of the articles we publish, as well as enrich the reading and thinking and discussing we do. I found the pieces published in this issue engaging, provocative, and stretching. I hope you will too, and I hope you’ll share your responses with the rest of us.

I close with a request. I think *The Writing Center Journal* deserves a wider readership. Anything you can do to spread the word would be much appreciated. Feel free to duplicate the subscription form in the back of this issue and pass it along to colleagues. You might also consider sending a copy of the form to your school’s library. Finally, encourage your colleagues who are interested in writing centers to submit their work for publication.

Thanks for your support of writing centers and of *The Writing Center Journal*. I’m excited about the next three years.