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From the Editors

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From the Editors

Melissa Ianetta and Lauren Fitzgerald

“Showmanship, George. When you hit that high note, say goodnight and walk off.”

— “The Burning,” *Seinfeld*

While preparing to write this prefatory note, our last “From the Editors,” we turned for inspiration not just to television reruns but to other *Writing Center Journal* editors as well, looking at the ways they have signed off in their last issues. There’s an interesting range in what people write about—their time with the journal, their feelings about leaving, the next editorial team—and the ways in which they take their leave—some are reflective, some celebratory, and some merely note in the third person that new editors are taking over. You can see, too, something of the evolution of *WCJ* itself in these messages; over the journal’s history editorial valedictions have gotten longer and more complex, responding perhaps to the length and complexity of the articles therein.

In this month’s issue you will certainly find articles of complexity. In “How Important Is the Local, Really? Cross-Institutional Quantitative Assessment of Frequently Asked Questions in Writing Center Exit Surveys,” Pam Bromley, Kara Northway, and Eliana Schonberg draw quantitative data from three very different writing centers and use the similarities among these data sets to challenge a writing center truism older than *WCJ* itself, namely, “every writing center is different.” We think you’ll find their argument provocative and, ultimately, compelling. Equally compelling is Rita Malenczyk’s “I Thought I’d Put That in to Amuse You’: Tutor

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Reports as Organizational Narrative.” Malenczyk encourages us to not only to consider the multiple functions of the endemic, and thus oftentimes-invisible, tutor reports, but she helps us bring new lenses to understanding the function of story in writing center work. Thus Malenczyk, like Bromley, Northway, and Schonberg, offers us new ways to learn from our own stories.

The two other articles in our last issue also help us find new ways to understand what happens both within and outside of our centers. Analyzing two writing center sessions in “Motivational Scaffolding, Politeness, and Writing Center Tutoring,” Isabelle Thompson and Jo Mackiewicz address the centrality of motivation to tutoring and how tutors can encourage and support writer engagement. And in “Of Lady Bugs, Low Status, and Loving the Job: Writing Center Professionals Navigating Their Careers,” Anne Ellen Geller and Harry Denny draw upon in-depth interviews with writing center administrators to augur the future and argue for enriched ways of looking at our profession as a whole within the contexts of both English studies and the larger academic landscape. Finally, useful discussions of two important edited collections in our field close out this issue. Alfred E. Guy Jr. reviews *Creative Approaches to Writing Center Work*, edited by Shanti Bruce and Kevin Dvorak and winner of the IWCA Outstanding Scholarship Award, and Sipai Klein reviews David Sheridan and James Inman’s collection, *Multiliteracy Centers: Writing Center Work, New Media, and Multimodal Rhetoric*. If *Seinfeld* is right, it is indeed time for us to walk off, for this issue of *WCJ* has certainly hit a high note.

Before we leave, however, we need to thank those people who have made our time with *WCJ* possible. At the University of Delaware, we thank Dean George Watson, Assistant Provost Ann Ardis, Associate Dean Matthew Kinservik, and Chair of English John Ernest for their support of the journal and their willingness to have the UD serve as the institutional home. We thank, too, UD faculty member Ashley Pigford for his heroic work setting each issue of *WCJ*. At Yeshiva University, Lauren is grateful for the support of the current Dean of Yeshiva College, Barry Eichler; her former Dean, David Srolovitz; her former Department Chair, Adam Zachary Newton; and the former secretary of the Wilf Campus Writing Center,

Micael Henry. We are indebted to our institutions for affording us the opportunity to contribute to our profession in this way. A very special thank you goes to Carolyn Clark, the *WCJ* production editor and the office supervisor of the UD Writing Center who has made this work possible; without her, we're not sure we—never mind *WCJ*—would've made it through the past five years. We are grateful, too, to the editors who came before us, and are pleased to add our names to their distinguished roll. In particular, we'd like to thank Neal Lerner and Beth Boquet one last time for their sensible advice and for passing along a vibrant, healthy journal. They were the giants upon whose shoulders we stood. Finally, we owe a debt of gratitude to the authors whose works make up the nine issues we edited and from whom we had the pleasure to learn so much about writing centers, the field, and writing. We owe another debt to the reviewers who graciously (sometimes tirelessly) provided feedback on the many manuscripts they read.

And now it's time for us to turn things over to the new editors: Michele Eodice, Kerri Jordan, and Steve Price. We wish you the best in your editorial work and hope you will enjoy editing *Writing Center Journal* as much as we have!

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WORK CITED

"The Burning." *Seinfeld*. NBC. 19 Mar. 1998. Television.