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From the Editors

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From The Editors

With this issue, which is a double issue (Number 2 of Volume V and Number 1 of Volume VI), *The Writing Center Journal* has experienced its first change in editors. Lil Brannon of NYU and Stephen North of SUNY Albany, who had the vision and courage to start the journal in 1980, will no longer serve as editors. A change in the people responsible for a journal signals an appropriate time to remember its past and to speculate on its future.

The Writing Center Journal's past is brief, five years to be exact. Thus it is a new journal, one that is still trying to establish a voice and to identify a constituency. However, in its brief history the journal can claim some impressive accomplishments. First, its very existence is a sign of progress. Until Brannon and North launched *The Writing Center Journal*, we had no journal devoted exclusively to the issues and concerns of writing center directors. Second, the quality of the articles that have been published in the journal is impressive. Although the temptation to publish anything and everything submitted must have been great at those times when submissions were scarce, Brannon and North consistently selected only those that were informative, appropriate, and well written. And, finally, the journal's recent affiliation with the National Writing Centers Association promises to provide it with a basic support system and to expand its audience.

As we assume responsibility for the journal, we want to preserve its primary purpose—that of providing writing center directors with informative articles on all phases of writing center administration and instruction. We also want to preserve the high quality of the articles published. However, as new editors, we also want to change, and we hope improve, certain features. First, we have changed the journal's cover to one that we think is more professional in appearance. The format of the journal is also different. These changes, however, are merely cosmetic. Other changes are more substantive. For example, we are submitting all manuscripts to a review by members of our Editorial Board so that we can make more informed decisions about which articles to publish. In addition, we are broadening the scope of the journal. In the future, we will include reviews of books that are of interest to writing center directors. And, to encourage research, we will include each year a bibliography of writing center publications. We would also like to include articles by directors of high school writing centers, an area of our discipline that promises to expand dramatically in the next few years.

The contents of this issue reflect some of these changes. The bibliography by Jay Jacoby, for example, is the first of what we hope will become an annual publication in the journal. The article by Jeanne Simpson includes a statement of professional concerns that was developed by her at the request of the National Writing Centers Association and thus reflects our new affiliation with that organization. And Muriel Harris, while pointing out the difficulty of defining a writing center, identifies those features that characterize ideal writing centers. The articles by James Sollisch and Susan Glassman reflect not change but our continued concern with the role of the tutor in the writing tutorial and with effective, appropriate methods of training tutors. Carol Haviland's article reinforces the important connection between writing centers and writing-across-the-curriculum programs, and those by Edward Lotto and Clinton Luckett focus on theoretical concerns that are vital to defining the instruction we provide our students. Finally, Irene Clark reports on the findings of her research—a study that seeks to answer the persistent and perplexing question of whether students should be required to come to the writing center.

As we have struggled during the past few months to get this, our first, issue to press, we have discovered that the role of editor is gratifying and challenging but not always easy. Talking with computer experts about transferring the edited version of

the journal from Texas to Utah consistently confused us. Figuring our costs for printing and mailing often frightened us. But reading the manuscripts that came in and seeing this first issue take shape have more than made up for the uncomfortable moments and the frustration. We are looking forward to our tenure as editors, expecting to learn from the experience and to enjoy it. We hope you will, at the same time, learn from the journal and enjoy it.

Jeanette Harris
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