

President's Message

Dear Colleagues:

This issue, dedicated to Kenneth Bruffee, is in small part our repayment for the years of service and leadership that Ken has given to the National Council of Writing Program Administrators. He was one of the persons interested in forming a national organization of writing program administrators who met in that crowded room at the MLA many years ago. He served on the first executive council and was the first editor of the *WPA Journal*. The *Journal* owes him its clear focus on administration, the high quality of its articles, and its red cover. His was the WPA's first voice to our constituency, and it was a wise and cultured voice that spoke to all of us. This issue of the *Journal* is our modest way of expressing our appreciation to Ken.

We look back on a year of accomplishments and changes. Our *Journal* continues in the good hands of Bill Smith and we are grateful to Utah State University for their generous support. Our consultant/evaluator program under the leadership of Anne Gere and Harvey Wiener has been responsible for half a dozen consultant visits this year. Under the Exxon grant, WPA presented workshops on "Evaluating Writing Programs" at the Association of American Colleges meetings in January 1985 and 1986. Both were enthusiastically received.

The 1985 summer workshop at the University of New Hampshire in Durham was a success with Linda Peterson as workshop leader assisted by Lynn Bloom, who also took care of all the complex workshop arrangements. In the summer of 1986, we will hold the first annual WPA summer conference in the beautiful conference center at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio from August 6-8. There are elegant overnight accommodations and lots of pleasant rooms for talks and discussions over coffee in between scheduled activities. A two-day workshop for new WPAs led by Lynn Bloom will precede the conference from August 4-6. Rick Gebhardt is in charge of arrangements and he will be getting out publicity soon. But you may want to block out the dates on your calendar now.

We are pleased to announce that Carol Hartzog has accepted a position as associate Vice Chancellor at UCLA. As a result, however, she feels that she must resign her position as treasurer of WPA. Their gain—our loss! At Carol's suggestion I have asked our secretary, Arthur Dixon, to take on the treasurer's duties on an interim basis until I can discuss the matter with the Board at our meeting at the MLA in December. Our appreciation goes to Carol for her work.

We will have our regular WPA sessions at the MLA in Chicago and at the 4C's in New Orleans. The theme this year is "Assessment: Teachers, Students, and Programs in Writing." In addition, Joe Trimmer is arranging a WPA breakfast for WPAs at the CCCC in New Orleans.

Finally, I should like to express our thanks to Texas Christian University for underwriting my telephone and mailing expenses and for allowing me a research assistant to help with WPA business and correspondence. Our organization depends on the work and support of each and every member, and we exist through your efforts and the institutions that help us.

Winifred Bryan Horner, President
National Council of Writing Program Administrators