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## Upcoming Dates

WPA Research Grants  
Due January 18, 2002

WPA Breakfast at  
CCCC  
Chicago  
March 20, 2002  
7-8:30 am

WPA Summer  
Workshop  
University of Utah  
July 7-11, 2002

WPA Assessment  
Institute  
Park City, Utah  
July 11, 2002

WPA 2002:  
The Form(ation) of  
Relationships  
Park City, Utah  
July 11-14, 2002

## Miami Conference a Success, Book to Follow

In a variation from its customary summer meeting, the Council of Writing Program Administrators (WPA) co-sponsored a special fall conference, "Composition Studies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Rereading the Past—Rewriting the Future" on October 5-7<sup>th</sup>, 2001. The program opened with a plenary talk by **Peter Elbow**. He was followed by a series of paired speakers whose presentations were concluded by roundtable discussions.

Conference organizers Don Daiker, Lynn Bloom and Ed White are co-editing the volume that is deriving from the conference. It will be published by Southern Illinois University Press, and the editors are donating the royalties to WPA. Look for the volume in the spring of 2003.

## Last Call for Research Grants!

The Research Grant Committee of the Council of Writing Program Administrators invites proposals to research issues and practices in writing program administration. Maximum awards of \$2000 may be given; average awards are \$1000. All current WPA members are eligible to apply.

Please organize your proposal as follows:

1. A cover page that gives the names of all investigators (please don't identify yourself or your institution in the rest of the proposal);
2. A maximum of two pages single-spaced in which you explain the project and how it will address issues of common concern to WPAs, give a timetable detailing how the project will proceed, and describe how the results will be shared professionally (See "Expectations of Reward Recipients" below.)
3. A realistic, detailed budget on a separate page.

Restrictions: Ordinarily, funding is not given for released time for the grantee or others; for purely local initiatives or projects with little relevance to other settings; for outside consultants or evaluators; for the production of non-researched materials; for dissertation research; or for supplements to existing grants, unless it is clear that the WPA grant provides an opportunity to extend the project in new directions.

### Criteria for Selection

You may find the following criteria useful in preparing your proposal; WPA Board members will use these to conduct blind reviews of all proposals.

1. **Relevance:** The proposal makes clear how this project is relevant to the work of writing

program administrators, how this project applies to other contexts, and how writing program administrators will benefit from the outcomes of this project.

2. **Contribution:** The proposal situates the project in relationship to prior scholarship and research and explains its original contribution.
3. **Methods:** The proposal describes the methodology and its appropriateness to this project.
4. **Feasibility:** The proposal explains how the project can be completed in the proposed time frame.
5. **Cost Effectiveness:** The proposal offers a rationale for budget expenditures and argues for their justification in terms of the project's needs and outcomes.

#### Expectations of Reward Recipients

1. Submission of articles resulting from the research to *WPA: Writing Program Administration* for first consideration.
2. A poster presentation of research results at the annual CCC's WPA breakfast in the year during which the award is granted.
3. Submission of a final written report (5-10 pages) of research outcomes to the WPA Executive Committee by July 1 of the year in which the grant is awarded. These reports should outline specific plans for submitting an article reporting the results to the WPA journal as well as other plans for dissemination.

Please send four copies of the proposal to Alice Gillam at the address below, postmarked no later than January 18, 2002. Winners will be announced at the 2002 WPA breakfast in Chicago.

Alice Gillam  
Chair, WPA Research Committee  
Department of English  
P.O. Box 413  
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee  
Milwaukee, WI 53201

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## New Executive Board Members Elected

Fall brings with it elections; for WPA we elect new members of the Executive Board and in alternating years a Vice-President. This year we reluctantly say goodbye to retiring Board members Beth Daniell, Chet Pryor, and Shirley Rose. Fortunately, Chet and Shirley have requested that they continue their service to the organization, and we are delighted to accept. In addition to helping design and lead our new WPA Assessment Institute, Chet will continue to serve on the WPA Breakfast Committee. He is currently helping the committee determine what party favor will mark the Chicago event. Shirley has offered to continue coordinating the WPA Awards Committee; Shirley played the lead role in conceptualizing the awards, in publicizing them, and in doing the work to make them possible.

The Council of Writing Program Administrators again had an excellent slate of candidates, and we thank them all for running: Linda Adler-Kassler from Eastern Michigan; Eli Goldblatt from Temple; Greg Glau from Arizona State; Susanmarie Harrington from IUPUI; Bonnie Kyburtz from Utah Valley State College; and Irwin Weiser from Purdue.

Elected are Linda Adler-Kassler, Susanmarie Harrington, and Irwin Weiser.

#### Executive Board Update

- **New Survey Forthcoming:** It was moved that the WPA Executive Board direct the Survey Steering Committee to refine the survey, pilot test it, and administer it to the WPA membership, paying special attention to item adequacy and validity and to issues raised by the technology itself. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved that the WPA executive board allocate up to \$2000 to complete the survey project, for expenses including programming the survey instrument into a web-based form, modest statistical consultation, and mailing survey notices to the WPA membership. The motion passed unanimously.

- **New Plagiarism Task Force** The Online Plagiarism Task Force Report **was submitted by Becky Howard, Nick Carbone, and Barry Maid.** Their report proposes three actions the WPA should take to respond to the very different face of plagiarism today, a difference due in no small part to the advent of its online component. The task force proposes three actions: (1) that the WPA issue a press release to counteract the "find 'em and kill 'em" mentality of

the plagiarism police; (2) develop an Outcomes Statement on Plagiarism; and (3) develop materials for faculty development workshops on plagiarism. In discussing these proposed actions, the complexity of the issue was stressed, and a need to address issues of plagiarism both in its online iterations and in print. It was proposed that we thank this group for their good work and establish a somewhat larger group that will develop something like an outcomes statement on plagiarism.

It was moved that we constitute a committee of 8-10, with representatives from the WPA membership and executive board, to develop a plagiarism statement along the lines of an outcomes statement. The motion passed unanimously.

- A motion was made to amend guidelines regarding applications for **affiliate status**. These guidelines will require that the group making application do so by sending a letter, providing names of officers and current membership information, and agreeing to make periodic reports to the WPA. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to accept the **Philadelphia area group** as a WPA affiliate. The motion passed unanimously.

- **A Task Force for Distance Learning and Writing.** It was noted that there are a number of issues

involved with distance learning -- the intellectual property issue, how WPAs are to respond to upper administration's calls to create online writing courses, the training of teachers, the exploitation of teachers. It was observed that distance learning is as important an issue as plagiarism for us at this time.

It was moved that the WPA President appoint a group to develop a statement and set of guidelines on distance learning and writing. The motion passed unanimously.

- **New WPA Assessment Institute for Summer 2002**

One of the most frequent calls is for assistance in assessment activities. Therefore, WPA will pilot a one-day Assessment Institute focused on program assessment. It will be offered on July 11, just prior to the opening of the conference. See the Announcement later in the newsletter.

The *WPA President's Newsletter* is published generally in fall, winter, and spring and is written and edited by Kathleen Blake Yancey, who welcomes professional notes related to WPA. Her contact information is included on the back page. The Newsletter is sent to all members of The Council of Writing Program Administrators.

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## Best Article in WPA Announced

Shirley Rose

The Awards Committee of the Council of Writing Program Administrators announced its first Award for Best Article in *WPA: Writing Program Administration* at the conference at Miami University earlier this month. "Constructing Composition: Reproduction and WPA Agency in Textbook Publishing," by Professor Libby Miles of the University of Rhode Island, was selected for the Award for Best Article for 1999-2000.

The Executive Committee of the Council of WPAs has established this award as part of our efforts to develop and promote an understanding of writing program administration as intellectual work of depth, sophistication, and significance. The Awards Committee developed the following criteria for selection:

- 1) The article has an informed methodological or theoretical perspective.
- 2) The article is generative, suggesting ways of thinking beyond its immediate context so others can use, build on, or transform the ideas.
- 3) The article is useful to people in multiple settings and multiple contexts.
- 4) The article is connected to writing and writing instruction itself and helps the writing program administrator to think about these.
- 5) The article helps WPAs get inside of and reflect on real practices in programs and institutions.
- 6) The article is interventionist, stimulating thought about a plan of action.
- 7) The article suggests potential for replication in other profession and institutional contexts.

8) The article has potential for continuing relevance for many years to come. The winning article met these criteria in every way, and the Awards Committee is pleased and proud of the standard it will set for future awards.

Members of the Award Selection Committee were **Shirley K Rose**, Chair (Purdue University), **William Condon** (Washington State University), **Marguerite Helmers** (University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh), **Joseph Janangelo** (Loyola University Chicago), and **Ellen Quandahl** (San Diego State University).

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## Call for Proposals

**WPA<sup>2002</sup>**

The Conference

### **The Form(ation) of Relationships**

July 11-14, 2002  
Park City, Utah

Organized by The Council of Writing Program Administrators (WPA)

Plenary Speakers:

Barbara Cambridge  
Doug Hesse  
Becky Howard  
Tom Miller

Program Chair: Kathleen Yancey

Local Arrangements: Kristine Hansen

Host: Brigham Young University

It's a truism that WPAs act as the nexus for a diversity of constituencies. Most of us became teachers so that we could work with students, fostering relationships with them and helping them foster relationships with the materials of and the intellectual life represented in the curriculum. As WPAs, we continue this effort, especially at a programmatic level, where we bring together students, discourses of the curriculum, discourses of the academy, and (for many of us) discourses of the public. And as part of this rhetorical situation, we develop another set of relationships, socializing-- as we are socialized by--graduate students joining us as fellow scholars and teachers.

At the same time WPAs find themselves talking with, coordinating with, working with, and sometimes coming into conflict with, many others, among them—

high school faculty  
faculty in various programs and departments across campus/es

other administrators on and off campus, and colleagues and others around the country.

From one perspective, then, positive relationships of various kinds are at the heart of what WPAs do. Without them, WPAs can't accomplish much. With them, much synergy and symbiosis can result. Everyone gains something

WPAs also do the intellectual work that the formation of relationship requires. They tease out the connections and overlaps between and among syllabus and curriculum and program and assessment and student identity, creating an experience that locates students and helps them enter and thrive within the academy and beyond. WPAs help theory inform practice inform theory. WPAs bring the past into dialogue with both present and future.

I invite proposals addressing this theme as well as those addressing any issue of concern or interest to WPAs, including those who work in WAC programs, writing centers, technical or professional communication programs, departments of writing, graduate programs, and freshman composition programs.

\_\_What/ are the "natural" relationships for us? What form do they take? What kind of culture fosters them? What about them makes them natural, and how might we build upon them?

\_\_As the role and work of WPAs have changed, how has our relationship-making changed?

\_\_Is there is a life cycle to the relationships that center WPAs? We talk in stages—initiation, maintenance, and elaboration or extension: is this too simplistic a model? What are other models? How does a model influence what we do?

\_\_Can we identify impediments to relationships? Are they systematic? How might we categorize them? As important, how might we productively respond to them?

\_\_How does relationship-making change the work that we do? How does it change us?

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I also strongly encourage reports on assessments of writing programs or features within them, including "local" studies, discussions of effective practices in program design, faculty development, working conditions, and so on. I welcome as well analyses of issues like distance learning, articulation, technologies and writing, and education reform. Of particular interest this year, perhaps, are three related topics:

- (1) the nature of dual enrollment programs;
- (2) the nature and experience of specifically relationship-based programs like learning communities and service learning programs; and
- (3) our construction of the theory-practice relationship.

The topic areas above are merely suggested. Please feel free to discuss ideas with me. I invite proposals for a range of formats, including standard papers, workshops, roundtables/issue groups, and "effective practices" and/or poster presentations.

In the spirit of recent WPA conferences, this one, too, will be participant-centered and highly interactive, with frequent breakouts, working group sessions, extensive discussions, and social opportunities.

The conference will open Thursday with a plenary address and a reception and will close Sunday morning. Registration costs, in the range of \$190, with discounts for nontenure-line registrants, will include breakfasts, receptions, breaks, and a banquet.

### **About Park City**

Park City's "old town" has been beautifully restored and preserved and is home to many award-winning restaurants, several theaters, a variety of art galleries, interesting and expensive shops, a couple of museums, and a good sprinkling of taverns and micro-breweries. In the summer, the hills and mountains

surrounding Park City offer a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, fishing, golfing, hot air ballooning, hay rides, Alpine sliding, taking chair lifts to the summits . . . .

The conference is being hosted by the Shadow Ridge Lodge, where rates will be \$65/night for a hotel room, \$100 for a one-bedroom condo, and \$120 for a two-bedroom condo.

### **Transportation**

The Salt Lake International Airport is just ten minutes from the heart of downtown. Two van shuttles take passengers from the airport to Park City, about 38 miles away, for \$27 per person, one-way. Rental cars are also available at the airport. The airport is Delta's western hub, and is served by nine major and two regional airlines.

### **Submission Information**

Proposals—of not more than one page, single spaced--received by February 15, 2002, will receive highest priority, and invitations based on those proposals will be issued March 15. Should program openings remain, additional proposals will be received until March 15 and invitations sent by April 15. Please include a cover sheet with the following information: Name; Address; Email ID; Type of Session

Please send completed proposals and inquiries to

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602 Strode Tower  
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Clemson, SC 29634-0524

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### **A President's Message~~**

As I hope you can see, the Council of Writing Program Administrators is flourishing. We carry forward the activities that define the organization—among them, the WPA Breakfast at CCCC, the Summer Workshop, and WPA 2002. At the same time, we are initiating some new efforts: a Best Article Award, an Assessment Institute, and two task forces, one on plagiarism, another on distance education and writing. There are other efforts underway, and I'll look forward

to talking with you about them in the February newsletter.

In the interest of getting this into your hands, though, I'll close quickly--not, however, without wishing all of us a very happy new year and a good start to a new term.

Kathleen Yancey

## **WPA Assessment Institute**

**July 11, 2002**

WPA will offer a one-day Assessment Institute on July 11, 2002, just prior to the opening of WPA 2002. Led by Chris Anson, Chet Pryor, and Kathleen Yancey, the Institute will focus on issues of program assessment. Specifically, participants will examine

- (1) various options for program assessment;
- (2) the advantages and disadvantages of each;
- (3) ways to negotiate for best assessment practices, and
- (4) ways to represent and build on findings.

Hosted at the Shadow Ridge Lodge in Park City, the site of WPA<sup>2002</sup>, the Institute will run from 8-4 and will include lunch. Enrollment is limited to 25 people, and the cost is \$125. The WPA Executive Board has established a fund of \$250. to assist those whose institutions are unable to cover the full cost.

Please see the February Newsletter for additional details; to sign up before then, please email Kathleen Yancey [kyancey@clemsun.edu](mailto:kyancey@clemsun.edu)

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### **Institute Leaders**

Chet Pryor, as a testing coordinator for Montgomery College, maintained day-to-day control of one campus' exit assessment process for first-semester writing. From high school teacher to Professor of English, for over 34 years of teaching he has seen assessment from both the secondary and college perspectives. Chet's most recent assessment activity was the development and delivery of an assessment workshop for the 2001 NCTE Conference in Baltimore.

Chris Anson is Professor of English and director of the Campus Writing and Speaking Program at North Carolina State University, where he is working with nine colleges to implement curricular changes in writing and speaking based on departmental-specific outcomes assessment. Much of his professional work and publications have focused on classroom-based assessment practices, especially in response to student writing. Chris has spoken or led faculty workshops at over 200 conferences and universities in 38 states and five foreign countries.

Kathleen Blake Yancey, Roy Pearce Professor of English at Clemson University, has worked in assessment for over two decades, directing a testing center, developing portfolio models for classroom and programmatic purposes, and coordinating projects linking high schools and colleges. Since 1998, she has consulted for a FIPSE project linking Tidewater Community College and Virginia Beach City Schools. She also works in program assessment; one of her current projects is assisting UC Davis document their Hewlett-sponsored general education reform.

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## Contacting WPA

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Questions or suggestions about the mission, activities, or initiatives of the organization or about this newsletter:  
Kathleen Blake Yancey, President, 602 Strode Tower, Box 340524, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634-0524.

Membership Dues: John Heyda, WPA Treasurer, Dept. of English, Miami University—Middletown. 4200 E. University Blvd.  
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Council of Writing Program Administrators Home Page: <http://www.cas.ilstu.edu/english/hesse/wpawelcome.htm>

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