



Council of  
Writing  
Program  
Administrators

## President's Newsletter

#1

February 1999

### In this issue. . .

**Insert** WPA Breakfast  
at CCCC, Atlanta  
Announcement &  
Reservation

- 1 About this Newsletter  
Call for Papers, 1999  
MLA
- 2 WPA Summer  
Workshop
- 3 WPA Conference Call  
for Papers
- 4 Contacting WPA  
Executive Committee  
WPA Web page  
WPA Journal  
Membership Inquires

### About this Newsletter

*Doug Hesse*

Past WPA presidents have written occasional letters to members, and I'd like to continue that tradition, with a modest twist. In a trial effort to improve communication within WPA, I will compile four newsletters this year, mailed at what I hope will be useful times.

This issue contains registration information about the CCCC breakfast, news about the summer workshop, Calls for Papers for the summer conference and for the WPA sessions at the next MLA meeting. A May issue will summarize Executive Committee actions at 4C's, provide news about research grant winners, and share late information about the summer conference. In September there will be a report on the summer meeting and a call for research grant proposals. December will highlight WPA events at MLA and share other news.

*WPA: Writing Program Administration* is obviously and appropriately the organization's flagship publication. This newsletter will be a modest thing, cheaply produced and mailed, and able, as a result, to be somewhat more flexible and timely than a printed scholarly journal necessarily can be. It will complement the WPA Web Site by reassuring members they're still on the mailing list and providing information and forms that remain, at

least for awhile longer, handiest in paper.

In a year I'll ask the Executive Committee to evaluate the usefulness of the newsletter, so please let us know what you think about it.



### Call for Papers 1999 MLA

Each year WPA sponsors sessions at the MLA meeting, next year to be held in Chicago. Presenters must be members of the MLA. Following is the call for 1999:

"Who Should Teaching Writing Courses?"

In the wake of shrinking graduate programs, the "McJobbing" of the university, calls for the abolition of requirements, and debate over the use of part-timers, who should teach writing courses? 1-2 page abstracts by 12 March; Christine Farris, Dept of English, Ballantine 442, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405. email: crfarris@indiana.edu.

### Upcoming Dates

WPA Breakfast at CCCC, Atlanta  
March 25, 1999 (see insert)

WPA Summer Workshop, Purdue  
July 12-15, 1999 (see page 2)

WPA Summer Conference, Purdue  
July 15-18 (see page 3)

WPA Conference Call for Proposals  
Deadline: March 20, 1999

Doug Hesse, President  
Writing Program Administrators  
4240 English  
Illinois State University  
Normal, IL 61790-4240

# The 1999 WPA Summer Workshop

July 12-15 at Purdue University

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WPA invites up to thirty prospective and new writing program administrators--as well as those in need of renewal--to take part in an intensive workshop in writing program administration. This workshop will provide information, strategies, advice, encouragement, and a rich professional network. Last year's participants represented regional and national liberal arts colleges, two-year colleges, regional and flagship state universities, and major research institutions, with an energetic exchange of ideas among all.

Under the guidance of the workshop leaders, participants will examine theoretical questions and practical demands of writing program administration. Participants will be encouraged to raise issues from their own professional situations. Case studies and scenarios will focus other discussions. Topics for the four-day workshop will include curriculum and program design, faculty development, writing across the curriculum, the politics of being a WPA, assessment, the WPA as writer/researcher, writing centers, and administrative aspects of technology.

There will be breakout discussions for WPAs from different types of institutions and programs, individual consultations, and plenty of time for informal conversation and recreation.

The Workshop fee of \$350 includes all materials, meals, and coffee breaks. Registrants will receive a packet of information well in advance of the workshop. The Workshop begins with a reception the evening of July 12.

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## Workshop Leaders

**Doug Hesse** is President of WPA and former editor of *WPA: Writing Program Administration*. He served as Director of Writing Programs at Illinois State University from 1988-97 and is currently Director of Graduate Studies. He has won both the college's Outstanding Teacher and Outstanding Researcher awards, has taught a seminar on writing program administration at Michigan Tech, has consulted widely, and was co-leader of last summer's WPA workshop in Tucson. His forthcoming publications include essays in three books on writing program administration, as well as a chapter on essayistic literacy in electronic environments. For further information about his professional activities, see <http://www.cas.ilstu.edu/english/hesse/welcome.html>.

**Martha A. Townsend** is Director of the University of Missouri's fifteen-year-old Campus Writing Program, which external reviewers have characterized as "the most successful of such programs that we have seen." She helps develop and maintain over 200 writing intensive courses enrolling some 4000 students in 60 departments across 9 colleges each year. Active in campus and state assessment issues and former chair of MU's Assessment Task Force, she alternates between teaching first-year composition and graduate seminars in writing across the curriculum, assessment, and composition theory and practice. She has received MU's "Gold Chalk" award for teaching and mentoring graduate students. A former member of WPA's Executive Board, and a current member of the *WPA* Editorial Board, she has presented on first-year composition, learning communities, WAC, general education, assessment, and literature/critical theory at numerous conferences and institutions, publishing and consulting in those areas as well. For more information on the Program she directs, see <http://www.missouri.edu/~writcwp/>.

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For further information about the content of the workshop

Contact Doug Hesse at (309) 438-3641 or [ddhesse@ilstu.edu](mailto:ddhesse@ilstu.edu).

For registration information and forms

Contact either Shirley Rose ([roses@purdue.edu](mailto:roses@purdue.edu)) or Irwin Weiser ([iweiser@purdue.edu](mailto:iweiser@purdue.edu))  
1356 Heavilon Hall / English Department / Purdue University / West Lafayette, IN 47907-1356

## Announcement and Call for Proposals 1999 WPA Conference

Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana\*

For updated information, see: <http://www.cas.ilstu.edu/english/hesse/wpawelcome.htm>

Note: The Conference immediately follows the The WPA Summer Workshop, which will be held July 12-15. See page 2 for more information on the Workshop.

### The WPA Summer Conference, July 15-18

#### Theme: The Interests of the WPA

Whose interests do—or should—writing programs serve? What are—or should be—the interests (even self-interests) of those involved in writing program administration? What should be the interests of the Council of Writing Program Administrators? I invite us to consider intricate relations among these questions. Students, writing teachers, other faculty and administrators, employers, and various publics obviously have stakes in how writing is institutionalized and taught. Their interests intersect variously with those of writing programs and administrators as they become ever more professionalized. I especially welcome, then, proposals in four broad areas:

- How might WPA's address situations in which interests compete? For example, how might WPA's respond to directives about the nature of courses or programs, enrollments or requirements, or budgets?
- How should writing programs be situated within departments, institutions, the academic landscape, the larger culture?
- What administrative and/or personal strategies foster a healthy balance between the administrative work we do and the other facets of our lives? I welcome narrative as well as analytic presentations, cautionary tales as well as triumphs.
- What problems or initiatives should WPA pursue? What positions should the Council should take, research should the Council sponsor, or practices should the Council adopt?

I also strongly encourage proposals that concern any aspect of writing program administration, for example,

- reports on assessments of writing programs or features within them, including "local" studies
- discussions of effective practices in program design, faculty development, technology, working conditions, and so on.
- analyses of developments within and beyond academia that will affect writing programs.

The topic areas above are merely suggested. Please feel free to discuss ideas with the program chair.

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To submit a proposal for a fifteen-minute paper, send four copies of a one-page description.

To submit a proposal for a panel session of three or four speakers, send four copies of a one-paragraph description of the entire panel, as well as four copies of individual presenter's one-page descriptions. With all submissions, please include all relevant names, addresses, phone numbers (home and work), fax numbers, and e-mail addresses. Also indicate if you will serve as a discussion leader in addition to presenting.

Address inquiries to: (309) 438-3641 or [ddhesse@ilstu.edu](mailto:ddhesse@ilstu.edu)

Send hard copy of all materials by regular mail to: Doug Hesse, 1999 WPA Program Chair  
4240 Department of English  
Illinois State University  
Normal, IL 61790-4240

**Proposal Postmark Deadline: 20 March 1999** • Invitations will be issued by 20 April 1999

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\*Purdue is one hour north of Indianapolis and about two and a half hours south of Chicago. Accommodations will be available at the Purdue Memorial Union Club Hotel and at Young Graduate House. Additional information, including costs and registration materials, will be mailed soon to WPA members. Or contact Irwin Weiser ([iweiser@purdue.edu](mailto:iweiser@purdue.edu)) or Shirley Rose ([roses@purdue.edu](mailto:roses@purdue.edu)) with questions about local arrangements.

# Contacting WPA

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**Questions or suggestions about the mission, activities, or initiatives of the organization:**

Doug Hesse, President, 4240 English, Illinois State University, Normal IL, 61790-4240. 309/438-3641.  
ddhesse@ilstu.edu

**Questions about Joining, Membership Status, Subscriptions to WPA: *Writing Program Administration***

Robert Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer, Dept. of English, Miami University, Oxford, OH 45046. johnsorr@muohio.edu

**WPA: *Writing Program Administration* (official journal of the WPA)**

**Articles** and Editorial Correspondence: Dennis Lynch, Co-Editor WPA, Humanities, Michigan Tech U, 1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931; dalynch@mtu.edu. **Advertising:** Marguerite Helmers, Co-Editor WPA, Dept. of English, U Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Oshkosh, WI 5490; helmers@uwosh.edu.

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**Council of Writing Program Administrators Home Page**

<http://www.cas.ilstu.edu/english/hesse/wpawelcome.htm>

**WPA Executive Committee**

Doug Hesse, President • Kathleen Blake Yancey, North Carolina-Charlotte, Vice President • Robert Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer • Theresa Enos, Arizona, Immediate Past President • Chris M. Anson, Minnesota • Beth Daniell, Clemson • Christine Farris, Indiana • Richard C. Gebhardt, Bowling Green • Jeanne Gunner, Santa Clara • Irvin Peckham, Nebraska-Omaha • Chet Pryor, Montgomery College • Shirley Rose, Purdue • David E. Schwalm, Arizona State East • Marguerite Helmers • Dennis Lynch • Deborah Holdstein • Edward White

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