



## In this issue. . .

- 1 • 2000 WPA Conference/  
Workshop  
• WPA Breakfast
- 2 • Further Workshop and  
Conference Information;
- 3 • Breakfast Registration  
(insert)
- 4 • The WPA Guide to  
Minnesota Weather  
(insert)
- 5 • WPA-L Threads  
—*Carol Rutz*  
Ten years ago in the WPA  
Newsletter  
—*Sally Barr Ebest*
- 6 • Election Results  
• MLA 2000 CFP  
President's column
- 7 • WPA 2000 Call for  
Proposals
- 8 • Proposal Submission form
- 9 • Conference Registration
- 10 • Contacting WPA

## Upcoming Dates

WPA Breakfast at CCCC.  
Thursday, April 13, 2000. 7:00 a.m.

WPA Summer Workshop, U North  
Carolina-Charlotte, July 9-13, 2000.

WPA Summer Conference,  
Charlotte. July 13-16, 2000..

"Composition in the 21st Century:  
Rereading the Past, Rewriting the  
Future," October 5-7, 2001. Miami  
University, Ohio.

## 2000 WPA Summer Workshop and Conference

Energetic and inclusive discussions, consistently smart sessions, good humor, and a congenial gathering of colleagues unlike anywhere else in the profession: time once again for the annual workshop and conference. WPA is going southeast this summer, to Charlotte, where the workshop will be held on the campus of UNC-Charlotte and the conference uptown at the Omni hotel.

There's still time to submit a program proposal; see page 7 for more information. And see page 6 for a workshop and conference registration form.

### The Workshop July 9-13

WPA invites up to 30 new writing program administrators—as well as veterans in need of renewal—to participate in an intensive four-day workshop in writing program administration. The Workshop, which immediately precedes the conference, will provide information, strategies, advice, encouragement, and most importantly, a rich professional and personal network.

Topics will include curriculum and program design, faculty development, WAC, WID, assessment, the WPA as writer/researcher/scholar, administrative aspects of technology, institutional politics and strategies, and others. Participants will be encouraged to raise issues from their own

professional situations and to discuss writing administration-related scenarios and case studies.

There will be opportunities to share ideas, including breakout discussions for WPAs from different types of institutions or programs, individual consultations with the workshop leaders, plenty of time for informal conversations, and social events.

### The Conference July 13-16

The conference will feature four plenary sessions, breakout discussions and small working groups organized by issues and situations, and over 40 concurrent sessions. This year's theme is "In the Thick of Things." Invited speakers are Richard Lloyd-Jones, Jeanne Gunner, Robert Connors, and Patricia Bizzell. As in the past, the conference will emphasize the active involvement of all attending.

- *For more information on the workshop, conference, and host city see page 2.*
- *To propose a paper or session, see page 7.*

### Please come to the annual **WPA Breakfast** at CCCC

7:00 a.m. Thursday, April 13  
in the spectacular 50<sup>th</sup> Floor  
of The Marquette Hilton at  
IDS Center

For complete information and  
a reservation form,  
see page 3 (insert).

## Workshop 2000 Further Information

**Workshop leaders** will be Martha A. Townsend, Director of the highly-regarded University of Missouri Campus Writing Program and David Schwalm, Vice Provost and Dean of East College, Arizona State University and founder and moderator of WPA-L. Both Marty and David have a wealth of effective WPA experience and expertise.-

The workshop will begin with a casual reception July 9, begin in earnest the next day and continue through July 13. The Workshop fee of \$595 is complete and includes all materials, all meals, all breaks, and housing in air-conditioned apartment-style residence hall suites on campus. There will be one person for each apartment. Participants will be able to use some of the recreational facilities on campus, eat in the cafeterias (again, included in the registration fee) walk the university grounds, and opt for a field trip or two.

Chairs, deans, and provosts will find the workshop fee a real bargain. In fact, institutions regularly fund WPAs' attendance at this well-regarded workshop, and many new WPA's negotiate support as a condition of hiring.

If you have any questions about the content of the workshop, please contact Marty Townsend. If you have questions about registration or accommodations, please contact Meg Morgan, local arrangements chair.



## Travel

Travel to Charlotte by air or highway is easy. Charlotte is the hub for USAir, and the airport is a short shuttle trip from uptown. Gold Line Express, (704) 534-4131, is the recommended shuttle service. For those who drive, Charlotte is positioned at the intersection of Interstates 77 and 85, and is about 45 minutes south of the intersection of Interstates 40 and 77.

## Conference 2000 Further Information

The Conference's concurrent sessions will be held at the UNC Charlotte Uptown Center and the social and plenary sessions will be held at the Omni Hotel. Both are located within easy walking distance of one another in the heart of Uptown Charlotte, one of the fastest growing and most dynamic cities in the country.

Uptown Charlotte houses good restaurants, trendy dance clubs, one of the best science museums in the southeast, an award-winning public library, and an Arts and Crafts museum.

The conference will begin with a plenary session very early the evening of Thursday, July 13, followed by a reception. Participants should plan, then, to arrive by earlier that afternoon, especially since UNC-Charlotte may sponsor an open house. (And who knows when WPA High Commissioner of Golf, Keith Rhodes, may try to schedule this year's tour event.)

The conference will end at noon Sunday 16, with Sunday morning given over to working groups and a town meeting. Last year's town meeting at Purdue was a lively affair that generated numerous initiatives. It's a good opportunity for members to become involved in the life of the organization.

The Conference fee of \$195 includes all materials, three continental breakfasts, breaks and a Friday night banquet.



The WPA *President's Newsletter* is published generally in late winter, summer, and fall and is written and produced by Doug Hesse, who welcomes professional notes related to WPA. His contact information is included on the back page. The Newsletter is sent to all members of The Council of Writing Program Administrators.

## Housing

Housing for the workshop is included in the registration fee. See the story at left.

Rooms for conference participants have been reserved at the Omni Hotel. The room rate (single or double) is \$99/night plus tax. **The deadline for reserving rooms at the Omni is June 13, 2000.** Call the Omni directly to make reservations: **(704) 377-0400**. Be sure to mention the WPA conference.

There will be transportation to the Omni for workshop attendees who are attending the conference.



## Contact Information

Registration form: page 6

Proposals: page 7

### Local Arrangements

Meg Morgan  
Director of Rhetoric and Writing  
UNC Charlotte  
9201 University City Blvd.  
Charlotte, NC 28223-0001  
(704) 547-4210  
fax: (704) 547-3961  
[mpmorgan@email.uncc.edu](mailto:mpmorgan@email.uncc.edu)

### Program Chair

Doug Hesse  
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Illinois State University  
Normal, IL 61790-4240  
[ddhesse@ilstu.edu](mailto:ddhesse@ilstu.edu)  
phone 309/438-3667  
fax: 309/438-5414

### WPA Website for Updates

[www.cas.ilstu.edu/english/hesse/wpawelcome.htm](http://www.cas.ilstu.edu/english/hesse/wpawelcome.htm)

### Workshop Content Questions

Marty Townsend  
University of Missouri

You are invited to the  
**2000 WPA Breakfast**

at the CCCC in Minneapolis

**Thursday April 13, 7:00-8:30 a.m.**  
in the spectacular, 50th floor, glass Universe Room penthouse of  
**The Marquette Hilton at IDS Center**  
710 Marquette Avenue  
(three blocks north of the Minneapolis Hilton & Towers)

Enjoy a breakfast buffet including:

Assorted fruit juices, breakfast pastries, sliced fresh fruit, French toast with cinnamon butter and maple syrup, American home fries, scrambled eggs with chives, bacon and sausage, preserves and butter, coffee and tea.

Please join us for a hearty breakfast, good company, good humor, brief presentations of awards, brief miscellaneous announcements, maybe even a few surprises. For your convenience, we've provided a reservation form. Please return it with your check.

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**2000 WPA Breakfast Reservation Form**

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address\_\_\_\_\_

Please Check One:

\_\_\_\_\_ Faculty/WPA (\$20.00)      \_\_\_\_\_ Graduate Student (\$10.00)

Optional:

\_\_\_\_\_ (Extra) contribution to support lower cost for students \$10

**Total Enclosed**\_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check out to WPA, complete this form,  
and return by April 6th to:

Carol Rutz--WPA Breakfast  
Scoville 201  
Carleton College  
Northfield, MN 55057

# Public Service Announcement

In the interest of preparing you for the WPA Annual Breakfast and the modest convention that we have agreed to allow CCCC to hold in conjunction with our event, Holly Littlefield, co-chair of breakfast local arrangements for the breakfast, offers a handy

## Minnesota Temperature Conversion Chart

### **60 above**

Floridians wear coats, gloves and woolly hats.  
Minnesota people sunbathe.

### **50 above**

New Yorkers try to turn on the heat.  
Minnesota people plant gardens.

### **40 above**

Italian cars won't start.  
Minnesota people drive with the windows down.

### **32 above**

Distilled water freezes.  
Lake Superior water gets thicker.

### **20 above**

Californians shiver uncontrollably.  
Minnesota people have the last cook-out before it gets cold.

### **15 above**

New York landlords finally turn up the heat.  
Minnesota people throw on a sweatshirt.

### **0 -**

Californians fly away to Mexico.  
Minnesota people lick the flagpole.

### **20 below**

People in Miami cease to exist.  
Minnesota people get out their winter coats.

### **40 below**

Hollywood disintegrates.  
Minnesota's Girl Scouts begin selling cookies door to door.

### **60 below**

Polar bears begin to evacuate the Arctic.  
Minnesota's Boy Scouts postpone "Winter Survival" classes until it gets cold enough.

### **80 below**

Mt. St. Helens freezes.  
Minnesota people rent some videos.

### **100 below**

Santa Claus abandons the North Pole.  
Minnesota people get frustrated when they can't thaw the keg.

### **297 below**

Microbial life survives on dairy products.  
Minnesota cows complain of farmers with cold hands.

### **460 below**

ALL atomic motion stops.  
Minnesota people start saying..."Sure has cooled off"

### **500 below**

Hell freezes over.  
The Minnesota Vikings win the Super Bowl.

## Knotted Threads from WPA-L

Carol Rutz, Carleton College

In addition to providing vital information about the location of the WPA party at MLA in Chicago, the listserv ricocheted around the pedagogical landscape over the past several weeks to address, among other topics, a burst of new tenure-track positions, implications of program-wide grading patterns, the effect of first-year seminars on writing curricula, queries about teaching grammar as well as grammar problems, and the rhetoric of on-line conversation. A brief gloss:

**New TT positions.** Robert McEachern and Susanmarie Harrington provided a refreshing counter to perpetual complaints about contingent staffing of composition courses as they presented their institutions' plans to expand tenure-track hires in significant numbers. Applause!

**Grading patterns.** Donald Wolff presented a cogent argument for contextualizing writing program grades,

pointing out that *final* grades, even in process courses, represent far more than judgments about student writing.

Attendance, participation, group work, and other features of the course can affect the final grade considerably. Any evaluation of a program's grades for a semester, for example, would have to take such factors into account, and assumptions about the quality of student writing cannot be inferred accurately from final grades.

**First-year seminars and FYC.** Doug Hesse, a.k.a. Fearless Leader, is investigating the "claim-jumping" tendencies of first-year seminar programs at some colleges and universities. Doug enjoins all of us to be vigilant about participation in such programs when they dilute writing instruction to an unrecognizable level, even if other good things are bundled into the courses.

**Teaching grammar, etc.** Keith Rhodes launched a discussion about how to teach matters of grammar and usage when students either demonstrate the need for it or ask specifically how to

improve their skills in these areas. Ed White and others pointed out that material conditions often affect students' mastery of prestige dialects, and there are limits to what can be done in a writing course to offset students' life histories. Nevertheless, focused attention to grammar, usage, and style will always be necessary to some degree, and we need to pay attention to techniques that are successful. As an example (although certainly unintended), Lahoucine Ouzgane invited the list to "name that error" in a passage from a rhetoric handbook for college students printed by a prestigious press. As of this writing, the jury is still out.

**Rhetoric of on-line conversation.** Mark Gellis seeks sources about the very stuff that constitutes the list—and as you consider the scholarly avenues, please contribute to WPA-L. You will find the archives and instructions for joining, leaving, or posting to the list at: <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/wpa-l.html>

## Ten Years Ago in the WPA Newsletter

Sally Barr Ebest  
University of Missouri-St. Louis

When I received the *WPA Newsletter* a few months ago I was thrilled, for there had been no newsletters since my term as editor in the late 1980s. Apart from this vested interest, I missed having a quarterly update on WPAs' personal and professional news, so I welcomed the missive from Doug and made sure to tell him so. In response, he asked me to provide a report of what was going on ten years ago.

Looking over the last Winter issue I produced, it was evident that the more things change, the more they remain the same. The lead article reported on the MLA's "Report of the Commission on Writing and Literature." Commissioned in 1983, by 1989 the Report had concluded there was a large gap between professors of literature and composition and called for "radical shifts in consciousness" in order to

achieve "changes in material practices at all levels" (71).

This same split was evident in the two fields' publications, programs, and services. As a result, the MLA sponsored a conference on the state of doctoral programs in English, where it was discovered that "alternative programs," such as rhetoric, were becoming more acceptable, but that the adequate professional preparation of graduate students was a growing concern.

On the subject of research and publication, the Commission urged that publication of composition textbooks be recognized as scholarly research, that collaborative efforts receive greater recognition, and that writing program administration "be given significant weight during tenure and salary reviews" (74).

Finally, the Commission recommended that MLA include more specialists in composition-rhetoric on its Executive Board, that these categories be included in the *MLA Bibliography* and on the MLA program, and that an annual award be given for the "best textbook on the teaching of writing and/or literature" (75).

As a result of the Commission's work, the WPA was represented on four panels at the 1989 MLA conference, Phyllis Franklin was one of the speakers on a feature panel at the summer WPA conference, WPA had a panel at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Writing Assessment, and three WPA representatives gave a panel presentation at 1990 meeting of the American Association for Higher Education.

Other news of the day included the decision by the WPA Board of Consultant/Evaluators to charge institutions a fee, half of which would be paid to the CEs for their consulting work. That same year, the Conference on Basic Writing held its third meeting at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Doug Hesse became Director of Writing Programs at Illinois State, and Ed White's book, *Developing Successful College Writing Programs*, was published by Jossey-Bass.

Time flies, doesn't it?

## WPA Election Results

WPA was blessed with an exceptionally strong field of candidates in the fall 1999 elections, thanks to the nominating committee of Kathleen Yancey and Irv Peckham. Elected to three year terms (January 2000 to December 31 2002) were Duane Roen (Arizona State), Alice Gillam (Wisconsin-Milwaukee), and Bill Condon (Washington State). Carol Rutz and Rita Malenczck: we're sure to draw on your strengths very soon. Finishing their terms were Rick Gebhardt, Chris Farris, and David Schwalm, and I invite members to join me in thanking them at the Minneapolis breakfast. *DH*

## Call for Papers, MLA 2000

Once again, WPA will sponsor sessions at the MLA Convention, this year to be held December 27-30, in Washington, DC. Please note that to all participants in convention sessions must be MLA members by 1 April 2000. The sessions will be:

**The Status of Freshman Composition.** What is—or should be—the educational, political, and intellectual status of freshman composition within the writing program, the institution, the profession?

**Vexing Issues for Writing Programs and Writing Program Administrators.**

Send 1-page abstract by 15 March to Chris Anson, North Carolina State.

## President's Column

While I write, the listserv talks of plagiarism. Once again. Kelly Lowe describes a professor in another department who over zealously doubts an exceptional student's writing abilities. Other correspondents urge us to weigh in at Tennessee, where the Linda confronts a seemingly institutionally-sanctioned form of plagiarism among a group of students. Cut against both threads has been playful banter about the WPA Breakfast menu, with longings for lefse and lutefisk. Clyde Moneyhun responded: Knowing Clyde, I think he's smiling with us and enjoying the joke. I think.

I can understand WPA members who see a kind of inappropriate gallows humor—a fiddling while the bookstacks burn—in our squandering bandwidth and intellectual energy on frivolity while serious issues are at hand. Yet I've usually been energized by this face of the organization and its members. These occasional jocular flourishes affirm for me) our (dare I say) humanity as people who must deal with endless concerns, many interesting, some intractable, even as we live complex lives beyond our offices, or at least I hope we do. "The plagiarist (or the paranoid of plagiarists) ye shall have with you always." A big-signed booth in the Chicago MLA exhibits announcing a plagiarism conference and website had a for-profit whiff about it. Lutefisk strikes me as an appropriate response, not as a dismissal but as a reality check while we roll our sleeves up yet again.

Sally Ebest elsewhere reminds us of eleven years ago. I learned about WPA that April, through a conference announcement in the back pages of *PMLA*. I drove over to Oxford, Ohio, on a hot July day for the conference, the very meeting to which Sally alludes. I sat that night in a small circle with Phyllis Franklin, Louise Phelps, David Bartholomae, and others, thinking it extraordinary that folks like this were spending time with snot-nosed newbies like me. It was my first real sense of a level of the profession beyond scholarly exchange, a level where you might actually come to know and care where someone's kids were in school or who was dealing with a marriage gone sad or which trail head in the Wind River Range was pretty last summer.

On a winter night some 40 or so WPAs gathered in the Billy Goat Tavern off Michigan Avenue. We were fresh from a WPA-sponsored MLA session in a packed room. We talked business and politics—and movies and vacations. Many of us did in fact have cheezeburgers. I didn't see a whole lot of chardonnay amongst the plastic baskets of garlic pickles. It probably wasn't the venue some folks would have chosen, but they came anyway and we seemed pretty happy. Old friends like Gail, Jeanne, and Chris were there and so were faces that I first put with @ addresses. An exuberant table of Ball State grad students, fledgling WPAs, Becky. And I'd like to think our writing programs and writing in America are just a tiny smidgeon better as a result of that night and its reminder that there are people across the country that we should be happy to call colleagues. *-Doug Hesse*

### Is Your Membership Current?

Check the mailing label on this newsletter. The date listed there is when your membership ends. If that date has passed, your membership in WPA has expired! You've received this mailing through our (almost) boundless beneficence. Please contact John Heyda (see last page) right away.

## Announcement and Call for Proposals

### 2000 Council of Writing Program Administrators Conference

Charlotte, North Carolina

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

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#### “In the Thick of Things”

##### Plenary Speakers

Richard Lloyd-Jones

Jeanne Gunner

Robert Connors

Patricia Bizzell

A common observation is that WPA’s work in the middle: between teachers and “higher” administrators, between managerial and scholarly interests, between disciplinary and institutional concerns, between programmatic dreams and budgetary realities, between student needs and public desires. But there are broader dimensions to WPAs’ being in the thick of things. The circumstances that birthed WPA in the late 1970s have changed significantly. It is no longer taken for granted, for example, that first year composition must be required, that process approaches are the dominant orthodoxy, or that writing programs must be housed in English departments. We must also confront the implications of distance education, for-profit education, increased consumerism, legislative intervention in teaching methods, growing interest in learner-centered education, and general education reform. How might we work effectively—for our students, our colleagues, our profession, our culture, ourselves—within this often messy middle?

I invite proposals addressing this theme as well as those addressing any issue of concern or interest to WPA’s.

- What can we know about and learn from past programmatic efforts to organize the teaching of writing?
- How might writing and writing programs be situated within departments, institutions, the academic landscape, the larger culture? How might we understand the circumstances in which we find ourselves?
- What models, practices, or theoretical perspectives should WPA’s pursue at this juncture?

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.
- analyses of issues like distance learning, articulation, technologies and writing, education reform, etc.

The topic areas above are merely suggested. Feel free to discuss ideas with me.

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**As the proposal cover sheet on the reverse of this page** indicates, I invite proposals for a range of formats, including standard papers, workshops, roundtables/issue groups, and “effective practices” presentations. For primary consideration, proposals are due February 15, 2000, and invitations generated by proposals received by that date will be sent March 15. However, proposals may be submitted in a second round of consideration by March 15, with responses to them going out soon after April 15.

I invite all inquiries and questions.

Doug Hesse • 4240 Department of English • Illinois State University • Normal, IL 61790-4240  
[ddhesse@ilstu.edu](mailto:ddhesse@ilstu.edu) • phone 309/438-3667 • fax: 309/438-5414

# 2000 WPA Conference Proposal Cover Sheet

July 13-16, Charlotte, NC

A. Proposer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Title of Proposal: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C. Type of Proposal (check one)

Entire 75-minute session. (panel, workshop, discussion roundtable, etc)

Individual presentation. (Program chair will combine with other proposals.)

D. Type of Session (check one)

Twenty-minute paper(s)/presentation(s). Explores issues, ideas, theories, practices; or presents research, historical perspectives, critiques; positions; or etc.

Workshop. ( will teach strategies/skills/practices to other WPA's; audience participation/interaction)

Roundtable/issue group discussion. (brief introduction/framing of an issue, followed by proposer-facilitated discussion)

Effective practices. (presentation of effective models, strategies, or practices, with the aim of providing "how to" advice to interested participants)

*Note: Depending on the number and nature of proposals, the program committee may adjust times to make the most effective program. We will not do this without consulting proposers. --DH*

E. Names of co-presenters. (If a group/panel proposal; otherwise ignore.) **Important:** On a separate page include for each presenter all of the information requested in Part A, above.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**F. Abstract(s). Include with this cover sheet four copies of an abstract of not more than 200 words per presenter. Abstract(s) should identify presenter(s) only as "Speaker 1, Speaker 2," etc. Include individual paper titles, if applicable, on abstracts.**

**Return this cover sheet and FOUR copies of abstract(s) by 15 March to**

Doug Hesse • Program Chair, WPA • 4240 Department of English •  
Illinois State University • Normal, IL 61790-4240

[ddhesse@ilstu.edu](mailto:ddhesse@ilstu.edu) • phone 309/438-3667 • fax: 309/438-5414

**Registration Form for the July 2000  
WPA Summer Workshop and Conference**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(As you would like it to appear on your name badge.)

**Institution:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I require auxiliary aids or services due to a disability. Please contact me at the above address.

\_\_\_ I would like vegetarian meals.

**Fees**

\_\_\_ WPA Workshop, July 9-13: \$595

\_\_\_ WPA Summer Conference, July 13-16: \$195

\_\_\_ WPA Summer Conference Graduate Student: \$145

\_\_\_ Yes, I will attend the Saturday evening social: \$30

**Total enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment method**

Enclosed is my check made payable to UNC Charlotte

I will be using a purchase order to pay my fees.

PO# \_\_\_\_\_  
(If using a purchase order for more than one person, please complete a registration form for each person and return together.)

Please charge to my (circle one) Mastercard    Visa    Discover    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete the registration form and mail with check (or payment information) to:**

Meg Morgan, Director of Rhetoric and Writing  
Department of English  
UNC Charlotte  
Charlotte, NC 28223-0001

Or you may fax credit card or purchase order information to Meg Morgan (704) 547-3961

Council of Writing Program Administrators  
Department of English  
Miami University  
Oxford, OH 45046

Address Correction Requested

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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:**

Doug Hesse, President, 4240 English, Illinois State University, Normal IL, 61790-4240. 309/438-3667. ddhesse@ilstu.edu

**Membership Dues:** John Heyda, WPA Treasurer, Dept. of English, Miami University—Middletown. 4200 E. University Blvd. Middletown, OH 45042. [heydajf@stream.mcs.muohio.edu](mailto:heydajf@stream.mcs.muohio.edu)

**Questions about membership status, mailing, subscriptions to *WPA: Writing Program Administration***

Jennie Dautermann, Dept. of English, Miami University, Oxford, OH 45046. [dauterjp@muohio.edu](mailto:dauterjp@muohio.edu). 513/529-1393

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**Council of Writing Program Administrators Home Page:** <http://www.cas.ilstu.edu/english/hesse/wpawelcome.htm>

### WPA Executive Committee

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