The UW-Madison Writing Center’s Influence on the Writing Center Profession

How is our staff involved in shaping the writing center profession?

A Sampling of Research and Publications

Joyce Steward and Mary Croft’s seminal text, *The Writing Laboratory* (1982)—one of the earliest writing center publications

Across the Disciplines, special issue featuring new research on writing fellows, guest edited by Brad Hughes and Emily Hall (2008)

Collaborative article on our Community Writing Assistance (CWA) Program (2006) by Julia Doggart, Melissa Tedrowe, and Kate Vieira

Research appearing in *Young Scholars in Writing and On Location by Writing Fellows Claire O’Leary and Jenny Correy*

Alums Julie Nelson Christoph, Rebecca Schoenike Nowacek, Mary Lou Odom, and Bonnie Smith continue to collaborate and publish together, as illustrated in their forthcoming book chapter “Three Models of Mentorship: Feminist Leadership and the Graduate Student WPA”

Collaborative article on podcasting in *The Writing Lab Newsletter* (2009) by Annette Vee, Mike Shapiro, Nancy Linh Karls, and Brad Hughes

Graduate students conduct empirical research in the writing center, as evidenced by Beth Godbee’s dissertation proposal “Small Talk, Big Change: Identifying Potentials for Social Change Through One-to-one Talk about Writing”

**Check out copies of these publications and others on the table.**

What Leaders in the Writing Center Profession Have to Say

“UW-Madison sets the state of the art for how a writing center can support the writing interests of students, staff, faculty, and the community. Heart and intelligence make the Writing Center’s programs vital; the scent of Oscar Mayer wieners and lake water keep them grounded.”

--Jon Olson, Director of the Writing Center and Director of Writing Across the Curriculum, Penn State University, Former President of the International Writing Centers Association

“Happy Birthday to a Writing Center that greatly enriches its campus emphasis on writing and thereby enriches the world of writing center scholarship and pedagogy. The Center initiated the Summer Institute for Writing Center Administrators, offers an exemplary model for writing fellows, provides a large WAC program, and has a website with a wealth of instructional material. An awesome list of accomplishments that enhance both the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the work of all your appreciative writing center colleagues.”

--Muriel Harris, Professor of English and Director of the Writing Lab (Emerita), Purdue University

International Writing Centers Association (IWCA) Summer Institutes

- An intensive week-long institute for new, experienced, and prospective writing center directors
- Held every summer at different universities
- Begun at UW-Madison in 2003; returned in 2008
- 55 participants; 10 distinguished leaders; all engaged in a collaborative learning experience

Some Leaders at the UW-Madison Institutes

- Nancy Grimm, Beverly Moss, Lisa Ede, Jon Olson, Paula Gillespie, Shanha Daniels, Neal Lerner, Pam Childers, Jill Pennington, Muriel Harris, Brad Hughes

Participants Came from

- Stanford, U of Missouri, Louisville, Boise State, Michigan, U of Namibia, Miami, Youngstown, Washington U, Maryland, UMass, U of Malaya, Colorado-Denver, Vanderbilt, Ball State, Minnesota, Harvey Mudd, Arizona, College of Lake County, Stony Brook, and many two-year colleges and high schools

A Range of Professional Development Contributions

Research and Professional Podcasts

(Now available on iTunesU)

Interviews with writing center leaders:
- Michele Edicke, University of Oklahoma
- Harry Denny, St. John's University
- Lori Salem, Temple University

Peer Writing Tutor Alumni Research Project

Cross-institutional research study of alumni who had been undergraduate writing tutors and writing fellows. A study of tutor learning—i.e., what skills, values, and abilities do tutors take from their experience.

Special Interest Group Leadership

Members of the UW-Madison staff have also helped to found the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) on Antiracist Activism in the regional and international writing center associations. These groups are working to raise the profile of teaching for social justice and to orchestrate cross-institutional participatory action projects.