

# IWCA Update

February 2014

Vol. 9 Issue 1



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## For the Love of Writing Centers

This spring brings with it changes to the IWCA board and, with them, a renewed commitment to our members and to the organization. In this spirit, we are pleased to bring you the first issue of our revamped *IWCA Update*. This *Update* coincides with International Writing Centers Week (February 9 – 15) and Valentine's Day. According to one legend, Valentinus, imprisoned for his misdeeds, sent the young Julia a note signed "From your Valentine," prior to being sent to his death. We do not want to dwell on the circumstances of this ill-fated writer but to reflect instead on the powerful potential of writing to connect people, and of writing centers to create a space for such connections. Therefore, the theme of this *Update* is "for the love of writing." Let's take a moment to highlight what is happening in writing centers.

## In Memory

We sadly announce the passing of a well-loved writer and member of the writing center community. Linda Bergmann, Purdue University's Writing Lab director for 12 years and Professor of English, died unexpectedly of natural causes in her Lafayette, IN home on January 11, 2014. IWCA members and others will remember Linda as an astute scholar (especially in the areas of disciplinarity, transfer, and writing center theory and pedagogy), enthusiastic friend, generous colleague, supportive mentor, and delighted mother of son, Bernie. Linda found adventure and pleasure in daily writing lab activity, carefully considered research and scholarship, and treasured friendships. She kindled many friendships through research sabbaticals—such as to Sabanci University in Turkey—international, national, and regional conferences, and consulting visits. A University of Chicago PhD, Linda held numerous academic service positions, including NCTE Executive Board membership. The news of her passing generated sad dismay on listservs and social media, where friends also recalled Linda's learning to negotiate a boogie board while in Florida rating standardized tests, facilitating great restaurant dinners for Paris conference-goers, and furnishing her home with well-loved carpets from Turkey. She leaves behind her son and husband and a legacy of students, friends, and colleagues who wish they had been given more time with her, her scholarship and insights, and her many kindnesses.



An NCTE Assembly

*The International Writing Centers Association, a National Council of Teachers of English affiliate founded in 1983, fosters the development of writing center directors, tutors, and staff by sponsoring meetings, publications, and other professional activities; by encouraging scholarship connected to writing center-related fields; and by providing an international forum for writing center concerns.*

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## 2014 IWCA Board

### Executive Officers

President:	Kevin Dvorak
Vice-President:	Shareen Grogan
Treasurer:	Kim Ballard
Secretary:	Alanna Bitzel
Past-President:	Nathalie Singh-Corcoran

### At-Large Representatives

	Laura Benton
	Jared Featherston
	Andrew Jeter
	Melissa Nicolas
	Steve Price
	Steve Sherwood
	Trixie Smith
Graduate Student Rep:	Rebecca Hallman
Community College Rep:	Anna Britt Begnaud
Secondary School Rep:	Amber Jensen

### Regional Representatives

East Central WCA:	Jackie McKinney
European Writing Centers Association (EWC):	Mary Deane
Mid-Atlantic WCA:	Nicole Munday
Middle Eastern-North Africa Writing Centers Alliance:	Tony Schiera
Midwest WCA:	Zachary Beare
Northeast WCA:	Harry Denny
Northern California WCA:	Susan Griffin
Pacific Northwest WCA:	Sandra Yannone
Rocky Mountain WCA:	Chris LeCluyse
South Central WCA:	Kristen Garrison
Southeastern WCA:	Russell Carpenter
Southern California WCA:	Kathleen Klompfen

### Ex-Officio Members

Web Editor:	Christopher Ervin
Web Content Developer:	Isabelle Thompson
<i>Writing Center Journal</i> Editors:	Michele Eodice, Kerri Jordan, and Steve Price
<i>Writing Lab Newsletter</i> :	Muriel Harris
EATAW—European Association for the Teaching of Academic Writing:	Magnus Gustafsson
2014 IWCA/NCPTW Conference Chair:	Melissa Ianetta

## In the News

### ***The Writing Center Journal (WCJ)***

The new editors of *WCJ* encourage you to visit the journal's new website: [writingcenterjournal.org](http://writingcenterjournal.org). There, you'll find the table of contents for their upcoming first issue of the journal as well as other important information, including the process for submitting manuscripts. The new editorial team has thought carefully about their vision for the journal, which they include on the journal's website: We are committed to publishing strong empirical research and theoretical scholarship relevant to writing centers. In addition, we seek to build a stronger research community for writing centers. To that end, we are committed to three key practices and pledge to:

1. Provide meaningful feedback on all manuscripts, including those we choose to reject.
2. Make ourselves available and accessible through retreats, workshops, and other engagements at regional and international writing center conferences.
3. Coordinate online professional development events related to *The Writing Center Journal* and our research community.

The editors are especially excited about their new online professional development series, *WCJ Live*. Check the *WCJ* website frequently for more information and updates on sessions for 2014! The next *WCJ Live* event (February 21) will feature Anne Ellen Geller & Harry Denny, talking about "Of Ladybugs, Low Status, and Loving the Job: Writing Center Professionals Navigating Their Careers."

### **IWCA Members Website**

The IWCA Members Website will be redesigned and moved to a reliable server very soon. The Board will keep you updated on the website's progress!

### **Graduate Students**

Rebecca Hallman is working on a new blog for graduate students to appear in future issues of the *IWCA Update*. Interested in contributing to the blog? Contact Rebecca at [rebeccahallman7@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccahallman7@gmail.com)

### **Secondary School**

Amber Jensen is creating a map of high school writing centers. If you run a high school writing center and want to get on the map, or know of high school writing centers in your area, contact Amber at [anjensen@fcps.edu](mailto:anjensen@fcps.edu)

### **From the Regions**

- St. John's University's University Writing Center & Writing Across the Curriculum Program was awarded the 2013-2014 CCCC Writing Program Certificate of Excellence. <http://www.ncte.org/cccc/awards/writingprogramcert>
- SWCA's *Southern Discourse* has a new editorial team: <http://www.iwca-swca.org/SouthernDiscourse.html>
- ECU's Noel Studio provides consultations to Williamsburg Independent Schools: <http://studio.ecu.edu/insideloook/noel-studio-provides-consultations-williamsburg-independent-schools>
- NSU Writing Fellows program is featured as a "College Spotlight": <http://www.fcas.nova.edu/arts/spotlights/2013/03/fellows/index.cfm>
- SCWCA Newsletter Editor Alanna Bitzel and Assistant Editor Jarod Daily are looking for interviewees willing to provide information on the founding of SCWCA. If interested in being interviewed, please contact [alanna.bitzel@athletics.utexas.edu](mailto:alanna.bitzel@athletics.utexas.edu) and [jadaily@jadaily@ualr.edu](mailto:jadaily@jadaily@ualr.edu)

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## Conference Announcements

### **The Writing Lab Newsletter**

Send job openings for writing center administrative positions and/or conference announcements for the May/June issue of *The Writing Lab Newsletter* to [harrism@purdue.edu](mailto:harrism@purdue.edu) by April 1.



### **International Writing Centers Association / National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing (IWCA/NCPTW)**

The 2014 joint conference of the IWCA/NCPTW will take place from Thursday, October 30 to Saturday, November 1 at Disney's Coronado Springs Hotel Resort at the Walt Disney World Resort. The conference theme is "The Wonderful World of Writing Centers" with keynote speaker Beth Boquet.

<http://iwcancptw2014.com/>

### **IWCA Collaborative**

Registration for the IWCA Collaborative @ CCCC is still open! The IWCA Collaborative will be held Wednesday, March 19, 8am-7pm, at the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis. This year's program features many innovative and challenging sessions that will be of interest to new and veteran IWCA Collaborative attendees.

<http://writingcenters.org/2013/12/registration-open-for-the-2014-iwca-collaborative/>

### **Summer Institute (SI)**

The SI continues an IWCA tradition established in 2003. The SI is ideal for current or would-be writing center directors and assistants, writing program administrators, tutors, writing teachers (high school or college), curriculum developers, graduate students, new PhDs, and academic leaders. SI leaders offer presentations and discussions on a variety of writing center topics and work one-on-one with participants during the SI.

<http://www.iwcasummerinstitute.org/>

### **European Writing Centers Association (EWCA)**

The biannual EWCA Conference is taking place Saturday, July 19 to Tuesday, July 22. The subject of the planned conference ("Let's Peer Across Borders –Writing Centers in Motion") plays with the ambiguity of the verb "to peer" and accentuates its meaning of "curious look."

<http://www.ewca14.eu/>

### **Writing Development in Higher Education (WDHE)**

WDHE is the biggest writing research organisation in Britain. The Centre for Academic Writing at Coventry University is hosting the 15<sup>th</sup> biannual WDHE Conference from Wednesday, July 9 to Friday, July 11 2014.

<http://www.coventry.ac.uk/events/WDHE2014/>

### **4C4Equality**

4C4Equality seeks to develop strategies for engaging with social justice issues that pertain to the host city for the CCCC conference. The group is interested in getting more people involved with this work at 4C14 and discussing ideas for work in Tampa, Portland, and other future 4C sites.

<http://4c4equality.wordpress.com/>

# IWCA Update

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## Poetry Corner

### Shiki

*Consider me  
As one who loved poetry  
And persimmons*

### NaHaiWriMo

Celebrate haikus! The shortest genre of poetry for the shortest month. For more information, visit <https://sites.google.com/site/nahaiwrimo/>



## We Want to Hear your Ideas!

Have ideas about what to include in future issues of the *IWCA Update*? Poems to share, developments at your center to highlight, or news/announcements to distribute? Do you have ponderings or reflections you think appropriate? Please send them to Alanna Bitzel at [alanna.bitzel@athletics.utexas.edu](mailto:alanna.bitzel@athletics.utexas.edu)

## I Love Writing Centers Because

*"Of the collaborative work environment, from talking one-to-one with another writer to working with groups of people from around the world on field-related issues."*  
~ Kevin Dvorak, President

*"We get to be true advocates for students and help them learn. We get to work alongside students rather than facing them in front of the classroom."*  
~ Shareen Grogan, Vice-President

*"They are so conducive to writer engagement, and I learn so much daily."*  
~ Kim Ballard, Treasurer

*"They give students a space to speak and be heard, to learn who they are and want to be."*  
~ Alanna Bitzel, Secretary

*"It's the one place on campus where students show they care about one another, where they cheer each other on, and where they help each other overcome."*  
~ Nathalie Singh-Corcoran, Past-President

## IWCA Contact Information:

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