

Editor's Introduction to Volume 16, Issue 4

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It's hard to believe it's been 25 years.

When Sharon Quiroz and I founded the print journal, *Language and Learning Across the Disciplines*, in 1993 and published our first issue the following year, little did we know how long the journal would endure or how quickly it would become a widely-cited and frequently accessed resource for research in Writing Across the Curriculum/Writing in the Disciplines. In the early days, we struggled to publish two issues a year, and we never had more than two hundred people in our list of subscribers. (Hey, it cost a whole \$20 a year!) Today, after a name change and a shift to an online, open-access model in 2004, *Across the Disciplines (ATD)* now receives hundreds of thousands of visits a year from scholars around the world, and its articles are downloaded by the thousands every month. We regularly publish four issues a year including two themed, guest edited issues, and the popularity of those themed issues led to our founding a separate book series, *Across the Disciplines Books*, in 2016. At the time of this writing, we have published three books in that series with another two currently in production.

I'm very fortunate to have been affiliated with *ATD* since its founding, first as a co-editor and then as editor-in-chief since 2005. In these positions, I've learned a tremendous amount about editing and an equally large amount about WAC/WID as it's been researched and implemented in a variety of institutions worldwide. Editors will often tell you that the best part of their job is being able to get an early look at some of the innovative research that scholars in the field are pursuing—the contexts they're exploring, the theoretical frameworks they're applying, the methodologies they're utilizing, and the sociological dimensions they're uncovering in their work. I couldn't agree more. As someone who's been able to read manuscript submissions, think about them critically, and discuss them with authors, I have grown as a scholar and developed relationships with colleagues I might never have been able to form in any other way. I am profoundly grateful for those opportunities.

I don't want this editorial to sound like an elegy, but it *does* signal a transition. After heading *Across the Disciplines* for a quarter century, I've decided that the 25 year mark is an appropriate point for me to step down and to hand the editorial reins to a new editor-in-chief who will guide the journal as it moves into the coming decade. On January 1, 2020, *ATD's* current Associate Editor, Michael J. Cripps, will become Editor, working with our new Associate Editor, Julia Voss, and our Book Review Editor, Paul Cook. I couldn't be happier to see the journal moving into such capable hands. Michael's 10-year tenure as Associate Editor has given him the experience and expertise necessary to edit *ATD* and help it grow. It's been a true pleasure to work with Michael over the years, and I

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have developed a high regard for him as a scholar, a colleague, an editor, and a friend. I look forward to working with him in on some *ATD* projects in the years to come.

Though I'm stepping down from the Editor's position at *ATD*, I'm not departing completely. I will continue as a Consulting Editor for the journal, working with Michael and Julia to develop themed issues that might later be expanded into volumes for *ATD Books*, for which I will continue as Series Editor. (I suppose it's true what they say: You can take the editor out of *ATD*, but you can't take *ATD* out of the editor.)

Let me close by thanking a few people who have been instrumental to the journal's development and to me personally as an editor. This is by no means a complete list – if I thanked everyone I owed thanks to, this editorial would be well over 20 pages long, so I'll just apologize in advance for any omissions and ask for your forgiveness. Thanks first of all to Sharon Quiroz for starting this project with me and to Gail Hawisher for putting the two of us together. Thanks to *ATD*'s editorial team—Michael J. Cripps, Julia Voss, Paul Cook, Pam Childers, Michelle LaFrance, and Chris Basgier—for your continued support and surprisingly cheerful willingness to take on new projects and new assignments. HUGE thanks to Mike Palmquist and the WAC Clearinghouse for hosting *Across the Disciplines* and the many ways, big and small, that Mike has supported the journal (and me, personally) over the years; when I say the journal would likely no longer exist without you, Mike, I mean that sincerely. My gratitude to *ATD*'s editorial board members as well, past and present. We owe much of our initial legitimacy to those WAC scholars who were willing to sign onto a nascent journal and give us a little bit of credibility—Art Young, Toby Fulwiler, Chris Anson, Charles Bazerman, Elaine Maimon, David Russell, Barbara Walvoord, Susan McLeod, Anne Gere, Charles Moran, and Chris Thaiss, just to name a few—and we owe much of our ongoing success to current board members who have always insisted that *ATD* adhere to the highest standards of scholarly excellence. Thanks to all the WAC scholars who have been willing to submit their work to the journal and/or guest edit special issues over the years. *ATD*'s success is a direct result of your dedicated work and high-quality research. It's been a privilege to publish it. And even more thanks and a tip of the Hatlo hat to our exceptionally smart and talented pool of consulting reviewers. You have tolerated my sometimes frequent requests to review manuscripts, and you have been generous with your time and supportive of your colleagues, helping them to sharpen their research and hone their prose. I have received many, many notes from authors praising you for the thoroughness of your reviews and the guidance you gave them for revision. You made them better writers and scholars, and you made my work a lot easier.

Lastly, I want to thank the readers of *Across the Disciplines*—both those who have been with us for the whole 25 years and those who may have discovered us a mere 25 minutes ago. You are the reason why we publish this journal, and you are the reason why we have been able to do so for so long. Thank you for your continuing support and your ongoing interest in WAC/WID and cross-disciplinary communication. I hope *ATD* will be around for at least another twenty-five years, and I hope you'll all be with us as we continue our journey. It's been an honor to have served as *ATD*'s editor for so many years; thanks again to everyone for making it such a rewarding and satisfying experience.

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