

Editor's Introduction

In the Summer of 1998, the Task Force on the First Year Experience published a report of its year's work studying the experiences and attitudes of first-year students at Plymouth. The report included a number of recommendations for how the college might improve the academic experience of first-year students. The Task Force discussed these at Faculty Day that August, initiating a year of college-wide focus on the first year.

The theme of the recommendations in that report is that the College needs to find ways to forge stronger connections with first-year students. Faculty need to be concerned not just with the academic development of these students but with the whole student.

In early fall of 1998, as the Editorial Board of the PSC WAC Journal met to decide the theme of this issue, it occurred to us that this was the perfect year to focus the journal on first-year students and writing. What better way to get in touch with the whole student than through writing? The articles in this issue speak to the fact that many faculty are already using writing to enhance the first-year experience, and will, we hope, inspire others to do the same.