



Letter from the Editors

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This issue of LLAD brings you two solid articles which explore in considerable depth two complicated issues for writing instruction as it crosses the curriculum: interdisciplinarity, a major theme of this journal since its inception, and program development.

Carson, Sipple, Yahr, Marshall and O'Banion contribute an article on program development that once again addresses the distributed nature of our enterprise. "A New Heuristic for Planning WAC Programs: Ensuring Successful Collaboration from All Stakeholders" considers the question of how to structure a coherent program that cuts across disciplinary boundaries. The article offers a heuristic that can be useful not only for new programs, but for thinking systematically about the attributes of existing efforts to impact language and learning across various disciplines.

The Samraj/Swales article, "Writing in Conservation Biology: Searching for an Interdisciplinary Rhetoric?" reports research in applied linguistics done at the University of Michigan on an interdisciplinary master's program. The authors, happily, include a history of the program that tells a great deal about the intellectual history of the last quarter-century. The program is quintessentially a late twentieth-century movement: to reverse disciplinary fragmentation in favor of a more communitarian cosmology – environmentalism as a means of recovering our sense of wholeness. But as Samraj/Swales makes clear, we have a very long way to go in pursuit of this goal. Their research lays out serious obstacles to the development of an interdisciplinary rhetoric, even in a program committed to the concept. Or, they ask, is it?

And as a closing note for this issue, we offer Mada Morgan's review of Kristine Hansen's book, *A Rhetoric for the Social Sciences: A Guide to Academic and Professional Communication*.