

Editor's Note

Muriel Harris

Many writing centers develop services to meet the particular needs of students at their institutions. To add to that list of programs developed to fit local needs, this issue of *WLN* has two articles about creative new services that align with students' writing needs. Sarah Summers, the writing center director at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, moved her writing center into the institution's makerspace to integrate writing and tutorial assistance into students' making process. The result was that students began viewing their writing as part of their STEM work.



For students learning the genres of legal writing, Irene Jagla, formerly at the University of Illinois Chicago Law School, developed an online Bootcamp Workshop Series. The series serves to enhance learning for two student groups, the law students who need to analyze and write legal documents and the writing center staff who developed the workshops and, in the process, enhanced the professional skills involved in producing the workshops.

In another article, Carol Severino, Deirdre Egan, and Ashley Wells applied Jo Mackiewicz and Isabelle Thompson's coding system to learn how tutorial conversation works in recurrent tutoring sessions. Their goal was to get a closer look at how factors like topic and personal familiarity as well the writer's audience affect tutorial conversation in conferences when tutors and writers have gotten to know each other. The result, as Severino et al. note, is less tutor telling and more student engagement in the later tutorial.

The Tutors' Column in this issue, by Daisha Oliver, challenges readers to think about a simultaneous struggle faced by her writing center and by other writing centers: why there are so few minority students at her institution who work as tutors and why so few minority students make use of their writing center.

And finally, a request for your help. Recently, the *WLN* Blog Editors

recorded a conversation with me about how *WLN* started (and posted that recording on the blog). I began by recalling the '70's when I and others entering this nascent field found there were no journals focused on writing centers, no writing center organizations, no books about writing centers, and no courses about writing center theory, administration, or practice. Most of us had little or no graduate studies or experience that would help us define this new field or guide us in developing our writing centers. My intent with the first issues of *WLN* was to keep us in touch in those pre-Internet days, to help each other find and share answers to our myriad questions. Because that interest in supporting each other by sharing answers continues today, we continue to need a venue where questions can be asked that will prompt others to write articles for *WLN* that provide answers. To assist this asking-answering process, the *WLN* editorial staff has set up a virtual public space for you to raise BIG questions about large, important issues. What questions do you have that you would like authors to answer in *WLN* articles? In response, what knowledge, research, answers, programs, and/or experience do you have that can be shared with colleagues who read *WLN*? Writing center studies is now an established field, but there's always more to learn. So let's continue our tradition of supporting each other. On the *WLN* website (wlnjournal.org/submit.php), you'll find a space entitled "BIG QUESTIONS," with an attempt to distinguish little from big questions. Click there to get to the space to pose your questions. And you're invited to browse through the questions to think about answers you can develop into an article for *WLN*.

GET INVOLVED WITH WLN

Interested in serving as a reviewer? Contact Karen Gabrielle Johnson (KGJohnson@ship.edu), Ted Roggenbuck (troggenb@bloomu.edu), Lee Ann Glowzenski (laglowzenski@gmail.com), and Julia Bleakney (jbleakney@elon.edu).

Interested in contributing news, announcements, or accounts of work in your writing center to the Blog (photos welcomed)? Contact Anna Sophia Habib (ahabib@gmu.edu).

Interested in guest editing a special issue on a topic of your choice? Contact Muriel Harris (harrism@purdue.edu).

Interested in writing an article or Tutors' Column to submit to WLN? Check the guidelines on the website: (wlnjournal.org/submit.php).