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Afterword: Volume 5, 2012

by Diane Kelly-Riley and Peggy O'Neill, Editors

Traditionally, editors write an introduction to each issue of a journal, linking articles, identifying themes, and explaining what unifies the volume. However, because our volumes evolve organically with articles being published online as they are deemed ready through the peer-review process, that traditional approach doesn't work. Instead, we have opted for an Afterword, an opportunity to look back, to see what links and themes have emerged in the volume.

Volume Five marked the first full online issue that we compiled as editors. In 2001, Brian Huot and Kathleen Yancey started *Journal of Writing Assessment*, stating, "we believe that the academics who see the need for a journal, who write, research, and edit the articles should make the decisions about who should edit and retain control [of the journal]" (pp. 1-2). We've remained committed to the independent spirit that inspired Huot and Yancey in starting this journal: One that is by and for scholars, and whose publication agenda remains in the hands of our teacher and scholarly community.

We've also felt that another mission of *JWA* is to document emerging methodologies and best practices attentive to the writing assessment community, and to begin to highlight models of inquiry that can expand the ways in which our field conducts scholarship. Huot and Yancey explained that *JWA* would bring a "commitment to publish a wide range of writing assessment scholarship for a wide range of scholars and teachers" (p. 2). We have also remained committed to promoting this diversity of scholarship while also making it available to all those interested in the topic through our decision to publish *JWA* as an online, open access journal. Our first volume remains true to the founding editors' commitment while also bringing our own perspective to it.

A look back at Volume 5 shows variety and range in the writing assessment scholarship.

Looking back over Volume 5, and the two years it took for us to get the journal online and complete the first issue, we are grateful to the many, many colleagues who supported us in this new adventure. A special thanks to all of the authors who submitted their work to *JWA*. Without them, we would not have been able to complete this volume. Washington State University has supported Diane's effort with time and resources. Jessica Nastal of University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, our associate editor, is an invaluable part of our success over this first year. Likewise, our appreciation to Rachel Barouch Gilbert, formerly of Washington State University, and Tialitha Macklin, Washington State University, for serving as editorial assistants. Finally, we want to extend our sincere thanks to the following colleagues who served as reviewers for manuscripts for this volume:

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