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Journal of Writing Assessment

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Afterword

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<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/7mn0z56w>

Journal

Journal of Writing Assessment, 7(1)

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Publication Date

2014

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Afterword

by Peggy O'Neill and Diane Kelly-Riley

The articles in Volume 7 address a range of topics aimed at writing assessment as a critical component of classroom teaching and include a review essay of a book of newly-published essays by a writing assessment pioneer.

We want to thank the multitude of supporters of *JWA*. First, we appreciate the continued financial support of the Department of English and the College of Arts, Letters, and Social Sciences at the University of Idaho. This support ensures that *JWA* remains an independent journal that publishes scholarship by and for teachers and scholars of writing assessment. Additionally, these two units funded the refreshed *JWA* site, which has an updated look as well as an added search function. Additionally, enhancements were made on the backside of the site to enable better collaboration and record keeping by the editorial team.

We appreciate the hard work of our extended editorial team: Jessica Nastal-Dema, Georgia Southern University, Associate Editor; Bruce Bowles, Jr. and David Bedsole, both of Florida State University, co-editors of the *JWA* Reading List; and Tialitha Macklin, Washington State University, Assistant Editor.

We greatly appreciate the many reviewers who have generously donated and volunteered their time to carefully peer-review many manuscripts. These reviewers include:

Bob Broad, Illinois State University

Jennifer Clary-Lemon, University of Winnipeg

Deborah Crusan, Wright State University

Paul Deane, Educational Testing Service

Norbert Elliot, New Jersey Institute of Technology

Laura Micciche, University of Cincinnati

Les Perelman, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Lorrie Shepard, University of Colorado, Boulder

Gail Shuck, Boise State University

Tony Silva, Purdue University

David Slomp, University of Lethbridge

Melanie Sperling, University of California, Riverside

Victor Villanueva, Jr., Washington State University

Louise Weatherbee Phelps, Syracuse University

Carl Whithaus, University of California, Davis

Finally, Volume 7 marks the end of Peggy O'Neill's role as co-editor of *JWA*. Peggy has been instrumental in continuing the mission of *JWA* set forth by its founders, Brian Huot and Kathleen Blake Yancey who stated "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" (2003, p. 2). Peggy was instrumental in moving *JWA* to an online, open-source journal that makes our publications accessible to all. Already a prolific scholar and researcher of writing assessment, Peggy assumed the responsibilities of the time consuming editorial work of *JWA*. The journal has benefitted from her leadership, extensive knowledge and experience with writing assessment, and her multiple connections to practitioners of writing assessment. Peggy will continue her work with *JWA* as one of our editorial board members.

We will greatly miss her.

We thank everyone for your continued support. We welcome the incoming co-editor, Carl Whithaus of the University of California, Davis. We are excited about the perspectives, expertise, and experience that he will bring to *JWA*!

A Note from Peggy O'Neill:

I have had a fantastic experience working with Diane Kelly-Riley, who has shouldered the brunt of the day-to-day work needed to maintain an academic journal. Diane has been a champion for *JWA*, successfully securing funds to help us maintain the infrastructure so we can keep this an open-access, peer-reviewed journal. She has also worked with the graduate students, mentoring them and teaching them about the ins and outs of academic publishing. Her attention to detail and dedication to the *JWA* are admirable. I feel very lucky to have had a chance to work with Diane as well as Jessica Nastal-Dema, associate editor, who, like Diane, is a consistent presence, getting the job done with professionalism and good cheer. I have learned so much from both of these women and the contributors, reviewers, and editorial board members whose uncompensated but important work are the backbone of independent academic journals. I look forward to continuing my affiliation with *JWA* as an editorial board member.

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