

Writing in the Disciplines Welcomes New College Coordinator



Writing in the Disciplines, the College's innovative and comprehensive collegewide program to promote strong student writing, is happy to welcome its new leader. Professor Christina Devlin, who teaches English at the Germantown Campus, will be assuming the role of Collegewide Coordinator effective July 2009.

Dr. Devlin brings much important experience to the position. Her academic background includes the teaching of upper-level academic and professional writing as well as graduate studies in the humanities, especially the history of religions and religion and literature. At the College, she teaches developmental and first-year composition courses, as well as interdisciplinary learning communities. She notes, "I am honored to be chosen to take over this dynamic and successful program, which has flourished under Rita's leadership. As the program continues to grow, I want students to become even more involved as partners in strengthening writing, from their first semester courses throughout their time at the College."

After three years at the helm of the College's innovative Writing in the Disciplines program, Professor Rita Kranidis returns to the classroom full-time. She says, "I think that the program is off to a good, solid start and that we have laid a good foundation for it. Vital programs such as this need new energy and vision on an ongoing basis. I am excited about the expertise and commitment Christina is bringing to WID's growth."

Writing in the Disciplines Campus Coordinators Benedict Ngala, Sociology, Germantown and Deborah Stearns, Psychology, Rockville will bring continuity to the program in 2009-10. WID thanks Jason Fuller from the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Biology Department for his dedicated service as Campus Coordinator, Webgenius, and interim Collegewide Coordinator. James Smith, Biology, will be the new WID Campus Coordinator for Takoma Park/ Silver Spring.

In the past three years, Writing in the Disciplines has worked closely with faculty in all disciplines, the three Writing and Reading Centers, the Center for Teaching and Learning, Outcomes Assessment, Service Learning, First Year Experience and others to create strategies for strengthening student writing. Through a series of workshops, research, individual consultations and other presentations, WID has worked to provide support for faculty who wish to fine-tune the role of writing in their courses. Workshop topics have included "Academic Honesty and Plagiarism," "Designing Effective Assignments," "Managing the Paperload," "Responding to Student Writing," and "Second Language Writers." In March 2009, Writing in the Disciplines received the Diana Hacker Exemplary Program for Reaching Across Borders Award, at the National Council for Teachers of English Convention in San Francisco.