

# THE SOUNDING BOARD

the newsletter of the writing colleagues program

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## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### A FEW ALUMNI OF THE WRITING COLLEAGUES PROGRAM

#### **Erin Milin '01**

English Teacher

Darrow School

New Lebanon, NY

*My writing colleague experience helps me facilitate a classroom that is diverse in terms of interest and ability. I see my class, but I also see individuals. Each of my students has a unique writing process. I ask myself how do the activities and assignments I prepare help my students become more aware of their writing processes and develop their skills and abilities as readers and writers?*

*We just finished our first academic quarter, and I am currently writing grades and comments. Each student receives a comment, a short narrative on his or her progress, his or her challenges and successes. My ability to assess my student's progress and suggest strategies for improvement was something I practiced as a writing colleague.*

*My experience as a writing colleague helped me figure out what kind of teacher I wanted to be. I wanted to teach at a school where I could really know my students, a school with small classes.*

*My writing colleague experience was a great professional experience. I enjoyed collaborating with professors to create assignments, working with them in a professional capacity. Similarly, I love the dialogue that happens between my colleagues and me here--it is so important to my teaching, being a part of an engaged, academic community. My work as a writing colleague prepared me to work with adult colleagues and to see myself as a professional.*

#### **Melissa Sorells '05**

Web Writer/Editor

Office of Communications, HWS

Geneva, NY

*I use my Writing Colleagues skills when I'm collaborating with my co-workers. The WCP definitely taught me how to communicate with others in a diplomatic way. Also, many of the time management skills I learned and used as a WC are helpful in my day-to-day job duties and in my life in general.*

#### **Tim Martin '04**

Property Management Group

Jones Lang LaSalle

Boston, MA

*The WC program is one of the best examples at HWS of collaborative*

*learning between students, solely for the purpose of helping one another. Placements in classes pushed me to think about how I write and communicate, and my peers were always able to provide feedback of what was helping them, and what was not. The writing skills I learned at HWS have been valuable not only for daily communication, but the program also taught me how to work on projects with others. To this day, my bosses ask me to proofread documents before they are sent to clients.*

#### **Melissa Anderson '00**

Production & Advertising Coordinator

Staples Headquarters

Framingham, MA

*The biggest take-away was the focus on organization. How do you set up the stage for the reader? Does everything flow? What might be superfluous? What needs developing? This helped me with my own courses while I was still at school. Also, the literary devices geared toward persuasion that I learned in the Writing Colleagues Seminar have come in handy. It's not enough for me to say to my manager, "I think that our team needs to do X, Y and Z to accomplish 1, 2 and 3." I get my way fairly often. Some of these skills are highly transferable.*

#### **Heather Brady '04**

Project Specialist

Education, Inc.

Plymouth, MA

*I work in the administrative office on a variety of tasks. Whatever department that has a crisis, they send me in to "fix" it. I am in constant communication with over 100 tutors who work for us (throughout Massachusetts), as well as over 75 school systems where I communicate with school directors, housemasters, guidance counselors, etc. So, having a precise, professional e-mail is extremely important to show professionalism in the work environment. Also, being able to adapt to new situations is key. This happened constantly when I was a writing colleague--new students, new professors, new assignments--and having the ability to roll with the punches, as it were. Same thing in the office environment. You have to be quick to adapt and quick to respond. Being PC is an art form, and I have rhetoric to thank.*

*I have learned through writing colleagues to always try new things from new perspectives. While everyone in the office was looking at solving a problem one way, I would come up with another way that they never even thought about pursuing.*

**“I write entirely to find out what I’m thinking, what I’m looking at, what I see and what it means. What I want and what I fear.”**

Joan Didion, novelist, essayist, journalist

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q:** How do I know when to use a comma or a semi-colon in a compound sentence?

**A:** This causes lots of confusion, but it is pretty simple once you’ve seen it broken down (actually, even this sentence is an example).

### The General Rules

1.) Use a comma after the first independent clause when you link two independent clauses with one of the following coordinating conjunctions: *and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet*.

*Example:* I am going back to my room to study, and I will not emerge until I have mastered organic chemistry.

2.) Use a semicolon when you link two independent clauses with no connecting words.

*Example:* I am going back to my room to study; I will not emerge until I have mastered organic chemistry.

## TEACHING ENGLISH ABROAD

Thinking about how you’ll spend your summer or planning your life post-graduation? It is no secret that two very rewarding and exciting things to do are to travel and to teach. Quite simply, they both offer some of the same benefits, such as self knowledge and general savvy about life. Put travel and teaching together, and you have a way to be in service to others while you expand and learn from new people and cultures. Intrigued? Check out the resources below in addition to those offered at Career Services to begin planning your global trek:

### Online Education and Certification

International TEFL Teacher Training	<a href="http://www.teflonline.net">www.teflonline.net</a>
The International TEFL Corporation	<a href="http://www.teflcorp.com">www.teflcorp.com</a>

### Residential Education and Certification

International Teacher Training Organization	<a href="http://www.teflcertificatecourses.com">www.teflcertificatecourses.com</a>
The Boston Language Institute	<a href="http://www.teflcertificate.com">www.teflcertificate.com</a>
The TEFL Institute	<a href="http://www.teflinstitute.com">www.teflinstitute.com</a>

### Finding a Job

The ESL/EFL Job and Employment Resource	<a href="http://www.eslemployment.com">www.eslemployment.com</a>
TEFL.net	<a href="http://www.tefl.net">www.tefl.net</a>
Transitions Abroad	<a href="http://www.transitionsabroad.com">www.transitionsabroad.com</a>

Nanny or Manny Abroad	<a href="http://www.littleoneslondon.co.uk">www.littleoneslondon.co.uk</a>
	<a href="http://www.greataupair.com">www.greataupair.com</a>

## THANK YOU, WRITING COLLEAGUES FALL 2007!

Alysa Austin ‘08  
Jamie Billington ‘10  
Caitlin Caron ‘08  
Molly DiStefano ‘10  
Michael Ellis ‘10  
Corey Gallagher ‘09  
Alex Hanson ‘08  
Julie Isaacson ‘10  
Sam Koval ‘09  
Courtney Jones ‘09  
Jon Shaker ‘10  
Shane Simon ‘10  
Rachel Stephansky ‘08  
Meg Stirling ‘10  
Maria Trainor ‘10  
Regina Triplett ‘10

*Interested in a Writing Colleague for your course next semester? Interested in becoming a Writing Colleague? Please contact us:*

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