

## FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of *JTW* is dedicated to Professor William Vande Kopple, a long-time member of our Editorial Board and a scholar and friend to many in the field of language and writing studies. Professor Vande Kopple died unexpectedly on July 3, 2013. He taught at Calvin College for over thirty years, and his publications on language and writing continue to influence researchers and teachers today, as the authors in this issue of *JTW* will attest. As one of our most devoted and valued Editorial Board members, Bill reviewed hundreds of manuscripts and offered helpful comments that encouraged authors to revise for clearer, more focused presentations of their research. His mentorship of authors was truly exemplary, and as editor, I deeply appreciated his service to the journal.

I am grateful to Professor Deborah Rossen-Knill of the University of Rochester (also a *JTW* Editorial Board member) for suggesting that we honor Bill by publishing current work in the field that draws on his scholarship. This issue is the result of our conversation. I invited Professor Rossen-Knill along with Professor Craig G. Hancock of the University of Albany to serve as guest editors; both are leaders in the field and widely published in language and writing studies. As I shared with them, I wanted each piece we published to engage the classroom teacher with practical pedagogy. They have done their work admirably, and I know our readers will benefit from the practical strategies and perspectives offered in this issue. I am especially grateful to the authors who contributed their research and teaching strategies.

I first met Professor Vande Kopple at the International Systemic Congress in 1988 in East Lansing, Michigan, a conference devoted to functional linguistics. I was there to present on research I had done for my dissertation, and as a new assistant professor at an international conference, I felt very much out of my league. Professor Vande Kopple changed all of that for me. When we talked, he shared his own experiences as someone new in the field,

we laughed, we talked about his current projects and mine, and he helped me to reconfigure my study as two articles instead of one. In the same conversation, he introduced me to David Bloome, then editor of *Linguistics and Education*, and it wasn't long after that I had two articles published in separate issues of the journal, my first research publications. Professor Vande Kopple was no doubt an accomplished scholar, but he was also a teacher, a mentor, and a friend, and what he did for me was nothing special in his mind. It was just his manner, his way of interacting and making others comfortable, and his way of sharing the excitement of working with language. Meeting him was a highlight in my career as an educator, and I am happy to feature his work and influence in the pages of *JTW*.



**In Memoriam**  
**William Vande Kopple**  
**1950-2013**

—Kim Brian Lovejoy, Editor