To: Robert Bell, Director or Writing Across the Curriculum

From: Nancy Rowe, Assistant Director of WAC

Date: August 16, 2013

Subject: WAC Writing Center Presents workshops 2012-2013

As you requested, here is information about the Writing Center Presents workshop series held during the 2012-2013 academic year. WAC offered 2 workshops over the course of the academic year, asking Loyola faculty to lead these lectures and discussions on various writing-related topics. The two topics offered in the academic year were “The Grammar Guru and the Road to Writerly Wisdom” led by Mary McCay and “Around the World in Eighty Words” led by Andrew Macdonald. McCay’s talk looked at basic grammar dos and don’ts and Macdonald took a linguistic approach and discussed the basic history of the paragraph structure and how that structure has differed from culture to culture.

WAC collected feedback from attendees via an evaluation form soliciting answers to several questions. Feedback results:

MacDonald Workshop

- 86% of respondents found the topic helpful to their writing
- 71% found out about our workshop from their professors (who received a flyer in their mailboxes), 7% from email, 7% from the flyer alone, and 14% from other sources
- Respondents requested the following workshops in the future (listed from most requested to least requested): Thesis development and focus, general essay writing, fiction, poetry, linguistics, film review, punctuation, internet literature, “The Sexy Sentence” (a previous workshop that one respondent wanted to see again)

McCay Workshop

- 96% of respondents found the topic helpful to their writing
- 68% found out about our workshop from their professors (who received a flyer in their mailboxes), 20% from email, 8% from other sources, and 4% from the flyer alone
- Respondents requested the following workshops in the future (listed from most requested to least requested): grammar mechanics, ESL-related, fiction, creative writing, sentence structure

These results confirm that our communicating with individual professors about workshops that will serve their students is key to getting students to attend. It also seems that students are interested in seeing future workshops that include basic writing instruction such as thesis development, essay writing, and grammar. There also seems to be an interest in fiction writing techniques.
A total of about 80 students attended these 2 workshops, which took place during the window (12:30-1:45) on a Tuesday or Thursday. With this number of students, WAC would consider the workshops successful and will continue to offer these types of writing-related programs.