

To: Undergraduate Coordinators, Associate Chairs, Chairs  
From: Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) Committee  
Date: February 3, 2004

**Re: Recognition and Funding for Student Writing Awards**

To recognize outstanding undergraduate writers and writing in the majors, the Writing Across the Curriculum Program is joining with departments to support and publicize awards you may currently give for students' written work. Student writing may include, for example, essays, reports, poster presentations, capstone portfolios, theses, or even written performance in a series of courses.

If your department does not currently have in place an award based on undergraduate student writing and you would like to institute one, respond by email to Terry Zawacki, WAC Director, at [tzawacki@gmu.edu](mailto:tzawacki@gmu.edu), and she will be happy to tell you what other departments are doing and to suggest ways you might construct an award to recognize outstanding student writers in your department or program.

In joining with the department or program, the WAC Program will add financial support to the award(s) by providing matching funding up to \$50. If the department has no funds to support an award, the WAC Program will provide sole support for the award up to \$100. When the Program is the sole provider of funding, the award given is called The Chris Thaiss Award for Excellence in Writing in the Disciplines. For all awards, we will promote the student writer and the department on the *Writing Across the Curriculum* website, the *Writing @ Center* online newsletter, and the *Mason Gazette*. We want to make the university community aware of your efforts in making excellence in writing a priority and give well-deserved recognition to our students.

If your department already gives an award(s) based on student written work or would like to create an award, please let us know:

- a) The name of the award(s)
- b) The number awarded annually and when awarded
- c) The criteria on which the award(s) is based
- d) What the award(s) consists of
- e) Contact info for person filling out this form

You may fill this information in and send it by email or campus mail to **Stanley Zoltek, Chair of the WAC Committee**, at [szoltek@gmu.edu](mailto:szoltek@gmu.edu) or c/o the Writing Center at MSN 2G8. We'll contact you with follow-up information once we receive your form.