

Newsletter



Volume 27, Number 1 Spring, 2007

Imagine a Day . . . at the Celebrate Literacy Conference

Imagine a day in June . . . the last day of school. You say goodbye one last time to all those smiling faces that greeted you every morning for the past nine months. You are proud of their accomplishments, as well as yours! But amid the hugs and have-a-great-summer wishes, there are questions. Did it take too long for this class to bond as a community? Could you have done more to help Michael find his voice? Did you teach them enough reading strategies so that they will continue to love to read over the summer?

Imagine a day in June . . . at the Celebrate Literacy Conference. You have gathered with colleagues from many districts across the region, and you are listening to fellow teachers address the very concerns you had at the close of the school year. You are gathering fresh, new ideas to help you continue to grow professionally and to reach more students.



BRUCE COVILLE

Imagine two days . . . at the PAWLP Celebrate Literacy Conference that will return for the eighth consecutive year. Celebrate Literacy will be held at the WCU Graduate Business Center on June

26 and 27. Keynote speaker for the first day is internationally recognized author Janet Allen. Janet is especially known for her work with at-risk students and has written and spoken on such topics as independent reading, vocabulary, and literacy workshops. Children's author Bruce Coville will join us on Wednesday. Bruce writes for children as well as young adults and is the author of the well-loved Alien series and Magic Shop series books.

Imagine two days . . . with PAWLP Fellows conducting breakout sessions with appeal to a variety of grade levels on topics such as community building, working with ESL students, vocabulary, comprehension, poetry, reader response, content area literacy, and persuasive writing. These interactive sessions follow PAWLP's philosophy of "teachers teaching teachers" and will provide modeling as well as opportunities to try out some new strategies.



JANET ALLEN

Now imagine a day in September . . . the first day of school. You are ready to try out all you have learned

- continued on page 3, column 2.

Three Institute Opportunities

Experienced teachers who want to become part of the National Writing Project network and learn more about effective classroom strategies may apply to participate in one of PAWLP's three Institute opportunities. The **NEW Content Area Literacy Institute** for teachers of grades 5 - 12 focuses on strategies for reading and writing to learn, the **Writing Institute** focuses on strategies to help students become effective writ-

ers, and the **Reading and Literature Institute** focuses on strategies to help students become effective life-long readers.

Institute participants earn six graduate credits from West Chester University. Stipends from the National Writing Project help defray costs. Admission is rolling.

For more information and an application form please call 610-436-2202.

Summer Courses Schedule on pages 4 - 5

FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR MARY BUCKLEW

Make Time and Space: Create Possibilities

One of my favorite artists, Henri Matisse, reminds us of the great effort it takes to move beyond the daily habits that obscure possibilities, obscure vision. He writes, "Thus, for the artist creation begins with vision. To see is itself a creative operation requiring an effort. Everything that we see in our daily life is more or less distorted by acquired habit. . . ." Matisse's words serve as an important reminder for those of us who teach – whether newcomers to the profession or veterans, retaining or rejuvenating our vision requires letting go of habits that obscure our vision. Vision is essential for creating a classroom space where optimal learning can take place and for creating a life where possibilities abound.

Institutes provide teachers the opportunity to step off the treadmill; they provide the time and space to share stories, revel in possibilities, and re-vision our daily teaching and personal lives.

At a national convention, Lisa Delpit called upon teachers to "... have a willingness to share your story. Other teachers need to know what you have learned and how you have gained your wisdom" (Hubbard & Power, 2003, p. xvi). One way of retaining our vision and excitement is to share our stories and our wis-

dom with each other —and sharing our professional lives is just one of the opportunities an Institute provides.

With summer approaching and applications rolling in for the Institutes – it seems a good time to urge readers to revisit their own Institute days and the myriad elements that make Institutes so memorable and life-changing. The collegial atmosphere of the Institute combined with the time and space to think, write, read, and discuss creates a professional oasis amidst the frenetic and fast pace of our daily lives. What a luxury – time and space – to think, to read, to reflect, to write, to share.

The fruits of this combination are amazing, whether a teaching narrative, personal narrative, a successful strategy crystallized, or a question to take back to the classroom to explore during the following year – the fruits are many. This synergy is why Institutes across the country continue to thrive. However, once the Institute is over, no matter how life changing – many of us return to the treadmill, and the important elements of the Institute recede as we succumb to the barrage of demands in both our professional and personal lives. The Institute becomes simply a fond

memory under the strain of daily habits.

In addition to inviting you to revisit all that the Institute offered and to re-create those experiences for yourself, I also want to invite you to pick up two books this spring authored by PAWLP Fellows who committed to making time for professional conversation, time for thinking, for reading and for writing together – Fellows who internalized or resurrected the essential components of the Institute. Rose Cappelli and Lynne Dorfman, co-directors of PAWLP, completed their wonderful book, *Mentor Texts: Teaching Writing Through Children's Literature* this past fall. Rose and Lynne created space to think, write, and read together so that they could share their wisdom regarding mentor texts with other teachers. We are fortunate that Rose and Lynne stepped outside of their busy schedules to create this richly informative text. Their wisdom is apparent on every page.

Eliot Eisner also explains the importance of our teaching stories: "Why narrative? Because stories get at forms of understanding that cannot be reduced to measurement or to scientific explanation Literary and artistically crafted narratives have become increasingly important both as sources of understanding teaching by researchers and as resources that teachers might use to improve their own teaching" (Eisner, 1998, p. 208). Tony Rotondo is another PAWLP Fellow who made time to write and share his stories. Tony's novel *Scratch Where it Itches: Confessions of a Public School Teacher*, published



this fall, is truly rejuvenating!

There are many other prolific PAWLPerS who write articles, children's books, and poetry - and many who gather to discuss poetry, pedagogy, and books - but many of us allow our daily habits to subsume us.

Give yourself a gift this summer – create time and space in your life – whether to have a collegial conversation, or to pen a poem for someone you love, stop for more than a moment and tend to your personal and professional spirit.

Imagine a Day . . .

-continued from page 1, column 2

in June and contemplated over the summer. You are ready to help your students achieve more, enjoy more, and be more involved.

Turn your imaginings into realities at Celebrate Literacy VIII! I'll see you there!

(Note: The scaffold for this article was inspired by the picture book *Imagine a Day* by Rob Gonsalves and Sarah L. Thomson.)

- Rose Cappelli,
'96 Writing Fellow,
Celebrate Literacy Conference
Committee

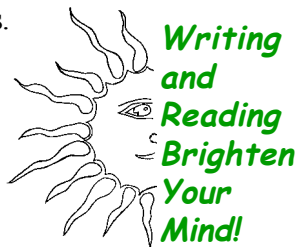
Youth Gets an Early Start

As spring comes upon us, those of us involved in the Young Writer/Young Reader Program get busy with the bustle of preparation for the summer. It is hard to believe that this will be our twenty-third year. We are in the process of hiring teachers, guest authors, and book sellers, and we have mailed out the student brochures.

We rely on classroom teachers, whether directly involved in the program or not, to help us with the monumental task of selling the program. We know that the Young Writer/Young Reader Program is beneficial to children. It not only encourages their creativity, but it also reinforces basic skills necessary to do the everyday type of writing that is now required.

We have fifteen sites this summer, including West Chester University. We are hoping to increase our enrollment and would greatly appreciate your help in giving the program a positive comment in your classroom. If you are passing out the brochures yourself, perhaps you could take a moment to talk about the program. If you send them home in a packet, perhaps you could mention it to the children and then comment to parents at conference time.

We are looking forward to a great summer. Thanks in advance for helping us.



- Karen Venuto, '92 WC Writing
Summer Youth Programs
Administrator



KUDOS

PAWLP Fellows are Published Authors!

Mentor Texts, Teaching Writing Through Children's Literature, K - 6 by **Rose Cappelli**, '96 WC Writing, and **Lynne Dorfman**, '89 WC Writing, was recently published by Stenhouse Publishers.

Scratch Where it Itches, Confessions of a Public School Teacher, written by **Tony Rotondo**, '93 Lit, '94 WC Writing, is a work of fiction published by iUniverse.

Lesley Roessing, '02 WC Writing, '04 Lit, had her article entitled "Making Research Matter" published in the March, 2007 issue of *English Journal*.



SUMMER COUR

At West Chester University's Graduate Business Center

Three credits

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (except Teacher as Writer)

Session II

MANAGING A KINDERGARTEN WRITING/READING CLASSROOM

PWP 599-02 June 25 - 29

Coordinator: Nancy McElwee

MANAGING A WRITING/READING CLASSROOM, 1 - 3

PWP 599-03 June 25 - 29

Coordinators: Peggy Pastva & Carolyn Kelly

MANAGING A WRITING/READING CLASSROOM, 4 - 8

PWP 599-04 June 25 - 29

Coordinators: Teresa Moslak & Jan Pizarro

GROWING READERS, K - 5

PWP 599-05 June 25 - 29

Coordinators: Lynne Dorfman & Rose Cappelli

The above courses will attend the Celebrate Literacy Conference as part of the class. The conference fee is waived for registrations sent by May 30.

Add \$50 conference fee after May 30.

**Note: The Celebrate Literacy Conference
may be taken for one credit or 12 activity hours.**

TEACHER AS WRITER, K - 12

This course meets 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

PWP 502-01 July 5 - 6 and 9 - 13

Coordinators: Mary Buckelew & Tony Rotondo

READING WORKSHOP, 5 - 8

PWP 599-07 July 9 - 13

Coordinators: Sue Rodebaugh & Lesley Roessing

WRITING AND CHILDREN'S LITERATURE, K - 8

PWP 513-04 July 16 - 20

Coordinators: Lynne Dorfman & Rose Cappelli

Session III

STRATEGIES FOR TEACHING WRITING, 4 - 12

PWP 503-01 July 23 - 27

Coordinators: Tina DeLiberato & Sharon Sweeney

POET AS TEACHER:

TEACHER AS POET, K - 12

PWP 503-02 July 30 - August 3

Coordinator: Don LaBranche

At the Bucks County IU, Doylestown

Three credits

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Session II

TEACHING WRITERS' CRAFTS TO ENHANCE VOICE AND STYLE, 1 - 8

PWP 599-06 July 9 - 13

Coordinators: Bill Crowley & Frank Murphy

NONFICTION IN THE WRITING/READING CLASSROOM, K - 6

PWP 510-02 July 16 - 20

Coordinators: Kristin Simon & Angela Watters

Session III

MOTIVATING RELUCTANT WRITERS AND READERS, 2 - 8

PWP 599-10 July 23 - 27

Coordinators: Suzanne Dailey and Kristin Simon

RESEARCH WRITING REVISITED: A MULTIGENRE APPROACH, 4 - 12

PWP 599-08 July 30 - August 3

Coordinators: Chris Lodwig & Megan Hanson

STRATEGIES FOR TEACHING WRITING, 4 - 12

PWP 503-03 July 30 - August 3

Coordinators: Chris Kehan & Maria Banks

READING ESSENTIALS: TEACHING READERS WHAT REALLY MATTERS, 2 - 8

PWP 599-09 August 6 - 10

Coordinators: Chris Kehan & Angela Watters



CLASSES SCHEDULE

Classes at other locations
Three credits, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Session II

CONTENT AREA

WRITING AND READING, 5 - 12

PWP510-01 June 25 - 29

Coordinator: Francine Perrine-Wittkamp

Pottsgrove Middle School, Montgomery County

LINKING TECHNOLOGY WITH THE WRITING/READING CLASSROOM, 1 - 8

PWP 508-01 July 9 - 13

Coordinators: Susan Powidzki & Mark Curtis

Upper Moreland Intermediate School,
 Montgomery County

Session III

NONFICTION IN THE WRITING/READING CLASSROOM, K - 8

PWP 510-03 July 30 - August 3

Coordinators: Lynne Dorfman & Rose Cappelli

Pequea School District, Lancaster County

VISUALIZING WORDS & WORLDS:

Writing, Literature, and Art

Three locations!

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

James A. Michener Art Museum, Doylestown

PWP 513-03 July 23 - 27,

with introductory meeting June 28, 9:00 a.m. - noon

Coordinators: Mark Boland & Amy Kratz

Reading Public Museum, Reading

PWP 513-02 July 30 - August 3,

with introductory meeting June 21, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Coordinators: Donna Searle & Michele Curay-Cramer

Brandywine River Museum, Chadds Ford

PWP 513-01 August 6 - 10,

with introductory meeting June 21, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Coordinators: Judy Jester & Teresa Moslak

Session II

One credit, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

One WCU graduate credit = \$388

PARTNERING WITH CHILDREN TO READ, WRITE AND TALK HISTORY, 3 - 6

PWP 599-11 July 17 - 18

Coordinators: Linda Walker & Gwen Douse

Highlands Historical Society, Fort Washington

May be taken for 15 activity hours: \$185 if paid by 6/15,
 \$235 thereafter



Three Institutes for Experienced Teachers

CONTENT AREA LITERACY INSTITUTE

in West Chester

**June 25 - 29, July 2, 3, 5, 6
 and 13 Mondays Aug. 27 - Dec. 3**

WRITING INSTITUTE

in West Chester

**June 25 - July 19
 four days/week**

READING AND LITERATURE INSTITUTE

in Hatboro, Montgomery County

**June 25 - July 19
 four days/week**

- ⇒ 6 graduate credits
- ⇒ Participants become Fellows of the National Writing Project
- ⇒ Stipends available to help defray cost
- ⇒ Participants attend Celebrate Literacy Conference

**Call 610-436-2202
 for an application packet.**

*The Writing Institute will return to
 Bucks County in the Summer of 2008!*

Fall Opportunities

PAWLP Days

West Chester PAWLP Day

at the Graduate Business Center

November 3, 2007

Keynote Speakers:

Lynne Dorfman and Rose Cappelli

newly published authors of

Mentor Texts: Teaching Writing

Through Children's Literature, K - 6

Bucks County PAWLP Day

at Mill Creek Elementary School,

Central Bucks SD

September 29, 2007

Keynote Speaker:

Chris Soentpiet, author/illustrator

Mr. Soentpiet has illustrated many children's books including *More Than Anything Else* by Marie Bradby, *So Far From the Sea* by Eve Bunting, and *Something Beautiful* by Sharon Dennis Wyeth

Courses

PAWLP Classroom at WCU

Teacher as Writer

PWP 502-01

Thursdays, 4:15 - 7:00 p.m.

August 30 - December 6

Coordinator: Lynne Dorfman

Nonfiction in the Writing/Reading Classroom

PWP 599-01

Two Weekends:

Sept. 28 - 30 and

November 2 - 4

Fridays 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturdays/Sundays

8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Coordinators: Lynne Dorfman
and Kristin Simon

Bucks County IU

Weekend Courses

Fridays 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturdays/Sundays

8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Motivating Reluctant Writers and Readers, 2 - 8

PWP 599-02

October 5 - 7 and 19 - 21

Coordinators: Suzanne Dailey
and Kristin Simon

Writing Essentials, 2 - 8

PWP 599-03

October 12 - 14 and 26 - 28

Coordinators: Chris Kehan
and Angela Watters

Colonial Elementary School,

Plymouth Meeting

**Strategies for
Teaching Writing**

PWP 503-01

Dates TBD

Coordinator: Lynne Dorfman

Conrad Weiser SD, Berks County

PA Literacy Framework

PWP 510-01

Dates TBD

Coordinator: Steve Heffner

LESSON PLANS WANTED

Pennsylvania Writing Project Network Creates Lesson Plan Database

In partnership with the PA Department of Education, the Pennsylvania Writing Project Network has created a database of quality lesson plans in innovative writing instruction.

All teachers may access the database at <http://citl.hbg.psu.edu/cawp/QW/>

Teacher Consultants are invited to submit lesson plans to the database. Instructions for doing so are on the website.

SUMMER 2007 PAWLP REGISTRATION FORM

Enrollment is limited.

Please register at least 2 weeks prior to course start date.

PERSONAL INFORMATION (Please print legibly or type)

Course Name(s) and Number(s): _____

Name: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

E-mail*: _____

**Course coordinators will send information via e-mail. Please provide e-mail address that can be accessed year-round.*

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Have you taken a WCU course before? yes___ no___

If yes, under what name? _____

WCU ID# _____ or Social Security # _____

Birthdate: _____ Residence county: _____

Country Of Citizenship: _____ Sex: Male___ Female___

Check one: Black___ Hispanic___ Asian/Pacific Islander___ White___

Bachelor's Degree from: _____ Year awarded: _____

School District: _____

Grade Level or Subj.: _____

Will you request reimbursement from your District? ___Yes___ No

Costs:

\$336/credit tuition

\$21/credit fees

\$31/semester fee (pay once/session)

Three-credit course = \$1,102

One-credit course = \$388

(deduct \$31 semester fee from additional courses in same session)

Out-of-state residents pay higher tuition

Add \$50 for conference registrations and conference week courses sent after May 30.

Add \$50 for activity hour Highlands registrations sent after June 15.

Add \$50 artist/materials fee for all Visualizing Words and Worlds courses.

Payment plans require advanced registration - June 1 for Session II, July 5 for Session III. Please check here if you are interested in being placed on a payment plan. _____

TOTAL PAYMENT (enclosed or charged): _____

1. Credit card: VISA___ Mastercard___ AMEX___

Card # _____ Expiration: ___/___

Cardholder name: _____

Cardholder signature: _____

2. Check or money order #: _____ Check Amount: _____

Make check payable to West Chester University.

Mail to PAWLP at West Chester University, West Chester, PA 19383

FAX 610-436-3212

Any questions please contact the PAWLP office at 610-436-2202.

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The Pennsylvania Writing & Literature Project *Newsletter* is published four times a year by and for those affiliated with the Project. Submissions are always welcome and can be mailed to the Pennsylvania Writing & Literature Project, West Chester University, West Chester, PA, 19383.

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