The Pennsylvania Writing & Literature Project

Newsletter



Volume 23, Number 5 Summer, 2003

PAWLP SUMMER 2003 New West Chester setting, New Institute teams, New Advanced Institute for Fellows only, New courses

Because of construction on the University campus, the modular units that housed so many PAWLP courses over the years have disappeared. Taking their place as home to PAWLP's West Chester summer courses and Institutes is the **new Graduate Business Center** just off the Boot Road exit of Route 202.

New Institute teams include Mary Buckelew, PAWLP's Associate Director, coordinating the West Chester Writing Institute with Brenda Krupp this summer, and Diane Dougherty teaming up with
Patty Koller to coordinate the Lit-
erature Institute.ing/Reading Classroom, Grades 6 -
12. Two new one-credit courses
will be offered, one titled Speaking

A new **Advanced Institute** in Visualizing Words and Worlds for Fellows only will be coordinated by Judy Jester and Judy Asselin at the Brandywine River Museum in Chadds Ford.

New three-credit courses include Guided Reading for Comprehension in Grades 3 - 8, Reading/ Writing in the Content Areas, Grades 2 - 8, and Managing a Writing/Reading Classroom, Grades 6 -12. Two **new one-credit courses** will be offered, one titled Speaking a Common Language: The English Language Learner in the Mainstream English Classroom, Grades 6 - 12. The other, Teachers as Poets for grades 6 - 12, is part of the ninth annual West Chester University Poetry Conference.

For a complete listing of all summer courses, see pages 4 & 5 of this *Newsletter*.

Georgia Heard, Robin Moore, Judy Schachner highlight Celebrate Literacy IV Conference

Keynote Speaker Georgia Heard will share her zeal for teaching poetry and revision techniques with participants at the Celebrate Literacy IV Conference June 25 & 26 at West Chester University's Sykes Union Building. "Students need to be able to bring the tools of revision to their writing the way a carpenter comes equipped for the job with a toolbox full of tools. Ultimately, the point of learning about revision is to learn how to help our writing match more accurately what's in our hearts," Heard says in the introduction to her newest book entitled *Revision Toolbox*, *Teaching Techniques That Work*.

Robin Moore, Thursday morning's speaker, feels the most important task of the modern-day storyteller is to teach our nation to dream again. This restoring and restorying of the imagination is what Moore's work is all about. His wild but evocative tales of hound dogs and rattlesnakes, wild men and hairy women, headless ghosts and howling wolves have kindled the imaginations of a new generation of readers and listeners.

Judy Schachner will inspire us with her creativity and passion for writing and illustrating during her luncheon address on Thursday.

Veteran PAWLP Fellows will offer 20 interactive workshops from which to choose, each providing practical strategies to be implemented in the classroom.

For registration information please call 610-436-2202.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Being PAWLP Director is one of the best jobs there is in the world of literacy education. I get to know and talk with some of the smartest, most talented, most dedicated teachers in the profession. I learn so much from them - so much they should be sharing with more than this audience-ofone.

For example, one day last week I was in a meeting with PAWLP Fellows who teach AP English courses in their various districts. The subject turned to testing, AP tests and PSSA tests in particular. "PSSA Reading lowers expectations for AP kids," someone said. "PSSA Reading lowers expectations for everyone," someone else chimed in, "and that's even worse." She explained: "we have to teach to a test that reduces learning to a series of multiple choice questions and [asks] about the card catalogue, for heaven's sake. We don't even have a card catalogue at our school anymore!"

Later that same day I got an email query from one of our middle school Fellows: "Is it true PSSA Writing now requires a 5-paragraph essay?! And they're going to lower the Organization score for papers with fewer paragraphs?! What are they thinking??" she wrote in evident alarm.

And two days later, in a meeting with one of our elementary school Fellows, I heard the story of a fifthgrade class being told that they had done poorly on their school's quarterly PSSA Reading performance task practice. "I told them that snapshots and exploded moments – which they know improve their writing – only lower their grades on the Reading test because they're considered misinformation. You should have seen them, Andy. They literally held their heads in dismay."

I can imagine the dismay of those fifth graders, that middle school teacher, and those high school teachers as well. The PSSA Writing Assessment is something Pennsylvania teachers both liked and supported in its earliest form. The voluntary, holistically scored test drove curriculum and instruction in the directions we knew they should go. The test encouraged teaching writing in three modes in all grades. Its format and instructions promoted process. And its rubric reflected all aspects of writing. Even the revised test - required and domain scored - was one we liked (as I explained in an earlier column this year). But requiring 5-paragraph essays from 9th and 11th graders (3-paragraph essays from 6th graders) in order to forestall the writing of single-paragraph papers - and then lowering Organization grades to reflect what is more likely missing Content or missed Conventions than weak Organization makes no instructional sense. Why doesn't PDE listen to teachers? Or, more important to me, why don't teachers talk to PDE?

Similarly, why hasn't PDE listened when some teachers tried to tell them that the PSSA Reading rubric, which came after the PSSA Writing rubric, confuses students? Why don't they understand that because writing to demonstrate reading comprehension is so very different from writing to demonstrate writing ability that the people designing tests for those two distinct purposes should talk with each other in order to clarify rather than confuse both curriculum and instruction?

We know that PDE listens sometimes. Remember those PSSAbased seals intended for Pennsylvania diplomas? We were all very upset at the prospect of such state-based evaluation of districts' graduation requirements. So upset, in fact, that teachers, parents, and students took their objections to Harrisburg. And the diploma seals disappeared before they ever actually existed.

So we know PDE listens. Now all we have to do is talk. Not just to me or to each other. But to the people who should hear informed, intelligent, professional teachers' voices telling them what they need to know. We know what effective writing and reading look like. We know what constitutes effective instruction. And we know useful, effective, authentic assessment when we see it. We're not opposed to assessment that makes sense, that leads instruction-and learning-in the direction it should go. I urge PAWLP Fellows and their colleagues to tell the people in the Division of Evaluation and Assessment on the 8th floor of 333 Market Street, Harrisburg 17126-0333 what they need to hear. Write to Andrea Martine about PSSA Writing. To Mary Keepers Emminger about PSSA Reading. And copy Lee Plempel, Division Chief, on everything you send.

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First Annual Bucks County PAWLP Day

It was a dreary first day of March for the first annual PAWLP Day in Bucks County. A looming snowstorm threatened to put a damper on everything the committee worked hard to put together. Luckily, nature was on our side and kept the storm to a light dusting the day before. With 170 people registered, coming from eight different districts, it would have been difficult to reschedule our presenters and especially our keynote, Patrick Shannon, who traveled all the way from State College to be with us.

Although the day outside was dull, inside there was an abundance of energy and enthusiasm. Presenters Angela Watters and Kristin Simon shared <u>Reading with A</u> <u>Writer's Eye</u>. Jen Dostal and Bronwyn Barto <u>Let the Pages Do</u> <u>the Talking</u>, while Sue Michel had participants <u>Playing with Words</u>. Laura Harrington, Anne Finore, Lynne Dorfman, Maria Banks, and I, Chris Kehan, provided practical strategies for participants to take back to their classrooms immediately. Ellen Mager brought a wonderful selection of new children's picture books and teacher-idea books at a discounted rate. She also provided a list of "What's New in Children's Literature" to participants attending her breakout session.

Patrick Shannon started our day with his keynote addressing points from his book, <u>I Shop</u>, You Shop. He cautioned teachers that if we aren't careful of the products available that "sell" reading, we could be in trouble. We should question the market and not take reading commodities at face value. He concluded that we need to seek others who value our criteria for what matters in reading and band together. Thank you, Patrick Shannon, for believing in teachers and our decision-making abilities to do what is best for children.

Many additional people made

this day possible: Lenny Schwartz, the principal of Mill Creek ES, for graciously opening the doors to his beautiful school; Mary Buckelew, Karen Venuto, Lisa Gentry, Mariann Shirk, Ann Mascherino, and Toni Kershaw at the PAWLP office who made the day run smoothly; Maria Banks, Bronwyn Barto, Jen Dostal, Kristin Simon, and Angela Watters who planned and organized the program, and Dr. Andrea Fishman who supports our PAWLP endeavors in Bucks County.

Teachers who attended gave us so much positive feedback that the committee left ready to plan more PAWLP Days in Bucks County. In the Fall of 2003, published children's book author Frank Murphy will be our keynote speaker. A Spring 2004 PAWLP Day is in the works as well. We look forward to seeing many teachers, librarians, staff developers, and administrators from all around Bucks County next year.

> -Chris Kehan Co-director for Youth Programs

WANTED: New Ideas for Youth Programs

In response to suggestions from parents and students, new specialty courses this summer include on-line literature circles, writing college application essays, news writing, and a Young Shakespeare class. Parents and students have also suggested adding more fantasy writing classes and running a year-round, after school or before school program.

If you are interested in developing a new class, it's not too early to start planning for the 2003-04 school year or the summer of 2004. Please call Mary Buckelew at 610-436-2998 to discuss opportunities with the PAWLP Youth Programs.



New administrators for Summer Youth Programs

Karen Venuto will take over many of the administrative duties of the Youth Programs this summer, including overseeing the West Chester site and visiting all 18 sites in the six-county area.

Kelley Mallon will assist Chris Kehan with the sites in Bucks and Montgomery Counties, and Sue Fitzgerald will coordinate the classes on the West Chester University campus.

These changes will allow Associate Director Mary Buckelew to coordinate the West Chester Writing Institute withBrenda Krupp this summer.

SUMMER COUR

Three-credit courses

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. + 5 independent hours

SESSION I: discount/registration deadline 5/23 SESSION II: discount/registration deadline 6/20 SESSION III: discount/registration deadline 7/25

PA Literacy Framework, K - 12 PWP510-21 At WCU June 23, 25-27, 30, July 1-2 (SESSION I) COORDINATOR: Marian Dugan 8:30 - 3:30 Graduate credit only, no independent hours

Includes Celebrate Literacy Conference

Strategic Guided Reading/Writing for Comprehension, Grades 3 - 8

At WCU GBC July 7 - 11 **PWP 599-35** (SESSION II) COORDINATORS: Debbie Dinsmore & Ann Finore <u>Strategies for Teaching Writing in the PSSA</u> Domains, Grades 2 - 8

At Bucks IU July 7 - 11 **PWP 503-01** (SESSION II) COORDINATORS: Chris Kehan & Maryellen Kenney At WCU August 4 - 8 **PWP 503-41** (SESSION III) COORDINATORS: Judy Sheer & Sue Powidski

Visualizing Words and Worlds:

Writing, Literature and Art PWP 513-01

Two-week course: July 14-17 & 22-25 (SESSION II) 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. COORDINATORS: Karen Klingerman

& Jessie Shaffer At James A. Michener Art Museum, Doylestown No previous experience or talent required Graduate credit only, no independent hours Managing a Writing/Reading Classroom, Grades 6 - 12 At WCU July 7 - 11 PWP 599-34 (SESSION II) COORDINATOR: Vicki Steinberg Strategic Guided Reading/Writing in a Balanced K-3 Literacy Program At WCU GBC July 14 - 18 PWP 599-36 (SESSION II) COORDINATOR: Rose Cappelli Writing & Children's Literature, Connecting with the PA Standards, K - 8 At WCU GBC July 21 - 25 PWP 599-37 (SESSION II) COORDINATORS: Rose Cappelli & Lynne Dorfman

Reading & Writing in the Content Areas.

Grades 2 - 8

At WCU GBC July 28 - 31 & Aug. 1 **PWP599-38** (SESSION II) COORDINATORS: Lynne Dorfman & Diane Dougherty

Teacher as Writer, Gr. K - 12 At WCU Aug. 4 - 8 PWP502-41 (SESSION III) COORDINATOR: Wendy Towle

CELEBRATE LITERACY IV CONFERENCE

West Chester University June 25 & 26, 2003 8:30 - 3:30 KEYNOTE SPEAKER: GEORGIA HEARD

\$110 by May 23, \$165 thereafter 12 activity hours - 1 graduate credit available

SUMMER INSTITUTES

Six-graduate credits from WCU

Institute dates: June 30 - July 25 - Includes Celebrate Literacy Conference June 25 & 26 Application process required - call 610-436-2202

WRITING INSTITUTE AT WCU

stipends available

WRITING INSTITUTE AT BUCKS IU

stipends

available

COORDINATORS: Mary Buckelew & Brenda Krupp COORDINATORS: Hilde McGeehan & Shari Stem

LITERATURE INSTITUTE AT WCU COORDINATORS: Diane Dougherty & Patty Koller

ADVANCED INSTITUTE FOR FELLOWS ONLY

VISUALIZING WORDS AND WORLDS at the Brandywine River Museum, Chadds Ford

Coordinators: Judy Jester and Judy Asselin

August 4 - 7 and 11 - 14

Four graduate credits from WCU (fall follow-up required)

RSE OFFERINGS

One-credit courses

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

Teachers as Poets, PWP 501-21

part of the WCU Poetry Conference

June 5, 6 & 7 + follow-up dates September 25 & November 6 (call for information) limit: 15 middle and high school teachers

Pushing the Envelope: Extending Our

Definition of Literacy, Gr. K - 12 At WCU June 23 & 24 PWP 599-22(SESSION I) COORDINATOR: Judy Jester

Creating Author Studies, Grades K - 8

At WCU June 23 & 24 **PWP 599-23** (SESSION I) COORDINATORS:Patty Koller & Starr Troup At Bucks IU July 14 & 15 **PWP 599-04** (SESSION II) COORDINATORS: Lynne Dorfman & Nancy McElwee

Teaching PA Standards through Readers' Theater, Grades K - 8

At WCU GBC June 30 & July 1 PWP 599-05 (SESSION II)

COORDINATOR: Bev Hanrahan At Bucks IU July 28 & 29 **PWP 599-06** (SESSION II) COORDINATOR: Bev Hanrahan

Readers' Workshop, Grades 2 - 8

At Bucks IU June 30 & July 1 **PWP 599-08** (SESSION II) COORDINATORS: Chris Kehan & Sue Michel At WCU GBC July 2 & 3 **PWP599-07** (SESSION II) COORDINATOR: Chris Kehan & Sue Michel

Emergent Literacy In Kindergarten

At Bucks IU July 2 & 3 **PWP 599-09** (SESSION II) COORDINATOR: Nancy McElwee At WCU GBC July 9 & 10 **PWP 599-10** (SESSION II) COORDINATOR: Nancy McElwee

Emergent Literacy. Grades 1 - 2 At WCU GBC July 7 & 8 PWP 599-11 (SESSION II)

COORDINATOR: Maria Banks

Developing Mini-Lessons for Reading/ Writing Processes, Grades 3 - 12 At WCU GBC July 14 & 15 PWP 599-12 (SESSION II)

COORDINATORS: Maria Banks & Wendy Towle Managing a Writing/Reading Classroom.

Gr. 2 - 8

At WCU GBC July 16 & 17 PWP 599-13 (SESSION II) COORDINATORS: Maria Banks & Chris Kehan

Nonfiction Craft Lessons, Grades K - 8

At Bucks County IU July 16 & 17 **PWP 599-14** (SESSION II) COORDINATORS: Ann Finore & Sue Michel At WCU GBC July 23 & 24 **PWP 599-15** (SESSION II) COORDINATORS: Ann Finore & Francine Perrine-Wittcamp

Poetry Workshop, Grades K - 8

At WCU GBC July 21 & 22 **PWP 501-01** (SESSION II) COORDINATORS: Debbie Dinsmore & Eileen Keen

Developing Literature Circles - I

At Bucks IU for Gr K - 8 July 21 & 22 **PWP 599-16** (SESSION II) COORDINATOR: Jennifer Oakes At WCU GBC for Gr K - 12 July 28 & 29 **PWP 599-18** (SESSION II) COORDINATOR: Patty Koller

Developing Literature Circles - II

At Bucks IU for Gr K - 8 July 23 & 24 **PWP 599-17** (SESSION II) COORDINATOR: Jennifer Oakes At WCU GBC for Gr K - 12 July 30 & 31 **PWP 599-19** (SESSION II) COORDINATOR: Patty Koller

Speaking a Common Language: The English Language Learner in the Mainstream English

Classroom, Grades 6 - 12 graduate credit only At WCU July 28 & 29 PWP 599-31 (SESSION II) COORDINATOR: Judy Jester

Guided Reading/Writing, Grades K - 2

At Bucks County IU July 28 & 29 PWP 599-32 (SESSION II) COORDINATOR: Rose Cappelli

Flexible Grouping in K - 8 Classrooms

At Bucks County IU July 30 & 31 **PWP 599-30** (SESSION II) COORDINATORS: Maryellen Kenney & Sue Powidski At WCU August 4 & 5 **PWP 599-41** (SESSION III) COORDINATOR: Bev Hanrahan

Guided Reading/Writing for Comprehension in Grades 3 - 6

At Bucks County IU July 30 & 31 **PWP 599-33** (SESSION II) COORDINATOR: Debbie Dinsmore

Preparing for PSSA Reading Assessment, Grades 2 - 12

At WCU August 6 & 7 **PWP 517-41** (SESSION III) COORDINATOR: Diane Dougherty

ADVANCED INSTITUTES FOR FELLOWS ONLY

NEW

Summer, 2003 Visualizing Words and Worlds: Writing, Literature and Art

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (4 graduate credits)

- August 4 7 and 11 14, with a Fall follow-up date determined by the participants
- Expand your Institute experience to include the connection between the verbal and visual arts
- Work with PAWLP co-director, Judy Jester, coordinator, Judy Asselin, and four local artists for a unique PAWLP experience at the Brandywine River Museum in Chadds Ford

Fall, 2003 - Spring, 2004 Advanced Institute in Technology-Enhanced Literacy

(3 graduate credits)

- Pursue your special interest in writing, reading, teaching, or research
- Participate in a virtual Institute community with other Fellows
- Experience chat rooms, weblogs, videoconferencing, hypermedia and other new learning technologies as the means to your goals
- Explore the intersection of traditionally focused curriculum and techno-instruction

Led by Steve Heffner, PAWLP's Codirector for Technology, the course will consist of several face-to-face as well as keyboardto-keyboard sessions.

\$250 stipends available

For further information and to register contact Andy at 610-436-2202 or afishman@wcupa.edu

Beth Butts, Sandy Connelly, and Mary Jo Winz, Fellows of the West Chester 2001 Writing Institute, meet regularly as a writing group. Beth and Sandy both entered the Writer's Digest 71st Annual Writing Competition in which there are ten categories. Over 19,000 entries were submitted. Sandy and Beth each won an "Honorable Mention." Sandy's "A Prayer Passed Down" was recognized in the Inspirational category; Beth's entry was a Feature Article entitled "Who Cares?" which discussed the pitiful state of nursing homes. Mary Jo is working on a

KUDOS

children's book which she is planning as one of a series. Congratulations to all, and keep writing! John Sweeney, '98 WC Writing, released a CD entitled "Cruising Paradise." The CD includes some of John's poetry. He is proud to report that he earned his share of the recording fee teaching in the Young Writers/Young Readers program. Don LaBranche, '93 WC Writing, attended Nancy Atwell's Center for Teaching and Learning in the Spring of 2002. We look forward to reading more about his experience. Lesley Roessing, '02 WC Writing, had her article "Miles for Motivation" published in the May, 2003

issue of Voices from the Middle. PAWLP Director **Dr. Andrea Fishman**'s article "Becoming Literate: A Lesson from the Amish" has been anthologized in Writing and Community Action (Longman, 2003) and her article "Reading, Writing, and Reality: A Cultural Coming to Terms" was published in College Reading Research and Practice (IRA, 2003).

PAWLP Associate Director Dr. Mary Buckelew's article, "The Value of Art in the English Classroom: Imagination - Making the Tacit Visible," will be published in the English Journal's May, 2003 issue.

Registration Form, Summer 2003 Pennsylvania Writing & Literature Project, West Chester University

Name:	Social Security #:
	1
Address:	
Town:State:	Zip:
Present District or Private/Parochial School	
	Grade/Subj
(For federal, state and statistical reporting) Birthdate: Residence county:	Citizenship country:
Sex: Male Female Check one: Black/non-Hispanic Hi	spanic Asian/Pacific Islander White/non-Hispanic
Bachelor's degree from:	
Please register me for the following courses:	
Course Name	SUMMERFEE SCHEDULE Session I: discount/registration deadline 5/23
Session # Type & number of credits/hours	
Location Cost	Session III:
	discount/registration deadline 7/25
Course Name	Graduate Credit for PA residents
Session # Type & number of credits/hours	(out of state higher)
Location Cost	Une-credit tuttion & rees = \$365
	Late fee: add \$35/course after deadline
METHOD OF PAYMENT Payment must accompany all registrations	
including those received by fax. Check/money order number amount: \$	Continuing Professional Education
Payable to West Chester University.	Throp CPE gradite tuition & fages \$650
Phone number and social security number should be on the check or r Please write a separate check for each course.	Late fee:add \$35/course after deadline
Charge my credit card \$ (courses may be charged	individually) 15 activity hours: \$175
Visa MasterCard Expiration /	Late fee: add \$25/course offer deadline
Card #	Celebrate Literacy Conference
54741 54 11	\$110 by May 23, \$165 thereafter earns 12 activity hours
Cardholder.nama	One graduate credit: \$365 by May 23,
Cardholder name:	\$400 thereafter
Signature: Date:	
	\$630 (\$595 w/o banquet)

Withdrawals must be made in writing (no phone calls) prior to class start date and mailed, e-mailed or faxed to PAWLP.

Refunds for graduate courses are subject to University policy found on WCU website and in the Graduate Catalog.

Refunds for CPE credit or activity hours are subject to a \$25 processing fee. Withdrawals less than 48 hours prior to first day of class or after class begins – 0% refund.

Confirmations will be sent beginning April 15. Mailing will include a map and PAWLP Survival Guide answering questions on receipts, transcripts, Act 48, and other frequently questioned topics.

Mailing Address: PA Writing & Literature Project, West Chester University, West Chester, PA 19383. For more information, call 610-436-2202 or 2297, fax: 610-436-3212, or e-mail <u>mshirk@wucpa.edu</u> PAWLP Website: <u>http://www.pawlp.org</u> PAWLP reserves the right to set maximum enrollment or cancel a course two weeks prior to the start date due to insufficient enrollment. If a course is cancelled, registrants will be notified by phone, e-mail, or mail, and will receive 100% refund.

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