

The PA Writing & Literature Project Newsletter



Volume 32, Number 1 Fall, 2012

New Fellows!

It is a pleasure to welcome 23 new Fellows to the Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project's community. Institute co-directors and coaches (**Brenda Krupp, Rich Mitchell, Chris Kehan, Maryellen Kenney, Janice Ewing, Judy Jester, Molly Leahy, Kristin Weand, and Bethany Hunter**) along with Director, Mary Buckelew, joined these K-12 teachers who immersed themselves in five intensive weeks of reading, writing, research, and sharing practices. From Bucks County to Chester County – communities formed and teachers found themselves reinvigorated and excited to share their learning with their students and colleagues.

The Invitational Institute is the heart of every one of the

Writing Project sites across the country. Comments such as the following explain the magnitude of the Institute experience: "It's an experience of a professional lifetime. You will be engaged and amazed. Wow! I can't wait to go back to my students! I will teach writing in a whole new way! Just Do It! It will be the best thing you'll do for yourself and your students. The most intense, beneficial course that I have taken to date. Amazing support from colleagues, peers and mentors/professors."

These new members of PAWLP are wonderful sources for strategies and inspiration for the teaching of writing. Be sure to ask them to share their ideas! Please consider joining our exciting local and national community!



New Bucks County Fellows!



New West Chester Fellows!

New Configuration!

**Invitational Writing and Reading Institutes – Reconfigured!
Full Scholarships available for early application!**

Newly designed – same quality! We've retained the breadth, depth, and quality for which PAWLP is known but we've changed the design. Spend two mornings in the spring, three weeks in the summer, and five afternoons or mornings with us in the Fall. You will earn six graduate credits and, if you apply by December 7th, you may qualify for a need-based full tuition scholarship. See page 5 for the specific dates for each Institute. Join us in 2013 for the time of your personal and professional life!



PAWLP
Community, Connections, & Collaboration

A Note from Mary

Dear PAWLP Fellows and Friends,

Greetings from 210 East Rosedale!

No matter the season, the Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project community offers exciting educational fare for teachers and students of all ages. After an exciting summer with more than 740 Young Writers/Young Readers attending writing workshops in 21 different locations, and after welcoming 23 awesome new PAWLP Fellows to our community, we kicked off the school year with our first Saturday Seminar on September 8. PAWLP Fellow, Jolene Borgese, shared her expertise on the art and craft of revision and the six traits of writing. With humor and hands-on activities, Jolene led the group through an array of practical ideas from the book she co-authored, *Revision Strategies for Adolescent Writers: Moving Students in the Write Direction*. If you were unable to join us for Jolene's outstanding workshop, you might want to order her book. Whether you are a classroom teacher or a curriculum specialist, Jolene's book provides a comprehensive, practical, teacher-friendly guide for tackling the revision process. Thank you, Jolene!

We are also thrilled to announce the launch of the peer-reviewed, Summer/Fall issue of PAWLP's very own literary and education e-journal: *210 East Rosedale: The Literary and Education Journal of the Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project*. Check out the PAWLP website for the link to the journal. You can read it on-line or print a copy. As I note in the introduction to the e-journal, "There is truly something for everyone in our first issue. From poetry, to teaching memoirs and personal memoirs, to strategies for teaching informational essays, the varied interests and passions of PAWLP Fellows are showcased in our first journal. PAWLP Fellows share their insights, wisdom, and joy for life and teaching through their writing and photography." Submit your writing, art, or photography for review for the Winter/Spring edition of *210 East Rosedale* to PAWLPJOURNAL@wcupa.edu.

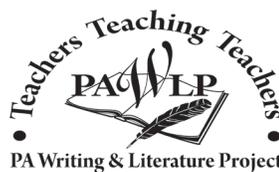
In addition to our literary and artistic talents, PAWLP Fellows are immersed in reading and studying the new Common Core Standards. Dr. Diane Barrie and Rita DiCarne, M.A. began and facilitated our inquiry this summer. PAWLP study groups will continue throughout the year. If you are interested in attending our "think tank" sessions, please contact me.

As you peruse the pages of this fall *Newsletter*, you will find a range of activities, courses, and events to pick and choose from--all of which are coordinated and inspired by the creative, resourceful, and dedicated teachers who comprise the PAWLP community. If you would like to become more involved in PAWLP or if you have a literacy-based idea and would like assistance in bringing it to fruition, please stop by 210 East Rosedale and tell us what you are thinking and how we can help!

I look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming PAWLP events – or on-line for our next book club!

Sincerely,

Mary Buckelew
Director



Writing Institute Class of 2012

West Chester Institute Fellows

Judy Allison

Lower Merion SD

Lee Ann Apichella van der Kwast

Methacton SD

Deanna Brown

Rose Tree Media SD

Laurie Bushey

Haddonfield SD

Janet Chung

Lower Merion SD

Elisabeth Clemmer

Souderton SD

Melinda Daubert

Solanco SD

Suzanne Fanelle

West Chester Area SD

Christopher Grouzes

Rose Tree Media SD

Renee Jacobs

West Chester Area SD

Carolyn Kunze

Garnet Valley SD

Kathy Lieb

Springfield SD

Lori Messner

Schuylkill Valley SD

Constance Meyers

Souderton SD

Lee Ann Reilly

Lower Merion SD

Lauren Smith

Ad Prima Charter School

Rachel Trosino

Quakertown Community SD

Bucks County Institute Fellows

Catherine Frederick

Central Bucks SD

Lauren Jacoby

Pennsbury SD

Adrienne Reilly

Central Bucks SD

Melissa Schmitz

Boyertown SD

Ellen Scullin

Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Lisa Walters

Souderton SD

With Heat We Write!!!

Although this July was the hottest on record, the Young Writer/Young Reader Program continued to run. The heat and the humidity did not get in the way of our writers. While a bit uncomfortable, those pencils sized across page after page in writers' notebooks. Great ideas rose like clouds of steam from a road following a hot rainstorm.

This summer we celebrated our 28th year of the YW/YR Program. We continue to be extremely proud of our program. A combination of veteran and new teachers, full of creative ideas and a willingness to work hard, staffed the program. It was evident that they put a huge amount of time and effort into their planning and teaching.

We had sites in Berks, Bucks, Montgomery, Chester and Delaware Counties, as well as one in West Deptford, NJ. Our newest site was located at Valley Forge National Park. This partnership worked well, and the class was full of enthusiastic third and fourth grade writers who were interested in history. We had other established specialty sites, which included Longwood Gardens, The Highlands Mansion and Gardens, and The Michener Museum. In addition to specialty sites, we also offered some specialty courses in established school district sites. These included nature journaling, writing with the arts, Gothic and science fiction, fantasy and science fiction, poetry, and storytelling.

PAWLFP Fellows were among our guest authors this summer. Gaetan Pappalardo presented to our younger group of students. His book, *Louie Licks and the Wicked Snakes: Battleaxe*, was a definite hit with the K-5 group.

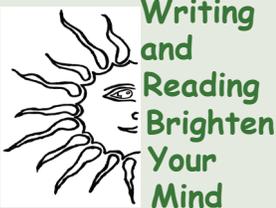
Kate Walton, author of *Cracked*, did an outstanding job presenting to our middle and high school group at WCU. We also used Rob Levitt and Robin Moore. Rob is not only a lifesaver, but also a great presenter as he includes his own music in engaging the children. Robin Moore, storyteller, received rave reviews from the sites where he presented. We are extremely proud to say that all authors were awesome!

Another exciting event for the 2012 YW/YR Program was a pilot with the College of Education. We hosted post baccalaureate students doing a reading practicum. Their professors, Carol Smith and Diane Santorri, worked closely with us in order to give these students a rich background in both reading and writing. The pilot was a tremendous success. Both students and Fellows had positive feedback. As we debriefed with the COE, we decided that we should definitely continue the partnership next summer.

Kudos are definitely in order for the team that makes our youth program run as smoothly as it does. Dr. Mary Buckelew, Debbie Neves, Kathy Garrison, Betsy Brecht, Ann Mascherino, Toni Kershaw and I met several times during the year to make sure the summer would run as smoothly as possible. In addition, Adam Brecht, Kate Garrison and Katee Troutman were awesome helpers, both at the office and on campus. Thanks also to the site coordinators and the teachers who planned and taught, and in turn, made the best summer yet! Thanks again to all of you for making this hot, hot, humid summer run smoothly and efficiently.

- by Karen Pawlewicz, '92 WC Writing
Summer Youth Programs Administrator

YW/YR Teacher Applications for Summer, 2013



Applications for teaching in the summer Youth program will be sent to PAWLFP Fellows in late December. The form will also be posted on the PAWLFP website.

Most Youth classes run during the month of July. The exact dates for each site will be posted on the PAWLFP website in early January.

Fellows interested in offering a specialty Youth writing course in the summer of 2013 should submit their idea to Director Mary Buckelew by December 15, 2012.

Spring Courses

Comprehension Connections: The Power of Comprehension Strategy Instruction, 2 - 8

Location: Bucks County IU, Doylestown

Course Number: PWP 599-01

Dates/Times: Thursdays, January 24 and 31, February 7, 21, and 28, March 14 and 21, April 4, 11, and 18, from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., Saturday, April 27, from 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., + 5.5 independent hours

(This course includes the Spring Saturday Seminar with Lynne Dorfman and Rose Cappelli, authors of *Mentor Texts*, *Nonfiction Mentor Texts*, and *Mentor Poetry: Making Reading and Writing Connections*)

Teaching reading strategies to young readers so that they use them successfully and independently is no easy task. This course will help you create conditions for a successful reading classroom in which children will develop high levels of understanding by making comprehension instruction visible and tangible. Participants will learn how to get their students to comprehend more deeply and apply strategic thinking to all texts they encounter in their literate lives.

"The wealth of resources available to us was astounding. I have such a long list of book titles that I want to try out in my classroom – all because I was able to look at them first hand. The biggest strength was the teaching staff and all they have to offer – tangible and intangible. They inspire me greatly." - Course participant

**New Course*

Reading & Writing in Content Areas: Connecting to Common Core Standards, 4 - 12

Location: PAWLP Classroom, West Chester University

Course Number: PWP 510-02

Dates: Wednesdays, January 28 - May 15

Time: 4:15 - 7:00 p.m.

21st Century educators strive to help students meet the literacy challenges within the context of each field of study. PAWLP recognizes the need to broaden this effort by creating a course for educators of grades 4 -12. Literacy across the disciplines is defined as the merging of content knowledge, experiences, and skills with the four communication areas of Language Arts including reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The ability to think critically and perform in a way that is meaningful within the context of a given field is also of great importance today. This course examines literacy practices for effectively mentoring students as readers of complex disciplinary texts that include a wider range of text genres, novels, short stories, biographies and autobiographies, textbooks, newspaper and magazine articles, internet sources, essays, technical materials, manuals and historical primary source documents.

Literacy in Bloom: Botanical Inspirations for Reading, Writing, and Learning, K - 12

Location: Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square

Course Number: PWP 510-01

Dates: Five Saturdays: February 2 and 23, March 9, April 6 and 20 (snow/make-up dates 2/9 and 4/27)

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

Spend five Saturdays at beautiful Longwood Gardens. Engage in literacy activities inspired by the natural surroundings, participate in behind-the-scenes tours by Longwood Gardens professional staff, research a topic of personal interest, and collaborate with other teachers to create nature-inspired learning experiences for your students.

"It's fabulous! Excellent, practical ideas, beautiful setting, wonderful instructors. It's a great way to correlate nature and literature." - Course participant

**New Course*

Sustainability in Practice at Longwood Gardens, K - 12 **One-credit course**

Location: Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square

Course Number: PWP 599-02

Dates/Times: Saturdays, March 23 and April 13, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. + 3 independent hours

Participants will explore Longwood Gardens through the lens of sustainability with a behind-the-scenes look at Longwood Gardens' various sustainability initiatives. Participants will read a variety of texts on sustainability while thinking and writing about the applications of the "green behind the scenes" to their own lives and to their classrooms.

Tuition and fees: On-campus course - \$1,602.15/off-campus courses - \$1,491.36

One-credit Longwood course : \$497.12

(out-of-state residents higher)

Register on-line at www.pawlp.org

Spring Literacy Events

On **March 16, 2013** - PAWLP Fellow Lesley Roessing will keynote the Spring Saturday Seminar at West Chester University. Currently the Director of the Coastal Savannah Writing Project and author of *No More "Us" and "Them": Classroom Lessons and Activities to Promote Peer Respect* and *The Write to Read: Response Journals that Increase Comprehension*, Lesley will share her expertise in increasing comprehension through Reader Response Journals.



Lesley
Roessing

On **April 27, 2013** - PAWLP Fellows Lynne Dorfman and Rose Cappelli, authors of three professional books entitled *Mentor Texts*, *Nonfiction Mentor Texts*, and *Mentor Poetry: Making Reading and Writing Connections*, will keynote the Spring Saturday Seminar in Bucks County. The theme of the day is Making Reading and Writing Connections.



Lynne
Dorfman



Rose
Cappelli

Details and registration information for both seminars can be found on-line at www.pawlp.org

Invitational Institute Dates

New configuration - 3 weeks in the summer!

West Chester Writing Institute

Spring: April 20 + May 18, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Summer: July 1 - 3, 8 - 12, and 15 - 18, 8 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Fall: Sept. 26 + Oct. 17, 5 - 8:30 p.m.

Oct. 5 + Nov. 2, 8:30 - noon

Nov. 7 - Closing ceremony at 5 p.m.

Bucks County Writing Institute

Spring: April 20 + May 11, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Summer: July 1 - 3, 8 - 12, and 15 - 18, 8 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Fall: Sept. 26, Oct. 3, 10, + 17, 5 - 8:30 p.m.

Nov. 6 - Closing ceremony at 5 p.m.

Reading and Literature Institute

Spring: April 20 + May 18, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Summer: July 1 - 3, 8 - 12, and 15 - 18, 8 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Fall: Sept. 26 + Oct. 17, 5 - 8:30 p.m.

Oct. 5 + Nov. 2, 8:30 a.m. - noon

Nov. 7 - Closing ceremony at 5 p.m.

- Apply by **December 7** to be eligible for need-based full tuition scholarships.
- Final application deadline: **April 5, 2013**
- **All applicants** are eligible for a stipend from the National Writing Project to help defer costs.

- The Institutes and most 3-credit courses apply toward the WCU Master's Degree in Writing, Teaching, and Criticism.
- The Summer 2013 course schedule will be posted on the PAWLP website by mid-December.
- For course descriptions and registration information go to www.pawlp.org, e-mail Sally Malarney at smalarney@wcupa.edu, or call **610-436-2202**.

PAWLP Authors Series

Free and open to the public

Meet PAWLP Authors and learn about their writing and publishing experiences.

Four sessions are scheduled from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. in Phillips Memorial Hall, 700 S. High Street, on the campus of West Chester University.

October 30 - Diane Dougherty, Janice Ewing, Judy Jester, and Rich Mitchell will discuss their experiences publishing in professional journals.

November 29 - Tina DeLiberato, Cecelia Evans, Don LaBranche, and Donna Searle McLay, will discuss their experiences publishing Memoir and Poetry.

March 5 - Lynne Dorfman and Rose Cappelli will discuss their experiences publishing professional texts.

April 9 - Kate Walton will discuss her experiences publishing Young Adult novels.

To register please contact Sally Malarney at smalarney@wcupa.edu or 610-436-2202.

KUDOS

Linda Cobourn, '98 WC Writing, published *Surviving College: The Adults Only Guide to the Top Ten Skills Adult Students need to Acquire Before they Return to College*.

Lesley Roessing, '02 WC Writing, '04 Reading and Literature, co-authored *No More "Us" and "Them": Classroom Lessons and Activities to Promote Peer Respect*, published in June, 2012.

Lynne Dorfman, '89 WC Writing, and **Rose Cappelli**, '96 WC Writing, co-authored *Mentor Poetry: Making Reading & Writing Connections, K - 8*, to be published by Stenhouse in November, 2012.

Pat Mosley, '08 WC Writing and coordinator of the Garnet Valley site of Young Writers/Young Readers, is also an assistant Track Coach at West Chester University.

In 2010, after not competing since high school, she decided to compete again. She joined a local track club and began competing in local Masters and Open meets.

At the 2012 USA Track & Field Masters National Championships, Pat competed in 5 throwing events and placed in all of them.

She won 3 medals (Gold in 20 Pound Weight Throw, Silver in Hammer Throw, Bronze in Discus) and 2 ribbons (4th in Shot Put and 5th in Javelin).



We enjoy keeping up with the varied accomplishments of our PAWLP Fellows.

Please contact Director, Mary Buckelew at 610-436-2998 or e-mail mbuckelew@wcupa.edu with news we can share with our PAWLP family.

~ ~ PAWLP E-JOURNAL ~ ~

Please read PAWLP's first electronic Journal by and for the Fellows of the Project at http://issuu.com/pawlp/docs/final_summer-fall_2012.

Find the link on our website at www.pawlp.org and on our Facebook page

Second Saturdays for PAWLP Fellows



Second Saturdays afford PAWLP Fellows an opportunity to stay connected with the Project.

Space and time is provided for group meetings in flexible formats such as writing groups, study groups, and/or professional book clubs.

Facilitated by Co-Directors Diane Dougherty and Janice Ewing, the group will meet from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. on **October 6, November 3 and December 1, 2012, February 9 and March 2, 2013** at the PAWLP Office.

For details contact Diane Dougherty at joseph_dougherty99@yahoo.com.

To register please call 610-436-2202 or e-mail Sally Malarney at smalarney@wcupa.edu.

News from the WCU Poetry Center

Teacher scholarships are available for the annual West Chester University Poetry Conference June 5 - 8, 2013. Contact the Poetry Center at 610-436-3235 or poetry@wcupa.edu.

All poetry readings sponsored by the Poetry Center at the University are free and open to the public.

To view the calendar of events go to

<http://www.wcupoetrycenter.com/poetry-readings>

West Chester University's Poetry Center, in special collaboration with the 92nd Street Y, the Romare Bearden Foundation, and the Schomburg Center, celebrate the artist, Romare Bearden on Monday, December 3, at 8:00 p.m. in the Kauffman Concert Hall, Lexington Avenue at 92nd Street, NYC. Elizabeth Alexander, Stanley Crouch, Kwame Dawes, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and John Edgar Wideman will read. Tickets are \$24. For details go to <http://www.92y.org>

Community Building: It's worth the effort (and the time)

- Teacher Tip by Diane Dougherty

An active classroom of learners is a beehive of activity. Not for the faint of heart or the rigid authoritarian, the active classroom environment relies on movement. It also relies on trust and the willingness of all participants (including the teacher) to take risks. This willingness does not happen by magic but must be carefully planned and nurtured throughout the school year. Starting the first day of class with an ice breaker activity is not enough effort (or time) to build a real community of readers and writers. Below I have listed a number of community building activities for use throughout the year.

CLASSROOM BINGO

Make up a bingo grid for each student. Instruct them to circulate around the room talking to their classmates. In each square students will write the name of one of their classmates and one piece of information about him/her. For example, Mrs. Dougherty – traveled to Ireland this summer. The hitch is that each time a student gives information about himself or herself, it must be something new...not I traveled to Ireland this summer but I like to cook. Teacher plays too and so can keep eyes and ears open and can determine when to call time. Students return to their seats. Teacher calls on a student to begin by picking a name on his/her grid and imparting the information about that student. Anyone else who has that student's name reads what has been written on the grid. Applause for the student whose name we now know as well as some information about him/her. Then, it's that student's turn to pick someone on his/her grid, until someone calls BINGO (though if it happens early in the game, I just continue on). I like this for an opening of school activity because it gives me opportunity to set guidelines for what is acceptable/not acceptable in my class. If students laugh (in a derogatory way) it gives me the chance to say, "I'm sorry, but in this class we don't ridicule one another." Or if someone writes something inappropriate, "I'm sorry, but in this class we don't say things like that." I know it sounds corny, but it works for me. Small prizes (a pen, a highlighter) are awarded to the winner(s) of BINGO.

WRITE TO ME

Early in the year, I like to have students write a letter to me. I usually say something like, "You've been in school now for ___ years and have had many teachers. Without naming names, describe for me what teaching practices you have found to be personally beneficial and which ones didn't work for you. I'd like to know what kind of teacher I need to be to bring out the best in you." While they write, I write a note to the students, letting them know what I expect of them. I read what I wrote to them, and I collect their letters and read them privately. This is time well spent. I make notes in my running records to help me to remember things like, "Jay doesn't like to read aloud if he hasn't had time to prepare first."

WHO ARE YOU

Ask students to write a diamond poem about themselves following the pattern below:

Line 1: a noun or pronoun

Line 2: two adjectives describing the work on line 1

Line 3: three action verbs

Line 4: an adjective, noun, verb, and adverb (in any order)

Line 5: a prepositional phrase of three words

Line 6: an adjective and a noun

Line 7: an adjective

This activity is great for many reasons. It gives you the chance to do a grammar review on parts of speech which is firmly planted in the context of writing. If you take students' photos while they are writing their poems, you have an instant bulletin board for back to school night. You also get to know your students better and if you write one also, they get to know you better too.

SPINNING WHEEL OF WRITING PARTNERS

This idea is from Notes Plus a long, long time ago. I've used it with success over the years. Cut a large outer circle and a smaller inner circle out of two different colors of construction paper. Place the smaller circle on top of the larger and draw half as many lines radiating out from the center as there are students in the class. Write the names of half the class along the lines in the center circle and the names of the other half along the lines in the outer circle. Use a brad fastener in the center to permit the inner wheel to turn while the outer one (which I attach to the bulletin board) remains stationary. By using the wheel to determine partner pairings for writing responses (or sometimes for writing collaboration), I give students the chance to work with at least half the class. In practicing writing and revising in pairs, students are exposed to different ideas and different writing styles.

These are just a few tried and true strategies for community building that have served me well. You may have other even better ones. My charge to you is to use them. In today's "testing is everything" environment, let's try to remember that the students in our classrooms need us to show the way.

Happy fall!



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The PA Writing & Literature Project *Newsletter* is published twice a year by and for those affiliated with the Project. Submissions are always welcome and can be mailed to the PA Writing & Literature Project, West Chester University, West Chester, PA, 19383 or e-mailed to amascherino@wcupa.edu.

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