

The PA Writing & Literature Project Newsletter



Volume 31, Number 2 Winter, 2011

INVITATIONAL SUMMER INSTITUTES

Writing Institute

The Writing Institute is a time to write...

Four weeks of writing on topics that matter to you. A summer Institute affords teachers the luxury of time to create personal pieces that matter. In a community of fellow writers who draft daily, confer, and push each other, you can become the writer you've always dreamed of being.

"My personal efficacy will increase because of my bolstered identity as a writer. I tried my hand at crafts other than analytical writing. I experienced a multi-genre piece, opened up to my journal, revisited my past, mused about my future, and reflected on the present. I am a writer." - Jaki Gruber, Great Valley H.S.

The Writing Institute is a time to collaborate with colleagues...

Four weeks of demonstration lessons, teaching ideas, and reading. Writing Institute participants read extensively and reflect on teaching practices that affect classroom work. It is through teacher demonstration lessons that participants learn new strategies and discuss ways to become the teacher of writing they've always dreamed of being.

"I have been gifted with a wealth of ideas: organizational strategies, skill building techniques, and ways to help my students recognize their own writing processes. I will return to my classroom this year with a sparked passion for writing that will in turn spark the writer in my students." -Sue Dering, Springside/Chestnut Hill Academy

- by Brenda Krupp, '93 WC Writing



Reading and Literature Institute

The Reading and Literature Institute is a time to read...

Discover yourself as a reader. The Institute is the opportunity to discover your reading process. In daily reading workshop, you will read genres of your choosing, reflect on your reading, and share reading with your colleagues. We believe your "readerly life" will change as a result.

"On reflecting upon myself as a reader, I came to realize it was time to move out of my comfort zone and challenge myself as a reader." -Karen Trahey, Phoenixville Area SD

The Reading and Literature Institute is a time to collaborate with colleagues...

Memorable experiences of working with colleagues, planning projects, demonstration lessons, and researching topics of your choice. The Reading and Literature Institute provides multiple opportunities to work with grade level groups as well as cross-content groups to explore best practice in teaching literature and reading.

"PAWLP brings out the best in me as a teacher, a thinker, and a learner. Throughout the past month, we have participated in various learning groups. There were pedagogical groups where we met with teachers from our same grade level, paired text groups which included teachers from elementary, middle, and high school, author study groups, and our final collaborative project where all the Institute members worked together." -Linda Kerschner, Tredyffrin-Easttown SD

- by Diane Dougherty, '89 WC Writing, '94 Reading & Lit.



The Summer Institutes:

...breathe in, breathe out... discover the writer, reader, and teacher you want to be this summer.



PAWLP
Community, Connections, & Collaboration

A Note from Mary

Dear PAWLP Fellows and Friends,

At the most recent **Second Saturday**, I found myself at the PA Writing and Literature Project (PAWLP) offices at 9:00 a.m. welcoming PAWLP teachers to the series that Diane Dougherty organizes and facilitates. On the **Second Saturday** of each month, PAWLP Fellows convene to write, read, present, confer, and eat! As I listened to Janice Ewing's brilliant gem of a poem and to Brenda Krupp and Rich Mitchell's earnest discussion regarding the educational landscape – I felt privileged to be in such a passionate and talented community of writers and educators. I mused ~ It doesn't get much better than this, and then the office doorbell rang – Mike Lobiondo's Teen Writing group had arrived. Under Mike's guidance, four earnest and enthusiastic teen writers spent three hours sharing their work with each other and Mike. As I sat and listened to the rhythm and cadence of the writers in the various rooms of the Project, I thought again – It really doesn't get much better than this.

And then, on November 17th and 18th, I attended the National Writing Project (NWP) Conference in Chicago with Judy Jester, Linda Kerschner, Patty Koller, Brenda Krupp, and Rich Mitchell. We joined our NWP colleagues from across the country to share myriad ideas on the teaching of writing, the Common Core, and to strategize on how to sustain our sites in the face of funding cuts. The support, collaboration, and NWP community infused us with hope and optimism for the future.

Because of this amazing synergy, this remarkable community that is both NWP and PAWLP, we are able to continue our usual favorite activities and to share some exciting new initiatives for the upcoming year. Below are just a few of the highlights that sustain our community and further our mission to enhance and improve the literacy lives of our students and community.

On September 10th, we launched the first **Saturday Seminar!** More than 80 attendees at West Chester University enjoyed Dr. Lynne Dorfman and Rose Cappelli's inspiring keynote, the exciting break-out sessions, and the range of books provided by Michaels Associates. The next Saturday Seminar scheduled for March 10, 2012 features Harry Noden, author of *Image Grammar*.

On October 13th, PAWLP Fellow, Carrie Hagen, kicked off the new **PAWLP Author Series** at West Chester University with a reading from her book, *We is Got Him*. Carrie kept the audience riveted with her reading, discussion of research, and her publishing odyssey. Check our website for the next PAWLP author event.

PAWLP is still hosting full-day educational **PAWLP DAY** events! Steven Layne wowed the audience at the Bucks County Intermediate Unit on November 5th as he shared strategies from his book, *Igniting a Passion for Reading*. Read more about this and other PAWLP days in the *Newsletter*.

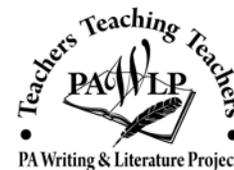
While we carefully and deliberately plan many PAWLP events and activities, there are those organic occurrences that gain their own momentum and grow long after the Summer Institute is over. Formal and informal writing groups are just one example of the strength of the PAWLP community. From novels to memoir, you can be sure the air is abuzz with the melodious words of PAWLP Fellows and friends at the Goggleworks in Reading, PA or at the Chester County Book and Music Store where PAWLP Fellows from a variety of Institutes convene to write, confer, and break bread together.

Thank you one and all for your commitment to sharing your joy and expertise with others. It is a privilege and a pleasure to be a part of such a dynamic, dedicated, and passionate group of educators.

Please check our website (www.pawlp.org) for opportunities and professional development workshops -- and if you don't find what you are looking for - please contact us with your ideas.

It promises to be an exciting year!

Sincerely,
Mary Buckelew



Spring Courses

Strategies for Teaching Literature, 4 - 12

Location: PAWLP Classroom, West Chester University

Course Number: PWP 520-01

Dates: Tuesdays, January 24 - May 1

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

Coordinators: Diane Dougherty and Debbie Dinsmore

The experience of reading literature is central to designing experiences for teaching literature. To this end, teachers will read a variety of current and canonical literature and explore pertinent theory and pedagogy in light of these texts and their own teaching. In this course, participants will discover their own processes as readers, share lessons in literary elements, apply PA Standards and Assessments to curriculum, discuss and apply current theory as it applies to their classrooms, and design and experience writing activities about and inspired by literature.

"The strength of this course is the plethora of strategies provided. All are usable, realistic, and standard-based, but creative, too! You will learn enough to fill your plan book for the entire year." - Course participant

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

Location: Bucks County IU, Doylestown

Course Number: PWP 599-01

Dates/Times: Three Wednesdays, February 22, March 7, and April 4, from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Friday, March 23, from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday/Sunday, March 24 and 25, from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 28, from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (This course includes the Spring Conference with Ellin Keene)

plus 6 independent hours

Coordinators: Chris Kehan and Angela Watters

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

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: Jan. 21, Feb. 4 + 25, March 17, April 14 (snow/make-up dates 3/3 and 4/21)

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

Coordinator: Patty Koller

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

Travel to Italy with PAWLP Fellows and Friends! Making Connections: Ekphrasis, Travel Writing, and Mystery Writing

May 21 - June 2, 2012

Course Number: PWP 513-01

Graduate credit/Act 48 hours available. Participants may join the trip without taking the course for credit.

Information: Mary Buckelew at mbuckelew@wcupa.edu or 610-436-2998

Tuition and fees: On-campus course - \$1,510.77/off-campus courses - \$1,446.00
(out-of-state residents higher)

Register on-line at www.pawlp.org

Spring Literacy Events



Harry Noden

On **March 10, 2012**, Harry Noden, author of *Image Grammar*, will keynote the spring Saturday Seminar at Sykes Student Union Building on the campus of West Chester University. Harry and several PAWLP teacher-consultants will also present breakout sessions designed to explore ways to teach grammar in context. The event, scheduled from 8:00 a.m. - 12:35 p.m., will also feature presentations by teachers involved in the teacher-inquiry class and the NWP Makers grant.

Ellin Keene, author of *Comprehension Going Forward*, *To Understand*, and *Mosaic of Thought*, will keynote the Spring Conference at Mill Creek Elementary School in Bucks County on **April 28, 2012**.

This event, which runs from 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., will also feature breakout sessions with PAWLP teacher-consultants. A light breakfast and lunch are included. The theme of the day is *To Understand our Readers and Writers*.



Ellin Keene

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

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-Director Diane Dougherty, the group will meet from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. on **January 14, March 10, April 14, and May 12** 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.

PAWLP Authors Series

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

Four sessions are scheduled from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. in the Sykes Student Union Building, 110 W. Rosedale Avenue, on the campus of West Chester University.

January 26 - Tony Rotondo, author of *Scratch Where it Itches*, *Confessions of a Public School Teacher*.

February 23 - Kate Walton, author of the new contemporary YA novel *CRACKED*.

March 22 - Diane Dougherty, Janice Ewing, Judy Jester, and Rich Mitchell will discuss their experiences publishing in professional journals.

April 26 - Maria Banks, co-author of *PLCs, DI, & RTI: A Tapestry for School Change* and **Mary Buckelew** and **Andrea Fishman**, co-authors of *Reaching and Teaching Diverse Populations: Strategies for Moving Beyond Stereotypes*.

To register please contact Sally Malarney at smalarney@wcupa.edu or 610-436-2202. There is no charge for these events.

~~ Save the date: **September 8, 2012** ~~
Jolene Borgese, co-author of *Revision Strategies for Adolescent Writers*, *Moving Students in the Write Direction*, will keynote the fall Saturday Seminar at WCU.

Summer Schedule

Invitational Summer Institutes

Writing Institutes
Two locations!
Graduate Business Center, WCU
Doylestown area, Bucks County

Six graduate credits
from West Chester University
June 21 - 22 + 25 - 28 and
July 2 - 3, 9 - 12, + 16 - 19 (16 days)
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Reading and Literature
Institute
Graduate Business Center,
WCU

Call 610-436-2202 or e-mail smalarney@wcupa.edu
for an Institute application packet and information on stipends and scholarships

At WCU Graduate Business Center

Manage a Writing/Reading Classroom, K - 8 June 25 - 29
Teacher as Writer, K - 12 July 5, 6, and 9 - 13
Teacher as Writer II, K - 12 July 16 - 20 and 23, 24
Strategies for Teaching Writing, 4 - 12 July 16 - 20
Popular Mechanics, 4 - 12 July 23 - 27
Growing Readers, K - 5 July 23 - 27
Writing and Children's Literature:
Creating Successful Writers with Mentor Texts, K - 8 July 30 - Aug. 3
Reading and Writing in Digital Spaces, 5 - 12 July 30 - Aug. 3
Content Literacy:
Strategies for Implementing the Common Core Standards (1 credit) July 9 - 10

Bucks County IU, Doylestown

Writing Essentials, 1 - 8 July 9 - 13
Moving Writing into the 21st Century:
Integrating Technology and Language Arts, 3 - 8 July 23 - 27
Reading Essentials, 2 - 8 August 6 - 10
The Writers Notebook: A Tool to Empower Writers, 2 - 10 August 13 - 14
 (Summer/Fall course. Additional dates: Sept. 6 + 20, Oct. 4 + 25, and Nov. 8 + 29/5 - 9 p.m.)

At Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square

Literacy in Bloom:
Botanical Inspirations for Reading, Writing, and Learning, K - 12 June 25 - 29
 with introductory meeting June 7, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Nature as Inspiration for Reading and Writing:
Partnering with Children, K - 2 (1 credit) July 16 - 17

At the James A. Michener Art Museum, Doylestown

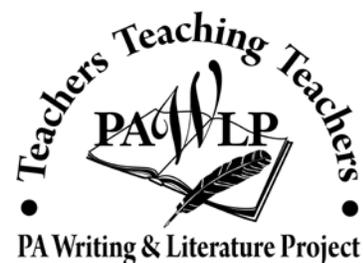
Visualizing Words and Worlds: Writing, Literature, and Art, K - 12 July 23 - 27
 with introductory meeting date TBD

At the Brandywine River Museum, Chadds Ford

Visualizing Words and Worlds: Writing, Literature and Art, K - 12 August 6 - 10
 with introductory meeting on June 27, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

The Summer Institutes and most
3-credit courses apply toward the WCU Master's
Degree in Writing, Teaching, and Criticism.

For course descriptions and registration information
visit our website at www.pawlp.org
e-mail Sally Malarney at smalarney@wcupa.edu
or call 610-436-2202.



Igniting a Passion at the PAWLP Day

Dr. Steven Layne certainly ignited a passion for reading in all who attended the Bucks Fall PAWLP Day at the Bucks County Intermediate Unit on November 5th. His humorous, lively, and entertaining presentation provided all attendees with practical strategies (“not activities”) that they could take back to their classrooms and use with their students to get them excited about reading.



Steven Layne

Steven Layne opened the day with the quotation, “It should be the teacher’s aim to give every child a love of reading, a hunger for it that will stay with him through all the years of his life.” (Mayne, 1915) The strategies he shared will help teachers do just that, from his Hot Read to how to preview a book properly and thoroughly. Previewing will “get kids out of park and get them to jump start their thinking.” He implores that teachers, as readers, should be reading what their students are reading - not just reading what is in the anthology. Many of the ideas he shared can be found in his book, *Igniting a Passion for Reading: Successful Strategies for Building Lifetime Readers*. It was a pleasure to hear his passion for reading and teaching come out loud and clear.

- by Chris Kehan '95 Bucks Writing, '07 Lit
Bucks Conference Committee



PAWLP MAKES GRANT

PAWLP is currently involved with an exciting NWP initiative that explores making and writing. There are several \$100 grants still available if you would like to join the PAWLP Fellows who are exploring the connection between making and writing with their students.

Contact Patty Koller at pkoller@dasd.org to find out more.

Young Writer News

Our Young Writer/Young Reader Program successfully completed 27 years this summer. Nearly 1,000 students across the five counties of Chester, Delaware, Bucks, Berks and Montgomery plus West Deptford, New Jersey participated in the program. One new site was added in the Daniel Boone School District.

In addition to our Young Writer/Young Reader classes, many specialty courses were designed by teachers. These included science fiction, poetry, satire and parody, African American Authors, writing and the arts, nature writing, and historical fiction.

Clad in this summer’s t-shirt of pale yellow, students at the West Chester University site met at a new drop-off point with its own parking, free from the risk of ticketing. It was a much safer area with a walk that led directly to Anderson Hall where the classes met. We received many positive comments from both parents and teachers about this change.

We are proud to say that three very prominent authors presented to our children. Kathleen Van Cleve, author of *Drizzle*, presented at sites during the first two weeks. She talked leisurely with the children about her process of writing. Eric Wight, author of the *Frankie Pickle* books, returned to present at some sites not visited by him last summer. He is always well received as he both writes and illustrates. Robin Moore, a storyteller as well as author, helped us during the second session. He told some stories and had the children try on costumes to get them thinking in storytelling mode. All three presenters managed to leave the students with writing ideas, which they pursued once they returned to their classrooms. All received rave reviews from the children.

This was an exciting summer full of writing, thanks to our expert teachers and enthusiastic writers. The anthologies are phenomenal. In addition, we had a group of very supportive parents, hardworking site-coordinators, on-site aides, and an excellent, behind-the-scenes, office staff. It is said that “it takes a village” and I do believe that the Young Writer/Young Reader Program has the perfect mix to make that village successful.

We are gearing up for the 2012 summer program, and will soon begin to proof the brochure and flyers. We are excited to have a new writing site at Valley Forge Park next summer. Please look for our new brochure/flyers to arrive after the holidays, and help us by talking up the program in your own district or wherever else you can.

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

KUDOS

The following PAWLP Fellows have recently become published authors:

Maria Banks, '95 Bucks Writing, co-authored *PLCs, DI, & RTI: A Tapestry for School Change*, published by Corwin Press.

Jolene Borgese, '80 WC Writing, co-authored *Revision Strategies for Adolescent Writers*, published by Corwin Press.

Linda Kerschner, '98 WC Writing, '09 Lit, self-published a children's book entitled *Pizza Friday*.

Gaetan Pappalardo, '07 WC Writing, digitally published a children's book entitled *Louie Licks and the Wicked Snakes*.

Fiona Paterna, '09 WC Writing, had an article entitled "Unnecessary Necessities" published in the September issue of *South Jersey Mom* magazine.

We enjoy keeping up with the professional 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.

Education Matters: A New Online Resource for Teachers

Twenty years ago, in the fall of 1991, Michaels Associates began a newsletter entitled "**Education Matters.**" As the masthead read it was "**A Newsletter for teachers and other friends of children. Published on an occasional basis by Michaels Associates.**" The occasions grew farther apart due to a growing and busy company with limited human resources.

Flash forward a few years. Former PAWLP director Andy Fishman helped revive the concept by offering to partner with Michaels Associates on a few different levels. Part of our company's contribution was to be a column in the PAWLP newsletter which we, of course, titled **Education Matters**. We found that almost all of our author friends were willing to write as guest columnists over the years. Contributors to the **Education Matters** column have included Donald Graves, Lucy Calkins, Regie Routman, Ralph Fletcher, Barry Lane, and many, many others.

We are privileged to have the relationship that we do with the Project. We hope that this column will continue for many years, but we are about to expand the name in a way that will interest you whether you are a teacher,

administrator, literacy coach, or any other "friend of children."

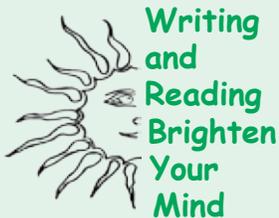
WWW.K12EDUCATIONMATTERS.ORG will have debuted by the time you receive this *Newsletter*. In a sense, it will never be complete because it will contain new information you can use on a daily basis. It's a huge undertaking, but we hope you'll take a peek at its infant stage and stay with us as we grow.

There will be links to other leading education blogs, newsletters, author websites, professional association websites, education pages of newspapers, LEA and SEA websites, original content, and author interviews on video. You see, the author friends are still excited about contributing, but the preferred method is now internet video. Video interviews with J. Richard Gentry and Pam Allyn have already been created and an interview with Richard Allington is scheduled and may be online by the time you read this. If you like what you see and hear, please "Like" us and tell your colleagues.

We also hope you'll see fit to make it your homepage. From www.k12educationmatters.org you can get to pretty much anywhere you'd like to go on the internet as it relates to the professional educator.

Cordially,
Greg Michaels

YW/YR Teacher Applications for Summer, 2012



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

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

If you are interested in teaching Young Writers/Young Readers and want an application form, please contact Toni Kershaw at 610-436-3089 or tkershaw@wcupa.edu.



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West Chester, PA 19383

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Teresa Moslak and Chris Kehan, Summer Courses
Karen Pawlewicz, Summer Youth Programs
Vicki Steinberg, High School and
In-Service Development

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