

Upcoming Events

JULY

- 1 First Saturdays
5–28 Summer Institute for Teachers
8 Saturday Wildflower Walking/
Writing Tour at Raccoon State
Park: a rural continuity event.
Act 48. 10 a.m.–1p.m.
10–21 Young Writer's Institute



Western Pennsylvania Writing Project
Department of English
University of Pittsburgh
526 Cathedral of Learning
Pittsburgh, PA 15260



The Bulletin is a publication
of the Western Pennsylvania
Writing Project

526 Cathedral of Learning
Department of English
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Phone: 412.624.6557
Fax: 412.624.7766
Email: wpwp+@pitt.edu
Web: www.wpawritingproject.org

WPWP Staff:

Management Team:

Nancy Addy, Co-Director
Don Bialostosky, Co-Director
Cindy Biery, Co-Director
Paul Kameen, Co-Director
Carolyn Luck, Managing Director

Project Administrator:
Connie Sowinski

*School-Based
Professional Development:*
Jerry Halpern, Coordinator
John Davis, Specialist
Mary Guzowski, Specialist

*School-Based
Summer Writing Camps*
Beth Voltz, Coordinator

Summer Institute:
Don Bialostosky, Co-Director
Cj Coleman, Co-Director

Young Writers Programs:
Mary Lou Ellena-Wygonik, Coordinator

Continuity Coordinators:
Melissa Butler, Teachers Inquire
Jennifer Ernsthansen, Teachers Celebrate
Susan Gradeck, Teachers Write
Lucy Ware, Teachers Learn

Technology:
Kathy Gensure, NWP Technology Liaison
Eleanor Williams, Consultant

State Writing Project Network Liaison:
Carolyn Klug

The Bulletin & Website Editor:
Ian Finch (iefinch@yahoo.com)

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The Bulletin

MAY 2006

WP Selected for Monograph Series

The WPWP has been selected to contribute to the NWP at Work monograph series. The NWP site describes the series as a collection of publications documenting “how the National Writing Project model is developed and implemented at local sites across the country.... Each National Writing Project at Work monograph provides a developmental picture of a local program from the initial idea through planning, implementation, and refinement over time. Written by writing project teachers and site directors, the monographs are a ‘good read,’ honest and full of practical information....

“The programs described are inspired by the mission and vision of NWP and illustrate the local creativity and responsiveness of individual writing project sites. Each piece gives a window into the complexity of needs and interests of teachers, and into the challenges of designing rel-

evant professional development that supports teachers’ efforts to improve learning for all students, especially underserved students in urban and rural schools.”

The WPWP monograph will be co-authored by Marnie Arnold and Lynn Marsico. Marnie is a teacher in the Avonworth school district. She co-directed the 2005 SIT. She is a 2003 Fellow and currently serves on Fellows Council. Marnie was also one of four facilitators of the 2005 Strategic Planning Process. Lynn Marisco teaches at Rogers CAPA Middle School in Pittsburgh. A 1991 Fellow, Lynn has directed the Oakland elementary YWI. She is also active in the Teacher Inquiry Continuity Group and was involved with the 2000 Strategic Planning Process. Lynn and Marnie will travel to two NWP writing retreats and complete their monograph in the next year.

(cont.)

We are honored to be invited to contribute to this series and to be represented by Lynn and Marnie. To learn more about NWP monograph series, visit the Publications section at www.writingproject.org.

Don Bialostosky

This year Don Bialostosky will be co-directing his first Summer Institute, and he is pleased to be joining the management team of the WPWP and the co-direction team of the SIT in the third year of his teaching in the English department at Pitt. He was a fellow in last year's SIT and enjoyed very much writing kinds of compositions he hasn't written for a long time and working closely with his fellow fellows. He has focused his career on the teaching of reading and writing and is happy to be at Pitt where he can pursue both interests. He's taught freshman writing and "Introduction to Critical Reading" here as well as courses on Wordsworth, rhetoric, and literary criticism. He was department head of English at Penn State before he moved to Pitt. Don is impressed by the power of the SIT to engage teachers in writing and inquiry and by the continuing energy and initiative of the active fellows in the Project. Having just finished interviewing candidates for this summer's SIT, he looks forward to working with a great batch of new recruits and to continuing to get to know the fellows who are making the program flourish.

Summer Camps

Beth Voltz had this to say about the new Eden Hall Foundation grant and how it will be used to fund two youth writing camps in July:

"I'm very excited about the possibilities that this pilot project can become for WPWP. We will be pilot-

ing summer camps for young writers in two districts, Wilksburg and Riverview. In both of these districts we will combine professional development with teacher inquiry and at the same time provide a summer camp for Young Writers in these districts. This is a very unique program because the teachers involved in this pilot will design a camp that is tailor made to meet the specific needs of the young writers and teachers within the school district while utilizing the NWP philosophy of teaching writing.

"Hopefully after this summer these school districts will be able to continue this mission through after-school writing programs for students and parents, summer writing camps for students and ongoing professional development for teachers.

"Currently in both of these districts, the professional staff is being hired for each camp and we are in the process of planning the Professional Development piece."

Announcements

WPWP Annual Summer Potluck Dinner and Fellows Reunion

Thursday, July 20, 5–8 p.m.

Please join us at the home of Don Bialostosky, 1126 Heberton in Highland Park to reconnect with friends and colleagues and to welcome Fellows of the 2006 Summer Institute. Bring a dish to share and a piece of writing for the read-around. No need to RSVP, but please come.

Contact the WPWP office if you need further directions or information at 412.624.6557 or wpwp@pitt.edu.

Directions to Don's house:

From Oakland: take Fifth Avenue east toward Shady-side. Turn left onto Highland (stoplight after Chatham College). Proceed on Highland through East Liberty, past Home Depot, Peabody High School and the stop light at Stanton. Turn right onto Hampton. Go up the hill and turn left onto Heberton. The house is on the right in the middle of the block. It's large and white with black trim.

From the North: from the Highland Park Bridge, exit from the right lane and turn left at the first light (at the zoo marquis). From the 62nd Street Bridge, turn left at the light onto Butler Street. Turn right at the first light past the zoo entrance (past the Exxon station and the Tastee Freeze). From either bridge, take the zoo road up the hill turning right at the right-turn-keep-moving stop sign at the green zoo mural and left at the next street (Bunkerhill). Turn Right onto North Highland and continue to Bryant. Turn left onto Bryant, one block past the first stop sign. Go up the hill and turn right onto Heberton. The house is on the left in the middle of the block. It's large and white with black trim. Don's phone is 412.363.7764.

Fellows Forum: An Invitation

WPWP is trying to better serve and better involve Fellows in our eight-county radius. Time and geographic challenges may prevent your participation in many WPWP opportunities. As an effort to extend our focus, please use the Fellows Forum e-mail service to let us know how best we can involve you, and support or feature your work.

Fellows Forum is informal. Please feel free to quickly communicate your thoughts, comments, questions, concerns, and/or requests. Your communication will be used as formative input for WP direction, so we can bring your ideas to Fellows Council to refine our

scope of service and communication. We hope Fellows Forum will establish a simple mechanism for developing an ongoing awareness of the "pulse" of our fellow membership, thereby strengthening our community as fellows. The following questions provide an opportunity for you to share your thoughts with us:

1. How could the WPWP help you with your practice?
2. What would you like us to know about your work?
3. What else?

Please e-mail Cindy Biery, WPWP Co-Director, at cbiery@mtlsd.net with your Fellows Forum comments.

Rural Writing Activities

Pam McCune, SIT 2004, is initiating "Second Saturdays": rural continuity activities at Raccoon Creek State Park in Hookstown on July 8 and August 12. July 8 will be a wildflower walking/writing tour with a park naturalist and a WPWP writing facilitator. August 12 will be a writing tour of historic Mineral Springs with a historian and a writing facilitator. Both will be held from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Act 48 CPE hours will be offered for both free activities. Watch your mail for more information. Call or email WPWP to register.

First Saturdays

"First Saturdays" at Tazza D'Oro is a great way to meet with other fellows in a casual, relaxed atmosphere and do what we long to do, but never have the time... WRITE! For more information, contact Susan Gradeck at: sgradeck1@pghboe.net.