



PAWLP BEGINS 25TH YEAR!

Notice the volume number at the top of this *Newsletter*. Fall, 2004, marks the beginning of the Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project's 25th year providing best-practice professional development for teachers in southeastern Pennsylvania. Not only does this make PAWLP one of the truly veteran sites of the National Writing Project, but we've become one of the largest as well.

In 1980, Bob Weiss, a West Chester University English professor, founded the Project. He worked with one codirector and a committee of five teachers who produced a bi-monthly *Newsletter*. The first summer Writing Institute produced our first 21 Fellows.

Twenty-five years later, Andrea Fishman, the Project's second director, works with associate director Mary Buckelew, ten codirectors, seven assistant directors, and four full-time professional staff members. PAWLP now has 894 Fellows.

This growth in Fellow numbers and their continued Project participation has allowed our summer program to include two Writing Institutes and one Literature Institute annually. In addition, in 2004, 14 three-credit courses and 10 one-credit courses ran in West Chester and Doylestown, at the Michener and Brandywine Museums, and even in Taos, Sante Fe, and Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Our active Fellows facilitate Young Writers/Young Readers, too, which has grown from its original, 1984 West Chester University location to include sites in 16 districts in six counties.

We hope the Fellows and friends of the Project will help celebrate our birthday on June 28, 2005 at our special anniversary banquet (with a speaker whose name can't be revealed just yet at his request). And we hope new friends will join us for our sixth annual Celebrate Literacy! Conference on June 28 and 29 when Regie Routman will be our keynote speaker.

So mark your calendars: Celebrate Literacy – and PAWLP – on June 28 and 29, 2005.

GARNET VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT SENDS 10 TEACHERS TO WEST CHESTER WRITING INSTITUTE



"The Writing Institute was by far the most meaningful professional development program I've ever been involved in."
– Cathie Cooper, participant

"Garnet Valley will benefit immensely from the enthusiasm and wisdom these teachers bring back to their classrooms and faculty rooms. Nothing has ever influenced my own thinking about teaching as much as my decades old experience as a Fellow. I am certain that the new Garnet Valley Fellows will share that perspective many years from now."

– Barbara Giorgio,
Language Arts & Staff Development Supervisor

Pictured above are the ten West Chester Writing Institute participants from Garnet Valley School District with the shirts presented to them by their superintendent, Dr. Anthony Costello, at a luncheon celebrating their induction as Fellows of the Project. (They will be wearing these shirts on the first day of school!)

PAWLP IS AN APPROVED STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

FROM THE DIRECTOR ANDREA FISHMAN

What a summer this has been for PAWLP. More than 200 teachers enrolled in 14 three-credit graduate courses – a new Project record.

What accounts for this increased graduate enrollment? If my summer email and phone conversations are any indication, the new master's program motivated many of these new PAWLP participants. Not a summer week went by without hearing from teachers interested in the new MA degree. Because I have heard so many frequently asked questions, this month's *Newsletter* seems a good place to answer them for more than one person at a time.

FAQ #1: What are the requirements for the new MA in English?

This is a 36-credit degree. It requires only three specific courses, one in each of its named categories – Writing, Teaching, and Criticism (literature). The writing course is ENG 506: Critical Pedagogies and Literacies. The teaching course is PWP 502: Teachers as Writers. And the Criticism course is ENG 501: Literary Theory.

There are also three categorical requirements: one additional course in Writing, one in Teaching, and one in Literature. Which specific courses fill these requirements? Any course offered by the English Department or the Project that fits each category meets each need. Participants choose.

There are five entirely free electives too. Any writing, teaching, or literature courses can fill these five

spaces without concern for categorical balance. In other words, a participant interested in literature may choose to take five literature courses as electives. A participant who wants a combination of literature and writing may take two of one, three of the other. A participant interested in the intersection of teaching with writing and/or literature may take some other combination. As long as the electives are English Department and/or PAWLP courses, they are truly elective.

The final requirement is a capstone research seminar (ENG 616). While this course is required, the research topic and method are up to the participant. Classroom research, community research, case studies, traditional literature research – all of these are possible. The seminar creates a community of researchers, each doing work of interest to themselves.

FAQ #2: How do I enroll in the program?

Go to the Office of Graduate Studies on campus or the WCU website (www.wcupa.edu). All master's programs have a common application form and process, and all go through this office.

FAQ #3: What tests do I need to take?

None.

FAQ #4: If I've already taken PAWLP courses, will they count toward the degree?

Three-credit courses with numbers other than 599 count toward the degree. One-credit courses do not. Institutes, which carry six credits, also count.

FAQ #5: Are elementary teachers eligible for this degree?

Absolutely. Any elementary teacher interested in reading and writing will find this degree both personally and professionally useful. In fact, I've spoken with two district superintendents who questioned its appropriateness for third-grade teachers in their respective districts. After I explained how this program enhances not only the teaching of reading and writing but the reading and writing skills of the teachers themselves, these superintendents were happy to approve the new MA for their staffs.

If you have additional questions, please call me (610-436-3475). I'll be delighted to answer questions, address concerns, and especially to welcome you as a participant in our new adventure, the English MA in Writing, Teaching, and Criticism.

* * * * *

Advanced Institute in Expository Reading (and Writing)

As part of the National Reading Initiative, PAWLP is conducting an Advanced Institute for members of its leadership team. This Institute, funded by the National Writing Project through a Carnegie Foundation grant, will help the Project prepare new professional development opportunities focused on understanding reading comprehension and its connection to writing. Watch this space for new programs for teachers of grades K-12 in all content areas beginning in 2005.

PAWL P's FALL LINE-UP

Three-credit courses

Nonfiction Reading and Writing in the K-6 Classroom

At West Chester University, Tuesdays, Sept. 28 - Nov. 30 (no class Nov. 2) from 4:30 - 7:45 and Saturday, Nov. 6 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Includes PAWL P Day)
Coordinators: Lynne Dorfman and Chris Coyne-Kehan

At Mill Creek Elementary, Central Bucks SD, Tuesdays, Sept. 21 - Nov. 30 (no class Nov. 2 or 23) from 4:30 - 7:45 and Saturday, Oct. 16 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (includes PAWL P Day)
Coordinators: Kristin Simon and Angela Watters

PA Literacy Framework

Year-long course begins September 28 from 3:45 - 6:45 p.m. in the Avon Grove SD
Coordinator: Marian Dugan

Literature Seminar in Nonfiction

Tuesdays September 14 - Nov. 30 (no class Nov. 9) from 4:15 - 7:15 at Reidenbaugh Elementary, Manheim Township SD
Coordinator: Vicki Steinberg

Teacher as Writer

Mondays beginning August 30 from 4:00 - 7:00 at West Chester University
Coordinator: Judy Jester

Bucks County Writing Institute Fall Follow-thru

Sept. 29, Oct. 13 & 27, Nov. 10 & 17, Dec. 1
5:00 - 8:00 at the BCIU
Coordinators: Hilde McGeehan and Shari Stem

West Chester Writing and Literature Institutes

Fall Follow-thru

Saturdays from 9:00 am-noon beginning September 18
Lit & Writing combined
Coordinators: Diane Dougherty and Brenda Krupp
All Fellows who have never taken a Fall Follow-thru are welcome

For registration information please call 610-436-2297

PAWL P Days

The ABC's of Reading and Writing Strategies

October 16, 2004
Mill Creek Elementary School,
Central Bucks SD
8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Keynote: Peter Catalanotto

Breakout sessions include:

- ◆ Alphabet Books Take on a New Look
- ◆ Books to Use With Your Readers and Writers
- ◆ Comprehension Strategies that Make You Stop and Think
- ◆ Dabble in Reading & Writing Nonfiction
- ◆ Etc.

Reading and Writing Standards-Based Classrooms: Now That I've Decided to Workshop...What Next?

November 6, 2004
Chester County Intermediate Unit
Boot Road, Downingtown
8:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Keynote: Illustrator Floyd Cooper

Breakout sessions with:

Mary Buckelew, Brenda Krupp, Diane Dougherty, Patty Koller, Maria Banks, Chris Coyne-Kehan, Ann Finore, Sue Ferber, Ellen Mager, and Rita DiCarne

\$10 registration fee at the door

To register please call 610-436-2202 or e-mail amascher@wcupa.edu

CELEBRATE LITERACY KEYNOTES WOW AUDIENCE

"Before there is a notebook there has to be a life." –Katie Wood Ray

Katie Wood Ray explained the value of writers' notebooks to over 225 teachers and administrators attending PAWLP's 5th annual Celebrate Literacy! Conference in June. Ray emphasized the fact that students and teachers don't need glamorous lives in order to be writers. They simply need to pay attention to the lives they have and record that in their notebooks.

A writerly life, according to Ray, includes regular, sustained time for writing and the expectation that finished pieces will be read by real readers. A writer's notebook can

support such a writing life in four ways. It provides impetus for random gathering of ideas with the sense of possibility; a place for gathering specific ideas for a present project; space to plan; and the freedom to try things out.

To help students understand where ideas for notebook entries come from, Ray suggested teaching them how to listen to their own thinking as well as eavesdrop on the world around them. They can also learn to be better observers, for writers are people who notice things that other people walk right by. This means teachers should encourage students to take risks and experience things in new ways.

In many ways, Ray concluded, keeping a notebook is an act of faith which reinforces itself over time - as her writerly life proves.

Thanks to Greg Michaels of Michaels Associates for assisting us in bringing Katie Wood Ray to the Celebrate Literacy Conference, and thanks to Dr. Katie Wood Ray for an inspiring address.

* * * * *

Sue Mowery began her keynote address by quoting Ralph Fletcher: *"The writing you get out of your students can only be as good as the classroom literature that surrounds it."* Sue reminded us of the power of touchstone texts as mentors for students as they develop their writing skills. She explained how mentor texts provide multiple opportunities to meet standards in their writing, reading, speaking, and listening simultaneously, creating what Sue refers to as "two-fers". She linked these practices to evaluation and assessment within daily instruction and state testing.

Some of the reasons to use a touchstone text were highlighted. They include enriching vocabulary, understanding points of view, making content area connections, and reading like a writer.

Sue suggested that poems also be used as touchstones. They are short, packed with vivid language, and can be used as quick examples in mini-lessons for every domain of writing.

Sue has been a friend of PAWLP for many years. She became a fellow of the Writing Institute in 1989. Her literacy work is well known across the state. Sue serves as Region IV Director for KSRA and has served on Reading and Writing Advisory Committees for PDE. We thank Sue for another stellar presentation.

We are the 2004 Literature Institute

Thirteen teachers participated in the Literature Institute this summer. They have written an "I am" poem describing their experience in the Institute. This type of poem follows a specific format composed of several simple but strong verbs. To each of the verbs participants attached an important aspect of their lives in the Summer Institute for the Teaching of Literature.

We are Fellows of the Literature Institute.
We wonder how we learned so much in such a short time.
We hear the voices of the other Fellows sharing their expertise.
We see the kaleidoscope of talent in each of us.
We want to implement all that we learned.
We are Fellows of the Literature Institute.
We pretend to see through the eyes of our students.
We feel proud of all that we have accomplished.
We touch the lives of the friends we've made.
We thank our families for their understanding and support.
We smile as we remember the camaraderie of the group.
We are Fellows of the Literature Institute.
We understand the complexity of teaching literacy.
We quote Diane Dougherty's words, "Literature doesn't kiss on the first date."
We recall Patty Koller reassuring, "Trust us."
We try to reflect on our own reading practices.
We hope to continue growing professionally.
We are the Fellows of the Literature Institute.

PAWLP Fellows - Class of 2004

West Chester Writing Institute

Dolores Algeo
Garnet Valley SD

Jen Bacon
West Chester University

Karyn Beck
Garnet Valley SD

Martha Butler
Garnet Valley SD

Denise Carpenter
Garnet Valley SD

Craig Casner
Rose Tree Media SD

Cathie Cooper
Garnet Valley SD

Christina Dean
Garnet Valley SD

Dana Ewing
Collegium Charter School

Janice Ewing
William Penn SD

Renee Finley
Garnet Valley SD

Alison Green
Manheim Township SD

Donna Kain
Garnet Valley SD

Sandra Leshem
Garnet Valley SD

Megan McAfee
Garnet Valley SD

Hagar Nero
Coatesville Area SD

Felicia Quinzi
Rose Tree Media SD

Karen Riviello
Delaware County IU

Jenna Roberts
Unionville-Chadds Ford SD

Mary Shields
Octorara Area SD

Rita Sorrentino
Philadelphia SD

Dorothy Stranix
Downingtown Area SD

Bucks County Writing Institute

Kathryn Baker
Central Bucks SD

Linda Colantonio
Colonial SD

Suzanne Dailey
Central Bucks SD

Allison Heater
Ewing Township Bd. of Ed.

Scott Huff
Norristown Area SD

Linda Jacobson
Centennial SD

Rita Kenefic
Central Bucks SD

Christopher Lodwig
Central Bucks SD

Chad Watters
Central Bucks SD

Lindsey Widerman
Substitute Teacher

Kristin Wisemiller
Central Bucks SD

Literature Institute

Jennifer Becker
Radnor Township SD

Amy Chermela
Radnor Township SD

Susan Ferber
Upper Moreland SD

Vickie Genz
Upper Moreland SD

Diane Kelly Gubernick
Upper Moreland SD

Judy Hoffman
Substitute Teacher

Devon Koch
Haverford SD

Lois Lamond
Coatesville Area SD

Karen Meile
Radnor Township SD

Lesley Roessing
Ridley SD

Jean Reilly
Warwick Child Care

Jane Ann Said
Interboro SD

Judy Sheer
Upper Moreland SD

"The Writing Institute has opened up a whole new world for us, a world in which we now see ourselves as writers, and a world that will allow us to help our students to see themselves as writers."

**-Linda Colantonio
2004 Bucks Writing
Institute participant**

KUDOS

Mary Ellen Kenney, 2001 Bucks Writing, presented at the Kutztown University Children's Literature Conference in April and the Penn State Children's Literature Matters Conference in May.

Vicki Steinberg, '83 WC Writing and '92 Lit, had her article entitled "The Gift of Reading and Community" published in *Pennsylvania Educational Leadership*, Volume 23, Number 2.

The Clockwork of Young Writers

Each summer for the last twenty years, the Young Writers/Young Readers Program at West Chester University has run like a finely tuned grandfather clock. We spend the winter and spring winding the clock by meeting, discussing and organizing so that the program can be put into motion. As summer begins and the clock starts ticking, we begin to celebrate the seconds, minutes and hours put into each day filled with writing.

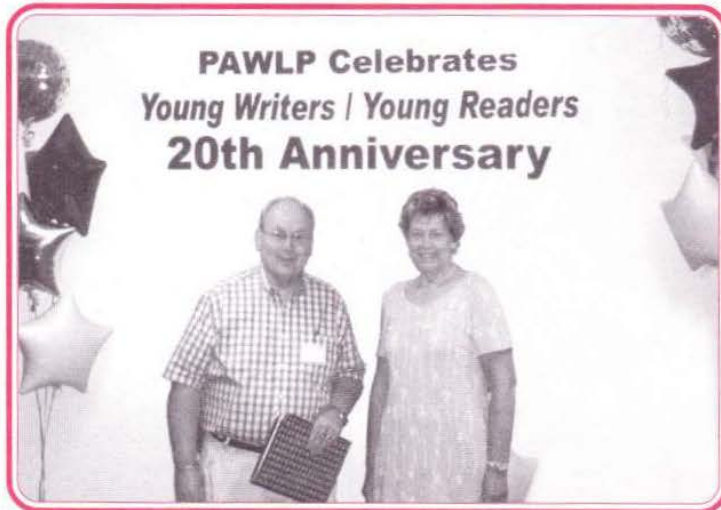
This summer over one thousand children, from kindergarteners through high school students, attended one or more of our eighteen sites. In addition to our regular courses, we offered new specialty

classes, including SAT Prep, Math and Writing, and a new version of our Tolkein fantasy class. We also had a remedial course for the first time.

Each year we are pleased to welcome new teachers on board. This year 18 joined many YW/YR veterans, and it was exciting to see the many new ideas all these teachers brought to the Program. Two guest authors added their expertise as well. Jamie Stem, from the rock band Sinch, visited the satellite classes and received rave reviews. Vicki Town, storyteller, visited Gallery Days at West Chester presenting to children, parents and teachers together. Vicki did an awesome job.

The children, of course, are the most important part of our YW/YR clock. Together with the teachers, they act as the hands. As they move precisely around the clock, great pieces of writing are generated. As the clock strikes the end of each session, beautiful anthology pages full of creative writing emerge. I hope you will get a chance to read one or more of these books as they arrive at local schools.

We would like to invite any Fellows interested in teaching or writing a specialty course for the Youth Program to contact either Mary Buckelew or me, Karen Venuto, at 610-436-3089.



Jerry Hartle, Kutztown site coordinator, and Karen Venuto, Administrator of Youth Programs, at the 20th anniversary celebration of Young Writers/Young Readers.



SUMMER STATISTICS

Number of New Fellows:

56

Number of participants in courses:

356

Number of Fellows who coordinated or presented in courses:

79

Number of participants in Youth programs:

1,030

Number of Fellows who taught or administered Youth Programs:

79

Education Matters

From Michaels Associates LLC

Reader's Theatre is a powerful language arts tool that has become increasingly popular in today's classrooms. Reader's Theatre involves two or more students presenting their interpretation of a piece of literature. In curricular terms, Reader's Theatre helps children develop and improve reading fluency, listening and social skills, and even writing talents. In addition, Reader's Theatre boosts confidence and encourages children to become lovers of literature. It is fun for children of all ages and abilities because anyone can participate.

Conducting RT, as commonly referred to by teachers and advocates, is easy in any classroom. For an initial RT experience, choose a script with many characters to involve as many students as possible. Gather students together and if a picture book version of the script is available, read that aloud. Next, introduce the RT script and explain that lines don't have to be memorized, but rather read aloud with a few props and actions. (source: *Readers Theatre for Beginning Readers*, Suzanne I. Barchers, Teacher's Idea Press). Assign parts to students and allow them to practice in small groups. It is important to emphasize delivery by suggesting different types of voice (ie.

angry, calm, happy). The actual presentation does not have to be elaborate, but many students enjoy using props and dressing in costumes.

Once RT is established in the classroom, the next logical step is for students to write their own classroom scripts. By analyzing a story to turn it into a simple script, students learn about fundamental aspects of literature including character, plot, setting, and structure. Linda Cornwell, an education consultant and former teacher from Carmel, Indiana, explains that "while RT has a lot of power on its own, the power is greatly increased when kids prepare their own scripts — they are truly integrating reading, writing, and thinking skills." (Source: *Teaching and Learning: The Power of Reader's Theater*, Jennifer O. Prescott, Scholastic's *Instructor*).

Michaels Associates carries a large variety of Reader's Theatre books appropriate for all grade levels. Titles include:

- *Readers Theatre for Beginning Readers* (Grades 1-4) by Suzanne I. Barchers \$19.00
- *Readers Theatre for Young Children* (Grades 1-4) by Win Braun & Carl Braun \$26.00
- *A Readers Theatre of Treasury Stories* (Grades 1-6) by Win Braun & Carl Braun \$26.00
- *Invitation to Readers Theatre* (Grades K-6) by Helen Raczuk & Marilyn Smith \$23.00
- *Readers Theatre for Ameri-*

can History (Grades 4-8) by Anthony D. Fredericks \$30.00

- *Just Deal With It* (Grades 4-8) by Diana R. Jenkins \$30.00

- *Simply Shakespeare RT for Young People* (Grades 6-12) Edited by Jennifer L. Kroll \$30.00

- *Frantic Frogs & Other Frankly Fractured Folktales for Readers Theatre* (Grades 4-8) by Anthony D. Fredericks \$23.00

- *Tadpole Tales & Other Totally Terrific Treats for Readers Theater* (Grades 1-4) by Anthony D. Fredericks \$23.00

- *Silly Salamanders & Other Slightly Stupid Stuff for Readers Theater* (Grades 3-8) by Anthony D. Fredericks \$23.00

- *From the Page to the Stage* (Grades 4-8) by Shielee Sloyer \$30.00

Readers of this *Newsletter* can receive a 20% discount on any Reader's Theatre book when ordering through Michaels Associates. Request the discount by mentioning the *Newsletter* when you call or reference the book in the body of your purchase order. The discount will expire without notice after a reasonable time. Qualified VCN account holders will receive free shipping in addition to the discount.

- Greg Michaels &
Ellen Kalik

THE PENNSYLVANIA WRITING & LITERATURE PROJECT NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED BY

Michaels Associates

BOOKSELLERS & DISTRIBUTORS

DISTRIBUTORS OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE AND
PROFESSIONAL BOOKS FOR TEACHERS

836 E. Pittsburgh - McKeesport Blvd.

North Versailles, PA 15137

Toll Free: 1(800)869-1467

Fax: (412)672-4299

www.michaelsassociates.com

THE PENNSYLVANIA WRITING & LITERATURE PROJECT

Director

Andrea Fishman

Associate Director

Mary Buckelew

Program

Coordinators

Mariann Shirk

Ann Mascherino

Secretaries

Toni Kershaw

Candace Upton

Co-Directors

High School and In-service Development:

Vicki Steinberg

Middle School: Judy Jester

Elementary School: Brenda Krupp

Summer Courses: Lynne Dorfman

Institutes and Presentation Development:

Diane Dougherty

Literature: Patty Koller

Technology: Diane Barrie

Summer Youth Administration:

Karen Venuto

Youth Programs: Bernadette Reiley,

Chris Coyne-Kehan, Kelley Mallon & Sue Fitzgerald

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.



The Pennsylvania Writing & Literature Project

West Chester University

West Chester, PA 19383

(610) 436-2202 FAX(610)436-3212

<http://www.pawlp.org>

Non Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 309

West Chester, PA 19383

Address Service Requested