



## LARGEST INSTITUTES EVER MARK PAWLP'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMER

The Pennsylvania Writing & Literature Project welcomed 58 new Fellows into PAWLP's teacher-consultant family this summer, the largest class in the Project's 25 year history. 45 new Writing Fellows and 13 new Literature Fellows from 25 districts and private schools through

out the five county area joined a network of nearly 900 Fellows who have completed Institutes since the Project's inception in 1980.

To get an idea of what the Institute experience entails, we share the following submission from new Writing Fellow, Cheryl Stahle:

### How I Spent My Summer Vacation....

No run-of-the-mill summer vacation for me. I decided to join 21 new colleagues and friends on the adventure of a life time: completing the PAWLP Summer

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## Celebrate Literacy VI a Smashing Success!

All roads led to the Graduate Business Center on June 28 and 29 as over 260 teachers gathered for PAWLP's Celebrate Literacy Conference VI. This year's conference, honoring the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Project, was the best one yet.

Author Patricia Reilly Giff opened the conference with her keynote address, "Writing...The Story of My Life." Her books, she says, are about relationships, and she held the audience spellbound with her enchanting and lyrical voice as she recounted tales from her past. Her words served as an inspiration to teachers to help students find the stories of their own lives.

Teacher and noted author Regie Routman opened the second day of the conference. Her address, "Reading and Writing Essentials: Getting to the Heart of the Matter,"

was motivating and inspirational, as well as thought provoking. She urged teachers to bring the joy back into teaching by (1) raising the expectations we have for all our students; (2) developing confidence through collegial conversations; and (3) focusing our work on meaning and relevance. She stressed the importance of teachers setting pur-



*Celebrate Literacy keynote speaker Regie Routman (center) with PAWLP co-Director Diane Dougherty (left) and Assistant Director Rose Cappelli (right).*

poses for learning and engaging in demonstration teaching through think alouds. Teachers should then give students opportunities to try what was demonstrated, practice in guided experiences, and apply the learning during independent reading and writing experiences. What an honor it was to have this celebrated educator share her thinking with us firsthand!

Throughout the two days all conference attendees had the opportunity to engage in several worthwhile breakout sessions presented by PAWLP Fellows on such topics as fluency, multigenre writing, nonfiction, readers' theater, reading /writing connections, technology, and poetry. There was truly something for everyone!

*Rose Cappelli,  
PAWLP Assistant Director*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR ANDREA FISHMAN

Welcome back to a new school year and the beginning of PAWLP's second quarter-century as the National Writing Project site in southeastern Pennsylvania. In May, I invited everyone to help us celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary summer by attending our Celebrate Literacy Conference in June. I honestly cannot say I expected so many people to take me up on that invitation or to participate in the other summer programs we offered. But an unexpected number of people did.

In fact, the summer of 2005 was the most successful summer PAWLP has had in all of its 25-year existence. 264 people attended Celebrate Literacy. 58 master teachers became new Fellows of the Project in our Writing and Literature Institutes. And an additional 191 teachers took one- and three-credit graduate courses with us. To make all of that possible, 33 teacher-consultants presented at the conference and 27 teacher-consultants taught Institutes and courses. In addition, 900 children attended Young Writers/Young Readers programs taught by 66 more TCs.

These numbers overwhelm me. For some people, they are all we need to

"prove" the success of the Project. We reached 249 teachers in six weeks. Our capacity to provide programs was demonstrated by over 100 teacher-consultants. Quantity – and quantitative measures – can be impressive. For me, though, they don't get to the heart of what is PAWLP.

What does reveal our heart, what makes our Project meaningful as far as I'm concerned, comes in more qualitative terms. For the purposes of this column, I offer one case in point. In late July, I got a phone call from an administrator whose school district sent a cadre of teachers to our Institutes this summer. This administrator had received a letter from one of those teachers that she wanted me to hear. She shared that letter with me, and I want to share it with you (with the writer's permission, of course).

That teacher wrote to her supervisor:

Thank you so much for supporting the Writing Institute as a means of promoting quality writing instruction in [our district].

This experience has been one of the most difficult and, ultimately, most rewarding of my professional career. It is as intense a learning situation as I have ever encountered.

All worthwhile things come with a cost of time, energy, dedication, and perseverance. The Writing Institute required all these and more, but I am truly happy that I finally faced my trepidation and participated.

Thank you again for making that possible for me and for so many of my colleagues. I know that each of our classrooms will be more responsive and effective places for our young writers to grow and thrive as a result of the many ideas and strategies we have learned. The money spent by [the district] for this training is an investment in the future excellence of our district's writing programs.

One teacher, one letter, revealing so much more than all the numbers I can compile. What a wonderful anniversary gift to all of us. What more incentive could we need as we enter our second quarter-century?





## A Burst of Reading and Writing Ideas for Your Classroom

PAWLPrroudly announces our upcoming PAWLPL Days in Bucks County on October 22 and West Chester on October 29. If you have never been to a PAWLPL Day, these are the ones to try. The extremely talented author/poet, J. Patrick Lewis will keynote both days and do small breakout sessions. He has been described as "engaging" and "unforgettable." His wit, humor, and gentle nature are evident in his vast collection of poetry books and picture books. Science, social studies, math, reading, and writing have all been subjects of his poems. In J. Patrick's words, "There is no subject in the whole world that doesn't lend itself to poetry in some way. Poetry is a time for celebrating the love of language and for starting a fire in the mind of a child." His latest titles include *He-Roes & She-*

*roes: Poems of Amazing & Everyday Heroes* and *Please Bury Me in the Library*. Following the keynote will be breakout sessions jam-packed with incredible strategies you can immediately put to use in your classroom. Your brain will be bursting with new ideas.

Many participants will leave arms filled with raffle prizes, professional books, and children's literature thanks to Michaels Associates and Booktenders Secret Garden.

We are excited to try out a longer PAWLPL Day at Mill Creek Elemen-

tary School in the Central Bucks School District on Saturday, October 22, 2005. This full-day format will include a keynote and **four** breakout sessions. If you can't make the full day, please join us in West Chester on October 29, 2005 for a half-day. This day will include the keynote and two breakout sessions. Both days will provide Act 48 hours. Come join us for an invigorating, rejuvenating day!

- Chris Kehan,  
PAWLPL Co-Director,  
'95 Writing, '97 Lit

To register for a PAWLPL Day call 610-436-2202  
or e-mail [cupton@wcupa.edu](mailto:cupton@wcupa.edu).

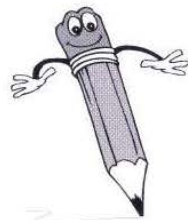
The full-day (8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.) Bucks PAWLPL Day is \$30.  
The half-day (8:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.) West Chester PAWLPL Day is \$15.  
Registrations for both days must be received by October 15.  
A late fee applies to registrations received thereafter and at the door.

## SUMMER YOUTH REPORT

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Young Writers/Young Readers Program came in like a lion this year with a terrible thunderstorm on the first day. The staff at West Chester University dug in their heels and all children managed to meet their parents! Although this summer the weather was hotter and more humid than last year, the young writers produced some of their best works. Thanks to guest authors Susan Korman, Bill Luttrell, Robin Moore and Frank Murphy, the children had four tremendous role models to help spark their ideas. They learned writing, revising, and editing strategies to use now and in

their future writing.

This summer we started two new sites, one in Souderton and the other in Daniel Boone School District, and rejuvenated a site in the Upper Moreland School District. All three were staffed with excellent teachers and site coordinators. We anticipate all three sites growing next summer.



This year we welcomed Kathy Garrison as Co-Director of the southern sites. Kathy taught in the program several years ago and ran an on-line course for the last two summers. Co-Directors Kelley O'Leary and Chris Kehan did an outstanding job in the northern sites. Both Chris and Kelley have been involved with the Youth Program for many years. Sue Fitzgerald welcomed Don LaBranche as a helper this summer for the first session and what a team they made. Sue has Co-Directed the West Chester University site for the last three years

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## How I Spent My Summer Vacation... *continued from p.1*

Writing Institute. Instead of lounging at the shore, I invested four exhilarating, exhausting weeks reading and writing. Graves, Calkins, Bomer, Routman, Ray and Fletcher became my pool-side companions as I soaked up their writing and explored ways to apply it in my classroom. The best part of the Institute was living like a writer every day. Surprisingly, the poet in me emerged after a long long sleep and once freed, would not return to slumber. Wait until my students hear my *How I Spent My Summer Vacation* essay (or poem)!



## How to be a PAWLIP Fellow

Rest up the last week of school as you won't sleep for a month  
Forego family, friends and play for four exhilarating weeks  
—too much to do in so little time  
Read like a fiend—three text books and more  
Write write write as you've never written before  
Persuade, narrate and instruct  
Display your acting skills to demonstrate knowledge  
Eavesdrop at Rice's listening for that *just right* snippet of dialogue  
Design a workshop that is engaging yet steeped in research  
Create the perfect packet  
Eat, drink and be merry Thursday afternoons  
Just eat—the snack list is a priority  
Laugh, learn and celebrate—the effort is worth the sleepless nights  
Join the Fellows who went before you in a passionate journey to write



### PAWLIP Fellow

Passionate, Exhausted  
Writing, Writing, Writing  
Books, Papers, Articles, Packets  
Reading, Discussing, Thinking  
Brain-dead, Brain-full  
Better Teacher



- by Cheryl Stahle, 2005 Writing Institute Fellow



# New PAWLP Fellows - Class of 2005

## West Chester Writing Institute

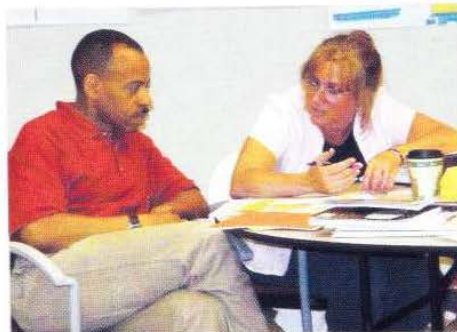
**Beth Angelo**  
Garnet Valley SD  
**Ellen Bluestone**  
West Chester University  
**Megan Clementi**  
Springfield SD  
**Carly Dillon**  
Rose Tree Media SD  
**Stephen Drozdowski**  
Garnet Valley SD  
**Melissa Elison**  
North Penn SD  
**Angela Kane**  
Garnet Valley SD  
**Cynthia Kirschner**  
Methacton SD  
**Kristina LaFave**  
Garnet Valley SD  
**Kristin Light**  
Garnet Valley SD  
**Michael Longo**  
Garnet Valley SD  
**Shauna McKee**  
Haverford SD  
**Jessica Parton Palo**  
Garnet Valley SD  
**Peggy Pastva**  
Methacton SD  
**Christine Pesta**  
Holy Family School  
**Andrea Rees**  
Spring-Ford SD  
**Amy Rossi**  
Garnet Valley SD  
**Lori Schmidt**  
Springfield SD  
**Todd Serpico**  
Garnet Valley SD  
**Katherine Shuter**  
Garnet Valley SD  
**Lori Strong**  
Garnet Valley SD  
**Deborah Uff**  
Springfield SD  
**Andre Washington**  
Rose Tree Media SD

## Literature Institute

**Amy Ayers**  
Garnet Valley SD  
**Anne Barr**  
Philadelphia University  
**Elizabeth Budzilowicz**  
Pottsgrove SD  
**Martha Butler**  
Garnet Valley SD  
**Dana Ewing**  
Collegium Charter School  
**Renee Finley**  
Garnet Valley SD  
**Christina Gotro**  
Garnet Valley SD  
**Eileen Kean**  
West Chester Area SD  
**Vicki McKeefery**  
Great Valley SD  
**Lorraine Moran**  
West Chester Area SD  
**Jan Pizarro**  
West Chester Area SD  
**Patricia Smith**  
Colonial SD  
**Betsy Wells**  
Colonial SD

## Bucks County Writing Institute

**Deborah Appleton-Neves**  
North Penn SD  
**Wendy Blankin**  
Springfield Township SD  
**Bruce Bloome**  
Upper Moreland Township SD  
**Jane Bonargo-Miller**  
Council Rock SD  
**Susan Bootel**  
Centennial SD  
**Patricia Corcoran**  
Upper Moreland Township SD  
**Gwen Douse**  
Wissahickon SD  
**Mary Farrell**  
Hamburg Area SD  
**Deborah Frank**  
Upper Moreland Township SD  
**Mary Ann Fucich**  
Upper Moreland Township SD  
**Meg Griffin**  
Central Bucks SD  
**Bethany Haring**  
West Shore SD  
**Rebekah Massey**  
Upper Dublin SD  
**Heather McGarvey**  
Council Rock SD  
**Kristen Monaco**  
Central Bucks SD  
**Jennifer Nolen**  
Council Rock SD  
**Edward Ostroff**  
Centennial SD  
**Jennifer Rhodes**  
Central Bucks SD  
**Jill Seiscio**  
Quakertown SD  
**Cheryl Stahle**  
Norristown Area SD  
**Elaine VanVreed**  
Central Bucks SD  
**Linda Walker**  
Wissahickon SD







## Education Matters

a column from Michaels Associates

As I write, we are recently returned from the annual Heinemann summer meeting. In addition to the unveiling of forthcoming books, DVD's and Firsthand materials, Michaels Associates LLC was again recognized as a leading U.S. distributor for the publisher. We are grateful for the continued support of our friends at the Project for helping us achieve this status. Thank you.

Heinemann is continuing to lead the field in producing cutting edge resources that help teachers and administrators deal successfully with the pressing issues of the day in the classroom and the boardroom. The Fall list will include new books from Vicki Spandel, Carl Anderson, Don Graves, Jim Burke, Shelley Harwayne, Irene Fountas & Gay Su Pinnell, Stephanie Harvey & Anne Goudvis, and many others. There is more than one book on the way that will help teachers prepare students for standardized test writing prompts without sacrificing your professional soul. It's hard to choose just one, but the forthcoming project by Don Graves and Penny Kittle will be the subject of this column. I used the word *project* because it's much more than a book.

Inside Writing: How to Teach the Details of Craft is the most important offering from Don Graves in more than ten years.

We all loved his books on finding daily inspiration and energy in your teaching, but it's great to have him back with specific help and ideas for writing teachers. Since A Fresh Look at Writing was published in 1995, Don has continued to do research and to refine his thinking about the work that's done in writing classrooms. There has also been a leap forward in technology with a corresponding drop in price.

Inside Writing includes a book, DVD, and My Quick Writes – a book of quick writes for both teachers and students. Graves differentiates between prompts and quick writes with the distinction that quick writes gives the writer the flexibility to choose some detail about the prompt that interests them. "Quick writes nudge us to discover topics that matter, not to respond to a question that may have nothing to do with our experience." Don Graves and his co-author Penny Kittle have argued successfully for a price point that an individual teacher can afford. Both books and DVD are packaged together for \$45.00. My Quick Writes is designed so that teachers and kids can write directly in the book. Additional copies will be priced under \$10.00.

Graves and Kittle stress that too often, a missing element in writing classrooms is teachers writing along with students. Quick writes are a fun and easy way to make connections between teachers' and students' writing processes and to help pre-

pare students for timed testing situations.

Perhaps the most stunning – and valuable – element of Inside Writing: How to Teach the Details of Craft is the DVD. Because of the amount of material that can be held on a DVD and the interactive nature of the medium you'll find it chock full of explanations, demonstrations, modeling, classroom footage, conferences, interviews with teachers, interviews with the authors, minilessons, Don's writing, Penny's writing, printable quick write prompts, and more. The DVD alone is more than worth the price of this resource.

Inside Writing is scheduled for release in September, 2005 and is suggested for teachers in grades 2 – 6, curriculum directors, staff developers, assistant superintendents, National Writing Project members, and NCTE elementary members. The catalog price is \$45.00, but PAWLP *Newsletter* readers may order this exciting resource for \$38.25 plus shipping before October 15, 2005 by phoning, faxing, or mailing an order referencing PAWLP in their order or during their phone call. As always for all products, your orders on our website with a credit card will be discounted 10%, or \$40.50 plus shipping for this product.

Cordially,  
Greg Michaels

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