



TWO NEW INSTITUTE OPPORTUNITIES

Content Area Literacy Institute

- Concerned about students who can't - or won't or don't - read the assigned material?
 - Frustrated at being the only person in the classroom who easily understands the material?
 - Disheartened by general student apathy?
 - Weary of reading boring reports?
 - Ready to turn your textbook into tinder for the next family cookout?
 - Unhappy with constantly re-explaining concepts?
 - Drained by student misunderstanding of terminology or vocabulary?
 - Discouraged by textbook reading levels?
 - Wondering if there are ways to give students the same love for your content that you have?
- Has PAWLP got the answer for you!

As a result of PAWLP's three-year involvement with the National Reading Initiative sponsored by NWP and the Carnegie Foundation, PAWLP is offering its first Content Area Literacy Institute.

Deb Dinsmore and Vicki Steinberg will coordinate this six-credit opportunity. Both have a world of experience in their own classrooms as well as working with other teachers and participating in the original NRI best-practices research.

This institute will be configured a little differently from the current Writing and Literature Institutes in terms of teacher make-up. Because the original NRI grant involved thinking about content area literacy in grades 6-12, the institute is aimed at this level. All content area teachers are eligible, but English/Language Arts teachers must be accompanied by a content area teacher from their school or district.

This institute also differs in terms of time. It begins with two full days on August 24 and 25 and continues with 17 three-hour sessions on Tuesdays throughout the school year. These specific dates will be determined at the August sessions.

See page 4 for more details.

Advanced Institute to Explore Issues of Equity through Literacy

"If we think we're better than the horned toad, then we will never hear its voice." - Byrd Baylor

Is it a resource gap? A caring gap? A culture gap? What actually is in play in what is commonly referred to as the Achievement Gap? More importantly, what can truly be done to help close it?

PAWLP is joining our PA Writing Project Network and NWP to look closely at this issue. This school year we're offering an Advanced Institute for Fellows to examine how inequity has insidiously crept into our classrooms and how literacy intersects with gender, pov-

erty, and language among others. Fellows will conduct research in their own settings to look at ways we can help more than one child, one classroom, one community to reach full potential.

Mind the Gap: Equity, Literacy, and Achievement starts September 28th and meets about twice a month through April from 4:30 to 7:30 at WCU's Graduate Business Center. If you're interested in joining Reene Martin, Judy Jester, Mary, Andy, and other Fellows in developing and sustaining a more informed public discourse about this issue, contact Candace Upton at 610-436-2297.

FALL COURSES SCHEDULE ON PAGE 6

FROM THE DIRECTOR ANDREA FISHMAN

First was the Writing Institute. In 1992 came the Literature Institute. Now, in 2006 comes the Content Area Institute - a third way for teachers to become PAWLP Fellows, a third way for PAWLP to enrich its professional development opportunities.

Some people may wonder why it's taken so long for us to explicitly invite our content area colleagues into the Project fold. After all, we've been about writing-to-learn and writing in the content areas since our inception in 1980. The answer, I think, is both simple and complex. Simply, the time wasn't right until now. More fully, I'm not sure most of us in education appreciated the realities of content area literacy until we gave it our full attention. We had to stop seeing this literacy - or, more accurately, these literacies - as tangential versions of writing and reading and start seeing them as the full cognitive and social experiences they are.

What enlarged our particular vision was a three-year, grant-funded experience with the National Reading Initiative of the Carnegie Foundation and the National Writing Project. A self-study, followed by an Advanced Institute, followed by site-based research with content area teachers taught us more than I can summarize here. Suffice it to say that we are ready to welcome our content-area colleagues and to enrich PAWLP's identity once more.

Another new initiative takes its place in the PAWLP tradition now, as well. This one illustrates our commitment to provide opportunities for Fellows after they've completed their initial institute (whichever it may be!). An advanced institute, Mind the Gap, focuses on the so-called achievement gap from a PAWLP perspective. Interested as always in teachers' experiences and teachers' perspectives, this institute will bring together members of the PAWLP community who want to investigate what "the achievement gap" really means in their own settings, where it comes from, and how they might help close the gap by minding it together.

Fall 2006 also brings new PAWLP courses, new formats, new locations in addition to old favorites. Teachers in Bucks, Montgomery, and Berks Counties will have both week-end and week-day courses available this year.

So look for the details on all these programs in this Newsletter. And join us as we embark on a new school year in this always interesting world of literacy education.



KUDOS

Vicki Steinberg, PAWLP Co-Director for High School and In-Service Development, conducted a six-week memoir writing project last winter for 17 senior citizens at the Southeast Branch of the Reading Public Library.

Cecelia Evans and Associate Director **Mary Buckelew** were awarded a \$10,000 continuation grant from The Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Memorial Fund to continue Dr. Evans' *With Pens in Hands* family literacy program.

Cecelia Evans ('81 WC Writing) was inducted into the 3E Institute's Educator 500 Program at West Chester University and was selected to receive the Outstanding Educator Award from the Chester Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

Diane Barrie, PAWLP Co-Director for Technology ('95 WC Writing) has been named the Department Coordinator for grades 6 - 8 in the Methacton School District.

Molly Leahy ('00 Bucks Writing) has been named a finalist for the Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year award.

Director **Andrea Fishman's** article entitled "Becoming Literate: A Lesson from the Amish" was anthologized in *Considering Literacy: Reading and Writing the Educational Experience*.

FALL PAWL P DAYS

Exploring Nonfiction: Making Reading/Writing Connections

Keynote Speaker: Jen Bryant

author of *Georgia's Bones*, *Into Enchanted Woods*, and *Pieces of Georgia*

SPECIAL BREAKOUT SESSION WITH JEN BRYANT FOR PAWL P FELLOWS ONLY

Three breakout sessions led by PAWL P Fellows
with incredible ideas to use in your classroom.



When: October 7, 2006

Where: Graduate Business Center, West Chester University

Time: 8:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Refreshments provided 8:30 - 9:00. Please pack a lunch.

Cost: \$25 if registered and paid by Sept. 29, \$30 thereafter and at the door

Professional books from Michaels Associates

Children's literature from Children's Book World

Certificate of Attendance for 4 hours provided, along with an Act 48 registration sheet.

Nonfiction Matters in Reading and Writing

Keynote Speaker: Laurence Pringle

author of *Snakes! Strange and Wonderful*, *Dog of Discovery: A Newfoundland's Adventures with Lewis and Clark*, and *An Extraordinary Life: The Story of the Monarch Butterfly*

Four breakout sessions jam-packed with incredible
nonfiction reading and writing strategies for educators K - 12.

When: October 21, 2006

Where: Mill Creek Elementary School, Central Bucks School District

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Refreshments provided 8:00 - 8:30, lunch included.

Cost: \$40 if registered and paid by Oct. 15, \$45 thereafter and at the door

Professional books from Reading Matters

Children's literature from Booktenders Secret Garden

Certificate of Attendance for 6 hours provided, along with an Act 48 registration sheet.



Nonfiction

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

Provide your name, contact information, grade level, and school district.

The Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project
invites

Content Area Teachers, 6-12



to participate in the first



Content Area Literacy Institute

- Learn with instructors and presenters who recently completed a three-year National Reading Initiative with the National Writing Project and the Carnegie Foundation
- Discover best-practice strategies for making your students successful readers and writers of your content
- Exchange ideas with other teachers in your content area
- Become a teacher-consultant for PAWLP and the National Writing Project
- Receive a \$500 stipend to earn 6 graduate credits

What is an institute?

An institute is a 6-credit, graduate-level experience that immerses you in learning about your own learning and that of your students. The Content Area Literacy Institute will focus on experiences that help you discover your own literacy as a reader and writer of content as you reflect on how to support your students in their content area learning.

What does it involve?

The first Content Area Literacy Institute begins this summer with two full-day sessions on August 24 and 25, 2006. The class then meets on alternate Tuesdays beginning in late September and ending in May for 17 three-hour sessions. The institute concludes with four full days, June 25 – 28, 2007, including the PAWLP Celebrate Literacy Conference. The class meets at West Chester University's Graduate Business Center.

Who can participate?

Experienced content area teachers grades 6-12 may apply as well as experienced language arts/English teachers who attend with a content-area partner from their school or district.

What is the cost?

West Chester University tuition and fees for 6 graduate credits \$2,215 for 6 credits. Accepted applicants will receive a \$500 stipend from PAWLP to be applied directly to the cost.

How do I apply?

Applicants must be recommended by an administrator in their district or by a Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project Fellow. **Application forms are available by contacting Candace Upton at 610-436-2202 or cupton@wcupa.edu.** Applications are accepted on a rolling admission basis. **The class is limited to 25 participants.**

NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR PAWLP FELLOWS
An Advanced Institute



**MIND THE GAP:
EQUITY, LITERACY, AND ACHIEVEMENT**

The "Achievement Gap" is on everyone's mind these days. Politicians, policy makers, and program developers offer global solutions to local problems, easy answers to complicated questions.

Take this opportunity to investigate what the achievement gap really means to your school, your students, and you. Explore intriguing questions in a community of PAWLP colleagues.

- **What is "equity" in literacy education?**
- **How does equity look from different sides of the achievement gap (and just how many sides does this gap have, anyway)?**
- **What is your relationship to – and responsibility for – achieving equity?**
- **How can you identify and build on past success while still addressing unintended inequities in your setting?**

WHEN: 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Thursdays - September 28; October 12 and 26; November 9 and 30; December 14; January 11 and 25; February 8 and 22; March 8 and 22; April 12 and 26.

WHERE: WCU's Graduate Business Center (off the Boot Road exit of Route 202, north of West Chester)

HOW: Register for this 3-graduate credit Advanced Institute and receive a \$200 stipend toward your tuition. Contact Candace Upton at the PAWLP office: 610-436-2297 or cupton@wcupa.edu

*"Not everything that is faced can be changed.
But nothing can be changed until it is faced." - James Baldwin*

FALL COURSES

In the PAWLP Classroom, 210 E. Rosedale Avenue, West Chester

Teacher as Writer, K – 12

Thursdays, 4:15 -7:00 p.m. beginning Aug. 31
Coordinators: Lynne Dorfman and Diane Dougherty. PWP 502-01

Reading in the Secondary English Classroom, 6 - 12

Mondays, 4:15 – 7:00 p.m. beginning Aug. 28
Coordinator: Vicki Steinberg. PWP 520-01

Nonfiction in the Writing/Reading Classroom, K – 8

Two weekends: Sept. 29 – Oct. 1 and Nov. 3 – 5
Fridays 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Coordinator: Lynne Dorfman. PWP 599-01



At off-campus locations

Reading Essentials, 2 - 8

Jamison Elementary School, Central Bucks SD

Two weekends: Oct. 13 – 15 and 27 – 29
Fridays: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays: 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Coordinators: Chris Kehan and Angela Watters. PWP 599-02

Motivating Reluctant Writers and Readers, 2 - 8

Mill Creek Elementary School, Central Bucks SD

Two weekends: Oct. 20 - 22 and Nov. 3 – 5
Fridays: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays: 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Coordinators: Suzanne Dailey and Kristin Simon. PWP 599-03

Writing and Children's Literature, K - 8

Roosevelt Elementary School, Pennsbury SD

Mondays, 4:00 – 7:15 p.m. beginning Sept. 11
and attendance at October 21 PAWLP Day in Central Bucks SD
Coordinator: Lynne Dorfman. PWP 513-01

Linking Technology to the Writing/Reading Classroom, 1 - 8

Upper Moreland Intermediate School

Coordinators: Mark Curtis and Sue Powidzki. PWP 508-01

Literature Circle: Investigating Text, 6 - 12

Kutztown SD

Once/week from late September to early May
Coordinator: Diane Dougherty. PWP 522-01

Fun, Fellowship, and Renewal at Celebrate Literacy VII

The weather during the last few days of June was anything but pretty. Yet amid the periodic torrents of rain, the closed roads and flash floods, the power outages and traffic snarls, over 180 teachers were on hand to renew their spirits at Celebrate Literacy VII.

Linda Reif opened the conference on Tuesday, June 27 with her inspiring address, "Literacy for Life: Reading and Writing for Ourselves as Well as Our Students." She reminded us that as teachers we should continually ask questions about our teaching, our students, and ourselves. It is only through questioning that we will grow as professionals. By continually exploring such things as the powerful link between reading and writing, the importance of audience, and the conditions necessary for creating strong readers and writers, we can discover new ways to encourage all of our students. Ms. Reif engaged the audience in a series of quick

writes in which we borrowed lines from others' writing as a jumping off point for our own writing. She used this exercise to remind us that writing is thinking and that we need to allow our students to do the kind of writing that matters – the kind of writing that will help them to think and feel. She challenged us as educators to remember that we are responsible for knowing our students, our content, how and when to shape and frame our instruction, and for knowing reading and writing ourselves.

The keynote speaker for the second day of the conference was children's author James Howe who spoke about "Why Words Matter." With a touch of humor and a splash of poignancy he helped us better understand the power of words to touch your heart, make people notice you, build bridges as well as walls, and change lives. Words are fun, but they carry with them a huge responsibility. Mr. Howe challenged us to awaken the love of words in

our students and show them why words matter.

Throughout the two-day conference participants attended breakout sessions led by PAWLFP Fellows. The topics included such things as multigenre writing, reading workshop, content area writing, poetry, and reading fluency. Participants were also able to shop for professional books supplied by Michaels Associates and children's books from Children's Book World.

Plans are already underway for Celebrate Literacy VIII in June 2007. Please join us to hear noted speaker and author Janet Allen and children's author Bruce Coville. Although we can't promise better weather conditions, we can guarantee new ideas, fellowship, and a chance, once again, to renew your spirit.

- Rose Cappelli
Celebrate Literacy Committee

Read the PAWLFP Newsletter On-Line

Want to read each issue of the Newsletter before it arrives in your mailbox?
If you want to be notified when the PAWLFP Newsletter is posted on-line, please send your name and e-mail address to Ann Mascherino at amascherin@wcupa.edu.

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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.

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