

Project Newsletter

New WMWP Web Site Opens:

www.umass.edu/wmwp

Under the guidance and direction of Paul Oh, we have a new and current web site, one that we plan to sustain and to keep current.

On the web site you'll find full program descriptions and, for most, you'll be able to register on line if you choose to do so. You'll also find there archived *Newsletters*, archived projects from our past Teacher as Researcher seminars, and the full text of our Professional Development catalog.

This month's scaled-back newsletter reflects our gradual move to the web as a way of getting information to you. In this newsletter, we'll name our programs but we'll not describe them fully. For the full descriptions, and for updated news, notes, and calendar, please visit our site.

We are writing people, and we're not leaving books and print behind, but the web is a place for writing, and we want to begin to use the web's speed, economy, and convenience as a means of getting information about WMWP out to you and as a way to help you register for WMWP programs quickly and easily.

Since September 11, paper-mail has become a less-transparent way of connecting with you. Yet it doesn't feel "real" to exist only on-line. So you will continue to get paper-mail from us, but less of it. Be on the lookout for our summer catalog, however. It is going to press this week.

WMWP Calendar 2002

Spring Programs

New Teacher Seminars

Thursdays: January 3 and 17, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2. Amherst Regional High School.

Writing and Response Group

Saturdays: January 2, February 2, March 2, April 6, May TBA. UMass, Bartlett 256.

Student Writers' Workshop

January 19 (snow day January 26). UMass, Bartlett Hall.

Student Editors' Day

March 9. UMass, Bartlett Hall.

Saturday Sampler

March 16, 8:45-2:00. UMass, Bartlett Hall. PDP's. Fee \$10. See full program on p. 3 of this *Newsletter*.

WMWP Writers' Retreat

May 2-4. Jiminy Peak Resort, Hancock, Massachusetts. Fee \$225 double-occupancy.

Student Publication Celebration

June 11, 4-5:30. UMass, Bartlett Auditorium. Invited: authors, editors, their teachers and families.

Summer Programs

WMWP Invitational Summer Institute

July 8-31. With Diana Callahan and Bruce Penniman. By application and invitation. Stipend, PDP's.

Writing For All 2002

July 8-18. UMass, Tobin Hall. With Karen Sumaryono and Wilma Ortiz. By application/invitation. PDP's.

Teachers as Writers IV: Juxtapositions

July 15-19. UMass, Tobin Hall. With Lucile Burt. Fee \$99. PDP's.

Teaching With Technology

July 29-August 2. Marks Meadow School, Amherst. With Paul Oh. Fee \$99. PDP's.

Writing and Response for Educators

August 5-9. UMass, Tobin Hall. With Mary-Ann DeVita Palmieri. No charge; PDP's.

SummerWrite! 2002

July 8-19. Summer writing camp for students grades 4-8. Fee \$110.

For full descriptions of the events and workshops listed on this calendar, and to register online for any of the events and workshops, please go to our web site: <http://www.umass.edu/wmwp> If you have questions, please email us at wmwp@english.umass.edu, call us at (413) 545-5466, or write us c/o Charles Moran, English Department, Bartlett Hall, UMass, Amherst MA 01003-0515.

From the Editor's Desk

Leslie Skantz-Hodgson

At the end of the state's protracted budget process this year, WMWP wasn't included in the state budget. The loss of the state funding it has received in the previous six years means that programs will be scaled back, in particular the popular student publications program. However, WMWP is trying hard to keep as much of its offerings intact as possible. WMWP has applied for several NWP mini-grants, including State Networks, Technology, Rural Sites and English Language Learner grants.

On the bright side, our new Inservice Coordinator, Susan Biggs, has already begun increasing the amount of inservice hours provided our teachers consultants. By the end of December, almost 170 inservice hours were scheduled compared to 137 last year. And WMWP is developing long-term relationships with several school districts.

As Technology Liaison, Paul Oh is expanding on WMWP technological capabilities, revamping our website, including adding links to schools. Paul is also offering a summer workshop in technology. Other summer programs include the Invitational Summer Institute, Lucile Burt's latest incarnation of Teachers as Writers, an ELL workshop offered by Karen Sumaryono and Wilma Ortiz.

WMWP members were busy last fall. Several members attended the National Writing Project conference and wrote reports on how we may improve our re site. Many people helped write grant proposals, and 23 people attended the annual reunion.

English Language Learners Summer Workshop not just for ESL teachers

Most teachers have had English language learners in their classes. Even after their three years in the bilingual program, these students appear in mainstream classes, still very much language learners.

That is why we invite mainstream as well as ESL teachers to join a two-week summer institute that focuses on writing, language acquisition, and good teaching practices. Both experienced and new teachers are encouraged to attend.

As part of the English Language Learning (ELL) network, Karen Sumaryono and Wilma Ortiz are will again facilitate interactive workshops, guided writing and response

groups, and an update on the Massachusetts frameworks with regard to language learners. In a low-stress environment at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, teachers will meet to share and learn as well as spend time preparing a curriculum project for their own use in September.

Save these dates and plan to join us for a self-reflective and rejuvenating professional experience, July 8-18, Monday-Thursday both weeks.

To register, or for or more information, go to the WMWP web site at <http://www.umass.edu/wmwp> or email Karen Sumaryono at ksumaryono@charter.net.

New WMWP Initiatives in Technology

by Paul Oh

WMWP is embarking on an ambitious plan to conduct a site self-study on the uses of technology. WMWP asked me to serve as technology liaison. In that capacity, I've asked teacher-consultants are Paula Moran and Claudine Keenan to join me on a technology advisory committee, along with Co-Director Charlie Moran. If you're interested in joining this committee, please email me at ohno@crocker.com.

As part of this process, I attended the National Writing Project's

NOTICE: Are you interested in joining a group for teachers thinking about or preparing for National Board Certification? If you are, or if you are a Board-certified teacher interested in working with this group, please call Mary-Ann Palmieri at (978) 544-2611.

annual meeting in Baltimore. There I attended workshops given by other tech liaisons from around the country and get a better sense of the site self-study/action plan process.

Also, I've been working with Charlie on revamping our website. The new site is a little easier to navigate and has a splash of color. It also has the Staff Development brochure in pdf format that Bruce Penniman and Susan Biggs worked so hard to create. I'd like to add links from the WMWP site to your school site; please let me know if you'd like your school listed on a page of writing project school websites. Conversely, I'd love to have the WMWP site linked to your school page (i.e. on your school website you have a link that describes WMWP and our mission). Please send me the name of your school's/ district's) webmaster, if you know it, so I can make that request.

WMWP Saturday Sampler

New Workshops by Writing Project Teacher-Consultants

March 16, 2002

Bartlett Hall, University of Massachusetts/Amherst

Registration fee: \$10 (includes lunch)

Schedule

- 8:30** Coffee and registration
8:45 Opening remarks
9:00 A sessions
10:30 B sessions
12:00 Pizza lunch
12:30 C sessions
2:00 PDP certificate pick-up (5 PDPs)

A Sessions

A1. Image, Thought, and Writing (E/MS/HS). *Patricia Gorman, Wildwood School.*

Learn how to foster critical thinking, multiculturalism, and development of powerful ideas using writing exercises in which students respond to art and other images.

A2. What Is the Sound of My Voice in Writing? (MS/HS). *Leif Riddington, The Bement School.*

Engage in activities that encourage students to become more sensitive to the distinctions of a character's voice and, in doing so, develop a greater sense of their own voices.

A3. Roundtable Discussion of "English for the Children" Initiative (E/MS/HS). *Moderated by Karen Sumaryono, West Springfield High School.*

Hear a panel of local experts discuss the potential impact of the pending "English for the Children" ballot initiative, which, if passed, would place severe restrictions on native language literacy in Massachusetts.

Registration form on back page. Send it in today!

B Sessions

B1. Exploring Cultural Identity through Literature (E/MS/HS). *Robyn Wayrynen, Agawam Public Schools.*

Develop meaningful reading response questions for diverse students that connect literature to their identities. Originally designed for English Language Learners, this strategy works well to stimulate ideas for all students.

B2. Opportunities for Writing in Community Service Learning (E/MS/HS). *Lisa Lamothe, North Brookfield Jr./Sr. High School.*

Discover the opportunities for writing in community service learning through a sample project that can be implemented in any school. Participants will also receive ideas that will help them start designing their own projects.

B3. Talking in Their Shoes: Giving Characters in Literature a Voice (E/MS/HS). *Moira Collins, Van Sickle Middle School.*

Explore a method for understanding characters in literature more deeply by attempting to write/speak in a character's voice. Also learn how to help students construct more complete images of characters in stories.

C Sessions

C1. The Voice Within: In Your Own Words (E/MS/HS). *Diane Yarborough, SABIS International School.*

Teachers spend so much time caring for the words of others that they are often silenced. We will create a space for listening to the voice within. After some facilitated exercises to write from, there will be a time for sharing.

C2. Integrating Technology into the Curriculum (E/MS/HS). *Led by Paul Oh, Marks Meadow School.*

Alumni of the Technology for Teachers summer institute will showcase technological tools for the classroom ranging from web sites to PowerPoint presentations.