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Field Notes

Vol. 13, No. 3

West Tennessee Writing Project

March 2005

No Teacher Left Behind: Standards-Based Reading Writing Workshop from WTWP

The last of four Saturday “No Teacher Left Behind: Standards-based Workshops from the West Tennessee Writing Project” will be held April 2 at Northview Middle School, Newbern.

The workshop starts at 8:30 and ends at 3:30 with an hour for lunch.

The morning sessions is “Art Through Writing: Students Discover Art Through Writing Experiences.” It will be led by Diane Shaw, Teacher Consultant of WTWP and art instructor at UT Martin. Formerly, Diane taught art at Peabody High School in Trenton.

“First Day of School and Beyond: Preparing Students for the TCAP Writing Assessment,” is the afternoon session led by Beth Halbert, Teacher Consultant of WTWP and high school creative writing and AP English teacher at Mt. Juliet High School in Lebanon.

The workshops are open to all teachers, all subject matters. Registration is \$20. To register, contact the Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education at UT Martin, 731.881.7082, or write ECCE, 110 Gooch Hall, UT Martin, Martin 38238, or e-mail ecce@utm.edu, or see the WTWP website: www.utm.edu

Teachers: Artists in Residence

Mark Sept. 10, 2005, the University Center on the UT Martin campus, for the annual workshop for teachers sponsored by the West Tennessee Writing Project. Theme: “Teachers: Artists in Residence.”

Special guests for the day will be writer Kim Stafford and potter Jack Troy. Stafford is director of the Northwest Writing Institute, a site of the National Writing Project at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. His latest books include *The Muses Among Us: Eloquent Listening and other Pleasures of the Writers Craft* and *Early Morning: Remembering My Father, William Stafford*. Troy also is a writer. His collection of poems is titled *Calling the Planet Home*.

In addition to Stafford and Troy, the workshop will feature interactive teaching demonstrations led by Teacher Consultants of WTWP from grades kindergarten through college. Also included: book signing, morning coffee and rolls, box lunch, and certificates of participation. CEUs will be available.

The format this year will be slightly different from previous fall WTWP workshops. Gathering—packets, name tags—will begin at 8:30 with Stafford and Troy leading the opening session at 9. At 10, one half of the registrants will participate in a two-hour session led by Troy and Stafford, while the other registrants will have a choice among three teaching demonstrations starting at 10 and another set of three concurrent sessions starting at 11. This format repeats in the afternoon with teachers having participated with Troy and Stafford now having the opportunity to be with Teacher Consultants, and those having participated with Teacher Consultants in the morning now having two hours with Stafford and Troy.

Registration is limited to 120. Pre-registration is \$50. After August 26, \$65.

To register early, contact the Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education, ecce@utm.edu, or write ECCE, 110 Gooch Hall, UT Martin, Martin 38238. Be looking for news articles, brochures in teacher mailboxes, and watch for full program and registration on the WTWP website: www.utm.edu/wtwp

Inservice from WTWP

Some 160 Tennessee teachers are Teacher Consultants of the West Tennessee Writing Project. Teacher Consultants have participated in a four-week-long summer seminar in writing and writing instruction and are bringing to their students, K-12, numerous and varied approaches to reading and writing in the classroom. Their students write more often and in more genres, leading to stronger personal writing and school writing, including writing assessments.

If your school improvement plan calls for more and better writing, WTWP can assist by developing programs of inservice that focus on writing across the curricula.

If reading is a priority in your school, WTWP Teacher Consultants can demonstrate how their students participate in literature circles, an approach to reading that leads to greater comprehension, enjoyment of reading, wider reading, and critical thinking.

Writing assessments? Teacher Consultants of WTWP have served on the Writing Assessment Committee meeting in Nashville each spring, helping set anchor papers. WTWP Teacher Consultants can demonstrate to other teachers how they assist their students in preparing for the testing environment.

Betty Hicks, 6th grade reading teacher at Newbern’s Northview Middle School, is the inservice coordinator for the West Tennessee Writing Project. If you, your principal, or supervisor would like your school or system to partner with WTWP to plan and facilitate programs of professional development to fit the needs of teachers, contact the WTWP inservice coordinator, Betty Hicks, blhickswtwp@yahoo.com.

News of Teacher Consultants of WTWP

Sherry Griffin, Hillcrest kindergarten teacher, Troy, is one of fifteen teachers on the National Teacher Board of TIME for Kids, a weekly magazine for children published by TIME magazine. Sherry also writes and reviews questions for Think Link Learning of Nashville, which produces questions for writing assessments across the country. Sherry writes and reviews questions for grade level appropriateness and for matches to state standards.

Tina Coleman has been selected Teacher of the Year for Martin Middle School. Tina is a 6th and 8th grade science teacher.

Stephanie Mattox Elliott has been named to Who's Who Among America's Teachers. Stephanie teaches 8th grade English/language arts and 7th grade creative writing at Davidson Academy, Nashville.

Donna Dabbs is included in the Who's Who Among America's Teachers for 2003-2004. Donna teaches first graders at Halls Elementary.

Jane Robinson, kindergarten teacher at Milan Elementary, has been named teacher of the year for Grades K-4 for the Milan School System.

Betty Hicks, 6th reading teacher at Northview Middle, has been named teacher

of the year by her school and the Dyer County System.

Jenna Wright, faculty member in the Department of English at UT Martin, received the 2004 Coffey Outstanding Teaching Award.

Sonja Stepp has been named Big Sandy School Teacher of the Year. Sonja is a 2nd grade teacher.

Jill Barnett has been named Briarwood and Benton County Elementary Teacher of the Year. Jill is a 3rd grade teacher.

Candra Smith was named Favorite Teacher of the Year at Westview High School, Martin, in recognition of the Little Red Schoolhouse Campaign of the Chamber of Commerce. Candra is a 10th grade English teacher.



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WTWP Calendar

March 19, Sixth Saturday, for TCs, 9:30 a.m., Davis Kidd, Jackson

April 2 No Teacher Left Behind Workshop, Northview Middle, Newbern, registration, open to all

April 16 Summer 2004 Institute Follow-up, Martin

May 21 WTWP 2005 Invitational Summer Institute Immersion, UT Martin

June 6-30, Mon.-Thurs., WTWP 2005 Invitational Summer Institute, UT Martin

Sept. 10 "Teachers: Artists in Residence," workshop for teachers, all subject matter areas, with writer Kim Stafford and potter Jack Troy and Teacher Consultants of WTWP, University Center, UT Martin, 8:30-3:00, open to all, registration

About WTWP

The West Tennessee Writing Project is a program of professional development for teachers, K-12, in all subject matter areas.

Why a writing project? To increase the frequency of writing in classrooms, expand the variety of writing, develop a love of reading and writing among students, publish student writing, combine writing with reading to increase reading fluency and comprehension, and demonstrate competence in reading and writing in testing climates.

Funding for WTWP comes from the National Writing Project and the University of Tennessee at Martin with additional support for particular programs from area schools and systems. Project Director is Margrethe Ahlschwede, professor of English. For further information about WTWP, e-mail wtpw@utm.edu, phone 731.881.7300, or check the WTWP website: www.utm.edu/wtpw



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