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Field Notes

Vol. 14, No. 2

West Tennessee Writing Project

February 2006

1 “Teachers: Artists in Residence” Workshops for Teachers

“Bookmarks, Character Resumes, and Letters: Teaching Reading in Literature Circles,” will open the Saturday Feb. 11 workshop of the West Tennessee Writing Project to be held at Central High School, 29590 Broad Street, Bruceton.

The afternoon session is titled “Writing To Learn and Remember: First Steps To Writing Across the Curriculum.”

For all K-12 teachers, the workshop starts at 8:30 and ends at 3:30 with an hour for lunch.

Beth Halbert, English teacher at Mt. Juliet High School in Lebanon, will facilitate the 8:30 session where participants will experience ways of meeting and exceeding reading standards through the use of Literature Circles. In the afternoon session with Jane Robinson of Milan Elementary, teachers will discover a variety of ideas and activities for using writing to learn in all content areas.

Both Halbert and Robinson are Teacher Consultants of the West Tennessee Writing Project. Both sessions are applicable to all grade levels and demonstrate classroom practices consistent with state standards, specific performance indicators, and goals of differentiated instruction. Both sessions will include samples of student writing growing from these classroom practices. Participating teachers may earn points toward highly qualified status.

Registration is \$45. To register, contact the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education: ecce@utm.edu; 731.881.7082; or ECCE, 110 Gooch Hall, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238.

2 Invitational Summer Institute 2006

WTWP is now accepting applications for participation in the 2006 invitational summer reading, writing, teaching institute.

The institute meets Saturday May 20, 2006, and then Mondays through Thursdays, June 5-29, 2006 on the UT Martin campus. Deadline for applications is Feb. 22, 2006.

The summer institute offers six hours of graduate credit with tuition covered by the National Writing Project. The hours may be applied toward graduate work in education at UT Martin, may count as hours above the master’s, or may be used to document highly qualified status.

During the institute, teachers learn new ways to teach students how to become stronger readers and writers, consistent with standards and specific performance indicators; assessment that is both teacher-driven and student-driven; and approaches to writing and reading that develop critical thinking. Through writing workshops, teachers recover their love of writing.

The institute welcomes applications from teachers all grades K-12 and all subject matter areas. Past participants have been teachers of music, art, physical education, history, math, science, social studies, English, language arts, reading.

For further information and application materials, see www.utm.edu/wtwp or contact WTWP Director, Margrethe Ahlschwede, Department of English, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238, 731.881.7300.

3 Inservice from WTWP

For programs of professional development that meet teacher needs—preparing students for writing assessments, writing in all disciplines, the writing and reading connections, more writing and a wider range of writing—contact the West Tennessee Writing Project. As a site of the National Writing Project, WTWP is an approved provider of inservices through the No Child Left Behind

Act. In the past six months, WTWP has worked with teachers in the Savannah, Dyer County, and Obion County School Systems and with the faculty of St. Mary’s School, Jackson, and Bodine School in Memphis.

Inservice coordinator for WTWP is Betty Hicks, blhickswtwp@yahoo.com. Or e-mail wtwp@utm.edu.

West Tennessee Writing Project
Department of English
131 Humanities
The University of Tennessee at Martin
Martin, TN 38238

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WTWP Calendar

Feb. 11, 2006 "Teachers: Artists in Residence," standards-based workshop open to all, Central High School, Bruceton, 29590 Broad St., registration through ECCE@utm.edu.

Feb. 22, 2006 Applications for 2006 WTWP Summer Institute due, WTWP, Department of English, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238.

Feb. 25, 2006 WTWP 2005 Summer Institute Follow-up.

April 1, 2006 "Teachers: Artists in Residence," standards-based workshop open to all, Dyersburg State Community College, Baptist Student Union, registration through ECCE@utm.edu.

April 29, 2006 WTWP 2005 Summer Institute Follow-up

May 20, 2006 Immersion for 2006 Summer Invitational Institute, UT Martin.

June 5-29, 2006 Monday-Thursday, 2006 Summer Invitational Institute, UT Martin.

Aug. 19, 2006 "Every Child Has a Story," WTWP workshop open to all K-12 teachers, University Center at UT Martin, registration through ECCE@utm.edu

Nov. 17, 2006 National Writing Project Directors meeting, Nashville

About WTWP

The West Tennessee Writing Project is a program of professional development for teachers, K-12, that seeks to improve writing and writing instruction in our schools. It is housed in the Department of English at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

WTWP's guiding principles:

- Student writing will improve as writing instruction improves.
- Writing teachers should be writers themselves.
- The best teacher of another teacher is a teacher.

Teachers of WTWP—Writing Teachers/Writing People—believe everyone can write; create classrooms as safe places for students to read, write, and learn; respect standards as inherent in pedagogy; value assessment in many forms; honor students, colleagues, parents and administrators as partners in school success.

Teachers who participate in a summer invitational institute become Teacher Consultants of WTWP. In the classes of WTWP TCs, students write more often than heretofore and in a wider variety of genres. Students become better readers of their own writing, able to think more critically about what to say, how to say it, and who to say it to. With more opportunities to write and to write in a variety of ways, students perform better on reading and writing assessments.

Some Teacher Consultants of WTWP have organized and facilitate in-school and after-school reading and writing clubs, often the first such clubs in their schools. They sponsor literary magazines, also often the first in the school.

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.

The Advocacy Council of WTWP includes: Reneé Cooper, Camden Elementary; Paula Cox, Briarwood School, Camden; Beth Halbert, Mt. Juliet High School, Lebanon; Molly Coffman, Jackson Academic Magnet School; Douglas Cook, UT Martin Department of Visual and Theater Arts; Lee Hudson, Dyer City Schools; Lana Taylor Warren, Obion County Central High School, Troy; Deanna Chappell, Dyer County Schools; Betty Hicks, Newbern Middle, Dyer County; Sandi Walden, Hollow-Rock Bruceton; Brittan Sutherland, Martin Elementary; Nancy Warden, Harris Middle, Shelbyville; Jenna Wright, UT Martin Department of English; Angela Redden, Dickson Schools; Nancy Crider, Briarwood School, Camden; David Carithers, UT Martin Department of English; J. J. Cooper, Lakewood Elementary, Paris; Andi Neihoff, St. Mary's School, Jackson.

Contact information:

West Tennessee Writing Project
Margrethe Ahlschwede, Director
(mar-GRAY-da ALL-swede)
Department of English
College of Humanities and Fine Arts
University of Tennessee at Martin
Martin, TN 38238
e-mail: wtwp@utm.edu
phone: 731.881.7300
www.utm.edu/wtwp

