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# Field Notes



Vol. 15, No. 2

West Tennessee Writing Project

November 2006

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## To New Teachers from WTWP

Greetings from the West Tennessee Writing Project, professional home of hundreds of excellent teachers who have made a positive difference in the lives of thousands of students in Tennessee. I invite you to consider making WTWP your professional home, as well.

WTWP has one main goal: to improve writing in our schools. To achieve this, we work under three principles: 1) writing will improve as writing instruction improves; 2) the best teacher of a teacher is another teacher; and 3) teachers of writing must be writers themselves.

I invite teachers of all grades and subjects to consider the West Tennessee Writing Project as a place for personal growth and a resource that emphasizes creative approaches to teaching that can make your classroom even more exciting than it is now. In addition to the Invitational Summer Institutes, WTWP offers other programs throughout the year, including an annual fall workshop, in-service programs designed to meet teachers' needs, Young Writers' Clubhouse for third through eighth graders, writing retreats, and other opportunities for professional development.

Check out our Web site to find out more about WTWP and to apply to the Summer Institute: [www.utm.edu/wtwp](http://www.utm.edu/wtwp). Feel free to contact me directly at [dcarithers@utm.edu](mailto:dcarithers@utm.edu) for specific information. I look forward to hearing from you.



David Carithers  
Associate Director, WTWP

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## Young Writers' Clubhouse for Third Through Eighth Graders



The Young Writers' Clubhouse of the West Tennessee Writing Project met for its first session on September 30th in Gooch Hall on the UT Martin campus. Teacher Consultants of WTWP, Nancy Crider, Brittan Sutherland, and Annette Ferguson, led the day's activities. The young writers, third through eighth graders from West Tennessee, spent the morning exploring various topics about space. All wrote about a trip to the moon, created their own constellations, and told stories about how their constellations came to be placed in the sky.

Throughout the day, the Clubhouse writers shared their stories with friends and in small groups. They also received suggestions on grammar, editing, and revising from the

Teacher Consultants. All the young writers helped build a planetarium where they could walk or lie down and gaze up at the constellations they had created.

The second Young Writers' Clubhouse will be held December 9th, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at UT Martin. The Clubhouse is open to all 3rd–8th grade students. If you would like more information for your third through eighth graders and their parents about the Clubhouse and about registration, visit: [www.utm.edu/wtwp](http://www.utm.edu/wtwp) for an application or contact the Office of Extended Campus and Continuing Education at (731) 881-7082. Registration also is available online: <http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/youthwriting/writingreg.php>

## WTWP Calendar

**Nov. 16-18, 2006** National Writing Project Directors, Nashville, for WTWP Teacher Consultants, [www.writingproject.org](http://www.writingproject.org)

**Nov. 16-21, 2006** National Council of Teachers of English, registration, for all teachers, Nashville, Opryland, [www.ncte.org](http://www.ncte.org)

**Dec. 9, 2006** Young Writers' Clubhouse, for 3rd-8th graders, UT Martin\*

**January 6, 2007** Advocacy Council

**Feb. 10, 2007** Young Writers' Clubhouse, for 3rd-8th graders, UT Martin\*

**Feb. 17, 2007** Summer 2006 Institute Follow-up, Martin Public Library

**Feb. 23, 2007** Applications for 2007 Invitational Summer Institute due, WTWP, Department of English, UTM, Martin, TN 38238; apply on-line: [www.utm.edu/wtwp](http://www.utm.edu/wtwp)

**Feb. 24, 2007** Teacher Representatives Follow-up

**April 14, 2007** 2006 Summer Institute Follow-up, Obion County Library

**April 21, 2007** Young Writers' Clubhouse, for 3rd-8th graders, UT Martin\*

**April 28, 2007** 2006 Summer Institute Follow-up, Obion County Library

**May 19, 2007** Immersion and orientation for 2007 WTWP Summer Institute Teachers, UT Martin

**June 4-28, 2007** WTWP Invitational Summer Institute, Monday-Thursday, UT Martin

\* To register on-line for the Young Writers' Clubhouse, go to: <http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/youthwriting/writingreg.php>

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# 4 Teacher Representatives

Some thirty Teacher Consultants of WTWP have accepted the invitation to be WTWP Teacher Representatives—the voices and faces of WTWP—in their schools.

Diane Shaw, assistant professor of art at UTM, and long-time public school art educator, is WTWP's outreach liaison. Diane will coordinate this initiative of WTWP to directly reach teachers, modeling innovative writing classroom pedagogy and foregrounding WTWP as a program of professional development for educators, regardless of subject matter discipline.

Teacher Representatives include Molly Coffman, Jackson-Madison Academic Magnet; Margaret Parr, Dyersburg Primary; Mary Lou Marks, Camden Central High School; Paula Cox, Briarwood School, Camden; Deborah Doss, Fulton Co. Elementary; Deanna Chappell, Hickman Co. Schools; Shannon Tolene, McEwen High School; Sandi Walden, Hollow Rock-Bruceton; Lee Hudson, Dyer School; Amy Vaughan, Greenfield School; Marcia Coleman, West Carroll Jr./Sr. High; Andi Neihoff, St. Mary's, Jackson; Suzanne Edwards, Dyersburg High; Annette Ferguson, Ridgemont School, Union City; Adell Dew, Union City High; Donna Walker, McKenzie Middle; Cathy Evans, Big Sandy School; Angela Redden, Dickson Middle; Beth Halbert, Mt. Juliet High; Nancy Warden, Eagleville School; Kim Pierce, Gibson County High; Lana Warren, Obion Co. Central High; Brenda Hall, Middleton High; Katie Madden, Peabody High, Trenton; Jane Robinson, Milan Elementary; Blair Chadwick, Dresden High; Mark Yoder, Brighton High; Darla Bearden, Hillcrest School, Troy; Brittan Sutherland, Martin Elementary; Tina Coleman, Martin Middle.

## 3 Invitational Summer Institute 2007

The annual invitational summer institute is the heart of the West Tennessee Writing Project.

To be held Saturday May 19, 2007, and Mondays through Thursdays, June 4-28, 2007, on the UT Martin campus, the institute welcomes applications from already excellent teachers, K-12, all subjects – new teachers as well as long-time educators interested in refreshing their practice.

The summer institute offers six hours of graduate credit in English 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.

For further information about the institute or to request an application, contact David Carithers, WTWP associate director, Department of English, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238, 731.881.7289, dcarithers@utm.edu. Or apply on line: www.utm.edu/wtwp.

### About WTWP and *Field Notes*

This issue of *Field Notes* is being sent as a special welcome to the some 400 UT Martin graduates in teacher education in the last three years, and to West Tennessee supervisors and principals.

Teachers of the West Tennessee Writing Project—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.

WTWP is located in the Department of English in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, UT Martin. It is funded by the National Writing Project and the University of Tennessee at Martin with additional support for particular programs from area schools and systems.

Teacher leaders of WTWP include: Co-directors Brittan Sutherland, Martin Elementary; Angela Redden, Dickson Middle School; and Beth Halbert, Mt. Juliet High School. Technology Liaison for WTWP is Sandi Walden, Hollow Rock-Bruceton. Outreach Liaison is Diane Shaw, assistant professor of art, UT Martin. The Project Director is Margrethe Ahlschwede, UT Martin English Department, and Associate Director, David Carithers, UT Martin English Department.

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