

The PA Writing & Literature Project

Newsletter



Volume 36, Number 1

Fall 2016

Summer Writing Institute 2016

Invitation, Interview, and Inquiry

- by Mary Buckelew and Brenda Krupp

The Institute begins with an Invitation to teachers -- not just any teachers -- but teachers who seek the time to revisit themselves as writers, readers, thinkers, collaborators, and reflective practitioners.

The Invitation leads to an Interview which begins with a question, what are you interested in pursuing this summer? And one question always leads to another; What do you want to learn about writing, teaching writing, and yourself as a writer? And before you know it, you are a part of the Summer Invitation-Interview Writing Institute. Writing, reading, thinking, and inquiring alongside some of the most amazing people you will ever meet.

This year's Institute participants included five high school teachers, four middle school teachers, four elementary school teachers, and one post-high school teacher.



2016 Writing Institute Fellows

Teachers from a variety of school districts and universities convened in the spring of 2016 to begin their journey. This outstanding group of educators embarked on a learning journey in which they wrote each day, conferred regularly with colleagues, discussed pedagogy texts and ideas, and wrestled with inquiry issues of their choice. This once group of strangers became a community of colleagues who will return to their classrooms as teachers who write. Teachers who will infuse poetry into their classrooms, model writing with students, offer students choice, confer with students daily,

use RAFT to make connections, make grammar lessons active, and allow students the opportunity to study writing process as they did this summer.

It begins with an Invitation, an interview, a question, and now it ends with a question. What are you doing next summer?

Join us in 2017!

The Invitational Institute includes three spring meetings, three weeks in the summer, and one fall date. Participants earn six graduate credits from West Chester University, and become Fellows of the Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project as well as the National Writing Project. Applications are accepted on a rolling admission basis. Applicants who apply by **December 2, 2016** may be eligible for a stipend to help defer costs. The deadline to apply is **April 14, 2017**. See page 2 for specific dates and times as well as application information.



PAWLP Community, Connections, & Collaboration

A Note from Mary and Pauline

Dear Fellows and Friends,

Greetings!

The summer of 2016 was particularly exciting for the Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project (PAWLP) for many reasons! First and foremost, PAWLP's new Associate Director Dr. Pauline Schmidt spent the summer visiting and teaching in the Youth Writing classes, coaching in the Writing Institute, and visiting PAWLP's graduate classes. Pauline is a wonderful addition to the PAWLP family!

As we look ahead to a new school year, we reflect on the myriad Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project's (PAWLP) summer courses and experiences that prepared teachers and students for the new school year. 339 students in grades 1st through 12th attended the Young Writers programs offered in various locations in Bucks, Berks, Chester, and Montgomery Counties as well as in Valley Forge National Historical Park, Graeme Park, and Longwood Gardens.

The six credit graduate Writing Institute rejuvenated all who participated. We left with a renewed passion for writing and the teaching of writing! In addition to the Institute, PAWLP's course coordinators were busy inspiring teachers in five dif-

ferent PAWLP courses which ran throughout the summer: Writing and Children's Literature, Digital Writing, Strategies for Teaching Writing, Grammar Matters, and Literacy in Bloom. Each course and the coordinators received rave reviews from participants (see opposite page for some of the comments).

This fall 34 teachers are taking one of two PAWLP courses: Teacher as Writer and Strategies for Teaching Writing.

Looking ahead to the spring, we are offering some exciting courses that are sure to rejuvenate!

Writing Institute Class of 2016

Elizabeth Condello
Chester County Intermediate Unit
Nicole Coppola
Phoenixville Area SD
Abby Davis
Avon Grove SD
Trish DiFilippo
Unionville Chadds Ford SD
Trevor Drake
Tredyffrin/Easttown SD
Jeremiah Glass
Tredyffrin/ Easttown SD
Melissa Hurwitz
Ridley SD
Bernadette Langdon
SS Simon and Jude School
Karen MacNamara
Kennett Consolidated SD
Courtney Maguire
Schuylkill Valley SD
Liz Mathews
Villanova and
West Chester University
Lisa McCarthy
Rose Tree Media SD
Virginia McGarvey
Kennett Consolidated SD
Richard Paquette
Chester Upland SD

2017 Invitational Institute

Dates

Spring: April 29, May 20, June 3, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Summer: Three weeks, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

June 26 - 30, July 5 - 7, July 10 - 13

Fall: September 30, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

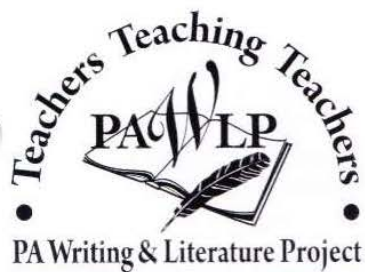
- For an application form go to www.pawlp.org, e-mail amascherino@wcupa.edu, or call **610-436-2202**
- Applicants who apply by **December 2, 2016** are eligible for a **stipend** to help defer costs
- Final application deadline: **April 14, 2017**

What Is PAWLP?

The Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project (PAWLP) is one of the oldest sites of the National Writing Project (NWP). PAWLP follows NWP's guiding principles and provides professional development, develops resources, generates research, and acts on knowledge to improve the teaching of writing and learning in schools and communities.

PAWLP believes that access to high-quality educational experiences is a basic right of all learners and a cornerstone of equity. We work in partnership with institutions, organizations, and communities to develop and support leadership for educational improvement.

PAWLP offers summer and school-year courses and workshops in teaching writing, teaching literature, writing-reading connections, authentic assessment, and special topics of interest to educators. For information on how to bring a course or professional development program to your district email Director Mary Buckelew (mbuckelew@wcupa.edu) or Associate Director Pauline Schmidt (pschmidt@wcupa.edu).



PWP 508 Digital Writing

I learned more in one week than I learned in 5 years. It made me rethink every aspect of my life.



PWP 503 – 31 Grammar Matters

Take it. It will revolutionize your grammar instruction.



PWP 503 – 30 Strategies for Teaching Writing

Take this class to strengthen your writing and your writing instruction! It is the best summer camp! You will leave with specific lessons, reproducible, and resources that you can employ throughout your teaching year.



PWP 513 Writing and Children's Literature

You will learn so much about writing and be exposed to great literature. You will not regret it.



PWP 599 Literacy in Bloom

I wanted to be surrounded by PAWLP again. I wanted to think and explore with other teachers and discover how I can bring nature into my classroom.

Tools of the Trade: Each Other

by Kelly Virgin, '10 Writing, kellyavirgin@gmail.com

My week as a co-facilitator of the PAWLP Grammar Matters course reminded me of the most vital tools teachers have access to in our profession: each other. Throughout the week I had the sheer pleasure of learning from a group of experienced and dedicated teachers. Teachers who instruct everyone from the tech-savvy-pajama-clad-behind-the-screen cyber high schooler to the squiggly-giggly-in-the-flesh-on-the-floor fourth grader. Teachers who reminded me of the importance of reading picture books to my 9th graders and who rejuvenated my excitement to explore conventions along with them. Teachers who introduced me to educational websites, learning apps, presentation tools and who had the patience to help me learn how to access and use them. Teachers who challenged my thinking and reaffirmed my beliefs.

In just a few short weeks many of us will be back to days that are crammed with lesson planning and attendance taking. We will be focused on our students' learning and consumed by our daily responsibilities as educators. And if we don't make a conscientious effort, days, maybe even weeks, will pass without us taking the time to engage in any challenging or reaffirming professional conversations. However, in order to sustain our energy and creativity for all 180 days of the school year, it is important to remember to take the time to talk to and to work with our colleagues as well as to seek professional assets from beyond our daily encounters.

Within our schools we can seek out professional communities by joining committees, participating in a book club, or just taking the time and making the commitment to leave our desks during lunch. Outside of our schools we can always count on PAWLP to help us make connections with other area teachers. Below is a list of a few of the collegial offerings available through

PAWLP this fall:

Informal gatherings and discussions:

Continuity will be hosted by Janice Ewing and Kim Kraf on three Saturday mornings this fall: September 17th, October 29th, and December 3rd. This informal and friendly gathering meets upstairs in the PAWLP office from 10:00 to 11:30 and is described as, "Continuity, conversation, collaboration, and old and new friendships abound." While there is structure to these meetings (focused writing, sharing, guided discussion), they tend to go in the direction that best works for the group of the day. I always leave feeling energized and reconnected.



PAWLP Children's Book Writing Group is a newly formed group of writers who are interested in crafting children's books. Dana Kramaroff plans to lead this group right before each of the Continuity meetings from 9:00 to 9:45. Anyone interested in learning more about the craft is welcome.

Come with your writing, your ideas, your insight, and/or your questions.

Before the Book Club is a book club designed to introduce the book before you read it. During the evening on November 1st, Rina Vassallo and I will introduce a current and relevant book through an array of interactive and engaging activities. This laid back and fun book discussion is open to anyone interested in meeting new people and discussing new books.

Whether you have the ability to connect with other professionals by committing to a semester long class or can only find the time to drop into one of PAWLP's informal discussions for an hour or two, you will be sure to leave with new friendships and a renewed drive for teaching.

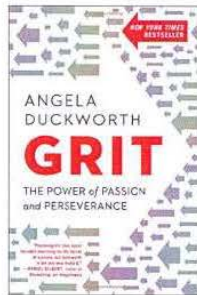
PAWLP Before You Read the Book Club

Tuesday, November 1, 2016

- by Rina Vassallo, '94 Writing, rinav818@gmail.com

On Wednesday, April 20th Kelly Virgin and I held the inauguration PAWLP Before You Read the Book Club. Feedback from previous book discussions indicated that participants were reluctant to come if they had not read the book. We decided to eliminate that obstacle.

Our goal is to share enough about the book that you can decide to read it ... or not. So although we have discussions after introducing a topic, we also incorporate activities in order for participants to have a deeper understanding and appreciation of the ideas.



Our fall PAWLP Before You Read the Book Club will be held on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at the PAWLP office. Our selection is the new book *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance* by Angela Duckworth. A local educator, Dr. Duckworth is a former classroom

teacher and now a University of Pennsylvania professor. She has done extensive research in area school districts. Although her work has sparked some controversy, Kelly and I believe the concepts she discusses in this thoughtful book have implications for our professional as well as our personal lives.

The New York Times book review of the book states this about *Grit*: "*Grit...is egalitarian, or at least a less class-based indicator of future accomplishment than aptitude... The development of grit does not rely quite so much on culturally specific prompts. Moreover, grit appears to be a better engine of social mobility.*"

Our discussion should prove to be spirited and thought provoking.

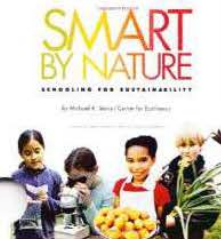
Please join us on November 1st from 5 pm to 7 pm for this free event (snacks included). Register by contacting Ann Mascherino at amascherino@wcupa.edu.

PAWLP Reads and Writes

PAWLP Studies Place-based Learning and Sustainability

sponsored by the National Writing Project and the National Park Service

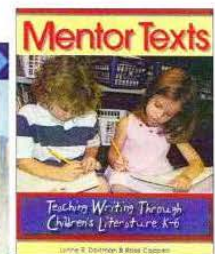
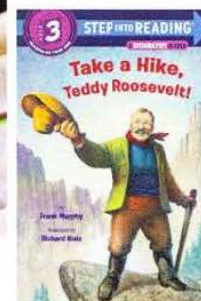
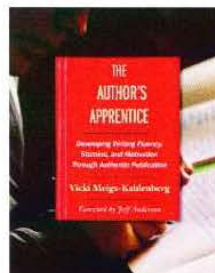
An inspirational and practical exploration of bringing "eco consciousness" to K-12 education, *Smart by Nature* shows how schools and districts across the country are orienting their activities around environmental responsibility and wisdom: in gardens and cafeterias, on campuses, with nature-based curriculums, and in the communities that surround their schools.



If you are interested in joining the conversation, contact Mary Buckelew (mbuckelew@wcupa.edu) or Patty Koller (pkoller55@gmail.com).

New Books by PAWLP authors

Vicki Meigs-Kahlenberg, '00 Writing, recently published *The Author's Apprentice*, *Developing Writing Fluency*, *Stamina*, and *Motivation Through Authentic Publication*. Frank Murphy, '03 Writing, published *Take a Hike, Teddy Roosevelt!*, the most recent of his Steps into Reading books. Lynne Dorfman, '89 Writing, and Rose Cappelli, '96 Writing, are working on the second edition of *Mentor Texts: Teaching Writing Through Children's Literature, K-6*.



INSPIRING YOUNG WRITERS: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

by Diana Berklich '02 Writing, '03 Literature, dberklic@gmail.com and
Patty Koller, '92 Literature, pkoller55@gmail.com

Valley Forge is steeped in history, most famously as the site of the 1776-1777 encampment of General George Washington and his troops. But Valley Forge has also been the site of a more recent event. Not an encampment, but a camp. Not General George Washington, but Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project teachers working in partnership with Valley Forge rangers. This event has been occurring and evolving over the past six years under the design and direction of site director and teacher Diana Berklich with the support of PAWLP director Mary Buckelew, co-director Karen Pawlewicz, program coordinator Ann Mascherino and teaching assistant Jeana Schreiber. Joined this year by co-teacher Patty Koller, this is the PAWLP Young Writers/Young Readers camp at Valley Forge National Historic Park.

The year is 2016. We began our first day with an overview of the two weeks ahead of us as writers of nature and history at Valley Forge. We discussed how looking closely and listening carefully as naturalists and historians would help to inform us as writers as we observed and recorded field

notes into our writers notebooks. Ranger Jenn provided us with a guided walking tour to get the lay of the land and to see firsthand the significance of the environmental features that contributed to the selection of this area as the site of the 1776-1777 encampment.

It was the first week of camp and the natural elements of the park were the focus for us as readers, writers and learners. We relied on multiple books as mentor texts for our writing and we engaged in a wide variety of first-hand experiences in nature to inform us. Ranger Rick led us on a bird-walk through the woods. The stream was our classroom as we pulled on waders and used nets to catch and identify native and non-native crayfish, earning us Crayfish Corps badges. We became Weed Warriors by cutting back invasive, non-native plants. We examined animal pelts and went out in nature to closely observe shape, color and pattern.

We wrote each and every day. Here are some of the writings these experiences inspired:

Robin

by Schewon

The robin is proud
Walking in her red and grey suit
She is not scared of anything
Don't trespass near her
Or face a good pecking!

Song Sparrow

by Rishab

Prancing like a kangaroo
Singing a melodious song
With many tunes

Poking and pecking
Everything you can find
Eating dry seeds
And finding them
Throughout the day

This is the thing you do
Everyday
Everyday
Everyday!



The Wood Poem

by Liam

Swirls and swirls of wonder
How did they get here?
Was it from aliens
Or was it from nature
Doing it's work?
Oh wood, why are you
Such a wonder?

How to Find a Crayfish

by Faryal

First you need tools.
Here are the tools you'll need:
A net
A bucket
Waders
And a mind set to catch a crayfish
Next you take the net and set it up creek
You let water through
Then you pick up the net
See if you caught one
If you caught a native,
You put it back in the water
If you found a pesky, invasive rusty
You put it in the bucket
And repeat
And repeat . . . FOREVER!
Just kidding
You can do the same thing as long as you want!

INSPIRING YOUNG WRITERS, CONTINUED

History was the focus during our second week of camp. A trolley tour provided us with a great deal of historical insight as we visited various locations around the park. We participated in a haversack activity and utilized the Valley Forge muster roll to look up the names of individual soldiers. We imagined their lives here at Valley Forge and went on a scavenger hunt for things in the museum our soldiers might have used. Washington's Headquarters, the train station, stable and bake house were additional sources of inspiration for our writing as was our tour of the chapel and bell tower. We wrote descriptive paragraphs, persuasive letters, ballads, odes and a wide variety of poetry.



Our personal history here at Valley Forge National Historical Park is a young one yet it has provided us, once again, with an amazing venue for stretching ourselves as readers, writers and teachers! We summarize our two-week experience with the following poem:

IMAGINE A PLACE

written by the 2016 Young Writers students at Valley Forge
Inspired by *Imagine a Place* by Sarah L. Thomson

Imagine a place . . .

- . . . where the ocean sank deep into the ground like a sponge in water and became perfect land for farming
- . . . where mammoths and saber-toothed tigers roamed free and where time now tells their stories in bone caves
- . . . where the dark, moist soil held plentiful crops ready to sell so people never starved.
- . . . where log cabins, each one containing a dozen cold, ill soldiers of General George Washington, filled the land.
- . . . where there was a limited supply of food but many hungry soldiers, women and children.
- . . . where General von Steuben trained the troops.
- . . . where all the invasive, non-native rusty crayfish are driven into nets by fearless members of the crayfish corps.
- . . . where birds are spotted by the keen eye of bird watchers aided by binoculars, a bird-watching expert, and an app that makes bird sounds.
- . . . where invasive, non-native plant species are cut back by weed warrior heroes.
- . . . where patterns and shapes are observed by quiet writers which then impacts how they see nature.

**IMAGINE A PLACE WHERE NATURE AND HISTORY WEAVE TOGETHER
TO MAKE VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK THE WONDER THAT IT IS.**

Spring 2017 Graduate Courses

Strategies for Teaching Literature, 4 - 12 PWP 520-01

Tuesdays, January 24 - May 9 (no class March 14), 5:00 - 7:45 p.m.

Location: PAWLP classroom, West Chester University

plus Saturday, March 18, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at West Chester University's Graduate Center

The experience of reading literature is central to designing experiences for teaching literature. To this end, teachers will read a variety of current and canonical literature and explore pertinent theory and pedagogy in light of these texts and their own teaching. In this course participants will discover their own processes as readers, share lessons in literary elements, apply PA Standards and Assessments to curriculum, discuss and apply current theory as it applies to their classrooms, and design and experience writing activities about and inspired by literature.

Nonfiction in the Reading/Writing Classroom, K - 8 PWP 599-03

Thursdays, January 19, 26, February 9, 23, March 9, 30, April 13, 20, 4:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Perkiomen Valley SD

plus Saturday, March 18, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at West Chester University's Graduate Center

This course presents a journey into the world of nonfiction and its uses in the classroom, K-8. At its core, the course will focus on strategies for success for reading and writing nonfiction. Participants will become familiar with professional books, journals, and children's books, magazines, and web sites. In addition, graphic organizers, author's craft, tools for research, assessment, and evaluation will be modeled and discussed.

The Writer's Notebook, a Tool to Empower Writers, 2 - 10 PWP 599-01

Wednesdays, January 25, February 1, 15, 22, March 1, 22, 29, April 5, 19, 26, 5:00 - 8:45 p.m.

Location: Warwick Elementary School, Central Bucks School District

plus Saturday, March 18, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at West Chester University's Graduate Center.

Take a journey alongside your students with your Writer's Notebook in hand. This three-credit course will explore how teachers and their students can use their notebooks to live their lives as writers. Teachers will spend time generating ideas, sharing entries, and experiencing the various uses for notebooks. They will also delve into the most difficult part of utilizing a writer's notebook - revisiting "seed ideas" planted in the notebook and growing them into drafts. This course is being offered throughout the school year so that teachers can take strategies and their own Writer's Notebooks immediately back to their classrooms to use with their students.

Exploring the Teaching Artist Within, 6 - 12 PWP 599-02 *New hybrid course!*

Thursdays, January 26, February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2, April 27, 4:25 - 7:10 p.m.

Location: PAWLP classroom, West Chester University

plus Saturday, March 18, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at West Chester University's Graduate Center

This hybrid course will immerse participants into the world of visual, aesthetic, and performative arts. We will explore underlying theory in the first few course meetings, followed by practical applications, lessons, and experiential sessions. Teachers will then design and implement mini-research projects to be held in their classrooms. Communication will continue via D2L during this time for support, encouragement, and 'research problem solving'. The class will culminate at the end of the semester to celebrate and share our work!

If you are not enrolled in a Master's Degree program at West Chester University, go to

http://wcupa.edu/_admissions/sch_dgr/nondegree.asp

to learn how to register as a non-degree student.

PAWLP Office: 610-436-2202

Infusing the ARTS Across the Curriculum

Saturday Seminar

Save the date!

March 18, 2017

West Chester University Graduate Center

8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

General Public: \$30 if registered and paid by March 3, \$40 thereafter
PAWLP Fellows: \$20 if registered and paid by March 3, \$30 thereafter
WCU Undergraduate students: \$10

Visit www.pawlp.org for registration information



WHAT TO EXPECT:

Sir Ken Robinson says, "Everyone has creative capacity. The challenge is to know how to cultivate it." Our Associate Director, Pauline Schmidt will start the day with introductory remarks that will provide the framework for the day, citing educators such as Maxine Greene and Dorothy Heathcote. Pauline will address the importance of the arts in the face of standardization and high-stakes testing in education, and share the history and underlying themes that will be presented in the breakout sessions.

Keynote Speaker: *Janet Wong*

Janet S. Wong was born in Los Angeles to a Korean mother and a Chinese father. An award-winning author of picture books and poetry for young readers, she lives in Hopewell, New Jersey. More information can be found at www.janetwong.com.



Janet Wong
poet, author, educator

We will have several breakout sessions featuring 2016 PAWLP Fellows

Jeremiah Glass: *Arting and Drabbling Through Many a Mood*

Nicole Coppola and Melissa Hurwitz: *Teaching Grammar and Conventions through Context and Movement.*

Liz Mathews: *Developing Narratives through Visual Metaphors: Tools for Writers & Artists*

Our day will culminate with an Author's Panel and Q&A session.

Every child is an artist.

The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.

- Pablo Picasso

Advocacy: Telling Your Story

by Brenda Krupp, '93 Writing, bjk213@comcast.net and
Judy Jester, '93 Writing, '94 Lit, judithmjester@gmail.com

PAWLP Goes to Washington!

It's mid-March. The cherry blossoms may or may not be blooming when you go. The weather could be cold and rainy or delightfully spring-like. But no matter the weather, you will be in for a day you will never forget.

The NWP Spring Meeting is always an exciting event. A large part of the meeting gives Writing Project teachers and leaders an opportunity to share their classroom successes with members of Congress and with each other. (NWP <http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/doc/16sm/home.csp>)

This year was no exception. It was late in the day when we (Mary Buckelew, Pauline Schmidt, Judy Jester, and Brenda Krupp) visited the office of Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick, and it was late in the conversation that letters from Brenda's third grade students were mentioned to the educational aide. And because of this twenty minute visit, Congressman Fitzpatrick visited Brenda's classroom to see nineteen 3rd grade writers. His visit showed this group of eight and nine-year-olds that writing matters and that they can have a voice in their world. He encouraged them to continue writing and to be a part of the democratic process.

Another government official expressed a similar sentiment as a result of our visit. Several of Judy's 8th graders had written to the Secretary of the Navy, Judge Advocate General, Vice Admiral James W. Crawford, asking that he vacate a mutiny conviction from

World War II that they'd read about in her class. On our day at the Hill we asked the office of our local Congressman, Patrick Meehan, to see that the letter got into the right hands, which they did gladly. Not only did the Vice Admiral later write us a detailed letter explaining why the conviction couldn't be overturned, he also invited us for a personal tour of the Pentagon. Though they'd have preferred to have gotten their way, these thirteen-year-olds were

200 sites with our Congressmen and Senators helps to shore support for funding for the Supporting Effective Educator Programs (SEED) grant program, a competitive funding stream, which for the past three years has helped to underwrite the cost of Summer Institutes. More importantly, it allows us to share how writing changes students and teachers and to thank local delegations for their support of this important work.

Not everyone can attend this day, but you can be involved. Your congressmen and women want to hear YOUR classroom stories. Take the time to write to them and tell your story. Be on the lookout for e-mail invitations to contact your representatives to tell your PAWLP/NWP story. Your voice matters.



Director Mary Buckelew, Co-Directors Judy Jester and Brenda Krupp, and Associate Director Pauline Schmidt visit Pennsylvania's legislators in Washington, D.C.



Congressman Fitzpatrick visits Brenda Krupp's 3rd grade class

sufficiently impressed that the man in charge of some 2,500 lawyers for the Navy would explain his reasons to them at such length.

PAWLP's experience is not singular. Sharing success stories from NWP's



Versatility to Continuity

- by Kim Kraf, '07 Writing, kraf.kimberly@gmail.com

I was not at the table when the concept of holding Continuity was conceived, so I hope that you will allow me to compliment the foresight of those who were. I can only imagine that Continuity began as most things do at NWP and PAWLP – with conversations amongst Fellows attempting to better themselves as writers, teachers, and lifelong learners. I imagine that these people were looking to create a versatile time for members to get together and reconnect, learn, or develop ideas. The National Writing Project has been holding Continuity for over forty years. At PAWLP, we are continuing the tradition and expanding it in new ways.



This past year we experienced the versatility of these sessions as our time together morphed from gathering to seek deeper understandings to growing and mentoring new ideas. Janice Ewing and I came to sessions prepared to talk about the changes occurring in classrooms today, but saw that the real changes were occurring in front of us. Fellows and friends arrived with a willingness and need to share projects and issues that they were passionate about. In some cases, they did not have a supportive community within their school for this type of sharing and reconnection with PAWLP was a professional lifeline.

Continuity was renewed as a workshop for educators actively looking to create changes. The topics took many forms. If you happened to walk into a session this past spring, you may have seen an emotional group reacting to the poetry of a mother reminiscing on moments

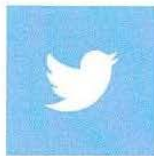
from her first year of having an empty nest. During other sessions, we helped each other to put together essays for graduate school, presentations for our professional lives, and even gave birth to the new idea of a children's book writing group. This year was nothing like we expected it to be, and everything that we needed.

Please join us this coming year. Time is always available for writing or presentation workshops. We will also focus on



practices that sustain and enrich the lives of everyone in the school

community. We hope to see you for any or all of our fall sessions, which will be held on September 17th, October 29th, and December 3rd, from 10:00-11:30.



Follow us on Twitter @PAWLPnews
Contact Judy Jester at
judithmjester@gmail.com
for details.



Read the PAWLP Blog at:
<https://pawlpblog.org/>



The Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of English and Language Arts (PCTELA) Conference

October 14 and 15 in State College, PA.

Theme:
Congruent Worlds, Convergent Practice: Restoring Self, School, and Society



The Keystone State Reading Association (KSRA) Conference

October 22 - 25
Sinking Springs Mountain Resort

Theme:
Literacy Changes Lives



NWP/NCTE Meetings
in Atlanta
November 16 - 20



THE PA WRITING & LITERATURE PROJECT

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The PA Writing & Literature Project *Newsletter* is published by and for those affiliated with the Project. Submissions are always welcome and can be mailed to the PA Writing & Literature Project, West Chester University, West Chester, PA, 19383 or e-mailed to amascherino@wcupa.edu.

Sign up for the electronic *Newsletter* on our website at www.pawlp.org

Phone: 610-436-2202
www.pawlp.org



Master's Degree and Certificate Programs

The Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project (PAWLP) helps K-16 teaching professionals improve their writing, reading, and literature instruction while enabling them to earn graduate credit. PAWLP serves the English M.A. program primarily through a cluster of PWP courses offered in the Writing, Teaching, and Criticism Track, including the required PWP 502: Teachers as Writers. Various other PWP courses are available as electives to students in all three tracks. PAWLP also offers certificates in Writing Instruction and Strategies for Teaching Writing and Literature for elementary and secondary instructors.

Professional Development

PAWLP offers cost effective on-site professional development. We have consultants who specialize in all aspects of teaching writing and reading across the content areas.

- Consulting Opportunities
- Professional Development Seminars
- On-site courses and workshops
- Graduate Certificates

Does your district have achievement gap concerns? Learn how *RATE* (Reach And Teach Everyone) can help address those concerns in ways tailored to your particular needs.

Contact Mary Buckelew (mbuckelew@wcupa.edu) or Pauline Schmidt (pschmidt@wcupa.edu) for details.

Important Dates in 2016-17

November 1, 2016 - Before You Read the Book Club, 5 - 7 p.m. in the PAWLP Office

September 17, October 29, December 3, 2016 - Continuity Saturdays

November 16 - 20, 2016 - NWP/NCTE in Atlanta

March 18, 2017 - Spring Saturday Seminar: *Infusing the Arts Across the Curriculum*,

8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the West Chester University Graduate Center