



Kennesaw Mountain Writing Project – Kennesaw, Georgia

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editor

Inside this issue:

KMWP Continuity 1
Invites You to
*Come to the
Mountain*

Georgia Network 2
of Writing Project
Sites Hosts
Annual Retreat

Georgia Writing 2
Project Sites Visit
Washington

Power to the 3
Teachers:
Planning for the
2010 Invitational
Summer Institute

Rockdale/ 4
Westminster
Cohort

KMWP Awarded 4
Technology
Liaisons Network
Mini-Grant
to Address Cobb
County School
District Internet
Policies

KMWP 2010 4
Calendar

KMWP Continuity Invites You to Come to the Mountain
by Mary Ann Stillerman

In an effort to provide greater access to our on-going professional development opportunities, KMWP launches a new approach to Continuity for its teacher consultants. Upcoming events include writing groups both on campus and offsite throughout our KMWP community. In addition, KMWP will deliver a series of webinars on literacy in our classrooms. The webinars will begin this summer, and we invite you and your colleagues to participate! Some of the topics included are writing through memoir, reading and writing with young adult fiction, and community research projects.

For National Poetry Month, our continuity featured a Poetry Potluck on Saturday, April 24th facilitated by KMWP teacher consultants, Lane Dye and Patsy Hamby.

Interested in hosting an event or webinar? Have an idea for a continuity event? Would you like to facilitate or co-facilitate a continuity event? Contact Mary Stillerman at mary.stillerman@gmail.com.

Coming in Spring & Summer:

<i>Webinar: Picture Pathways: Writing with Photographs and Paintings</i>	May
<i>Webinar: Reaching Reluctant Writers Through Memoir</i>	June
<i>Webinar: Reading and Writing with Young Adult Fiction</i>	July
<i>If These Walls Could Talk: Community Research Projects</i> <i>Marietta, Kennesaw House</i>	

Coming in the Fall for 2010-2011 School Year

<i>Webinar: Celebrate Writing: Writing Competitions</i>	Aug.
<i>Webinar: Leveraging Literacy—21st Century Skills, Math, and Writing</i> <i>Hillgrove</i>	Sep.
Fall Carousel of Learning & AC Meeting <i>KSU Campus</i>	Sep.
Writing with Picture Books <i>Cherokee (TBD)</i>	Oct.
Teachers as Writers <i>KSU Campus</i>	Nov.



Georgia Network of Writing Project Sites Hosts Annual Retreat by Mary Ann Stillerman

Directors and teacher consultants from eight writing project sites around the state gathered on January 16th in Macon to plan the work of the National Writing Project in Georgia.

KMWP's Amy Byram participated in the director's roundtable to share ideas for recruitment and the Invitational Summer Institute along with ideas on managing site budgets economically. Mary Ann Stillerman joined the D.C. planning group to coordinate efforts for the National Writing Project's Spring Meeting and visits to legislative offices March 24 – 26, 2010. The legislative advocacy planning group established a wiki for coordinating advocacy efforts.

In addition to sharing strategic planning efforts at each of our sites, we also welcomed a new site, the Coastal Georgia Writing Project of Armstrong Atlantic, to our network. Coastal Georgia will host its first Summer Institute this June.



“The Georgia contingent continues to contact local and Washington legislators to plead the case for support and continued funding. Please contact your local congressman and senator to tell your story.”

Georgia Writing Project Sites Visit Washington by Michelle Goodsite

Fifteen Georgia Network Writing Project teacher consultants gathered in Washington, D.C. on March 25 for the annual NWP Spring Meeting. Michelle Goodsite and Mary Ann Stillerman attended on behalf of KMWP. After much cross-site preparation, TCs set out to Capital Hill to encourage all of Georgia's Congressman and Senators to continue support for federal re-funding of the NWP for year 2011. The NWP has been federally funded since 1991 and is now in jeopardy of losing federal funding due to changes at the Department of Education, specifically the Elementary and Secondary Education Act formally No Child Left Behind. The Georgia contingent continues to contact local and Washington legislators to plead the case for support and continued funding. Please contact your local congressman and senator to tell your story.

Power to the Teachers: Planning for the 2010 Invitational Summer Institute

by Amy Byram

The theme for the upcoming KMWP Invitational Summer Institute is *Putting the Fun Back into Teaching: Strengthening Your Teacher Rock Star through Writing, Collaboration, and Inquiry*. Teacher Consultants Kathy Nichols, Mandy Burgess, Linsay Hoots, and Shaun Sudberry joined the ISI teaching team early in the 2009/2010 school year. Guided by Jennifer Dail, KSU English Faculty Co-director; Amy Byram, KMWP Summer Institute Co-director; and Michelle Goodsite, KMWP Professional Development Coordinator, the team generated fresh and rigorously fun ideas for coaching and modeling and for writing and collaborating. Director, Dawn Kirby, is joining us during the first week to guide the new fellows in writing memoir and in learning revision practices. Jennifer Dail plans to teach the fellows storyboarding as writing process to plan and develop high-interest teacher demonstrations. English Education faculty member, Rob Montgomery, will join the SI to assist with coaching.

The ISI will begin on Friday, June 11; Saturday, June 12 is included in the schedule, and the institute ends on July 1. One exciting new idea that we believe will be of great benefit is a mini-conference on May 8, which is the Saturday following the May 6 Pre-Institute Workshop event.

The mini-conference will be the first day of demonstration and coaching sessions for the new fellows. Two KMWP Teacher Consultants, Chuck Bohannon (2008 ISI Fellow) and Shaun Sudberry (2009 ISI Fellow), have agreed to provide two forty-five minute sessions. Beth Giddons and Aaron Levy from the KSU English Department have been invited to discuss their work as writers. After a potluck luncheon, the deep work of debriefing the essential framework of a teacher demonstration will begin. Adding this work day to the ISI calendar will, we hope, prepare the fellows to return on June 11 ready to confirm an inquiry plan for research and demonstration.

The select ISI text, *Teacher as Researcher*, is a NWP publication written by TCs and Leadership from the Northern Virginia Writing Project. During interview sessions in March, the candidates spent time reading two chapters. This activity provided a scholarly platform for the candidates to share their specific perspectives about teacher empowerment and inquiry. We learned so much about each candidate and were very impressed with all twenty-three highly qualified teachers.

In addition to the main text, fellows will participate in book groups where the elementary teachers read a set of picture books centered around a theme or a single author and where the secondary teachers read two young adult novels centered around a theme. The goal of these book groups is to introduce teachers to literature for their classroom and to engage them in rich discussions about the teaching of literature and writing in conjunction with each other.

The 2010 fellowship of teachers from Kindergarten through University includes one kindergarten teacher, seven elementary school teachers, three middle school teachers, five high school teachers, three KSU MAPW students who also teach freshman composition classes at KSU, and one university teacher from Colegio Menor in Quito, Ecuador. Building on a foundation of collaborative inquiry, the KMWP Invitational Summer Institute experience will culminate as a network of empowered teachers who will return to their schools and classrooms ready to teach writing more effectively.

“The goal of these book groups is to introduce teachers to literature for their classroom and to engage them in rich discussions about the teaching of literature and writing in conjunction with each other.”

Rockdale/Westminster Cohort *by Michelle Goodsite*

KMWP continues its partnership with the Center for Teaching at Westminster this school year through a grant from the Rockdale Foundation allowing twenty Atlanta Public School and private institution teachers from Lovett, Westminster and Paidea, to gather this school year to research, discuss and write about writing in the classroom. This unique collaborative has allowed teachers from two very different teaching situations to share and challenge one another in their approaches to writing in the classroom. We value the collaboration and partnership KMWP has with the Center for Teaching and look forward to continued collaborative efforts.

KMWP Awarded Technology Liaisons Network Mini-Grant to Address Cobb County School District Internet Policies *by Darren Crovitz*

This spring, the KMWP was awarded a \$5000 Technology Liaisons Network Mini-Grant to assemble a team of tech-interested teachers and teacher leaders to work in concert with relevant Cobb County School District administrators to explore possibilities for revised Internet access and filtering policies in classrooms and schools. Rather than petitioning in opposition to current district policies, the KMWP tech team will seek to work in partnership with administration officials, opening a conversation about moving in safe, productive, and progressive directions with Internet access protocols through a series of face-to-face meetings. The goal is to get area stakeholders—district administrators, teacher leaders, teachers, parents, etc.—in the same room to discuss possibilities and options that would allow schools and teachers to take advantage of new technologies without compromising student safety and security.

After an initial meeting of Tech Team members in April or May, the team will seek an initial meeting with CCSD administrators Kathy Platt (Instructional Technology Supervisor) and Chris Ragsdale (Chief Technology Officer), followed by 3-4 official meetings with CCSD personnel through the 2010-11 year. Devising a pilot program for revised access policies and generating a white paper for implementing policy changes are possible directions for this collaborative effort.

KMWP 2010 Calendar

Thursday, May 6	4:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.	2010 Pre-Institute Workshop <i>KSU University Rooms A-B</i>
	6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.	2010 Awards Dinner <i>KSU University Rooms A-B</i>
Monday—Friday June 7—June 11	9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.	Youth Writing Academy <i>Palmer Middle School</i>
Monday—Friday June 11—July 1	8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.	2010 Invitational Summer Institute <i>KSU Writing Center & EB 235</i>