

# KMWP

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PROJECT SITE  
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Kennesaw Mountain Writing Project – Kennesaw, Georgia

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editor

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## Advanced Technology Institute Showcase by Darren Crovitz

On November 15, members of the Kennesaw Mountain Writing Project's **Advanced Technology Institute (ATI)** joined experienced teacher consultants to present their work at Kennesaw State University before an invited audience of area principals, department chairs, and other administrators. Though briefly interrupted by a fire drill, this three-hour Technology Showcase demonstrated the innovative work currently being pursued by KMWP teacher consultants and local teachers.

Most of these teacher-presenters had recently completed the ten-hour ATI during four Saturday sessions at KSU, developing projects that integrated technology into their classroom practice in realistic, engaging, and rigorous ways. Several important threads united their work, notably an emphasis on student-centered approaches, standards-based performance, and a vision for how they might be able to assist other teachers in initiating similar projects. One highlight – appropriate for districts' budget concerns – was that teacher presenters specialized in using *existing or free technology resources* to enhance student learning.

Facilitated by Dr. Darren Crovitz (KSU English Education faculty and KMWP's

Technology Liaison) and Jessica Miller (McCleskey Middle School), the ATI culminated in the showcase for area VIPs. During this showcase, KMWP teacher-consultants exhibited a sample of our professional development abilities, while participating area teachers demonstrated their progressive technology work. Presenters and their projects are listed below:

- Janice Ramsey (E. T. Booth Middle School): *Teaching Middle School Writing in Real Time: Using Email in the Language Arts Classroom*
- Ana Hale (Centennial High School): *Using Online Modality Applications to Demonstrate Student Learning*
- Susan Henderson (Parkview High School): *The Next Frontier: Taking High School Publications Into Cyberspace*
- Carolyn Waters (Cobb County High School English Curriculum and Instruction Supervisor): *Book Trailers to Pique Student Interest*
- Jessica Miller: *Voices from the Middle: An Online Approach for*

### Multimodal Memoir

- Cindy Crews (Bascomb Elementary School): *Goin' Global: Engaging Students in Our World Through Technology*
- Vickie Crockett (Lindley Middle School): *Learning ESL and Online Collaboration*
- Chuck Bohannon (Cass High School): *Visualizing Chemistry Concepts through Podcasting*
- Darren Crovitz: *Low-Tech Digital Projects with High-Impact Effect*

The work of these innovative teachers is emblematic of how the KMWP is increasingly seeking ways to integrate technology-enhanced learning into the fabric of our activities. We are excited to build on their work as we move forward with helping teachers create rich learning experiences for students.



## Professional Development through Literacy Coaching by Michelle Goodsite and Patsy Hamby

In a 2008-2009 Writing to Learn professional development program, KMWP teacher consultants provided individual coaching to South Atlanta High School's School of Computer Animation & Design teachers. Collaborating with Toby Emert, long-time KMWP advocate who is now at Agnes Scott College, and KMWP Professional Development Coordinator Michelle Goodsite, KMWP teacher consultants initially provided mini-model presentations to the entire CAD faculty. Following this opening session, consultants arranged meetings with their paired CAD teachers to discuss classroom literacy interventions and to plan time for the KMWP coaches to observe the implementation of literacy practices in the teachers' classrooms. In post-observation conferences, KMWP mentors and CAD teachers deconstructed the literacy strategies implemented and observed. Mentors then assisted CAD teachers as they planned presentations of their literacy interventions for the entire school faculty.

This outreach to urban teachers and students continues the long-term commitment of KMWP, which began with the work of Project Outreach to serve schools with at-risk student populations. The primary goal of the literacy intervention strategy is to assist teachers working with struggling students with both the verbal and writing skills needed for high-stakes assessments. While teachers receiving the coaching have benefited by having strong KMWP teacher consultants assisting them with the cross-curricular literacy implementation, our own KMWP coaches have benefited by having the opportunity to reflect on and refine their successful classroom literacy practices.

KMWP coaches who participated over the two-year period include Renee Basinger, Elaine Barriera, Michelle Goodsite, Jennifer Grazer, Patsy Hamby, Jessica Miller, Janice Ramsay, Serena Robertson, Linda Templeton and Julie Warner. A similar program takes place at Therrell High School with Jennifer Dail, Michelle Goodsite and Kathy Nichols serving as coaches.

*"This outreach to urban teachers and students continues the long-term commitment of KMWP, which began with the work of Project Outreach, of serving schools with at-risk student populations."*

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### KMWP 2009 Calendar

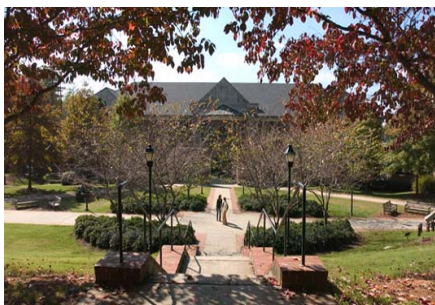
<b>Saturday, April 25</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.—noon</b>	Continuity Event/Geocaching <i>KSU</i>
<b>Thursday, May 7</b>	<b>4:45 p.m.—6:30 p.m.</b>	2009 Pre-Institute Workshop <i>Jolley Lodge, Lower Level</i>
	<b>6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.</b>	2008 Awards Dinner <i>Jolley Lodge, Upper Level</i>
<b>Daily, June 9 –13</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.—noon</b>	KMWP Young Writers' Camp <i>Kennesaw Mountain High School</i>
<b>Monday—Friday June 12—July 3</b>	<b>8:00a.m.—4:00 p.m.</b>	2009 Summer Institute <i>KSU Writing Center &amp; EB 235</i>

## Current Professional Development Programs by Michelle Goodsite

KMWP Professional Development programs continue to build upon long-term partnerships with Forsyth County Schools and The Center for Teaching at Westminster Schools.

Because of the successes of last summer's institutes, including the leadership of Mimi Dyer and Mary Ann Stillerman, KMWP will replicate the two one-week mini institutes for Forsyth County's teachers this summer. Rex Kienel and Lane Dye will assist Mimi and Mary Ann in facilitating the institutes in June 2009. Thirty-five K-12 teachers will attend the institutes and two school-year follow-up programs: one in the fall and one in the spring. Mimi and Mary Ann are currently planning the program and planning ways to implement Keeping and Creating American Communities (KCAC) text *Writing our Communities*, as the core text for the group.

KMWP, Westminster School's Center for Teaching, and Atlanta Public Schools were fully funded by a Rockdale Foundation grant for a year-long faculty cohort to begin this summer. This project **Faculty Cohort Teacher as Writer: Writing Process** will bring educators from public and independent schools together to engage in writing processes, studying theory and research, analyzing their practice, and working on their own writing in order to become more effective teachers of writing. KMWP's role is to develop curriculum, facilitate the three-day summer workshop series and all monthly school-year sessions, and organize a culminating celebration of shared action research and classroom portfolios of the participants' work. KMWP's continued collaboration in grants and initiatives with Bob Ryshke, Director for Westminster's Center for Teaching is an enriching experience for all involved stakeholders.



Westminster Schools Campus, Atlanta, GA



*“Because of the successes of last summer’s institutes, including the leadership of Mimi Dyer and Mary Ann Stillerman, KMWP will replicate the two one-week mini institutes for Forsyth County’s teachers this summer.”*

## Mourning a Loss: Wandra Hunley

In late March 2009, KMWP 2005 Summer Institute fellow Wandra Hunley died from complications related to a severe asthma attack. Wandra served as KMWP's Diversity Coordinator in 2006-7 and remained an active supporter of KMWP even after she left KSU to work at Spelman College. We mourn the loss of our colleague and friend.

## Professional Awards and Honors by Becky Ramsay

The Kennesaw Mountain Writing Project encourages teacher leaders to report their professional accomplishments throughout the year so that we may share the good news with our constituents. A representative listing of those successes becomes part of our Annual Report to NWP each January. We are pleased to acknowledge our teacher consultants' active roles in their schools and communities.

During KMWP's Advanced Tech Institute Showcase, facilitated by **Darren Crovitz** and assisted by **Jessica Miller**, teachers selected to present their work were: **Chuck Bohannon, John Bradford, Cindy Crews, Vickie Crockett, Ana Hale, Sonny Harding, Susan Henderson, Jessica Miller, Janice Ramsey, and Carolyn Waters.**

In addition to **Darren Crovitz's** Technology Institute leadership, Darren had two articles published in *English Journal* in 2008, and a new article in the January 2009 issue titled "Wikipedia: Friend, Not Foe" co-authored with **Scott Smoot**. Also, Darren presented at the Georgia Council of Teachers of English 2009 Annual Conference: "Only My Mom Likes My Digital Project: Helping Students Focus on Audience Impact Over Authorship."

**Anne Alexander's** article, "Good Readers Make Good Writers," appeared in Westminster School's Center for Teaching fall newsletter.

**Zsa Boykin** entered the Educational Specialist program and was promoted to Literacy Coach. Zsa participated in various NWP projects in 2008 and continues to do so in 2009.

**John Bradford, Jennifer Grazer, Patsy Hamby, and Jason Pritchett** entered the EdD Leadership for Learning — Adolescent Education, English Education program at KSU in January 2008.

**Rudy Deveaux** earned an EdS degree in Administration and Supervision from the University of West Georgia in May 2008.

**Mimi Dyer** and **Lane Dye** presented a session at ASCD in 2008.

**Jennifer Dail** chaired the KSU Young Adult Literature Conference 2009 program. She co-authored an article in the SIGNAL JOURNAL, an International Reading Association journal on young adult literature. Jennifer also serves as editor of the KMWP newsletter (published twice yearly).

**Michelle Goodsite** and **Mary Helen Ramming** presented at GCTE 2009: "Reaching Teachers Where They Live: Building Community Inside and Outside the Classroom." This presentation came out of the work of the Urban Sites Network Minigrant. Also, in 2008 and 2009, Michelle presented sessions at KSU's Young Adult Literature Conference.

**Patsy Hamby** chaired the KMWP Advisory Council in 2008. We congratulate Patsy on her excellent leadership and service work. Those who have produced numerous quality lesson plans receive this honor. Patsy represented KMWP at the NWP 2008 and 2009 Spring Conference in DC. Patsy has published numerous lessons with our NCTE partner, Read Write Think (RWT). She has been so successful and has so many live lessons that she has achieved the honor of having an "author card" on the RWT site. You may view it at [http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/author\\_detail.asp?authorid=241](http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/author_detail.asp?authorid=241). Also, on page 79 of the January *English Journal* issue, the RWT link is to Patsy's Shakespeare lesson plan.

**Mary Lynn Huie** served as Advisory Council Chair 2007 and we congratulate her on her Chair's Initiative success—a student summer writing camp in Gwinnett County in summer 2008, which will continue in 2009. Mary Lynn represented KMWP at the NWP 2008 Spring Conference in DC. Mary Lynn received the NCTE Secondary Section High School Teacher of Excellence Award 2008. She also received the GCTE High School Teacher of the Year 2008. She was runner-up for the Georgia STAR Teacher award 2008 and awarded STAR Teacher at

## Professional Awards and Honors continued

**Dawn Kirby** and **Jessica Miller** presented at GCTE 2009: "Reading, Writing, and Thinking with Memoir in the Studio Classroom." Dawn also presented with Michael Moore of Georgia Southern University and with **Carolyn Waters** of Cobb County Schools (who is, as you know, a long-time KMWP advocate): "Georgia Teachers as Readers."

**Dawn Kirby**, **Sarah Robbins**, and **Mimi Dyer** presented a session on Leadership Transitions at the NWP 2008 Conference in San Antonio.

**Dawn Kirby**, **Mimi Dyer**, **Lane Dye**, and **Rex Kienel** presented a "featured session" on memoir at NCTE's 2008 annual conference.

**Dawn Kirby** also presented sessions at NCTE 2008 on assessing summer reading and on teachers as readers.

**Aaron Levy** published his play *Pizza with Shrimp on Top* and presented numerous staged readings at national, state and local conferences, and area schools. He presented a staged reading of his newest play *Hunger Pains*. In addition, Aaron presented a session at ALAN, a subgroup for young adult literature, at NCTE's 2008 annual conference.

**Man Martin** was named winner of the Georgia Author of the Year Award (GAYA) in the fiction category for his first novel, *Days of the Endless Corvette*.

In addition to **Jessica Miller's** assistance in the KMWP Advanced Tech Institute and her GCTE 2009 presentation, she also co-authored an article in *English Journal* 2008. Jessica is currently in a leadership role providing professional development sessions in Cobb County schools using technology in support of reading and writing within the Language Arts Classroom.

As part of GCTE's new National Writing Project (NWP) strand in 2009, **Kathy Nichols** and **Katie Wischerth** presented "Creating a Writing Community Based on the Kenesaw Mountain Writing Project Model."

**Angela Reid** received the Eighth Annual Jubilee of Reading Book Club Heritage Award in December 2008, given by the Decatur Library for community efforts on behalf of reading and literacy.

**Scott Smoot** chaired the successful 2008 KMWP Leslie Walker Writers of Promise student writing contest and continues this important role in 2009 with **Amanda Jablonski** as co-chair.

**Mary Ann Stillerman** is serving as KMWP's Advisory Council Chair 2009. Her Chair's initiative is to improve awareness among various constituencies of KMWP about our many projects and services. Mary Ann also represented KMWP at the NWP 2009 Spring Conference in DC.



## Professional Honors and Awards continued

Sarah Robbins' announced that a very positive review of two KMWP books appeared in a recent issue of AMERICAN QUARTERLY, the flagship journal for scholars and teachers working in American Studies. The two books by KMWP teachers resulted from the Keeping and Creating American Communities (KCAC) program.

KMWP faculty and staff congratulate all involved in the KCAC program on the far-reaching and long-standing impact this most recent book review represents. KMWP contributors to Writing America include **Elyse Eidman-Aadahl, Traci Blanchard, Peggy Corbett, Mimi Dyer, Patsy Hamby, Sarah Robbins, Sylvia Martinez Spruill, Linda Stewart, Linda Templeton, the late Leslie Walker, Bonnie Webb, and Scott Smoot**; and Writing Our Communities, **Oreather Bostick-Morgan, Peggy Corbett, Mimi Dyer, Gerri Hajduk, Patsy Hamby, Bernadette Lambert, Dianna Mitchell, Sarah Robbins, Linda Stewart, Linda Templeton, Rozlyn Truss, the late Leslie Walker, Bonnie Webb, and Dave Winter**.

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If you do not see your particular 2008-2009 accomplishment noted in this article, we invite you to email [kmwp@kennesaw.edu](mailto:kmwp@kennesaw.edu) and tell us about your special programs, awards and recognitions. These will be announced in future KMWP newsletters, listed in the 2009 NWP Annual Report, and shared on the listserv.

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## **Bittersweet News for KMWP** *by Dawn Latta Kirby*

KMWP's Founding Director, Sarah Robbins, will leave KSU in July 2009 to become the endowed chair of American Studies at Texas Christian University. This distinguished position is fitting recognition for Sarah's many scholarly accomplishments in American Studies and related disciplines.

Though Sarah stepped down as KMWP's director in December 2006, she has continued as an active contributor to KMWP and avid supporter of our many programs. Currently, KMWP's Director Dawn Latta Kirby, Sarah, and several of our teacher consultants are writing for NWP about the transition in directorship that occurred for our site in January 2007. These reflections will be published by NWP on their website and elsewhere to assist other sites undergoing transitions in leadership.

Knowing that Sarah will continue working on several projects like this one for NWP, realizing that many of us will see her at future NWP conferences, and believing that KMWP will remain close to Sarah's heart regardless of her location reassures us that we will continue to stay in touch with her. Our loss is definitely TCU's gain, and we wish Sarah the best in her new professional and personal ventures!

## Young Writer's Camp by Margaret Robbins

Kennesaw Mountain Writing Project's Young Writer's Camp will be offered again this summer! This year we will have the same instructors, Gabriel Pline and Margaret Robbins. The theme, Identity through Time and Place, is a continuation of last year's but includes new materials and activities. The camp is open to rising sixth through rising ninth grade students.

The summer camp will take place from Monday, June 15, through Friday, June 19, at Kennesaw Mountain High School. The final celebration event on Friday will be at Kennesaw State University. The class will meet daily from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., so that students have instruction in the morning and time to write at home in the afternoons.

All instruction will be standards-based and include an interactive look at various literary and written forms. Students will leave the program with a portfolio of writing samples of many genres. In addition, students will have the opportunity to hear guest speakers who will inform them of career options that involve writing and on how to make their way into the publishing market. On Friday, students will celebrate their writing achievements by reading their works to family members, friends, and educators from the community.

If you have questions or would like more information, please email Becky Ramsay ([kmwp@kennesaw.edu](mailto:kmwp@kennesaw.edu)) . You can also view information about the Young Writers' Camp on the KMWP website (<http://www.kmwp.org>).



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## Upcoming Continuity Day: Geocaching and Nature Writing by Kitty Drew

It's time for Continuity Cache! Catch the spirit of KMWP as we gather on the KSU campus and search for treasure both outside and within. Geocaching is a worldwide game of hiding and seeking treasure. A geocacher may place a geocache anywhere in the world, pinpoint its location using GPS technology and then share the geocache's existence and location online. Anyone with a GPS unit may then try to locate the geocache.

Put CACHE SATURDAY on your calendar for **Saturday, April 25 from 9:00 a.m.—noon**. We will begin with light breakfast refreshments, followed by a geocache campus tour and nature writing.

We will meet in Room 53 on the lower level of the English Building (next to the KMWP offices). KSU parking is free on Saturdays.

Remember to invite a cross-curricular colleague to attend this fun day of learning and writing with you!

## Revving Up for the 2009 Invitational Summer Institute by Jennifer Dail



That time of year is rapidly approaching again! Yes, it is almost time for our 2009 Summer Institute during which we will welcome and involve new fellows in the KMWP! Mary Ann Stillerman, Jessica Miller, Kathy Nichols, and Lane Dye have been hard at work helping plan for the summer. The theme for the 2009 Summer Institute is Writing, Collaborating, and Inquiring: Critical Examinations of Our Teaching. We will use this theme to guide the fellows in exploring authentic questions about their own writing practice and instruction. We are excited about this focus because of the ways it will connect the work done in the Summer Institute with best practices in the fellows' classrooms.

We have a large and diverse group of applicants this year and are in the final stage of selecting the 2009 participants. Through a recent international partnership, KMWP will host two teachers from Colegio Menor, a K-12 school just outside Quito, Ecuador. This cross-cultural connection will broaden the perspectives of all involved with KMWP.

The new fellows will meet for the first time at the Pre-Institute Workshop and Awards Dinner on Thursday, May 7, 2009. This year, they will not only meet each other at this event but they will also leave with a framework to help them begin writing and preparing for their work in the Summer Institute. Coaching and planning will occur very early and will hopefully lead to continued depth and quality in the teacher demonstrations.



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## KMWP Leadership Retreat, Part II by Dawn Latta Kirby

During a late March 2009 rainy weekend, several members of KMWP's leadership team participated in our second leadership retreat at a private home in Bent Tree. In attendance were TCs Cindy Crews, Kitty Drew, Lane Dye, Michelle Goodsite, Mary Lynn Huie, Jessica Miller, Kathy Nichols, and Mary Ann Stillerman; 2009 Summer Institute Faculty Co-director Jennifer Dail; and Director Dawn Latta Kirby. The purpose of the retreat was to create long- and short-term goals for all areas of KMWP's work and outreach programs.

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## Calling all Writers

We invite you to contribute original writing to the KMWP newsletter. If you have an original piece of writing you would like to submit for consideration for an upcoming newsletter, please email it to Jennifer Dail ([jdail1@kennesaw.edu](mailto:jdail1@kennesaw.edu)) as a Word file.



This is a great way to share your writing with others in our KMWP community!