Upcoming Dates

June 13 - YW Reading Day
June 13 - Writing Marathons in the Afternoon
June 13-14 - MWTI Writing Conference at UM!
June 23-26 - Advanced Institute: Writing on Demand
June 28 - UMWP Call to the Table Planning Meeting
July 18-20 - Advanced Institute on Webb’s Depth of Knowledge
September 6– Back to School Bootcamp at UM Tupelo
September 25 - Fourth Tuesday Continuity Meetings Resume!
November 20-23 - NWP/NCTE Annual Meeting in San Antonio!

We Want YOU! Participate in the UMWP Call to the Table

We are growing, we are expanding, and we need you! We need everyone's input about the site's growth and development of programs and services. We want your voices at the table, we want to work for you and with you. We want to vision and re-vision how we want our site to look. We need you to help us think about this process and the new work to come. Bring a UMWP colleague with you!

June 28th at the Yerby Center – Lunch will be provided. Please mark your calendars!

Email eshelton@olemiss.edu by June 25th so we can order lunch!

Writing on Demand: An Inquiry Study

Are you frustrated by high stakes writing assessments? Do you have questions about strategies that actually work? Are you tired of receiving prepackaged programming that promised much but delivers little?

The UMWP is facilitating an Advanced Institute Inquiry discussion on how to help our students through this work of writing assessment. We are not offering answers; what we are offering is dedicated time among peers who share your inquiry into how to help students with high-stakes writing assessment. Books and 2.0 CEUs will be available.

9:00-3:00 Monday to Thursday – June 23-26 - UM Tupelo Campus

Email eshelton@olemiss.edu by June 15th so we can order books!
Mark your Calendars

The Third Annual Conference Sponsored by the Mississippi Writing/Thinking Institute: The Write Connection: rite Time, Write Place:
Connecting Students to Real Futures.

Hosted by: the UMWP (us!)

Dates: June 13-14, 2008

Come join hundreds of teachers from across the state and from all K-University content areas as they share and discover innovative methods to empower themselves as teachers of writing and their students as writers.

Celebrate with us as we exercise our right to be who we are, to share our voices, to publish our words, and to develop our students into confident and powerful learners.

See the below website for a downloadable conference flyer and a registration form or call Ellen for more information.

http://www.mwti.msstate.edu/pdf/write_time.pdf

Advanced Institute Opportunity

Teacher consultants attending the Writing on Demand/Inquiry Advanced Institute offered in June will be invited to be part of a Reading Writing Rigor/Successful Practices Institute taking place in July (Dates TBA).

The goal of this institute is to develop the first session’s work into viable professional development. This will give participants the opportunity to shape the future of our professional development program as it taps into your own successful practices and fields of expertise. Your voice is needed as we strive to provide the best possible professional development for our UMWP district.

A small stipend will be paid for this advanced work as well as opportunities for work in the counties we serve.

Contact Jerry Lunday at 662.224.8103 or jerrylun@bellsouth.net
Back-To School Bootcamp Mini-Conference 2008
April is a funny time to think about next school year, but don’t forget to mark your calendars for the 2008 Back-to-School Bootcamp Mini-Conference!
Come for the morning and leave energized! Concurrent sessions will get you going for the new school year! $25.00 will cover your registration and lunch from Heavenly Ham. Bring a friend from school!
The morning begins at 8:30 and ends after lunch! We know how valuable your Saturdays are!

When: September 6th, 2008
Where: Advanced Education Center, UM Tupelo
Time: 8:30 – after lunch
Why: Ideas, Inspiration, Food, and FUN!
How: Download the registration form from the website!

Come join the University of Mississippi Writing Project ONLINE at Ning!
Ning is a social networking site and will allow us to stay connected.
When you join, you can access calendars, discussion forums, hear rural voices radio, download the latest newsletter, and more. This will replace our old Yahoo groups and give us a fun place for sharing and interaction.

Check it out! http://umwritingproject.ning.com/
Email spduncan@olemiss.edu if you have questions

New SI Folks
We want to welcome our new 2008 SI folks in style. If anyone on the list is in your school or district, please make contact with those teachers and let them know that they are now entering a larger family!

The SI Class of 2008
Regina Boyd – Fillmore Center, Tupelo
Brigit Carr – Bruce High
Cindy Coker – North Pontotoc Elementary
Marti Downs – Booneville High School
Cerritos Foster – Tupelo High School
Trenicka Gillon – Verona Elementary
Melissa Griggs – Pontotoc Career/Tech Center
Michelle Holt – Lafayette Middle School
Jaime Jones – Bramlett Elementary
Carla Kuhl – Ripley Middle School
Dana Morris – Alcorn Central Middle School
Robin Morton – Ripley Middle School
Katie Naron – Tupelo High School
Leslie Randle-Morton – Pontotoc Junior School
Fran Ross – Lee Academy
Shalon Ruth – Verona Elementary
Sarah Walden – University of Mississippi
Have a GREAT and uneventful ending to the school year! So much is happening at the site, and we want you to be involved!

We hope to see you soon! - Sincerely, Ellen and the UMWP Staff!

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Journey to Horn Island and Beyond with the Live Oak Writing Project

A new generation of teachers is needed for the Class of 2008 for Journey to Horn Island and Beyond. The Live Oak Writing Project is searching for participants who are willing writers, able explorers, team players and out-of-the-box teachers.

The four-day Summer Institute is July 22 - 25, and the four-day wilderness camping trip is October 10 - 13 on Horn Island. The cost is $100. This fee covers the cost of dinner each night and transportation to and from Horn Island. CEUs are available.

For more information, please contact Alicia Blair at aliciablair@bellsouth.net. The application deadline is May 1, 2008.

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Rural Voices Radio Still Going Strong

Tune in to Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB) Radio to hear Rural Voices Radio from Monday, January 2nd through Friday, January 20th. Rural Voices Radio, a two-minute statewide program produced by MPB and the Mississippi Writing/Thinking Institute (MWTI) of the Mississippi State University College of Education, airs each weekday at 12:49 pm and 5:59 pm on MPB radio.

Emily Nobel, the coordinator of the program for MWTI, is still looking for student writing.

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