

UMWP Spring Newsletter

Volume 5—Number 3

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Upcoming Dates

June 11-15 – Rural Sites Institute

June 22 – YW Reading Day

June 22-23 – MWTI Writing Conference at USM

July 12-14 – Professional Writing Retreat

July 18-20—Advanced Institute on Webb’s Depth of Knowledge

July 21 – ELL Study Group Initial Meeting

August 11– Back to School Bootcamp at UM Tupelo

September 25 – Fourth Tuesday Continuity Meetings Resume!



Rural Sites Institute

The University of Mississippi Writing Project with the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation is offering a mini-institute surrounding the issues of race, writing, and teaching from June 11 – 15, 2007, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. Thanks to a grant from the National Writing Project’s Rural Sites Network, the cost of the workshop is free to TCs. The workshop plans to take steps toward fulfilling the Mississippi Senate Bill that may make civil rights and human rights education a part of the K-12 curriculum.

- Focus on ways to use writing and other materials to address issues of race, civil rights, and Mississippi history for any teacher in grades k – 12
- Provide you with lesson plans and resource lists for any grade or subject area.
- Provide you with a professional text on place-based writing to use as a resource
- Allow for discussions on classroom issues involved in teaching civil rights, issues of race and poverty, and Mississippi’s history within various subject areas and with students in a variety of grade levels
- Show you how to use the abundant resources in their own communities and court-houses to involve students and to inform classroom teaching/learning
- Let you Create lessons plans that allow for a healthy classroom dialogue on issues of race, class, and civil rights that will promote reconciliation with our past and the present so that teachers and students make wiser choices for the future
- Share your successes in teaching Civil Rights as well as learn new methods and materials
- Give TCs the chance to create marketable staff development around these ideas and using these lessons for schools and districts in our service area
- Give TCs a \$50 stipend to meet after the weeklong workshop to put together the staff development and to present at the State-Wide Conference 2008
- Give you the opportunity to present staff development workshops on Race and Writing in Rural Schools in a format similar to this open institute throughout our service area.

If you want to experience and explore ways to integrate this culturally sensitive and culturally relevant instruction into your classrooms for true racial reconciliation, REGISTER NOW! Registration ends May 31, 2007. TCs should register by May 15. See registration form for details.

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ELL

New Study Group - Teaching English Language Learners

When educators address English language learner issues in this country, they seem to be discussing places far from the South, and Mississippi is rarely at the forefront of people's minds. However, Mississippi's population of non-native English speakers has increased 400% over the last five years. Do you have ELL students in your classroom, yet have received little professional development or guidance in instructing them? Do you wonder what effects their immigration have on their language acquisition? If you need answers, or seek others with whom to discuss your questions, this UMWP study group is for you! Angie Quinn, ELL Coordinator for the New Albany School District, will facilitate. Ten TC's will meet five times during the school year and participate in one Saturday retreat during the spring. Our goals are to expand the knowledge of second language acquisition and to explore an understanding of the culture of being an ELL student. Our ultimate goal is to make teaching English language learners more effective and less stressful for teachers, students, and school districts!

A stipend, books, and materials will be provided. CEU's are available. See the application online or in this newsletter

Professional Writing Retreat

July 12-14th - UM Depot

Have you always meant to go back to your Summer Institute inquiry paper but haven't had the time? Is there a project you'd like to tell your Writing Project colleagues about? Do you want to write a grant for your school district to revamp your writing program at your school but don't know how to begin?

Come join us for a Professional Writing Retreat, July 12-14, and let the collaborative environment of the Writing Project help you complete all those unfinished projects. You'll have access to everything that a writer needs: time to write, a supportive writing group, and an interested facilitator ready to brainstorm, read drafts, and give feedback. University Co-Director Jaime Harker will use her experience at the National Writing Project Professional Writing Retreat last summer to provide a stimulating, supportive environment for your writing. We will meet at the University of Mississippi campus; accepted participants will stay on campus for a stress-free writing environment.

Email your contact information and an overview of your ideas to eshelton@olemiss.edu before May 30th.

W r i t i n g R e t r e a t



Contact Information

University of Mississippi Writing Project
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eshelton@olemiss.edu
www.outreach.olemiss.edu/writing_project

W r i t i n g t h i n k i n g c o n f e r e n c e

Mark your Calendars

The Second Annual Conference Sponsored by the Mississippi Writing/Thinking Institute :The Write Connection: Exercising our Right to Write!

Hosted by: The South Mississippi Writing Project, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS

Dates: June 22nd-23rd

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.

Concurrent Session Strands:

- Multiculturalism: The Right to Be Me: Celebrating Diversity in the Classroom
- The Six Traits: The Right to a Voice
- Student Achievement: The Right to Be Bubble Free
- Technology: The Right to Publish
- Literacy: The Right to Write Across the Curriculum

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



Summer Institute

New SI Folks

We want to welcome our new 2007 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 2007

Becky Busby – Batesville Junior High

Stephanie Carroll – Charleston High

Manya Chappell – Guntown Middle School

Donna Foster – Retired Teacher

Candance Gates – South Pontotoc Middle School

Cindy Googe – Saltillo Elementary

Leslie Harris – Bruce High School

Steven Hodgin – Booneville High School

Sally Jones – Lake Cormorant Middle School

Ashley Kehoe – Davidson Elementary

Carrie Koon – Tupelo Middle School

Natalie Moore – Booneville Middle School

Colleen Parman – Tupelo High

Tina Sanford – Grenada Upper Elementary

Dianne Stovall – Overpark Elementary

Jalema Tidwell – Lawhon Elementary

Elaine Sims Watson – New Albany Middle School

Gina Whitsell – Overpark Elementary

Amanda Witt – South Panola High School

UMWP Survey and Database Update

The University of Mississippi Writing Project and the Project Outreach 3 team are in the process of updating our database and surveying our TCs. The mission of PO3 is to take a close look at our site's program and services and assess how we can improve the diversity of our TC population in the future, how we can increase people's access to our programs and services, and how we can make what we offer more relevant to our TCs and to the schools and students in our service area. We need your help to do that. We realize how precious a teacher's time really is! If you would, please fill out the survey on the website (www.outreach.olemiss.edu/writing_project) and email it to Ellen at eshelton@olemiss.edu. It should take no longer than ten minutes of your time!

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Back-To School Bootcamp Mini-Conference 2007

April is a funny time to think about next school year, but don't forget to mark your calendars for the 2007 Back-to-School Bootcamp Mini-Conference!

Come for the morning and leave energized! Concurrent sessions will get you going for the new school year! \$35.00 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: August 11, 2007

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!

Needed: A Logo!

The Mississippi Writing/Thinking Institute has a butterfly... Live Oak Writing Project has a live oak tree... While we like the Lyceum columns as the official symbol of The University of Mississippi, we want something more distinctive for the incredible work that the UMWP is doing across North Mississippi. We have such great talent in our site, and we know that someone out there can design a logo for us! Contact Ellen if you have an idea for us!

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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 daily at 8:19 am and 12:49 pm daily on MPB.

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

Contact Emily Nobel at en22@colled.msstate.edu or 662-325-7777

The submission information can be downloaded from the website!

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!



Registration Form

Registration forms must be received by May 31, 2007 – Space is limited, so register NOW!

Rethinking Race and Writing in Rural Schools

Name: _____ School: _____

Grade and Subject Area(s): _____

Home address: _____

Phone numbers: home - _____ cell - _____

E-mail addresses: home - _____ other - _____

School Address: _____

Principal's name: _____ Superintendent: _____

Staff Development Coordinator's name: _____ County: _____

Please check all that apply:

- I currently teach a course in Mississippi History or Civil Rights
- I currently have lessons in Mississippi History and Civil Rights that I teach or have taught
- I will soon be teaching a course or lessons in Mississippi History and Civil Rights
- I am interested in and/or curious about teaching the Civil Rights in my classroom
- I need CEUs to keep my teaching license current
- I am interested in new ways to teach about history and Civil Rights
- Other reasons: _____

For participant who want 3 CEUs, make your \$20 check to University of Mississippi. Do not send cash. You may pay on the first day of the workshop. We do not accept Purchase Orders.

- I have included my check with registration for the 3 CEUs.
- I will pay for the 3 CEUs on the first day of the workshop.
- I do not need CEUs at this time.

Housing: The UMWP does not supply housing for the week of the workshop; however, the Inn at Ole Miss and several other hotels in the area may be available that week. We can help you find housing, but securing it and paying for it will be your responsibility. I **DO** need help in finding housing for the week.

Although this is a free workshop, space is limited. Serious applicants only, please. Please cancel your registration at least one week before the workshop to avoid these charges. Three CEUs are offered at your expense and earning them includes attending every day of the workshop in its entirety and completing the work as required.

I agree to the terms above. _____ date _____
(your signature)

Application for UMWP Study Group: Teaching English Language Learners

Please complete the following application and mail to **Angie Quinn** (SI 1997) at **New Albany Elementary School, 874 Sam T. Barkley Drive, New Albany, MS 38652**. Please e-mail questions to aquinn@newalbany.k12.ms.us. Any k-12 educator may apply; teacher consultants will be given first consideration.

Name _____

School or District _____

Grade and/or Subject _____

Address _____ **E-mail** _____

_____ **Phone** _____

Years of Experience in Education: Please circle.

0-3 4-7 8-12 13-20 20+

Summer Institute Year (if a TC): _____

On the lines that follow, please give a statement of interest, indicating why you are interested, what you expect to gain, what experiences you will bring to the group, and what needs exist in your school or district.
