

CSSS
ALL STATE
SPRING EVENT
RtI
DIVERSITY
Assessments
Writing
Initiative
District Events



HEADS UP

STATE-WIDE
GATHERING
MARCH 9-10

BE THERE

>> from WCTE President Kathy Nelson

Hear ye, hear ye! All Wisconsin English teachers are called to "Gather" March 9-10 to explore implementations and implications of current state mandates and budget issues.

Carol Jago, teacher, author, and past NCTE president, will be our featured presenter. She and other national

leaders will provide thought-provoking information followed by small group discussions and processing time. Rather than treating ourselves to an expensive hotel site, we are meeting in my school, Arrowhead Union High School, located between Milwaukee and Madison. Come hear what's brewing and, hopefully, find something positive to hang onto right now.

More details to follow. Watch WCTE's newly redesigned website!



Carol Jago

What you need to know

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Milwaukee, Green Bay events

Speakers focus on Common Core and culturally responsive literature. >>Page 3-4

100th Anniversary

Use Connected Community to download handouts from sessions. >>Page 5

NCTE's best kept secret

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Submit entries now

Everyone can write about their memorable teacher. Deadline: Jan. 31. >>Page 7

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Wis. English Teacher Events

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Digital Tools for You

Sami Forster shares resources. >>Page 12

District 2 Common Core Standards workshop

WCTE District Two is offering a Common Core State Standards Workshop on Feb. 18 at Badger High School in Lake Geneva from 9 a.m. to noon.

With the state's emphasis on integrating the ELA standards this year, this workshop will provide participants with hands-on opportunities to work with their own curriculum and models provided by the facilitators. A focus presenter will be discussing how the standards are no longer skills in isolation, but rather a layering of practice throughout the year.

Attendees will then be able to choose two breakout sessions: Reading: Literature, Reading: Informational Text,

Writing, and Speaking and Listening. Each of the sessions will be facilitated by ELA teachers who will provide sample units showing how they have integrated that particular standard throughout the unit. Teacher participants should bring a current unit with assessment pieces to work with and share.

Also, one graduate credit is available through George Williams University. Teachers can register the day of the workshop. If interested in this opportunity, please contact Jacalyn Mabon (District #2 Director) at jacalyn.mabon@badger.k12.wi.us.

We look forward to seeing you on the 18th!

Election Results

Second Vice President

Lynn Frick, Sauk Prairie High School

District 1

Erin Schwane, New Berlin West High School

District 2

Jacalyn Mabon, Badger High School

District 10

Kathy Bay, Colby High School
Caroline Hickethier, Cornell School District

District 12

Paula Zwicke, Park Falls High School

Director at Large

Marianne Potter, Stevens Point Area Senior High School

Vacancies:

Districts 3, 4, 8 (2 positions each)
Districts 5, 9, 12 (one position each)

See the WCTE website for a complete list of officers and directors: <http://www.wcteonline.org/about-wcte/officers-and-directors/>

Bylaw changes passed in October

- At-large Directors may now be appointed to fill board positions when no candidates are nominated in a particular WCTE district, according to an amendment to the WCTE bylaws passed at the 2011 Annual Business Meeting.

What this means for you:

If you wanted to run for a board position in your district, but your district already had a director, you can now request to be appointed director for another district. Contact President **Kathy Nelson**. (See vacancies above.)

- Job descriptions for all WCTE officers, directors, committee chairs, liaisons, etc. are now spelled out and posted on the WCTE website at this **LINK**.



www.wcteonline.org

Membership drive: solve this puzzle

Do you like logic puzzles? We've got a great one for you. See if you can complete this syllogism:

Major premise: WCTE members usually join or renew their membership when they register for the yearly conference.

Minor premise: This year WCTE did not have its yearly conference (so that people could attend NCTE in Chicago).

Conclusion:

- A. Many members have not renewed their membership this year.
- B. Few new members have joined this year.
- C. The WCTE budget depends, in part, on membership fees.
- D. All of the above.

ANSWER: A and B are the logical answers, BUT C is also true, making **D. All of the above** our reality.

You've completed the syllogism and now we'd like you to complete your membership renewal. Find the form at <http://www.wcteonline.org/join/> where you can download it, print it out, fill it in and mail it along with a check payable to WCTE to **Tom Scott, WCTE Treasurer, 2230 E. Bradford Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53211**. Encourage other people in your building to join.

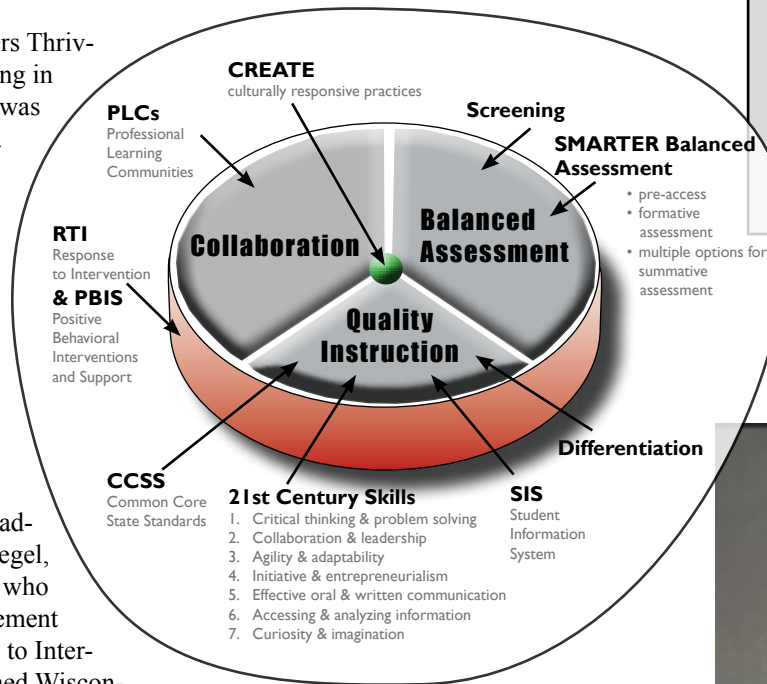
MILWAUKEE MEETING, DISTRICT I >> from Linda Barrington

Focus on finding support in schools

“English Teachers Thriving, Not Just Surviving in Challenging Times” was the theme of the Oct. 1 WCTE meeting at UW-Milwaukee. The program was co-presented by the Milwaukee Area Academic Alliance in English.

About 30 English teachers and pre-service teachers gathered in Greene Hall for the keynote address by Kelly Schwegel, a CESA 1 specialist who assists districts implement systems of Response to Intervention. She explained Wisconsin’s multi-level system of support in schools and then answered questions.

Two rounds of break-out sessions followed, each with four choices ranging from integrating Common Core Standards in English classes to using differentiation as RTI to resolving class size challenges and learning more about Poetry Out Loud.



Kelly Schwegel, CESA 1 specialist, used this diagram to explain the multi-level system of support in Wisconsin schools.



Chantal Tribble, Wisconsin's Poetry Out Loud State Champion, performed at the Milwaukee meeting. She represented the state in Washington, D.C. last April.

Poetry Out Loud sponsor Jackie Martindale introduced Chantal Tribble, Wisconsin's state champion, who performed several poems for the group. Tribble placed 10th in nationals last April in Washington, D.C., winning \$1,000. She is a senior at Milwaukee School of the Arts.



Eliza Saavedra, UW-Milwaukee



Sami Forster, New Berlin West High School



Teachers listen to Kelly Schwegel what a huge problem it is that so many teachers don't know enough technology.



Angela Olson, St. Francis High School



Jessica Tess, Hope School



Thirteen teachers from Wisconsin and northern Michigan gathered on Oct. 8 in Green Bay for a shared event focussing on the Common Core Standards and culturally responsive literature.

GREEN BAY MEETING, DISTRICT 7 & 8, MICHIGAN >> from Lynn Aprill **MCTE teachers attend first joint affiliate event**

On Saturday, Oct. 8, Districts 7 and 8 of WCTE and the Michigan Council of Teachers of English offered the first of what we hope will be many Northwoods Events at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Green Bay, Wis.

The theme of the event was “The Common Core: Increasing Rigor and Culturally Responsive Literature in the English Classroom.”

The day included a keynote address on the Common Core by Chris Van Hoof, director of instruction for the Clintonville School District (and former WCTE member).

After a delicious lunch, the attendees were involved in three sectionals — “Why We Need American Indian Literature in Your Classrooms” by Ryan Winn of the College of the Menominee Nation, “Discovering Multi-

culturalism and Otherness in a Seemingly Monocultural Setting: Seeking Connections and Articulating Commonalities between Rural and Urban School Districts” by Josh Anderson and Kia Jane Richmond of Northern Michigan University, and “The Medicine Wheel in Motion: A Holistic Approach to Culturally Responsive Teaching of Native American Oratures” by Jamie Kuehn of Northern Michigan University.

This is the first joint affiliate event that WCTE and MCTE (and possibly the first joint affiliate event that all NCTE affiliates) have attempted, and while it was a small crowd, we are enthusiastic about the possibility of continued collaboration between our affiliates. MCTE hopes to host the next Northwoods event in Michigan possibly next summer. Watch the Update for more information!



The two people responsible for planning this joint affiliate event for Wisconsin and northern Michigan teachers are Lynn Aprill, now past president of WCTE, and Kia Jane Richmond, president of MCTE.

100th Anniversary celebrated in Chicago

NCTE once again put on a fabulous national convention in Chicago, Illinois for the centennial anniversary of the organization. I still need to unpack my bags and process all of the information that we took from the event.

Highlights of the convention (for us anyway!) included meeting authors like Laurie Halse Anderson, Anthony Horowitz, and Nicholas Sparks, attending sectionals on subjects from the Common Core to literacy in the secondary English classroom, watching the student performance of the Taming of the Shrew sponsored by the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and, of course, bringing home bags

and bags of books that we'll be able to share with our students!

The NCTE convention remains, in my opinion, one of the most relevant professional development opportunities we have at our disposal during the school year, and the fact that it was so close was a huge bonus.

Start planning now for the 101st NCTE convention next November in Las Vegas!

**Join NCTE's
Connected Community**
You will have access to many
convention presentations and
handouts.

CEL HIGHLIGHTS >> from Linda Barrington

NCTE's best kept secret: Conference on English Leadership

"Now, more than ever, Leadership Matters!" was the title of this year's CEL workshop, following the NCTE convention in Chicago, Nov. 20-22. The event convinced the 200-some participants that this workshop is NCTE's best kept secret. Plan now to put this workshop on your calendar for next year in Las Vegas. Here are some of the highlights of this year's workshop.

SUNDAY

Mawi Asgedom, poet, writer and leadership motivator, started off the luncheon on Sunday. His life is truly inspirational, and his humor and enthusiasm were refreshing after a long NCTE weekend.

The opening session featured three short presentations. First, Dominic Belmonte, president and CEO of the Golden Apple Foundation, shared his motivational comments about the challenges of teaching in a "test-maniac-teacher-bash-filled era."

Then Cathy Fleischer, NCTE editor from Eastern Michigan University, used the metaphor of being in a pickle to illustrate the conflicting demands being placed on teachers. She shared three principles of doing things differently:

1. Find ways to build teachers' knowledge base and thus give them confidence in their expertise.
2. Look for the "and" opportunities in situations.
3. Create as many opportunities as you can to spread knowledge beyond the school walls.

Finally, Carol Jago, NCTE past president, reminded us that there were no "good ol' days" of teaching and that each age has its own challenges. She then put us to work, examining a complex visual text and then a complex written text to demonstrate the use of substantive discussion in our classrooms. As a follow-up everyone discussed the ideas and issues that emerged during the three presentations.

The early evening social included hors d'oeuvres, beverages and an opportunity to meet people. Afterwards, attendees had the option of attending a facilitated dinner at a variety of Chicago restaurants.

All About CEL

It is an intimate professional community dedicated to building the leadership capacity of literacy teachers.

CEL establishes a setting where emerging leaders work side by side with experienced leaders, and where veteran teachers work face to face with some of the finest minds in our profession.

More than 1,800 members — department chairs, literacy coaches, teachers, coordinators, administrators and state leaders — represent all levels of English education.

NCTE members can join CEL for \$25 per year. Membership includes voting rights and subscriptions to the "English Leadership Quarterly" and "Connections." Enroll at www.ncte.org/cel or call 1-800-369-6283.



photo by Linda Barrington
Carol Jago said, "Fewer than four percent of college students now major in English," according to The American Scholar magazine. "Be a sounding board for new teachers," she said. "Help them think through dicey situations."

Tour of Chicago Shakespeare Theater is a hit

MONDAY

Author, poet and literacy advocate Pat Mora focused on leaders using their gifts to bring about change. Each morning, she said, we have another chance to develop our personal potential so that we can be resilient and develop as leaders.



"I feel passionately about the potential of our work," Pat Mora said. "We need to struggle to regain the pleasure of text." In 1996 Mora started a family literacy initiative called Children's Day/Book Day or El día de los niños/El día de los libros.

We need to develop the potential of our work and of our colleagues. "Teachers are powerful people. We all bring different gifts. We need each other," Mora said

The rest of the morning provided two time segments, each with five breakout sessions on topics like the Common Core Standards, Transitioning from Colleague to Supervisor, Multi-sensory Writing, Challenge-based Learning in the English Classroom, and Professional Learning Communities.

The luncheon keynote speaker, Steve Zemelman, was one of the founders of Best Practices High School in Chicago. His presentation on Sustainable Leadership flowed from his experiences with the short life of this school. He said we have to rethink leadership. Leadership is not about who you are, but what you say and do. We have to remember that formal leaders can't do it all alone.



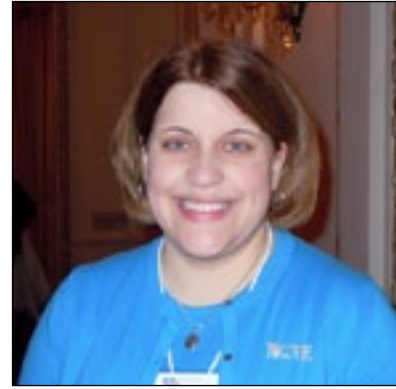
"Traditionally, many teachers focus just on the classroom, not taking a wider role," Steve Zemelman said. "In a school community, everybody leads."

The afternoon sessions mostly centered on leadership issues, some of which were Leadership for Curricular Change to Promote Multimodal Literacy, Living Leadership in the Experiential College Classroom, and Emerging Leaders Matter which focused on CEL's Emerging Leaders Fellowship.

The highlight of the day was the tour of Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier. It included a program in the main theater with a chance to ask questions and walk right up on the stage afterwards. A social followed in an area with breathtaking views of Chicago's skyline and Millennium Park, lit up for the holidays.

TUESDAY

Teacher and author Sara Kajder knocked our socks off with her breakfast keynote presentation on how technology helps us do better. Readers Workshop can include more choices when students have access to good reads in their digital library. They can make meaning on their e-readers by highlighting or annotating what they're reading. She also demonstrated a hand held scanner and Echo Live Scribe pen, showing how she uses them in her eighth grade classroom. Kajder's presentation is posted on Slide Share and NCTE Connected Community.



"21st Century literacy is the ability to learn, unlearn and relearn," Sara Kajder said. "She teaches at Virginia Tech University, but also had a class of eighth graders."

The morning break out sessions continued the focus on technology with several session choices. This was followed by Technology Speed-Dating where participants could rotate to four of the five stations for 15-minute learning sessions about Moodle, Evernote, Prezi, NoRedInk and tablets.

At the concluding luncheon, Kylene Beers, Past President of NCTE, received CEL's Exemplary Leader Award. She spoke about challenging our assumptions as we re-think our problems. Low achievement, she said, does not mean students need the basics. We need to increase higher cognitive questions for superior learning gains.

"Engagement will save schools, not testing, not computers," Beers said. "It takes teachers believing we can make a difference."



"Rigor does not mean harder," Kylene Beers said. We need to make texts more interesting to make students think harder and deeper. More difficult texts can lead to shallow thinking."

photos by Linda Barrington

Celebrating Teachers

The Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English is proud to promote a state-wide writing initiative. We invite writers of all ages to submit writing for publication in our online writing gallery. This year's theme is "The Power of Teaching." Submissions should reflect a response to the following prompt:

Teachers play a vital role in society — they cultivate knowledge in young minds, help students' ideas and abilities grow, and watch with pride as their subjects blossom into mature, creative, intelligent thinkers. Many of us have experienced the powerful, positive impact that a teacher can have on our lives, our ways of thinking and our visions of the future. Who was that teacher for you? Help us celebrate the power of teaching by telling us about a point in time when a teacher made an important, memorable difference in your life.

SUBMIT entries here: <http://galleryofwriting.org/galleries/3136656>. You may also go to www.galleryofwriting.org, search for "Wisconsin" and "United States," and scroll down to find the WCTE 2011 Writing Initiative: The Power of Teaching. Along with your entry, you will be asked to provide the following information:

- Your name, city, and e-mail address
- Your category of writing (narrative or poem)
- Your age category (adult, 9-12 student, or K-8 student)
- Name of the teacher you are honoring and the name of that teacher's school

All entries will be reviewed and considered for publication. Selected entries will be published, and a number of outstanding entries will receive special honors. **THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS TUESDAY, JAN. 31, 2012.**

WCTE members: Please promote this initiative in your school and community... and please consider submitting your own piece to the gallery! Join us in celebrating the beautiful profession of teaching.

VIEW submissions here: http://www.galleryofwriting.org/galleries/gallery_pieces.php?galleryid=3136656

SELECTED SUBMISSIONS

This poem was written by a teacher about the most influential teacher in his life.

Boost

by Gary Jones

Mr. Fairbrother boosted me to his shoulder
and carried me outside to see the Northern Lights,
the night sky filled with the bright glitter of stars
and the hazy cool blaze of the aurora borealis,
the sun reflected off the ice cap of the North Pole,
according to Gramp, I told him, and he chuckled.

Mr. Fairbrother was my first grade teacher,
(my mother's pupil and family friend)
and at the Pleasant Ridge one-room school
with its belfry and piled oak leaves of autumn,
sleds from home and snow forts of winter,
floating window curtains and Ante Aye Over of spring,
he taught me to read my way to degrees in literature.

Mr. Fairbrother was a short gray man
when he came to the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery
to take my hand at my father's funeral,
but he had towered above me, a shining mentor,
when he gave me that skyward boost
that destined me to become, like him, a teacher.

This poem was written as an assignment by a student in her sophomore English class.

A Teacher like No Other

by Ashley Ng

If a joke was just a joke, then what is it for?
Mr. Gnewuch could make it much, much more.

Taking my first step into the room,
I could already feel the amiableness bloom.
His "Joke of the Day" lifted my heart and brightened my spirit
Nothing compares to the laughter of when I hear it.
Besides his grand charisma, his respect shinned through.
If you'd listen to him, he'd listen to you.

There was no "I win, you lose" or "You're wrong, I'm right"
He stood understanding to an extravagant height.
But there lies even more about him that made Geography so easy to do.
I knew I could rely on him; He was the man to go to.
I'll state this quite frankly: I struggled a lot
Through his burdensome class that made me distraught.
Every morning, however, he'd give me his time
To help me with the predicament I had yet to climb.
So by the end of the year, I advanced from a "C" to an "A,"
An achievement I smile still to this day.
I want to express my absolute appreciation
To a teacher of hard work and marvelous dedication.
From all you just read, it remains safe to say:
Mr. Gnewuch is my favorite in every way.

WCTE announces awards



photo by Lynn Aprill
John Pruitt (center) receives the NCTE/SLATE honorable mention award for the Educator's Network for Social Justice. NCTE's Millie Davis is at right.

Lee Burrell Intellectual Freedom Award



Educator's Network for Social Justice also won honorable NCTE/SLATE National Intellectual Freedom Award honorable mention. [Photo at left.]

~ Educator's Network for Social Justice [www.ensj.org] is a grassroots network of practicing educators from Milwaukee area urban, suburban, and rural schools. Membership includes pre-service teachers, classroom teachers, post-secondary teachers and community members. They are committed to promoting anti-racist, anti-bias teaching practices and pro-justice policies so that all students in the Milwaukee area are better served.

ENSJ's Fifth Annual Anti-Racist/Anti-Bias Conference will be April 12 at the Indian Community School in Franklin. The Educator's Network for Social Justice invites educators and community members interested in issues of race and social justice in education to attend this conference with Linda Christenson as keynoter.

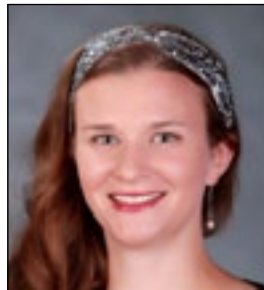
Robert C. Pooley Research Award



Lynn Aprill
Bonduel HS

Lynn Aprill will use the funding to create a WCTE Online Literary Map.

Jarvis E. Bush Award



Elizabeth Jorgensen
Arrowhead Union HS

Liz Jorgensen's research, "Schedule Change Challenges Students Academically and Socially," won for successful techniques of teaching composition.

DEADLINE REMINDER FOR AWARDS

Don't forget the NCTE awards available with due dates coming up this winter.

- Feb. 1** Mailing deadline for Promising Young Writers: This school-based writing program emphasizes the importance of writing skills among eighth-grade students. For more information, see <http://www.ncte.org/awards/student>
- Feb. 15** Mailing deadline for NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing: This school-based writing program encourages high school students in their writing and recognizes publicly some of the best student writers in the nation. For more information: <http://www.ncte.org/awards/student>
Mail school submissions to [Erin Schwane](#), New Berlin West High School.

WCTE's Intellectual Freedom statement

Members in attendance at this year's Annual Business Meeting in Milwaukee (Oct. 1, 2011) adopted a Position Statement affirming the rights of students and teachers in matters of language and literacy, and emphasizing the promotion of intellectual activity and creativity, freedom of expression and debate and access to information.

The WCTE Board had directed John Pruitt, chair of its Intellectual Freedom Committee, to draw up the position statement.



Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom

The Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English (WCTE) is committed to promoting a society where intellectual activity and creativity, freedom of expression and debate, and access to information are encouraged and nurtured as vital elements underpinning individual and community fulfillment. In this respect, WCTE declares that, while we are all free to reject books and other materials of which we do not approve, we cannot exercise this right of censorship to restrict the freedom and choices of others.

The Rights of Educators

WCTE supports the role of educators and librarians in providing access to all publicly available information. If this material has not incurred legal penalties, then it should not be excluded on moral, political, religious, racial, or gender grounds to satisfy the demands of private interests.

At the same time, WCTE encourages parents and school districts to respect the role of teachers and librarians as professionals with broad knowledge of language, literature, and cultural traditions, just as WCTE encourages teachers and librarians to respect the concerns and convictions of both external critics and professional colleagues who have opposing ideas about either principles or practices.

WCTE also believes that school districts must establish formal policies and procedures for handling criticism of selected texts, including a system for communicating openly with civic, educational, political, religious, and other bodies within the community. Both inside and outside the classroom, teachers should explain the curricular purpose of a book or how a book with questionable language and/or subject matter can still have educational merit.

The Rights of Students

WCTE fully supports the Resolution on Students' Rights of Expression, written and approved by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) in 2004. According to this resolution, because we as educators must provide safe spaces for students to voice their own thoughts and opinions through both writing and speaking, we must

- reaffirm the rights of expression by students at all levels in a variety of media;
- acknowledge the need for educators to develop competencies in responding to such expression in ways that ensure safety, welfare, and respect for students and others;
- encourage educators and school authorities to develop written procedures for logical and prudent interventions when student expression may warrant an intervention;
- provide professional development that supports students' right of expression in the context of school safety; and
- collect and disseminate exemplary policies and processes that school leaders have developed as reasonable responses to troubling and difficult expression

Meet Kathy Bay, District 10 director

As the new co-director of District 10, Kathy Bay is looking forward to being a part of the implementation of English Common Core standards in Wisconsin, and is excited to learn and share success strategies and lessons with fellow professionals. Having raised her (now adult) children in four different states, she recognizes the value of the common cores.

"Change can be difficult or exciting, but it is never dull. As I see it, we can complain, or we can work together to make our English curriculum fresher and stronger," Bay said.

She has her Master's Degree from UW-Stevens Point and teaches freshman English and five different semester senior courses as well as advising National Honor Society, drama and forensics at Colby High School.

Being aware of other cultures and introducing their literature and customs to her students is the impetus for her latest venture. This summer she received a grant to study Asian Literature at the University of Indiana-Bloomfield and, with a long term goal of developing a distance learning Asian Literature course, is already implementing some Korean literature into her current courses.

More and more she realizes that being a teacher is more than imparting knowledge about English; rather, "it is about teaching empathy through literature that allows my students to want to learn more about people and the small world we live in, expanding their cultural literacy."



Kathy Bay

Similarly, she is concerned with the lack of creativity in students and encourages daily writing for her students as a means to re-develop that creativity. Her guiding maxim from the Analects of Confucius is, "Learning without thought is labor lost; thought without learning is perilous."

With the impetus of PLCs and RtI, she says it is more important now, than ever before, to establish professional ties with colleagues and community, and she looks forward to meeting fellow WCTE members.

PUBLICATIONS >> from Jessica Gallo, assistant editor

Wisconsin English Journal invites writers, reviewers

Editor

Mary Louise Gomez,
UW-Madison

Associate Editors

Catherine F. Compton-
Lilly, UW-Madison

Dawnene Hassett,
UW-Madison

Melissa B. Schieble,
Hunter College-City
University of New York

Assistant Editors

Jessica Gallo, UW-Madison
Marci Glaus, UW-Madison

Editorial Board

Emilie A. Amundson,
Wisconsin DPI

Lynn Frick, Sauk

Prairie High School

JoAnne M. Katzmarek,
UW-Stevens Point

Timothy U. Kaufman,
UW-Green Bay

Linda Tabers-Kwak,
UW-Green Bay

The Wisconsin English Journal (WEJ) welcomes articles on all subjects related to teaching English in middle and high schools. For spring 2012, we have chosen the theme "Reading the Past, Writing the Future" in honor of the NCTE Centennial Celebration. We invite authors to submit articles that reflect on our shared professional past and envision our future as English educators in Wisconsin. Articles on other topics are welcome as well. The due date for the spring issue is Feb. 1, 2012. The theme for the fall 2012 issue is Assessment and the due date is Aug. 1, 2012.

We believe that the juried journal process that we have organized is vital to developing

excellent articles for readers. We hope that all of you will be willing to be journal reviewers and help us support authors. Because we are a juried journal with each article receiving two anonymous reviews, the journal may hold more power for those concerned about the publication's impact on their careers. To become a reviewer for

To submit articles to the Wisconsin English Journal, log on to the [website](http://journals.library.wisc.edu/index.php/wej) and follow the prompts. The deadline for submissions for the spring issue is Feb. 1, 2012.

Wisconsin English Journal, visit <http://journals.library.wisc.edu/index.php/wej> and click on "Register."

Please consider submitting an article to the Wisconsin English Journal. We look forward to receiving and reviewing your texts.

Publication dates: Oct. 1 and April 1.

Wisconsin English Teachers' Calendar of Events and Deadlines

January

Jan. 31 Deadline for entries for WCTE Writing Initiative

February

Feb. 1 Mailing deadline for Promising Young Writers: This school-based writing program emphasizes the importance of writing skills among eighth-grade students. For more information, see <http://www.ncte.org/awards/student>

Feb. 15 Mailing deadline for NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing: This school-based writing program encourages high school students in their writing and recognizes publicly some of the best student writers in the nation. For more information: <http://www.ncte.org/awards/student> Mail school submissions to Erin Schwane, New Berlin West High School.

Feb 18 District Two is offering a Common Core State Standards Workshop at Badger High School in Lake Geneva from 9 a.m. to noon.

March

March 9-10 WCTE State Gathering of English Teachers at Arrowhead High School, Hartland. National leaders from across the country, including NCTE past president Carol Jago, will speak. The Winter Board of Directors' meeting will take place.

April

April 12 Anti-Racist/Anti-Bias Conference at the Indian Community School in Franklin: The Educator's Network for Social Justice invites educators and community members interested in issues of race and social justice in education to attend this conference with Linda Christenson as keynoter. For more information: <http://www.ensj.org>

April 28 NCTE Literacy Education Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C.

April 28 Mailing deadline for NCTE/Norman Mailer Writing Award. The Norman Mailer Writers Colony and the National Council of Teachers of English jointly sponsor the Norman Mailer High School and College Writing Awards. <http://www.ncte.org/awards/student/nmwa>

May

May 1 Deadline for nominating a student teacher of the Outstanding Student Teacher Award. <http://www.wcteonline.org/awards-and-grants/outstanding-student-teacher-awards/>

May 1 Deadline for nominating a first year teacher for the Nancy Hoefs Memorial Award for Outstanding First-Year Teacher <http://www.wcteonline.org/awards-and-grants/nancy-hoefs-memorial-award/>

May 1 Deadline for Affiliate Nomination for NCTE High School Teacher of Excellence Award www.WCTEonline.org/hs_teacher.htm

June

June 30 Mailing deadline for Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines (PRE-SLM): This program for middle schools, junior high and high schools recognizes students, teachers, and schools for producing excellent literary magazines and encourages all schools to develop literary magazines, seeking excellence in writing and school-wide participation in production. 2012 brochure available in February. Submit to Kathy Nelson, Arrowhead High School <http://www.wcteonline.org/awards-and-grants/ncte-high-school-teacher-of-excellence-award/>

July

July 26-27 WCTE Summer Board of Directors meeting at Kathy Nelson's house and Arrowhead High School

FOR CLASS >> from Samantha Forster

Free tech tools for teachers



Sami Forster, New Berlin West High School, shares her hand-out from her presentation at the Oct. 1 WCTE meeting.

Online Composition:

- **Blogger.com** – students/teacher have a blank slate to design a space for composition. Could be used as a journal, reaction to class, or analysis of literature.
- **Wikispaces.com** – a place for student/teacher material, place for discussion (can be used as an editing tool for revision process) – think outside the box and use as a class generated glossary.
- **Weebly.com** – incredibly easy website making tool. Students could have their own website with various aspects of class (journal, reaction, reading) ***This is also a great tool for a teacher to have a class website.***
- **Linoit.com / Wallwisher.com** – sticky note websites, generate a question or prompt and have students log on outside or inside class and post responses using text, images, or videos. Great tool! Could also be used as a reminder board for the class, or a news board for current events.

Presentation Tools:

- **Prezi.com** – The new Power Point. Traditional white board layout where various text, images, and video can be placed. The user then creates a path for the sequencing of information. Very user friendly, students enjoy working with this tool. It is very good for the big picture thinker.
- **Glogster.edu** – A version of an online poster or scrapbooking. This tool is great for all ages; however, middle school level seems to really enjoy. This site offers great oversight of class and students work by the teacher, good tracking. This could be used for book review, research presentation, personal narrative, etc...

Classroom Management Tools:

- **Weebly.com** – Free option to use text, video, images, upload links and documents. Great options for design, and very user friendly. Ability to embed various web applications. Could be used similar to Moodle.
- **Jing / Screencast.com** – This tool combined with Weebly could revolutionize the way your classroom functions and the access to material that students have outside of the classroom. Jing is a screen shot capturing program; however, there is also the ability to make five minute long videos. Think a PowerPoint presentation that you use to lecture in class, but now you can record your lecture with the sequencing of the slides and embed them on your Weebly website.
 - Great for students who are absent. Handouts and make-up work don't mimic the class time that they missed.
 - Great for review. Also, create "how-to" videos for other tech tools.

FOR CLASS >> from Linda Barrington

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WCTE Update December 2011

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