

Western Pennsylvania Writing Project



And the SIT Nominees are...

February-March 2010

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Behold the junipers shagged with ice

One must have a mind of winter . . .

In light of our recent weather, Wallace Stevens' "The Snow Man" seems a fitting tribute to life in Western Pennsylvania. It has been a month of beholding "junipers shagged with ice" and the "spruces rough in the distant glitter." Despite school closures, it has also been a month of productive writing for our young writers and professional development for our fellows. Inside this issue you will find information about ongoing programs, recently launched projects, and future events. There is even a chance to win prizes. Read on to discover "nothing that is not there and the nothing that is."



Young Writers on the Air, Page and Screen

On February 13th and 20th, select students from the winter Young Writers Institute shared their poetry and prose on Pittsburgh's long-standing, award winning public radio show, "The Saturday Light Brigade." Host Larry Berger spoke with WPWP fellow, Christine Wolfe, creative writer, Victoria Dym, and a range of students from 3rd to 8th grade. Podcasts of the two shows will be available shortly on the SLB archives page, located at: <http://slbradio.org/listen.shtml>

The young writers' work will also be featured in a variety of other multi-media formats, enhanced by their work with three artists-in-residence at the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.

Fellows interested in attending the Celebration of Writing events for the winter YWI may contact [Stacey Waite](#) for information about the grades 9-12 event, scheduled for March 6th from 4-6PM, and [Christine Wolfe](#) for the grades 3-8 event, scheduled for March 20th from 10-12AM. Both events will be held at the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust Center at 805 Liberty Avenue.

Fellows interested in teaching in the summer Young Writers Institute can download an application from the WPWP website at: <http://www.wpawritingproject.org/forstudents.htm>

The application deadline is **March 26, 2010**. For additional information, please contact [Beth Voltz](#) the Coordinator for Young Writers programs.

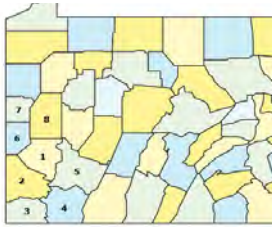
Advanced Institute 2010



The Advanced Institute 2010 launched on January 30th with a full class of ten fellows from the 1980s, 90s and 2000s. Facilitated by Nancy Addy and Cindy Biery, this year's AI focuses on the preparation and presentation of excellent

school-based professional development. Congratulations to the AI 2010 class: Sheila Carter-Jones ('89), Gerri Holden ('95), Sarah Falbo ('97), Catherine McClain ('05), Leslie Wessner ('05), Anna Arlotta-Guerrero ('06), Dana Mackey ('08), Nicole Homich ('08), and Kellie Skweres ('09). Upon completion, each AI fellow will receive a 500 dollar stipend and ACT 48 hours.

All WPWP fellows are eligible to apply for Advanced Institutes. If you would like to propose inquiry-based topics for future Advanced Institutes, please [contact Matthew Luskey](#) at the WPWP office.



questionnaire will also receive a **\$25 dollar voucher** good toward future WPWP events, such as the Annual Dinner or the Fall Writing Retreat, or toward WPWP publications.

Beaver School District. Coordinated by **Pam McCune**, these workshops include topics on writers workshop, writing in

Fellows Questionnaire

Not to be confused with the US Census, the Fellows Questionnaire 2010 has been distributed via email and has also been posted on the [WPWP website](#). Drafted by the Fellows Council with fellows in mind, the questionnaire will help the WPWP to better communicate with its fellows and to offer more opportunities for fellows to take part in leadership roles. If you have not done so already, please email, mail, or fax your responses to the questionnaire to the WPWP.

Fellows who return their questionnaires by **March 2nd** will be entered into a drawing for a **\$100 gift certificate** to the Pitt Bookstore. Each fellow who returns a completed



In March, the Fellows Council will be following up on the questionnaire with phone calls and emails. We are excited to let you know about the many opportunities for you to be involved with the WPWP. Thank you for your support in helping us build our network of fellows.

WPWP Professional Development in Full Swing

Since November 2009, the WPWP has conducted a series of professional development workshops for the Western



middle school math and science, and digital literacy. Thank you to Pam and the WPWP fellows who have participated in these workshops.

Thank you also to **Marnie Arnold**, who conducted two very highly evaluated workshops on the PSSA for Moon School District teachers.

If you would like to help coordinate and provide professional development for your school and district, [please let us know](#).

Nominees for Summer Institute

Unlike the Oscars, all WPWP Teacher Nominees are winners three times over. Please continue to send your nominations for this year's Summer Institute for Teachers, July 6-30. Every nominee will receive a letter from the WPWP mentioning the WPWP fellow who has nominated him or her and acknowledging the nominee's work as an outstanding educator. In addition, each nominated teacher's principal will receive a copy of the nomination along with a letter encouraging institutional support for the teacher's application to the SIT. Finally, a WPWP fellow's letter of nomination also serves as a letter of reference for the nominated teacher, which helps to simplify the application process. Your nominations are the single-most effective tool for recruiting excellent and diverse teachers into the WPWP. If you have not done so, please [email your nominations to Matthew Luskey](#) as soon as possible.



A Memorial Reading for Anita Byerly was held on **Saturday, January 23, 2010 at 1:00PM at St. Edmund's Academy** in Squirrel Hill. Over 100 family and friends from the WPWP, the Pittsburgh Poetry Society, and the Madwomen in the Attic program at Carlow University attended the memorial in a moving tribute involving readings and reflections. Donations to the WPWP in memory of Anita Byerly have yielded nearly 500 dollars toward scholarships for young writers. Thank you to all who have contributed to the Anita Byerly Memorial Fund.



Writing Renaissance 2010 Rescheduled

Saturday, March 13, 2010, 9:30AM - 12:30 PM, University of Pittsburgh, Posvar Hall 5604



Please join poet, performance artist and longtime friend of the WPWP, **Vanessa German**, for the WPWP's annual Writing Renaissance. Indulge in writing, chances to reconnect with fellows, light brunch, and chocolate. For additional details, please contact [Mimi Botkin](#) or visit the [WPWP website](#).

If you have news that you would like to share with the WPWP community, [please let us know](#).

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