

Writing Works

MWP's Creative Nonfiction Conference

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In this issue, Barb Bass, director of the MWP, writes about moving and displacement, and I'm writing about its antithesis—home. In light of the MWP's recent office relocation from Hawkins Hall to Lida Lee Tall, it seems magically ironic that we who have moved are coordinating and sponsoring a conference with the author, Georgia Heard, who writes a lot about the idea of home and how that plays out in our lives. We started working on this conference long before



Georgia Heard

we knew we would have to move and, ultimately, move again. In fact, we had Georgia Heard signed and sealed in mid-summer.

The Maryland Writing Project is thrilled to announce that Georgia Heard, who wrote *Writing Toward Home*, is coming to Towson University on Saturday, May 19, 2007 for an all day creative nonfiction conference in the University Union.

Georgia Heard is a nonfiction writer and a poet. She is a teacher and a painter. She also travels around the country giving writing workshops to teachers, administrators, and students.

The MWP has used her books, in particular, *Writing Toward Home*, in our Summer Teacher Institutes. Many of our T-Cs use this book in their high school and college classrooms. I use it in my Writing and Communication Skills for Teachers course. Anyone who has read her work or used it in their teaching has been inspired to look at home differently. For Heard, home can be a place inside or outside of us. It can be a place of safety or beauty or peace. It can be a taste, a smell or a memory. Home can hide inside a story or be an angel on your shoulder.

Together with Rus VanWestervelt, Corey O'Brien, and Stephanie Leddy, we are planning this conference for teachers, writers and students of all levels. Heard will be speaking and facilitating writing activities with the audience as well as closing with a reading from one of her works. We expect to mail out flyers in January and will be advertising in print and on the radio. Please call or e-mail us if you would like to be involved—there is plenty to do. Hopefully, we won't be in the midst of moving when she arrives—hopefully, we will be at home.



Katie Hearn

Inside

- Director's Report.....2
- The Real World, MWP Style.....3
- The MWP's Student Writers' Workshop4
- News and Notes6
- MWP Day on the Hill 2006.....7
- Utilizing Differentiation, Co-Teaching, and Support Staff8
- Talking Math9

Writing Works is a publication of the Maryland Writing Project. Please send your comments, questions and letters to mwpletters@towson.edu. We look forward to hearing from you.

