

# Director's Report Spring 2003

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I'm writing this column in January 2003 although you probably won't read it until May. There's a February 15 deadline for this twice-a-year newsletter. **Editor Beth Edelstein ('00)** will have met with **Linda De La Ysla ('94)** and me ('88) to brainstorm topics and then will have spoken to dozens of possible contributors and poured through slews of photographs before walking this issue back and forth to Design & Publications where Mike Dunne and his editorial staff work their magic. Linda and I will then proofread the copy to be sure all of the pictures are placed with the right TCs and that all of the t's are crossed and i's are dotted before Kris Moylan sends it down to be printed, folded, and tabbed closed. By the time it is ready to be mailed out, there will be at least one insert, which Jeannie and Kathleen, our student helpers, will staple into place before Teresa Kuchta phones the mailroom to have the over 600 copies picked up to be brought down to the post office. Whew!

By the time this issue of *Writing Works* reaches you, many of the initiatives MWP TCs are involved in that you are reading about in this issue may have ended and new ones will have taken their place, or they will have evolved into their next incarnations. At the moment, Linda and I have just mailed in to the NWP our site's annual report and request for funding for the next fiscal year. Included are two new mini-grant proposals, one for Urban Sites and one for English Language Learners, a request for continuation of our technology liaison funding, and another for the funding of a satellite site in Southern Maryland.

These initiatives are the brainchildren of many TCs: **Renaté Jones ('01)**, **Diane Pinkney ('02)**, **Gina Anazco ('02)**, **Linda Wharton ('91)**, **Jen Goulston ('02)**, **Jim Ford ('01)**, **Terry Mobley ('91)** and **Del Arnold ('97)** supplied the inspiration for the Urban Sites Network (USN) grant, which we plan to use to continue the New Teacher Initiative. **Joe Bellino ('89)** supplied the genesis for the English Language Learners grant proposal and the technology liaison position. **Helen Seawell ('95)**, **Pam Enrico ('92)**, **Barbara Laster**, **Linda Flanagan ('89)**, and **Susan Helldorfer ('02)** along with Kathy Jenkins have been instrumental in getting our Southern Maryland site off the ground. **Elias O'Neal ('01)** and **Sandy Scott ('88)** have been working hard with Gus Herrington at Walbrook High School to keep Project TeamWork alive.

**Annemarie Chiarini ('02)** and **Terry Mobley ('91)** have been instrumental in expanding the Student Writers' Workshop, establishing a site for this coming summer at Essex Community College. These are just some of our hopes for 2003, none of which would have had the chance to flower without the hearts and minds of our TCs and friends of the Maryland Writing Project.

Another area of growth we are experiencing is through MWP leadership in the teaching of EDUC 301, Writing and Communication Skills for Teachers, the second writing course for education majors at Towson University. This course is taught exclusively by MWP TCs who are hired as adjunct

instructors through the university.

**Linda De La Ysla ('94)**, **Linda Miller ('93)**, **John Barber ('95)**, **Cheryl North ('97)**, **Beth Edelstein ('00)** and **Rus VanWestervelt ('89)** are teaching the course this year, and other TCs, including **Tina Dushel ('90)**, **Leah Halvorson ('99)**, **Judy de Craene ('98)**, **Kim**

**Wilmot ('98)**, **Bonnie Hain**, **Arlene Barte-Lowe ('00)**, **Cyndy Gruhn ('94)**, **Susy Sayre ('98)** and **Tonia Minor ('98)** have taught in previous semesters. All work under the leadership of Linda De La Ysla, who coordinates the entire program. We are always looking for TCs who are interested in teaching this course, so let the office know if you are interested.

The MWP is our TCs. This point was brought home to me this past November as so many of us gathered in Atlanta for the 29th annual NWP meeting. On the night we met for an MWP dinner, we ended up with a slew of TCs partaking of Italian cuisine at Maggione's: **Andy McBee ('90)** Student Writers' Workshop, **Kristina Berdan ('99)** Center for Social Action, **Del Arnold ('97)** Teacher Inquiry Community, **Terry Mobley ('91)** Student Writers' Workshop, **Renaté Jones ('01)**, **Diane Pinkney ('02)** and **Jen Goulston ('02)** New Teacher Initiative, **Joe Bellino ('89)** technology liaison, **Joanne Donovan** and **Jan Currence Hedberg** Eastern Shore WP, and Linda De La Ysla and me.

Others in Atlanta who could not join us for dinner included **Pam Morgan ('88)** NWP monograph series, **John Barber ('95)** STI/diversity, **Jim Ford ('01)** Teacher Inquiry Community, **Cheryl North ('97)** technology liaison, **Sharon Miller ('85)** Teacher Inquiry Community, and **Elyse Eidman-Aadahl ('84)** associate director, NWP. The NWP was able to underwrite the travel expenses of many of us through special grants from the New Teacher Initiative, technology liaisons, the Center for Social Action and the Teacher Inquiry Community.

Next year's conference, to be held in San Francisco, will celebrate the NWP's 30th anniversary. We hope that even more MWP TCs will make the trip and then return to strengthen the valuable work our site does for educators across Maryland.

If you have an idea percolating in your head, call the office. We would love to help you bring it to fruition. If you are not already on our MWPconnect listserv, send me an e-mail at bbass@towson.edu and I will be happy to subscribe you so that you may stay informed about opportunities for Maryland educators. If you would like to become more actively involved, call us as well. We have lots of opportunities through presenting and coordinating in-service, teaching in the Student Writers' Workshop, coordinating the Summer Teacher Institute, and doing adjunct teaching at TU to weave you back into the fabric of the MWP – or to keep you woven in. We need you to keep us strong and growing and alive.



Barbara Bass