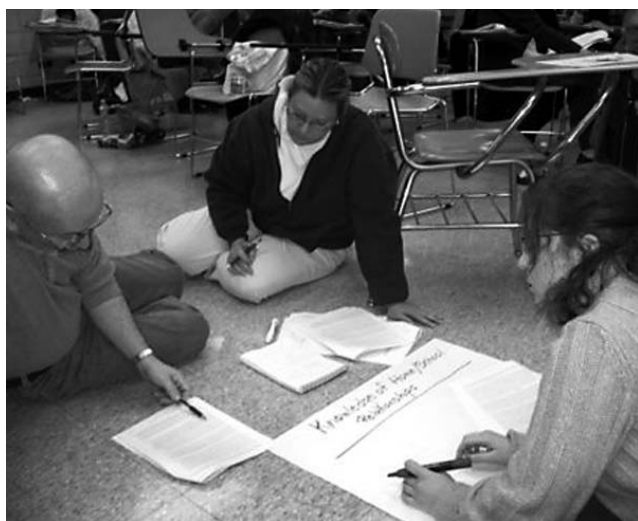


MWP Leadership Meeting 2005

By Charles Pugh, T-C '03, charlespugh2002@yahoo.com

Vision and vitality marked the recent MWP leadership meeting held on January 29, 2005 at the University Union. Director Barbara Bass heralded that our site for FY 2004-2005 is in the black. Therefore, the charted activities designed to improve writing instruction in schools shift into full speed for the last half of this school year and on into the next.



Participants at the pre-retreat Write-to-Learn Workshop

Approximately 40 T-Cs, representatives from our three STI sites, gathered to share, strategize, and revise plans for our next year of operation. The group of T-Cs converged with supportive energy as they filled the collective veins of MWP with the lifeblood of their proficiency. Our many programs and initiatives will remain alive and well.

One person who exemplifies the enduring force of MWP and was willing to jump head first into her work as co-director is Linda De La Ysla. Linda announced her retirement from her position effective in January '06. Linda leaves the MWP for an ocean home in Florida initially focusing on her love of sea turtles, scuba diving, and her doctoral work. Her zeal and energy will most certainly turn her back to a connection with a Writing Project near her new home. She leaves us with a trail of countless molecules of work that have moved forward the accomplishments, ventures, and goals of our MWP. She leaves a blueprint of effectiveness that will certainly point her successor in the right direction. She gave us

the poem *To Be of Use* by Marge Piercy to reflect upon (see page 17). It was an apt celebration of her nine years as co-director.

Rus VanWestervelt shared a writing opportunity for high school students called



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Maryland Voices. Students from Maryland can now contribute creative nonfiction to this annual anthology. The third volume was just released. Another outgrowth of this project is called *This Day in Maryland*, which originated from essays about students' experiences on 9-11, 2001. This publication was so well received that each year a date is picked, and students capture their moments of life in Maryland on that day.

Sarah Snyder gave us an update on the 2004 STI and shared how her experiences at each site were engaging and dynamic. Sarah explained that she has put together the long-awaited handbook for coordinators. Future coordinators of STI will find this resource a great help as they get organized for the experience. On a sad note, Sarah will not be part of the 2005 STI for the first time since 1998. On a joyful note, Sarah will be occupied in pulling off a grand summer wedding for her daughter this July. We will miss her presence at the STI sites, but



Terry Mobley '91



Cheryl Foreman '02

the handbook will remind us that she isn't all that absent. The MWP office is currently in the process of duplicating her handbook for use this summer.

Terry Mobley reported on plans for our SWW. The model of SWW that has evolved at TU has proven very effective with the kind of students who attend at this site. He reminded us that other SWW sites might form in other counties in Maryland, but that they are more than free to experiment with models that will work for the students they are engaged with. The new SWW brochure is ready for distribution. See the MWP office or Web site for more information.

Joe Bellino, our technology guru, continues to improve our Web site that has grown over the past year. He has recently been adding links that connect our teachers to important literacy sites. He is interested in learning of new sites that may be of interest to our T-Cs.

Barbara Steele, special projects person for MWP, shared that her work on the MWP library is almost complete. MWP is the proud owner of more than 800 books on a wide range of literacy issues and teaching methods. The complete list of titles and authors are available at the MWP office along with borrowing privileges.

Stephanie Leddy spoke on our continuity programs. Two programs she highlighted are the Maryland State Teachers Association convention held in Ocean City each fall, and the Writing Marathon. At the MSTA convention, MWP now hosts a booth there, and she thanked all the T-Cs who helped with greeting visitors to the booth. The success of the first Writing Marathon has pushed us to plan a 2nd Writing Marathon.

T-Cs broke from the report portion of the meeting and formed action groups to discuss many of our programs: STI, SWW, Continuity, Praxis II preparation, Mini-grant proposals, and other initiatives.

Barbara Bass concluded the meeting with recognition of the many new T-Cs who are actively involved in some aspect of the MWP experience and thanked the many T-Cs who have given years of support to MWP. T-C dedication is at the heart of our success.



Jackie Rone '90, Linda De La Ysla '94, and Angela Cephas '03