

# Writing Works

## Settling In: A New Co-director for the MWP

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I've been at the Maryland Writing Project for almost six months now, and I'm beginning to have a sense of the great scope of work that we do. I'm also beginning to have a working understanding of how exactly we do it. From grants to budgets to writing retreats to advertising to coordinating the Baltimore's Child Camp Fair to staff development, I realize how much our T-Cs and supporters enable us to fulfill our mission and to coordinate and accomplish our work. At my first Leadership Retreat, on January 28, I met 43 intelligent, warm and friendly people who are leaders in their fields and who make the Maryland Writing Project a growing, dynamic community of educators and writers.

During the spring the MWP conducted a 30-hour staff development program for Alternative Program teachers in Montgomery County Public Schools and a two-day staff development program for teachers at the Monsignor Slade Catholic School. Nina Shipman-Vick is doing a great job coordinating both. Several T-Cs are presenting, including Valerie Josenhans, Ginny Anderson, and Ailish Zompa. The annual Shepherd's Spring Writing Retreat that Linda coordinated included 12 T-Cs. We had



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single rooms at a lovely retreat center in the mountains of western Maryland the weekend of May 5 – May 7. I looked forward to it since much of what I write is centered on nature and my experiences out of doors.

These past months have been filled with loads of new information to learn and absorb, but most important the time has been filled with the kind and generous support of our office staff, Kris Moylan and Mary Stelzig, our student interns, Allison Jenkins and Lauren Cohen, and, of course, ever positive and patient Barbara Bass. I love my new job!

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 We look forward to hearing from you.