

# Leadership Retreat

*Thoughts from the MWP Annual Leadership Retreat—Towson University, January 28, 2006*

It is comforting to know that if I have been away from the MWP for a while I can step back into it and feel the memories and energy of my summer experience come flooding back into my soul and my teaching.  
~ Carol J. DePasquale, T-C '88

It was energizing as a starting point for me to begin constructing the framework for our Frederick SWW. Overall, it was a good time with people who enjoy what I enjoy as if that were the natural human response to writing and teaching.  
~ Melissa Krut Petersen, T-C '04

Thank you again for all the planning on the 28th. I enjoyed seeing old friends as well as meeting fresh new faces. I was impressed with the energy of each STI class; how quickly it comes back! Also, I was happy to see Katie Hearn. Her energy, enthusiasm, and knowledge are terrific assets to the MWP.  
~ Jill Johnson, T-C, '05

Someone said that coming to the Leadership Retreat is like coming home...how true! It's always refreshing and revitalizing to surround myself with like-minded, motivated, creative thinkers who appreciate the crafts of teaching and writing. It's like breathing fresh air again after being trapped in a smoky environment - one big breath and I'm ready to face the gauntlet again - re-energized and rejuvenated!  
~ Amanda Portner, T-C '04

Coming to the Leadership Retreat has always been a great pleasure to re-connect with my MWP friends and network with new faces. I always get excited at the new challenging opportunities the MWP has to offer to those who want to jump right in. I take advantage of this opportunity to set new goals which will help me continue my professional growth - what else can I ask?  
~ Gina C. Añazco, T-C '02

I'm glad I made it to the retreat. It was wonderful seeing folks. It was great to hear that professionally and personally, everyone seems to have come out tops. I found some of the discussion illuminating. I will definitely make all kinds of rescheduling to be there for the next one. Kudos to everyone involved in setting up the workshop.  
~ Prema Coulbourn T-C '05

The retreat mapped out the opportunity for everyone to begin the conversation that will assist us in becoming a more diverse service organization. It should be remembered, though, that we need to continue the threads we started. Dealing with diversity is more about living the issue than talking about it. We have to remove the barricades of language by not being afraid that words will supersede intent. Words are the vehicles for our journey of learning to appreciate each other. As the drivers, however, it is important that we do not allow intent to harm those that may cross our paths. So, with a cautious eye and a ready hand on the wheel of our brains and the horn of our mouths we are poised to navigate the winding road ahead. Watch your speed. Yield often.  
~ Cheryl Foreman, T-C '02

I was impressed with the enthusiasm of the participants, and how happy we were to see each other. There was a sense of family among the 2005 STI members as we reminisced about our summer together.  
~ Gloria Scott, T-C '05

Seeing all my writing friends gave me the push I needed to get back into writing. It was my six month tune up!  
~ Juliet Champion, T-C '05

The Leadership Retreat is a time machine: it makes me remember my STI in 1998—and it makes me think about the future. All that new energy in the room from the new T-Cs is inspiring and energizing. Sometimes teaching (and all that grading) can wear me down, so talking to old friends and newly fired-up T-Cs is just the right medicine I needed.  
~ Susanna Sayre, T-C '98

It was inspiring and enlightening to see and feel the power of the T-Cs of 2004 Towson site. It was a wonderful flashback to the energy and outstanding work of that summer.  
~ Diana Sennaar, T-C '04

Whenever MWP T-Cs gather, energy and creativity fill the room. That's what keeps me inspired and coming back year after year!  
~ Sharon Delgado, T-C '81

## Reflections on a Leadership Retreat

By Terry Mobley, T-C '91  
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Terry Mobley

The room was filled!!!  
I thought of the faces I didn't see,  
Jack and Sandy and Meg and Liz,  
And all the new faces . . .  
That really pleased me  
I guess that's just how it is.  
Joan Cobb came back  
And that brought a smile to  
my heart.  
Two thousand and two,  
Two thousand and three  
Two thousand and four  
Two thousand and five  
What glorious cheers—  
That's why we're alive.  
It's fun for us old folk  
to reminisce  
And important that some of us stay  
But the life of the project has always  
been  
Those fresh new minds that show us  
the way  
and give us the energy to go on.  
A few years ago someone said  
"Maybe the project has lost  
its reason to be."  
I'm glad we didn't pronounce it dead.  
I'm glad we didn't diminish "T-C."

## GEAR-UP and the Maryland Writing Project

By Diane Curry, T-C, '99, dmc21043@yahoo.com

One Saturday a month I head up to Towson to teach writing to a group of Baltimore City High school students. These students from Patterson, Digital Harbor and Walbrook are part of the Baltimore City GEAR-UP program, which offers students an intensive writing workshop to help prepare them for college. For the past several years The Maryland Writing Project (MWP) and Towson University (TU) under the leadership of Dr. Barbara Bass and Dr. David Vocke have been working with Baltimore City GEAR-UP to offer students an intensive school-based writing program throughout the academic year to improve students writing skills while preparing them for the SAT exam. Daniel Rozmiarek, Stacy Pietropaoli (T-C, '04), Leslie Goetsch (T-C, '84) and I (T-C, '99) work with small groups of students on various aspects of their writing. Not only do these students get to practice key writing skills, but they are also presented with scholarship and other financial aid information. In addition, Raft Woodus and the SAGE program brings in Towson University student mentors to answer questions, discuss study habits

and help prepare these students for the transition to college.

It has been exciting to follow these students over the past several years and watch them improve their writing and pursue their goals for the future. "I got good information on how to take the SATs," Jamal, a senior from Walbrook, who joined GEAR-UP in the eleventh grade. "It really prepares you for college. It helps you out a lot." Richard, also from Walbrook, commented."

Brecklen Barbee, who teaches at the liberal arts academy at Walbrook thinks his students got good strategies and good information about college in terms of college life, applications, etc. For many students, negotiating the process of getting into college is overwhelming. GEAR-UP gives students individual attention and demystifies the process. The MWP teachers make sure that students have the writing skills needed to ensure success once the students are actually in college. Anthony, another Walbrook senior summed up his experience. "I feel really prepared for my first year of college."



Pictured: Diane Curry, standing left end; Dr. David Vocke, standing, 4th from left; Daniel Rozmiarek, standing 2nd from right; Raft Woodus, standing right end