

Reflections on a Leadership Retreat

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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