

newsletter

Volume 41 Number 1 Spring 2004

FALL CONFERENCE 2003 A CIRCLE OF LEARNING: COMMUNITIES AND EMPOWERMENT

TERI KNIGHT

The IATE Annual Conference returned to the Chicagoland area last fall. The conference began with a keynote address from George Hillocks Jr., renowned researcher and professor of English education at the University of Chicago. Hillocks entertained the audience with tales of his early experiences as a student that led to his illustrious career as an educator and, specifically, a teacher educator.

Our fall conference featured Illinois Author of the Year Sandra Cisneros, who read from her latest novel, *Caramelo*. At the Friday luncheon, Cisneros discussed living in San Antonio, saying, "Sometimes a detour can be your *destino*." Cisneros also mentioned a new



John O'Connor University of Chicago Lab School

project, a book on teaching writing. She asked the audience to send suggestions for the project to her through her Web site at http://www.sandracisneros.com. Cisneros's animated reading from *Caramelo* brought the central character to life and captivated the audience. After the luncheon, Cisneros signed copies of her works.

After the Friday dinner banquet, the Chicago Comedy Company entertained an enthusiastic audience with an hour's worth of short skits

Knight continued on page 2

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

MARY LOU FLEMAL

As I write this message at the end of October, I am reminded of all that we have to appreciate at this time of year. John Keats described autumn as a "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness." For language arts and English teachers, fall is a time of fruitfulness. Teachers face classrooms brimming with eager students yearning to learn, and teachers are filled with all the hope and the expectations of a new beginning. The IATE Fall Conference continues that "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" by contributing many new curricular ideas and allowing its members to renew and develop new friendships.

As you read this issue of the IATE *Newsletter*, however, the school year has progressed and is almost three quarters complete. Spring is on the horizon. For language arts and English teachers, spring is not a season of hope but a time of reckoning. The ISAT, PSAE, and Advanced Placement exams loom not far in the future. Teachers worry about the anxiety their students experience, and they worry about the scores their students will achieve on these exams. This time of year

Flemal continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

Fall Conference 2003 A Circle of Learning: Communities and Empowerment Teri Knight	1
A Message from the President Mary Lou Flemal	1
Executive Secretary and Bulletin Editor Report, Fall 2003 Janice Neuleib	2
Announcements	4
Conference Proposal Form	7
Call for Papers	9
IATE Membership	9
First-Year Teacher Free Membership	10

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND BULLETIN EDITOR REPORT FALL 2003

Janice Neuleib

Office and Membership: Martha Frieburg has dutifully pulled together the membership statistics so that we can see how well our membership is doing. We continue to have good numbers in our new teacher memberships, and in most districts membership continues to hold steady or expand.

Finances and Publications: Like all of education in Illinois, Illinois State University is severely strapped for money, but the Publications Unit has been spared and has continued to provide excellent support for our IATE publications.

Bulletin: Ken Lindblom, Bulletin editor, has taken leave this year for a professorial appointment in New York. Claire Lamonica has asked for the year off as she begins the task of being IATE Conference Program Chair for 2004. Ron Fortune, now no longer chair of ISU's English Department, will join me in coediting the next three issues. I have agreed to edit the fall issue and to work with the young writers' issue. We will decide on permanent editorial responsibilities if Ken should decide not to return to the editor's post; in the meantime, Ron and I will serve as interim coeditors.

IATE OFFICERS

Mary Lou Flemal President

Teri Knight 1st Vice President
Claire Lamonica 2nd Vice President

Richard Pommier Secretary **Herb Ramlose** Treasurer

Janice Neuleib Executive Secretary

Thomas McCann District Leader Coordinator

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Illinois State University, Campus Box 4240, Normal, IL 61790-

4240

Awards: Kate Jones received the NCTE Leadership Development Award for our affiliate. Patricia Santella is the alternate for this award.

CPDUs: A reminder from last year, any district leader who wants to give CPDUs for meetings not covered by local schools should let me know at least two months ahead. We need to describe the program, send it to the state with our number, and then hand out signed forms at the event. Evaluation copies must be kept on file as well.

NCTE Affiliate Reminder: Jacqui Joseph-Biddle has asked that we nominate a local site leadership team for the 2011 NCTE convention in Chicago. The team will consist of a general chair and three associate chairs: Elementary, High School, and College. One of the team members must be a person of color. They need to have names by the April board meeting of 2009.

Knight continued from page 1 —

inspired by a day in the life of an English teacher. Brave audience members participated in improvisational skits as well. Friday evening ended with an intense ten-round team trivia game.

Dr. Carol Lee from Northwestern University addressed a large group of Saturday morning attendees. Lee discussed her research on reading and writing strategies with Chicago Public School students. University of Chicago Lab School teacher John O'Connor provided an entertaining end to the conference at the Saturday luncheon. As he strummed his guitar, O'Connor sang poems, and the audience chimed in for the chorus.



George Shea accepts the IATE Lifetime Achievement

Book exhibits and inspiring sessions contributed to a lively collegial atmosphere. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Prentice Hall, and Lake-Cook Distributors generously provided breakfast, appetizers, and refreshments.

Thank you to all who made this event a success: presenters, chairs, recorders, volun-

teers at the registration booth and with audio-visual equipment, the staff at the IATE office, and the staff at the Marriott. See you all October 15–16, 2004, again in Oak Brook. □

Flemal continued from page 1 -

also finds teachers reflecting on what they have (or have not) accomplished during the school year while beginning to plan for next year.

The Illinois Association of Teachers of English is here to meet your professional needs in the spring as well as in the fall. At the grassroots level, many IATE local districts offer spring renewal meetings. Notices of these meetings are mailed to district members as well as to department chairs or principals. If there is not a spring meeting in your local district, contact your local district leader and become involved at the local level. Volunteer to work on establishing such a meeting for spring 2005. Also, please know you are always welcome at any local district meeting other than your own.

An IATE goal in the last couple of years has been to improve the communication within our organization. Bob Broad, the editor of the *Newsletter*, has initiated changes in the *Newsletter* to give it a more contemporary appearance, and he has worked diligently to en-



Ken Holmes and Janice Neuleib

sure that it arrives in a timely manner. The late Maurice Scharton dramatically changed the *Bulletin* in both its appearance and content. His work has been continued by Ken Lindblom and Janice Neuleib. The IATE Web site (now at: http://www.iateonline.org) has been recon-

structed by Jim Barnabee and should be operational by the time this *Newsletter* reaches you.

As a professional organization, IATE sets forth what has been established from research about "best practices" in teaching English. This has been accomplished in the past by publishing pamphlets and holding workshops. Our audience on these occasions has been composed of teachers and, sometimes, parents. Our audience needs to be broadened. Our voice has to be heard at local board of education meetings, at the Illinois State Board of Education, and in the State legislature.

The Illinois Association of Teachers of English supports educators conducting research in pursuit of a master's or doctoral degree in English language, literature, writing, speaking, or teaching. Such teachers should apply for IATE's Paul Jacobs Research Award. To apply, submit a proposal including a cover letter, a brief description of the project, a timeline, a budget, and a status report. Mail the proposal to Tom McCann, Chairperson of the IATE Research Committee (for more details on the Jacobs Award, look under "Announcements").

IATE has been very successful in the past couple of years in recruiting university students to IATE. Student membership now exceeds 250. Larry Johannessen and Tom McCann have worked with English/Language Arts educators from colleges and universities throughout Illinois and with publishers to attract these students to IATE. Free membership for students and the "bring a student to lunch" program at the fall conference are having a very positive effect. To further enhance our recruiting of teachers to the English/Language Arts profession, IATE continues to fund a Minority Scholarship Award.

One last word to those worried about the ISAT and PSAE. If you have been utilizing "best practice" in the teaching of language arts and/or English throughout the school year, then your students should be well prepared to take the ISAT and PSAE. Those days or weeks of ISAT test prep or PSAE test prep are a misuse of valuable class time. Best practice is good test preparation, and test preparation is not best practice.

The Illinois Association of Teachers of English is a gem of a professional organization, and you are its greatest resource. The more each member contributes professionally to our organization, the richer IATE will grow to be. \Box



Mary Philip, Joann Hoffmann (coleaders, Kaskaskia District), George Shea (site leader), and Nina Bono (registration)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEH Seminar on Shakespeare's Texts

In summer 2004, ISU Professors Ron Fortune and Ron Strickland will lead a four-week institute entitled "Text Variants and Teaching Shakespeare: *Hamlet*, *Othello*, and *King Lear*." Funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the institute will focus on the critical and pedagogical uses of differences between the Quarto and Folio versions of three of Shakespeare's most well known and widely taught plays—*Hamlet*, *Othello*, and *King Lear*. Seminar discussions will focus on how key passages in the plays vary among the Quarto and Folio versions and how these variations can affect our understanding of the plays and the circumstances under which they were created, produced, and reproduced.

Participants in the seminar will attend productions of the plays being presented in connection with the Illinois Shakespeare Festival (ISF), which will run concurrently with the institute. The institute will also provide opportunities to view and discuss different film versions of the three plays. Field trips to the Center for Renaissance Studies at the Newberry Library in Chicago and the Shakespeare Theatre in Chicago, especially its Teacher Resource Center, will provide opportunities to identify and gather materials that participants can use to enrich their reading and teaching of Shakespeare's plays.

More information about the Seminar is available on the Web at: http://www.ilstu.edu/~rfortune/Shakespeare/index.html

ISWP Promotes Professional Development across the State

The Illinois State Writing Project (ISWP), the Central Illinois site of the National Writing Project (NWP), is playing an active role in professional development around the state, and director Janice Neuleib is working with representatives from other universities around the state to establish new Writing Project sites in Illinois.

The establishment of additional sites will help meet the growing demand for professional development activities spurred by the April 2003 release of the National Commission Report on Writing in American Schools and Colleges. That report, entitled *The Neglected "R": The Need for a Writing Revolution*, called the National Writing Project "arguably the most successful teacher network in the United States, [offering] a model of how to foster learning communities of teachers."

In addition to offering a strand of teaching demonstrations at the 2003 IATE Fall Conference, the ISWP is providing on-site workshops in Peoria, Putnam County, Rockford, and Belleville during the 2003–2004 school year. Tentative plans are underway for other workshops as well. Workshop sessions are generally two to three hours in length and feature a number of ISWP "favorites," including teaching demonstrations and "readarounds" facilitated by ISWP fellows, classroom teachers who have attended ISWP Summer Institutes.

Integral to the success of the ISWP is a board of teacher consultants who help plan and implement the Summer Institute as well as in-service workshops. The Teaching Consultants Board for 2003–2004 includes Kathryn Kerr, Illinois State University (College Consultant); Lori Kixmiller, Washington High School (High School Consultant); Sarah Parlier, Beverly Manor School (Middle School Consultant); Bethany Bielfeldt, Colfax Elementary School (Intermediate Consultant); and Sue Kelley, Mulberry School (Primary Consultant).

In the summer of 2004, the ISWP hopes to provide two Summer Institutes, one in Normal and one in Eureka. While final planning for these Institutes is contingent upon funding from the NWP, tentative plans call for the Normal Institute to be held in June and the Eureka Institute to be held in July. Applications for both Summer Institutes should be available in the spring of 2004 by calling or e-mailing Claire Lamonica, ISWP codirector, at (309) 438-3297 or cclamon@ilstu.edu.

Central District Changes Leadership, Offers Three Opportunities for Learning and Fun

About two dozen IATE Central District members and guests gathered for wine, cheese, and conversation

at the district's second annual "Wind Down Hour" held at the 2003 IATE Fall Conference in Oak Brook. The event also offered district members a chance to meet the newest member of the Central District leadership team, Erin Hynes, a teacher at Normal Community West High School in Normal.

The second event of the school year was the district's annual "Day of Reunion and Renewal." Cosponsored by the Illinois State Writing Project, this event took place February 28, 2004, on the campus of Illinois State University.

The Central District is in the process of planning a summer social event for its members. Last year's evening at the Shakespeare Festival attracted a fairly small crowd, so district coleaders Brian Conant and Erin Hynes seek suggestions from the district membership for a summer 2004 event. If you are a central district member and have an idea for a summer event, please send an e-mail to Brian (btconan@ilstu.edu) or Erin Hynes (hynesee@unit5.org).

IATE Scholarship for Minority Teacher Education

IATE issues this call for applications for its minority scholarship awards to chairs of recognized language arts teacher-education programs in Illinois colleges and universities. Applications—which must include a sample of student writing, a student essay, a recommendation from a professor, and a cover sheet—will be accepted beginning May 1, 2004. Applications must be mailed to Janice Neuleib, Executive Secretary of IATE, and will be accepted no later than September 15, 2004. The specific goals, procedures, and criteria are these:

GOALS:

The Illinois Association of Teachers of English is committed to recruiting minority* language arts teachers, for both humanitarian and practical purposes. To meet that commitment, IATE reserves \$1,000 each year for one scholarship as designated by the Minority Scholarship Committee, a subcommittee of the Minority Affairs Committee.

PROCEDURES:

The Minority Scholarship Committee will send out a call for applications to the chairs of public, recognized language arts teacher-education programs in Illinois colleges and universities in the spring. A follow-up call will be made in August.

After applications are received, the Minority Scholarship Committee will judge the applications, issue an invitation to the winner to attend the fall conference (October 2004) when the award will be given, and assist the winner in making arrangements to attend the conference. When at all possible, the winner will be escorted by an IATE member.

In addition to the cash award, winners will also receive a complimentary one-year membership in IATE, free registration for that year's conference, luncheon and banquet tickets, lodging, and mileage (if an escort cannot be secured).

CRITERIA:

- 1. The candidate must be a member of a minority group.
- The candidate must be duly enrolled in a fouryear or upper-division, public, recognized teacher-education program in an Illinois college or university.
- 3. The candidate must have declared a major in English, English Education, or Elementary Education with a specialty in language arts (Junior or Senior status), and plan to teach in Illinois.
- 4. The candidate must have demonstrated potential for academic success.
- The candidate cannot be an individual already on full scholarship, and some degree of need for the scholarship must exist.
- 6. The faculty member who recommends a student for one of the awards must submit these items in one envelope:
 - a. A sample of the candidate's writing done for a class in the past year (instructor comments included).
 - b. A candidate essay on this topic: "What piece of literature by a person of color would you especially like to teach? Explain why you chose this particular piece and how you would go about teaching it."
 - c. A sealed recommendation which addresses items 1–5 above in some detail.
 - d. A cover sheet with the full name, home address, and phone number of both the candidate and the recommender.

*As in other IATE matters, "minority" here is defined as nonwhite minority, a person of color.

Teacher-Researchers: Apply for an IATE Paul Jacobs Research Award

The IATE Research Committee is currently accepting applications for Paul Jacobs Research Awards. We encourage applications from members of IATE planning any form of research in English language, literature, writing, speaking, or teaching. The research may be part of a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation project, or the project may be unrelated to graduate studies. The Research Committee will consider proposals from teachers and school administrators, as well as from full-time students seeking advanced degrees. If you have thought about conducting a research project in the past but have hesitated because of lack of funding, the Paul Jacobs Award may provide the support you need to complete your work. The Research Committee can grant an award for a maximum of \$500.

Applying is easy. Here's how:

- 1. Write a brief proposal that includes the following:
 - a. A cover letter: Let us know who you are and announce the fact that you are applying for a Paul Jacobs Research Award. Also provide your address (U.S. mail and e-mail) and phone number.
 - b. A brief description of your project: Identify a central research question or focus, and describe a method for conducting the research.
 - c. A timeline: Project the timeline for completing the research, or at least the portion that will be funded by the Paul Jacobs Award.
 - d. A budget: Identify how much money you need and how it would be used (e.g., to duplicate instructional materials, to pay raters to score papers, to pay fees for computer time, etc.).
 - e. A status report: Let us know what you have done so far. Perhaps you have done some initial reading and can supply a brief bibliography.
- Mail the proposal to: IATE Research Committee, Campus Box 4240, Department of English, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois 61790-4240.

To be reviewed at the fall Executive Committee Meeting, applications must arrive at IATE headquarters in Normal no later than October 1, 2004. Members of the IATE Research Committee anticipate that recipients of the Paul Jacobs Award will share their completed re-

search at an IATE Fall Conference or through publication in the *Illinois English Bulletin*.

IATE New Teacher/Instructor Program

If you teach an English Education methods course or direct an English Education Program and you would like to get your students involved in key professional organizations, then you will be happy to know that IATE has launched a "New Teacher/Instructor Program" to help get preservice teachers on board at the Illinois Association of Teachers of English.

All you need to do is send an E-mail to IATE's Office Secretary, Martha Frieburg, at mrfrieb@ilstu.edu. Tell Martha how many students you have in your methods class, and she will send you a box of materials for each student. Kits include:

- IATE enrollment forms (preservice and first-year teachers may enroll for free)
- a recent issue of Illinois English Bulletin
- the IATE Newsletter
- the IATE brochure "What IATE Can Do for You"
- information about the organization from the Web site
- a free IATE tote bag.

These materials will introduce students to the many benefits of being a member of IATE, and they will receive something that they can use right now that will show their pride in being a member of the Illinois Association of Teachers of English.

Teachers of English: Share Your Writing at the 2004 CITE Conference

For several years, the Conference for Illinois Teachers of English has featured a session entitled "Fountain of the Muse: Teachers of English Share Their Writing." All IATE members and other teachers of English in Illinois are invited to attend the CITE Conference on Friday, April 16, 2004, and to bring a poem, brief essay, story, journal entry, or other writing to share. Please plan to limit your reading to five minutes. For

—Announcements continued on page 9



Call for Proposals

Illinois Association of Teachers of English Conference 2004

Enabling English: Language Arts for All Learners

October 15 and 16, 2004 Marriott Hotel, Oak Brook, Illinois

By now it is commonplace to say that students come to us with individual needs. Whether our discussions of student diversity center around issues of ethnicity, race, gender, religion, social class, sexual orientation, giftedness, multiple intelligences, learning styles, physical or developmental challenges, learning differences, dialects, home languages, or some complex interaction between or among these, we understand the importance of reaching out to *all* of our students in ways that will enable them to learn. But how do we do that, particularly when our time is limited, our classes are large, our budgets are small, and teacher aides are few and far between? The IATE 2004 Conference invites program proposals that address any and all issues related to the teaching of English/Language Arts, but special consideration will be given to proposals addressing the ways in which classroom teachers work to insure that English/Language Arts is a subject area in which all students can—and do—learn together.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Proposal submitted by:	
Home Address:	
City & Zip:	
Home Phone:	
School Name and Address:	
School Phone:	School E-mail:
Are there others presenting with you?	
Name:	School:
Address:	
Name:	School:
Address:	
Can you name a colleague or two who might serve	as chair or recorder for your session if accepted?
Name:	School:
Address:	

Name:		School:	
Address:			
Are you an IATE member? IATE District:	Yes No		
Have you presented at an IATE			
Please check the type of equipm	ent you will need:		
TV/VCR	Internet connection	LCD projector/screen	
overhead	other (please specify):		
This proposal is for a			
50-minute session	90-minute workshop		
The intended audience is			
elementary	middle school	high school general	
Presentation title:			

Type or print a 50-word description of your presentation. Your description will be printed in the program booklet.

Proposals must be returned by March 29, 2004 to: Claire Lamonica, Program Chair IATE Fall Conference 4240 English Dept. Illinois State University Normal, IL 61790-4240

NOTE: All conference participants, including presenters, are required to register and pay for their conference attendance. As a not-for-profit organization, IATE relies on this support from its members to be able to host this annual event.

Announcements continued from page 6 -

more information and/or to be listed in the CITE conference program, please contact CITE Program Cochair Paula Ressler in Illinois State University's Department of English (Phone: (309) 438-7705; E-mail: pressle@ilstu.edu). We hope to see—and hear—you at CITE 2004.

school) are invited to the Conference for Illinois Teachers of English (CITE). This year's CITE will take place Friday, April 16, 2004, in the Bone Student Center on the campus of Illinois State University. For more information on CITE, please contact Paula Ressler, Director of English Education at ISU. Phone: (309) 438-7705. Email: pressle@ilstu.edu.

Future IATE Conferences

Please mark your calendar for these future IATE Fall Conferences:

October 14–16, 2004: Marriott, Oak Brook October 13–15, 2005: Holiday Inn Select, Decatur

Join us for CITE 2004

All teachers of English in Illinois (at all instructional levels, including elementary, middle, and high

CALL FOR PAPERS

The IATE *Newsletter* welcomes articles, reviews, reports, announcements, calls for papers, and other material important to the professional lives of English teachers in the state of Illinois. The deadline for submitting material for the Fall 2004 newsletter is May 1, 2004. Please send submissions via e-mail to Bob Broad at: bob.broad@ilstu.edu.

IATE MEMBERSHIP					
Name:	Level of Instruction: ELEM JRH HS COL				
School Address:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
City: ZIP					
County: IAT Home Address:					
City: ZIP	:				
	E-mail:				
Mailing Address To: School Hor					
Membership type: First-Year Teacher/Mem	ber Student Regular Patron Retired				
Free : Student/First-Year Teacher/First-Y	ear Member				
IATE Yearly Membership Dues (please circle one): \$20 Regular \$25 Patron \$3 Retired					
IATE Membership Pin: \$5					
Check enclosed for amount: \$					
Mail to: IATE, Martha Frieburg, Membe	rship Secretary, 4240 English, Illinois State University				
Normal, IL 61790-4240	·				
Phone: 309-438-3957 Web Site: www.iate	online.org E-mail: mrfrieb@ilstu.edu; jneuleib@ilstu.edu				

First-Year Teacher Free Membership

Attention: First-Year English Teachers

IATE offers a free, one-year membership to all teachers who have not previously been members of IATE. IATE membership entitles you to three issues of the *Illinois English Bulletin* and two issues of the *IATE Newsletter* as well as convention information and district news. Stay current with trends in our profession and gather tips for surviving and thriving during your first year in the classroom. Please fill out the information below and return it to:

IATE
Department of English
Campus Box 4240
Illinois State University
Normal, IL 61790-4240
E-mail: jneuleib@ilstu.edu

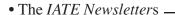
Name:	Grade levels taught:				
School:					
School street address:					
City:	_	Zip: _		County: _	
Home street address:					
City:	Zip:		Home phone:	()	
Mailing preference: Home		School			



The Illinois Association of Teachers of English is a professional organization for teachers of English/Language Arts. IATE publishes the *Illinois English Bulletin* and the *IATE Newsletter*, and hosts an annual Fall Conference. IATE is organized by districts throughout the state, each district having a district leader and providing local activities to members throughout the year. IATE also maintains standing committees that address a number of professional interests, works with other professional organizations to further the interests of teachers, and provides videotaped interviews of our Authors of the Year. Composed of nearly 1,500 teachers throughout the state, IATE provides a working network for the exchange of teaching tips, current research, and professional development as well as enduring friendships.

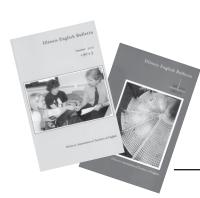
iate online.

See what's on the IATE Web site:





- The New Teacher/Instructor Program Information
- IATE Membership Information
- Additional Areas of Interest Include:
 - Locating your district and identifying your district leader
 - A listing of current committees and chairs
 - Guidelines for submitting to the *Illinois English Bulletin*
 - A directory of professional organizations and resources
 - A directory of English programs in Illinois colleges





IATE homepage: http://www.iateonline.org

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