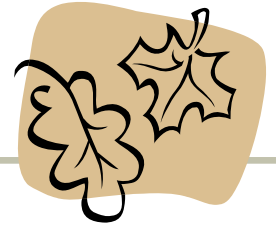


BUZZARDS BAY WRITING PROJECT

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ISI 2008

By Ann Fifield

The 2008 Buzzards Bay Invitational Summer Institute has come and gone. Coming to the realization that trying to do it in three weeks is a recipe for disaster, this year's cohort enjoyed a four week, four days a week model. There is just something about that three day weekend that makes all the difference.

The south coast was well represented this year, with fellows hailing from Hull on one extreme to Swansea on the other. Plymouth took the prize for most faces around the table with its five fellows as well as one assistant director, Shelley Jitiam. What gave this year's ISI a truly different flavor was an unusually large number of high school teachers compared to elementary. As a result, much of the conversation shifted from getting kids to write to getting kids to write well enough to get them into college.

The Birth of the Advanced Institute

By Laura Hunt

Nine elementary, middle and high school Buzzards returned to the nest during the last two weeks of July. They were eager to participate in BBWP's first Advanced Summer Institute, one of the brainchildren of last winter's Visioning Retreat. Our project's lasting impact on teachers was underscored by the fact that at least one participant from each of the five cohorts registered for this new initiative. Participants enjoyed the balance of professional discussion and time for personal writing.

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Our new Buzzards gave writing into the morning and writing from prompts thumbs up while saving their highest accolades for the demonstration lessons. Indeed, the demonstration lessons were exceptionally good this year, partially due to good coaching, greatly due to thoughtful practice and presentation on the fellows' parts. We had lessons on persuasion through technology, interdisciplinary poetry for the purposes of showing knowledge

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One aspect of the AI built on the energy Katie Wood Ray generated at our Spring Conference. Her text, Study Driven, was used as the basis for demonstration lessons using mentor texts to guide students toward their very best writing. Each AI participant earning graduate credit compiled a bibliography of mentor texts for a unit of study and then immersed the group in reading selected texts. The group noticed characterizing features of

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Summer Writing Camp

By Diana Grady

For two weeks in July, ten eager writers, ranging in age from 10 to 14, enjoyed creating journal entries, stories, and poems. Held in Swansea at Joseph Case Junior High School, the camp offered a writing marathon and a trip to Swansea's historic Martin House as well as opportunities to respond to a variety of writing prompts. As a culmination the students visited the Summer Institute and read for the 2008 ISI fellows, parents, and staff from UMass Dartmouth's Center for University, School, and Community Partnerships. All the participants are eagerly awaiting next year's writing camp.

Let's Hear Your Voice

In future editions of this newsletter, we would like to include articles that allow BBWP TC's to get their voices heard. We would like to feature a variety of writing pieces from time to time. Some examples include personal writing (prose or poetry), book reviews, tips for writing, tips for teaching, and ideas for lessons. Anything you think would be valuable to fellow teachers or writers, would make a great addition to the newsletter. If you are involved in projects at your own school, such as study groups, writing groups, or workshop presentations, we would like to hear how that is going, too. Because those involved in BBWP live in a variety of locations, we often don't know about the professional lives of our fellow TC's. We would like to build community within our project by getting other voices heard. So, please consider writing a short piece to be included in future newsletters.

If you have an interest in writing a piece for our newsletter or have any questions about the process, please contact Lisa Maucione at lbryna44@aol.com.

Fill your paper
with the
breathings of your
heart.

-William Wordsworth

Saturday Seminar

October 18, 2008

8:30 a.m-11:30 a.m.*

Location: Fairhaven, 200 Mill Street

Presentation by Marjorie Rowe

A Sense of Place:

This presentation will draw upon a number of different units of study, such as, how to read like a writer, descriptive writing, where writers get ideas, and the comprehension strategy of visualization. Student writing samples and mentor texts will be shared.

Ten PDP's will be given for attendance at three seminars and fifteen PDP's will be given for attendance at four seminars.

*Coffee and pastries will be served.

(Remember to bring a book to participate in the book swap.)

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varying texts and made lists of those that would be critical to consider in creating pieces in that genre independently. Each participant walked away with several bibliographies and lesson plans to add to their own professional repertoire.

Several excursions throughout the Southcoast region provided writing inspirations for two collaborative works. Couplets written for an ABC book highlighted special moments, thoughts and celebrations from visits to the New Bedford Whaling Museum and The Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies. A disposable camera was passed among participants during a Martha's Vineyard outing. Images captured during this trip were used to inspire poems

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gained and for review, characterization through found poetry, and discovery drafting to name a few.

We made our annual trek to Martha's Vineyard, where some people did their best writing of the summer. We were also lucky enough to welcome Nancy O'Malley, Ric Calleja, and Bill Alberti as guest presenters. A visit from National, our first advanced institute, our first advanced fellows, and our first summer writing camp associated with Buzzards Bay all coincided with this year's ISI, which added both stress and richness to the program. Indeed, one of the nicest parts of the summer came from this extra bit; it was the day

Study Driven: A Framework for Planning Units of Study in the Writing Workshop by Katie Wood Ray is a useful text for teachers of writers at all grade levels. Ray describes how to immerse students in a genre to help them understand how to write in that genre. She offers ideas and teaching strategies for a number of different units of study. Some of these units include historical fiction, editorials, feature articles, reviews, how-to writing, and multi-genre writing.

to complement a photo essay book.

All participants agreed that the AI was a worthwhile investment of summer time. Let your Leadership Team know of any ideas you have for future institutes. This one's success is a sure sign of more to come!

that the ISI fellows read their work together with the kids from the summer writing camp. The muse descended on us all that afternoon beneath the AT&T tower.

So here we are with a new cohort for you all to get to know and draw from. They are some of the finest Buzzards Bay Writing Project has seen. Let's make them feel welcomed.

New! BBWP Book Club

BBWP is reading *Partial Truths: A Memoir and Essays on Reading, Writing and Researching* by Glenda L. Bissex. The book club will be discussing the book at the end of the October (date and place to be determined.) Email Kit if you would like to participate.

Calendar of Events

October 4	10:00	Leadership Meeting
October 18	8:30-11:30	Saturday Seminar: <i>A Sense of Place</i> Presentation by Marjorie Rowe
November 1	10:00	Leadership Meeting
November 7-9		Sequestered Weekend Writing Retreat
December 6	10:00	Leadership Meeting
November 20-22		NWP Annual Meeting
December 11	TBA	Evening Seminar
February 15-17		Nantucket Soundings Writing Retreat
March 21	8:30	Spring Conference

(Please contact Kit if you have any questions about the events listed above.)

The following piece was written during the first Advanced Institute that took place this past summer.

Under the Influence

Laura Hunt, ISI 2003

Buzzards and thinkers and writers are we
Drawn to each other, and called by the sea
Each harboring stories buried within
Words start as bubbles, emerge through our pens
Rain becomes puddles, we hurry along
Wind whispers poems and waves crash out songs