



# LAWP Newsflash

## 2006

### Summer Institute Fellows

Ana Ardon	Jose Moreno
Violeta Cerda	Angela Palmieri
Jeannie Chang	Jennifer Polk
Frank Cooper Jr.	Justin Riner
Karin Kroener	Paulina Rock
Anny Ku	Joyce Saunders
Mary Li	Monica Vazquez
Mary Lifland	Vickie Wong
Catherine Livadary	*Shahe Mankerian
Ethel Matlen	* Georgia Daniels

\* Returning Fellows

#### LAWP CALENDAR

##### June 3rd

New Fellow Orientation

##### June 9th

Principals' Institute

##### July 5th -31st

Summer Institute

##### July 7th

YWC Orientation

##### July 10th-27th

Young Writers' Camp



### From the Desk of Carolyn Frank...

The growth of our writing project is so satisfying. We now have 140 fellows including 19 newbies joining us this summer. Many of these new fellows joined because they heard good things from you about our project. Thank you for sending us such terrific teachers. Shahe and Georgia are also joining us as Returning Fellows. During the week of July 17, we have three guest speakers: Sheridan Blau, George Hillocks, and Bob Tierney. You might contact Cathy if you plan to visit that week.

Bob, Shahe, and Elva are gearing up for the Principals' Workshop on Writing on June 9. This event plans to be a huge success with 40 princi-

pals from District 5 in LAUSD joining us. Our Young Writers' Camp has 25 teachers this year, which means we have room for almost 300 children. Please pass the flyer to those you think would enjoy our camp. Six of my students are joining the camp this summer as Instructional Aides. Seven of our fellows have become Adjunct Faculty in the Curriculum and Instruction Division of our college, demonstrating the value of our project to our university.

My Linh Le and others just finished a long series of workshops on Writer's Workshop for Gardner Ele-

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#### This issue:

- \* *From the desk of Carolyn Frank*
- \* *Erin's Pick*
- \* *Fellow Buzz*
- \* *A Big "Thanks"*
- \* *A Message from Denise Mesdjian*
- \* *Cat's Chat*
- \* *A Summer Recipe*

## Erin's Pick!

My new favorite author is Po Bronson. Although he's written quite a bit of fiction, his most recent works are non-fiction. The best-seller **WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY LIFE?** is not a self-help book (though it may sound like one), but rather a collection of stories about people from all walks of life who pondered that very question and dared to make interesting and sometimes radical changes. An ironic coincidence is that Bronson is a member of a Bay area artists' co-op that includes writer Ethan Canin, who wrote one of my favorite collections of short stories, **EMPEROR OF THE AIR**. Canin could well have been one of the subjects in Bronson's book, since he started his professional life as a Harvard-trained physician. Bronson, too, has made some pretty remarkable changes in his life, which probably accounts for the book's honesty and authenticity.

Bronson's latest book is **WHY DO I LOVE THESE PEOPLE?** Again it's a collection of stories about everyday people trying to find deeper meaning in their lives. Bronson is an impeccable craftsman who connects intimately with these people, treating each of their stories with great respect and thoughtfulness. The result is an uplifting reading experience that leaves you feeling inspired.

To learn more about Po Bronson, log onto [www.pobronson.com](http://www.pobronson.com)

Erin Foley



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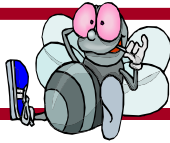
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mentary and it was a great success. We also have a new partnership with two middle schools in Baldwin Park. As always, please contact me at [carolcsula@aol.com](mailto:carolcsula@aol.com) if your principal wants information on professional development from our writing project.

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## Fellow Buzz:

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I finished up my credential work at Cal State last fall, and I am now working as a substitute teacher for the Montebello Unified School District. Hopefully at some point soon I can find a full time elementary school teaching position somewhere.

Max Diaz

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My husband and I are participating in our first-ever triathlon on June 25th. I'm attaching an informational and fundraising letter that you may include in the spring newsflash.

Denise Mesdjian

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I just accepted an offer to teach 7th grade Humanities at New Roads Middle School along with my film/video courses. I owe a lot to the Los Angeles Writing Project family for my success in preparing myself for this teaching job. I learned and experienced so much that it confirmed my passion and interest in teaching writing. BIG THANKS TO CAROLYN AND BOB for giving me the opportunity to be a part of an amazing group of fellows this past summer. Lastly, I would like to recommend a book to everyone called "THE 3 A.M. EPIPHANY UNCOMMON WRITING EXERCISES THAT TRANSFORM YOUR FICTION" by Brian Kiteley. Great book with great writing exercises.

Thanks So Much,  
Lelalois

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As union rep., I will be going to the NEA/RA 2006 Convention (National Education Association/ Representative Assembly) as a State delegate which will be held in Orlando in July.

NEA/RA is a meeting held annually where issues are debated that impact Amer. public ed., NEA officers are elected, policies are set forth in association.

Alma Orta

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Who's Expecting....

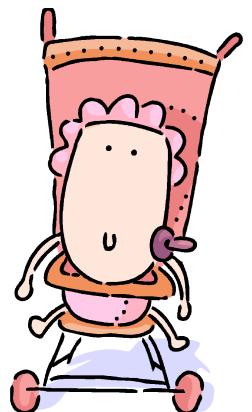
Jenny Hata (Kwan) '00

Iliana Panduro '05

Monica Soria '01

Deborah Garcia-Negrete '01

....Congratulations!



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## A Big “Thanks”!

### Another Role of an Educator

I recently received the greatest news of my life, but it could not have happened had it not been for “*The Great*” Dr. Robert Land. Allow me to explain.

I met Dr. Land some years ago when I first moved to California. I was struggling with a decision: further my education in English, or in Education. I made an appointment with the two advisors from the coinciding departments. Dr. Land took a great deal of time with me. He outlined the journey and the dedication I would need to have if I wanted to eventually be a professor – in either field. He also jokingly mentioned that I would have years of poverty. In the long run, I pursued a Masters in English and kept my interest in pedagogy.

A couple of years later I had the privilege of running into Dr. Land again. I applied to the Reading Institute for Academic Preparation (RIAP) program, and was selected to be a participant. Then, while on the job, at my school site, I ran into him again. He was advising our English department at John H. Francis Polytechnic High School and assisting us with assessing our benchmark papers for grades 9-11. And finally, I applied to the Los Angeles Writing Project (LAWP) for the 2005 Summer Institute. Luckily, I was accepted – by him, and Carolyn, of course.

During the summer, I grew to have a completely new love for writing. Although I had been studying composition in the English department for the previous three years, as a grad student, a newfound love for it emerged during the writing project. Throughout my years of study in the English department, I had not looked at writing quite the same way as I did during that short period with Bob, Carolyn, and all the other fellows in the writing project. I believe that the project has helped me to be a well-rounded teacher of writing. But not only that, I know that I now, also, have a stronger confidence in my own writing.

Towards the end of the writing project, Bob and Carolyn invited fellows to attend the National Writing Project (NWP) and the National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE) conference in Pittsburgh – later that year. Since Pittsburgh was Bob’s old stomping ground, he was truly looking forward to showing us around the city. I will never forget that trip. In addition to showing us around and introducing us to some fantastic locations (the Cathedral of Learning was my ultimate favorite), he also did one truly remarkable thing.

During the writing project I spoke to Bob again about my interests in furthering my education; this time I spoke to him about doctoral programs. He knew that I still had one foot in composition and one in education. He suggested some great programs across the country and assured me that he would assist me in any way that he could.

Then, prior to the NWP in Pittsburgh, Bob made contact with an old peer of his – Dr. Mike Williamson. Bob told Dr. Williamson about me, and suggested that he meet with me in Pittsburgh. As fate would have it, or as Bob arranged it, I did meet with Dr. Williamson. In addition to informing me of the duo role of the doctoral program at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) - Composition and Education – Dr. Williamson mentioned that if I came with Bob’s recommendation, I was as good as in.

So now you have it – the greatest news of my life was finding out that I was accepted into a doctoral program that would allow me to study composition, rhetoric, language, and teaching methods/pedagogy. Granted, I still had to sweat the application process and wait for nearly two months to get the results, but ultimately, I finally did receive word that I had been accepted, and when I did learn that, I immediately got on the phone and called Bob.

It is my hope that I can be the type of educator Bob has been, for as long as I have known him. He has already given me his warmest wishes for my success in the doctoral program. I leave June 2, 2006.

I look forward to returning to the Pittsburgh area, not only to remember the 2005 NWP conference, and the time I shared with Bob and the other LAWP fellows, but to look ahead – to see what is in store for my academic future. And thanks to Bob, I have an academic future.

Thank you Bob! You are an inspiration to all.

Alva Ramon

2005 LAWP Fellow

Dear Fellows,

Have you ever wanted to feel like a kid again? Ever wanted to run barefooted through the grass or take a jaunt through the woods, ride your bike all over the neighborhood, or swim until your fingers and toes get shriveled like prunes? This spring, my husband and I are going play like kids again. We're going to try something new while giving the gift of life to those who are both young and old and suffering from Leukemia.

On June 25<sup>th</sup>, my husband and I will be competing in the San Diego International Triathlon as members of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team in Training. We will be spending the next couple of months preparing to swim .6 mile, bike 18 miles, and run 6.2 miles while raising money to help those who are battling various forms of blood cancer.

I'm asking for your support to help my husband and me reach our fund raising goal of \$6,800 by June 9<sup>th</sup>. Your support in our training and fund raising endeavors will be much appreciated. Since we have such a large goal in raising funds for this worthy cause, we are soliciting help from everyone we know. Your support will go directly to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and will help fund research that may one day eradicate all blood cancers from the face of the earth.

My husband and I want to get a second chance at feeling young and alive, just as we want to give the gift of a second chance to those who are less fortunate than we are. You can help us reach our fund raising goal by sending a check to us at 1870 Savannah Place, La Verne, CA 91750 made out to **The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society** or by logging on to our website at <http://www.active.com/donate/tntgla/goMesdjians> and making an electronic donation with your credit card. I look forward to hearing from you and updating you on our training and fundraising progress.

Sincerely,

Denise Mesdjian



## Cat's Chat



Hi- Getting ready for the summer? The Los Angeles Writing Project is preparing for a busy couple of months! This year we added a "Principals' Institute in June on top of the SI and YWC we run concurrently in July! To our surprise, 37 LAUSD Local District 5 Principals jumped at the opportunity to find out more about what our Writing Project has to offer. Perhaps this institute is the key to the Writing Project's inservice program.

Well... the LAWP office is overstuffed with boxes of books & supplies! Pretty soon we will need to relocate to a BIGGER office! Smile- As for me, I am finally finished with my credential program! I passed the RICA! YEY! Thanks Glen, Max, John, Lupe, Carolyn, Bob and all those who asked ,gave me your vote of confidence and/or offered your classrooms this past year! Hugs to all! I have decided to wait one year to teach until my baby goes through her first year of preschool! In the meantime, I have officially signed up to pursue a Masters in Educational Technology. Yipes! What am I thinking????????? Smile-

Cathy



California Writing Project

GOT NEWS?

Submit to

lawp@calstatela.edu

### Tortellini Pesto Salad

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (9 ounce) package cheese tortellini
- 1 small red bell pepper, julienned
- 3/4 cup fresh broccoli florets
- 1/3 cup shredded carrots
- 1/3 cup pitted green olives
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup prepared basil pesto
- 1/4 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon distilled white vinegar
- 1 bunch fresh spinach leaves

#### DIRECTIONS:

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Place tortellini in the pot, and cook for 7 to 8 minutes, until al dente. Drain, and cool.

In a large bowl, mix the cooked tortellini, red bell pepper, broccoli, carrots, olives, and garlic.

In a separate bowl, stir together the mayonnaise, pesto, milk, Parmesan cheese, olive oil, and vinegar. Pour over the tortellini and vegetables, and gently toss to coat. Cover, and place in the refrigerator 1 hour, until chilled. Serve over spinach leaves.

Prep Time:

15 Minutes

Cook Time:

8 Minutes

Ready In:

1 Hour 30 Minutes

<http://allrecipes.com/>