

LAWP Newsflash

Happy Holidays



LAWP CALENDAR

Jan 1

2007 Happy New Year!

Jan 27

Saturday Seminar

Feb 3rd

CATE Conference

Feb 23

Principals' Institute

Feb 24

Saturday Seminar



From the Desk of Carolyn Frank...

Please nominate a colleague for our 8th Annual Summer Institute by emailing me at carolcsula@aol.com with the teacher's name and email address. I will then email them an application. Our 2nd Principals' Workshop on Writing Instruction is set for Friday, February 23 at Cal State LA. Please invite your principal to register. Also, if your school would like Professional Development on writing instruction, email me at carolcsula@aol.com. Our Young Writers' Camp will begin registering children for Summer 2007 so look online for the form. Cathy has just finished a new website for the camp so look online for that. The Saturday Seminars continue to be a strong component of our pro-

ject and you can contribute by sharing the flyer on the website with your colleagues (www.calstatela.edu/lawp). We are scheduling them for January 27, February 24, and April 14. If you would like to present, please email Cathy or Carolyn. Many of our fellows have participated in the NWP/ National Council of Teachers of English conference in Nashville and will be presenting at the California Association of Teachers of English in February. Finally, we are planning a conference on Writing Workshop. If you are interested in coordinating this event, please email Bob at rland@calstatela.edu



This issue:

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NWP Confernce in Nashville

The newspaper that was delivered to my hotel room door on the morning I started my conference journey in Nashville had a front page article about the salaries of football coaches: \$950,000 (\$79,000 per game); \$2 million; 3.5 million. I read it dispassionately, but wondering at the disparity in values in our society.

Then I headed on over to the Marriott, where the NWP conference was being held. There was hot coffee, fruit, lovely herb tea (of which I gulped down several cups, as I was sick with a cold). There were warm, friendly faces, congenial groups of people – and not a million dollar salary among them, I'm sure. These are the people, I thought, who are making a real difference in the world. They are doing the things that really matter. As with every Writing Project activity nationwide, the energy was about collaboration, about sharing ideas, about teaching and writing.

Bob's presentation was about taking the message and the spirit of the Writing Project to administrators and principals. Along with two other presenters, he explained how "hands-on" writing activities can change the outlooks of many administrators and "convert" them, so to speak, to the magic of real writing as opposed to the artificial and stagnant assignments that appear so often in scripted curriculums. It was a wonderful and inspiring session. As I have experienced at many other Writing Project conferences, all of the sessions I attended were valuable resources for information and strategies, and in every one there were incisive, important discussions.

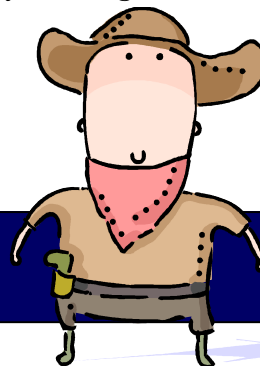
Beverly, Bob, and I met in the evening for dinner at the Opryland hotel. I had been prepared to sneer at the hickness of it all – sort of a Southern redneckicity, but I was impressed. The place is wonderfully gorgeous, like a giant, unending conservatory hemmed in all around with hotel rooms. There are walkways through shaded, leafy gardens, pavilions, pergolas, boat rides, waterfalls, grottos, and many little fishponds where, Bob told us, the fish were asleep. After a quick stop in at Rusty's Sports Bar to say hi to a couple of old friends of Bob's, we were lucky to get in to dinner at a very nice buffet-style restaurant before the crowds arrived. The food was very good, but Beverly and I were both disappointed that the pumpkin curry soup was not vegetarian. Great garlic mashed potatoes, though, and wonderful desserts.

In all of my Nashville experiences, I found myself surrounded by soft Southern accents and warm hospitality. At one lunchtime stop, I overheard a lively conversation about the plots of various soap operas, with much good-natured jabbing at character preferences or histories. One old man had a cackly raspiness of a laugh, as only an old Southern man can laugh. I was surprised, too, to be asked whether I wanted the smoking section or not – one forgets that those still exist outside of California. Not many vegetarians outside of California, either, it seems. At the NCTE middle school luncheon, I never did get my entree. I had to subsist on salad and dessert and the amazing reminiscences of Susan Campbell Bartoletti about her research into the former members of the Hitler Youth Group. Another day I snagged lunch at the Food Court under the bridge at Opryland. Here I had a "Southwest Veggie Wrap." I guess in Nashville the idea of Southwest is some iceberg lettuce, shredded Wisconsin cheddar, a few onions, tomatoes, and cucumbers sloshed in a sauce sort of like a mix of mayonnaise and tabasco sauce. It was all in a tortilla, though, so I suppose that could qualify as Southwest.

The keynote speaker on Friday was Sheridan Blau, who entertained us all with his fabulous, fantastic, and lively proposals as to whether Adam and Eve might have turned out differently had they known how to capture real knowledge through writing. The giant room was packed, standing room only. It was great to see many faces I knew, and to sit next to Jayne Marlink, whose wonderful lilting laughter energizes everyone around her.

All of the NCTE sessions I attended were excellent. Sometimes one finds sessions that sound good but don't deliver, or they're not quite what you had hoped. My days were full of really excellent choices. On Sunday morning I attended a talk ("NCLB A Vision for the Future... A Roadmap to Disaster") by the Nebraska Commissioner of Education, Dr. Doug Christensen. He's a man who has led a statewide "revolt" against the strictures of NCLB, and has gained a reputation as the "guy who took on the U.S. Dept of Ed." Nebraska has instituted a system of teacher-led, classroom-based assessment with which they challenge the national testing frenzy. Dr.

(Continued on page 4)



Fellow Buzz:



We have two at the Knitting Factory on December 22nd and 27th and a third in the works.

Justin Riner '06

Please see the website for further information:

www.loverleemusic.com

I just wanted to announce that my article, "Help! My One-Size-Fits-All Reading Program Doesn't Fit", will be published in the California Reading Association's journal, The California Reader. I'm not exactly sure when it will be published, but I believe it will be in the winter journal.

Sylvia Kane '01

Babies, Babies, Babies!

Congratulations to :

Illiana Panduro '05

My Linh Le '02

Deborah Garcia '01



We're all healthy and happy. We just bought a Christmas tree and a new stocking for Warlow. It's very exciting!

My Linh '02', David, Big Sister Zooey, Baby Warlow, Pearl and Digby

Warlow Epsilon Baker

born 11/11/06, 10:49 a.m.

6 lbs., 15 oz., 20 1/2 inches.



NWP cont.

(Continued from page 2)

Christensen got a standing ovation at the end of his presentation. It is inspiring to see a courageous stand against the current national norms for student assessment. As we all know, and as he emphasized over and over again, it is the knowledge base of excellent teachers, new modes of leadership to close proficiency gaps, and recognizing each child as an individual that will ultimately change education in this country, not repeated testing.

I would encourage all LAWP fellows to make plans to attend the NWP and concurrent NCTE conventions next November in New York City. Maybe we can all go out to lunch with Bob. We'll feel like a million dollars.



Cat's Chat

Hi Everyone!

Well...this year we have had many wonderful opportunities to work with new schools. Our Inservice Program has serviced three new schools, Harmony Elementary, Sunrise Elementary, Gardner Elementary! Thanks to all the presenters and those of you who have shared information regarding the inservices we provide. Please remember to check our site periodically for new events and workshops!

Soon we will have the NEW Summer Institute and Young Writers' Camp flyers ready to go. If you know anyone interested in either of these two summer events, please direct them to our website at www.calstatela.edu/lawp, email us at lawp@calstatela.edu or call us at 323)343-5901. Also, The new Young Writers' Camp website is *under construction* and will hopefully be a useful resource for parents.

Okay, well, the holidays are almost here so I want to personally wish you all a Very Merry Holiday Season from the Writing Project! We look forward to seeing and working with you this coming year!

See you all soon!

Cathy



NWP

California Writing Project

GOT NEWS?

Submit to
lawp@calstatela.edu

Cinnamon Logs

INGREDIENTS:

- 16 oz. loaf thinly sliced white bread
- 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 1 egg white
- 1/2 c. powdered sugar
- 1 c. granulated sugar
- 1 Tbsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 c. butter or margarine, melted

METHOD:

Trim crust from bread. Roll slices to 1/4-inch thickness. In medium bowl, beat cream cheese, egg white, and powdered sugar until smooth. Spread evenly on one side of each slice of bread. Roll up, forming logs. Secure with toothpicks, if necessary. In shallow dish, combine granulated sugar and cinnamon. Dip logs in melted butter and roll in sugar-cinnamon mixture. Place on lightly greased cookie sheets. Bake at 350 for 15 minutes. Serve warm or cool.

Number of servings:
about 12

<http://dessert.betterrecipes.com>