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## CWVWP Executive Committee

**Director** **Barbara  
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**Co-Director** **Paul Epstein**

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**Continuity  
Coordinator** **Linda Berg**

**Newsletter  
Editor** **Amy Cottle**

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of Invita-  
tional Sum-** **Carol  
Mathis**

## CWVWP TEACHER, LINDA BERG PUTNAM COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The Central West Virginia Writing Project's Continuity Coordinator, Linda Berg, has been selected as Putnam County Schools Teacher of the Year for 2006-2007. Linda will begin her fourth year teaching sixth grade language arts at George Washington Middle School this fall. Prior to that, she taught in elementary and middle schools in Illinois.

Linda presents seminars for the CWVWP. This summer, she worked with a team of NWP teachers writing lesson



plans for the Clay Center arts programs in Charleston. In her role as the Continuity Coordinator she arranges events and activities for CWVWP teacher consultants.

Linda has won several awards including the INTEL Teach to the Fu-

ture Award, and she was a Cyrus R. Vance Award Nominee and Honorary Recipient. She is currently a candidate for the American Stars in Teaching Award.

In 2006, Linda attained National Board of Professional Teaching Standards Certification, one of the most prestigious and challenging certifications in education. During the spring semester, she was series coordinator in Nicholas County for "Blowing Away the State Writing Assessment Test."

## SPRING RETREAT BY MARYRITA MILLER

Eleven eager writers attended the spring Writing Retreat at Cedar Lakes in Ripley, WV, May 5 and 6, 2006. Featured trainers for the weekend were Linda

Berg, 6<sup>th</sup>-grade teacher from GW Middle School, and Anna Smucker, WV author from Bridgeport, WV.

Linda Berg led the group

Friday evening in an exercise that she had learned from Kendall Haven (noted author of books on writing and well-known story-teller) on the "Eight Essential

## SPRING RETREAT (CONT.)

Elements of Writing.” These elements include character, character traits, goal, motive, conflict and problem, risk and danger, struggle, and detail – elements often missing from student writing. As the groups wrote in rounds, it became increasingly more challenging as Berg prompted writers to add one more element to each story as it made its way around the circle. Finally, small groups shared their stories.

Following Friday evening’s presentation, campers enjoyed a blazing campfire and ballad-

eer. Pete Kosky entertained the group with his singing, subjects (several of them related to school), and expressions.

Saturday morning the group welcomed Anna Smucker, West Virginia author and teacher, for the day’s training. Smucker was generous with her knowledge and seemed to thrive on dialogue with the group. She modeled how to use poetry samples in the classroom to draw inspiration for student writing. In addition, Smucker answered questions about her personal writing practices.



Diane Ferguson and Amy Cottrell enjoying the outdoors during a writing activity.

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## SUMMER INSTITUTE KICKOFF CAMPOUT BY PAUL EPSTEIN

The first official meeting of the 2006 Central WV Writing Project Invitational Summer Institute (ISI) began with a Kick-off Campout at Cedar Lakes.

After supper, Professional Development Coordinator Kathy Kress led Fellows and ISI Assistant Co-director Carol Mathis, Barbara

Holmes, and me in a demonstration workshop based on the RAFT. No, this is not a boat for the New River, but an alternative assessment tool for students that involves writing across the curriculum. RAFT stands for role, audience, writing in a specific form or genre, and addressing a topic.

For example, to demonstrate knowledge of a weather unit, a student might choose to be a cold front addressing a warm front in a letter about what will happen if they bump into each other.

Following breakfast on Saturday, Carol led us in a second demonstration workshop that included

## SUMMER INSTITUTE KICKOFF CAMPOUT (CONT.)

shooting off rockets made of film canisters packed with explosives (Alka-Seltzer and water). Then, we used the resulting conversation to write some outrageous sci-fi stories. It was a blast! Fellows designed a rubric for effective demonstrations that they later used to plan and evaluate their own

teaching demonstrations during the Summer Institute.

Did I tell you the weather was perfect? Sunny, breezy, low humidity, temperatures in the upper seventies. Being outdoors away from school, and walking to meals to the honking of geese was all very pleasant. After lunch,

we brainstormed demonstration ideas that each Fellow might do. Before long, it was time to leave and return to the real world until we met again at MUGC to continue our Summer Institute adventure.

## WELCOME THIRTEEN NEW TEACHER CONSULTANTS!

The CWVWP welcomes thirteen Fellows who participated in the 2006 Invitational Summer Institute for a total of seventeen days in May and June. Their creativity, camaraderie, enthusiasm, and commitment

to writing made the program a success.

We congratulate them and welcome them to join the fun by attending writing retreats and other Teacher Consultant events.

### *From Kanawha County:*

Capital High School—Gina Davis and Tenna Gray  
Carver Career & Technical Center—Tish Hodovan  
Ruffner Elementary—Brenda Cantrell  
Elkview Middle—Brenda Rider  
Clendenin Elementary—Kathy Walker

Dunbar Middle—Shelly Young

### *From Putnam County:*

Winfield Middle—Sharon Huffman  
George Washington Middle—Lia Jefferson  
Hurricane High School—Jennifer Weddington  
ESL Teacher—Pat Banning

### *From Nicholas County:*

Mt. Lookout Elementary—Barbara Crawford and Carla Starcher

In addition, Director Barbara Holmes offers a special summer thanks to Co-Director Paul Epstein and Assistant Co-Director Carol Mathis.



Gina Davis, Jennifer Weddington, and Pat Banning are taking part in a teaching demonstration.

September 2006

Summer Edition

The CWVWP News & More  
2006 Submission Deadlines

December issue:  
November 20th

March issue: February  
20th

We're on the Web!  
[http://  
www.marshall.edu/  
mugc/cwvwp/](http://www.marshall.edu/mugc/cwvwp/)

## FABULOUS INSERVICE PLANS ARE IN THE WORKS

We are teachers who teach other teachers! Central West Virginia Writing Project is dedicated to providing professional development training for teachers that results in an increase in the quality and quantity of writing offered in classrooms across the curriculum.

In July, six TCs met for an action-packed, forty-hour week of writing funded by a grant from Rural Sites Network, NWP. Barbara Crawford, Paul Epstein, Barbara Holmes, Kathy

Kress, Carol Mathis, and Cynthia Morrison worked together to develop five unique fifteen-hour professional development programs to be taught in counties that partner with CWVWP.

We will use these programs for inservice training during the 2006-2007 school year. This gives us the potential of reaching 160 teachers in Kanawha, Putnam, Lincoln, and Nicholas Counties. In addition, each series is designed to build leadership among our TCs,

enabling our writing project to meet the needs of an ever increasing number of West Virginia teachers.

Coordinator of Professional Development Activities Kathy Kress will send training announcements to everyone as series are scheduled with county superintendents and principals. Please attend the inservice series in your county if you can, and encourage your teaching friends to attend. Let's continue to spread Good Writing!

## UPCOMING CWVWP ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Sept. 18- TC Meeting at Ramada

Nov. 10- Summer Institute Final Supper at Ramada

Nov. 16-18- NWP Annual Meeting at Nashville Marriott

Oct. 7- WVWP State Meeting at Day's Inn in Flatwoods

Oct. 21 & 22- West Virginia Book Festival at Civic Center

Oct. 21- Author's Reception at Marriott



Dec. 18 TC Meeting at Ramada