

No Teacher Left Behind: Creative Strategies for Teaching and Learning in the Age of Accountability

N.E.A.T.E. Annual Fall Conference

October 27-28, 2006

OUTSTANDING GUEST SPEAKERS

Friday's Luncheon Speaker: Julius Lester is a distinguished author of 35 books: 7 nonfiction, 1 book of poetry, 2 novels, and 25 children's books including *On Writing for Children and Other People* (2005), *The Autobiography of God* (2004), *Uncle Remus: The Complete Tales* (1999), *Let's Talk About Race* (2005) and *Time's Memory* (2006). Mr. Lester is also known for his original fables, retelling of African, African-American, and Jewish folk tales, and picture books.

Saturday Morning Speaker: Nora Raleigh Baskin is an author of Young Adult Literature including *What Every Girl (except me) Knows*, *Almost Home*, *Basketball (or something like it)*, and due out in August *In the Company of Crazyies*.

Featuring Special Strands focusing on:

No Child Left Behind: Discussions and strategies on how NCLB affects teachers and students.

Literature: Presentations on specific works and genres as well as universal content material.

Writing: Featuring Presentations from local Writing Projects.

FRIDAY'S WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS (Please go to www.neate.org for complete descriptions and scheduling updates.)

8:15-9:45 Early Morning Sessions

Teaching the Works of J.R.R. Tolkien

MS/HS

Joan Mountford and Jack M. Rode

This workshop will focus on the approaches to teaching the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, such as *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. Presenters will discuss their experiences in bringing these fantasy classics into the classroom, share ideas and material for teaching fantasy, and discuss ways to win approval for incorporating such works into the curriculum.

One Good Lesson: Teaching Plot Structure

MS/HS

Jessica Levesque and Deidre Varsoke

This workshop offers teachers practical ideas and a variety of techniques to teach students plot structure. Presenters will demonstrate how Freitag's triangle can be used as a foundation for teaching plot structure as much as it is a sound instructional technique to meet the needs of different learning styles.

Collecting Raindrops, Moonbeams & Snowflakes: Journaling Our Stories

ALL

Dr. Jim Brosnan

This interactive workshop will present writing exercises that may be used for professional creative writing or replicated in writing classes at the high school or college level. Participants will be given a series of prompts to generate original fiction, poetry, and non-fiction. Journals, writing schedules, and potential publishing markets will also be discussed.

Can Humanities be Done at the Middle School Level?

MS

Jessica Clegg and Tracy Schuch

Humanities courses are traditionally thought of as a high school course. We teamed up and piloted our own humanities course in the middle school and are here to share strategies that work for this type of integration. A humanities course in the middle school aids in reading across the curriculum. This workshop will include examples of projects, papers, units and potential novels to be used.

Books to Engage Your Reluctant Readers

MS/HS/UNIV

Cindy Baker and Laura Denehy

Research shows that students in school districts with librarians perform better on standardized assessments. Two very experienced, teaching librarians who love to read and who work closely with classroom educators will present a book talk guaranteed to provide titles that will interest even the most at-risk readers. Attendees may share their own favorite titles, too.

9:45-10:30 Exhibit Hall

Come visit the Exhibit Hall. Free Continental Breakfast! Win Great Prizes!

10:30-12:00 Late Morning Sessions

Poetry Contest

All

Mary M. Nyman

Finalists in the 2006 Competition read their work.

Reading and Writing with Project Learning Tree

ES

Beth Lesure

When students are highly engaged in subject matter, they are equally excited to read and write about it. In this session, we will explore the connections between children's literature, student writing, and activities from Project Learning Tree. Participants will receive copies of activities that use reading and writing to encourage students to creatively and critically think about the world around them. Connections will be made to the NH Frameworks of Learning.

10:30-12:00 Friday Late Morning Sessions (continued)

Using CATs (Classroom Assessment Techniques) for Immediate Feedback

ALL

Nora Bicki

The primary purpose of assessment is to improve teaching and learning. Standardized tests are cumulative in nature, so how can you tell if your students are learning the material along the way? Classroom Assessment Techniques are informal measures that can offer immediate results. They can be done quickly and can be adapted for all types of classes and subject matter. This presentation will explain the concept and advantages of using CATs as well as provide a variety of techniques that teachers can use when they return to the classroom.

Teaching Autobiographical Writing

MS/HS

Francine G. Wacht

This workshop will offer a step-by-step curriculum for a unit on autobiographical writing; in particular, we will focus on childhood memory. We will examine student essays on this topic, as well as excerpts from the autobiographies of writers such as Elie Wiesel, Eudora Welty, Richard Wright, and Maya Angelou. Additionally, we will review specific plans both for student presentations based on outside reading and for the creation of class booklets.

What the Pictures are Worth: Teaching Literature, Film and Film Production in an English Class

HS

LeeAnn Hedberg and Cathy Nicaastro

We've all felt frustrated when trying to help students connect with and analyze literature, or tell their own stories in an imaginative, compelling way. We believe that the study of film as a medium can inform the study of literature for high school students. Because film is often more directly accessible and relevant to contemporary high school students, it makes sense to use it as a bridge to analyzing literature or as a model for inspired storytelling. In this workshop, we will explore ways to include the study of film in an effort to help students strengthen analytical skills and to use student made films as an inspired and creative means of storytelling.

Round Table Mini Presentations: This fast, fun and high energy session will allow you to visit 3 of these tables gaining valuable teaching ideas at each.

Student Paths: A free program that engages high school students with their transition from high school to their future.

ALL

Tim Stendahl

Student Paths is a free program used in over 1600 high schools across the country. The program promotes a meaningful dialogue between educators and students about the range of options available to students after high school and the thoughts and actions necessary to better ensure a successful future. The program includes a Classroom Publication delivered three times per academic year, a Lesson Plan Guide to make efficient use of educators' time, and Student Interest Cards that allow students to receive more information important to their transition. This presentation will include a program overview, how the program can assist educators in meeting district goals and state standards and best practices from high schools that currently use the program.

Elements of Fiction: Writing Exercises for Student Writers

HS/UNIV

Ivelisse Rodriguez, Ph.D.

Have you ever tried in vain to explain what the second person point of view is? Or the difference between sentimentality and melodrama? Reading about how a short story is constructed is not always the most engaging way for a student to understand the nuts and bolts of crafting a short story. Instead, an engaging and useful way to discuss the elements of fiction is using writing exercises that will allow students to grapple with these topics in order to write more successful fiction. An example of such an exercise entails writing a paragraph in first person, then re-writing it in second and third person. Dr. Rodriguez will provide handouts of writing exercises culled from Pamela Painter's and Anne Bernays' *What If?: Writing Exercises for Fiction Writers* and Janet Burroway's *Writing Fiction*. Dr. Rodriguez will also lead one of the exercises during the workshop. While the workshop is aimed at those teaching fiction writing, the workshop should also benefit those who are teaching the reading of fiction.

Teaching Noun Function

MS/HS

Jessica Levesque, Elizabeth Curtis, and Florence Henderson

This workshop offers a practical approach to teaching noun functions using a variety of charts. With the aid of graphic organizers, teachers will be able to help students apply knowledge of grammatical structures to improve the writing and thinking process.

Speaking Up: Students Choosing and Using Voice Effectively in Writing

HS/UNIV

Karen Wink, Ph.D.

How do writers discover their voices? How do they then judge which voice to use in different writings, for instance, creative expressions vs. formal, academic essays? This workshop will explore the element of "voice" in writing—a challenge for teachers to teach and students to learn, yet possible with strategies. In the workshop, Dr. Wink will look at various samples of writing from literature, i.e. Elie Wiesel's *Night*, Walter Dean Myers' "The Treasure of Lemon Brown," Karen Pritsker's *My Hero*; and other sources such as a memo and formal letter to discover the most effective "voice" for student writers to select for their own purposes. She will also show a few pieces of art as a prompt for students to begin discussing voice. At the workshop, Dr. Wink will provide user-friendly handouts for teachers to use in their own classrooms.

12:15-2:00 Luncheon with Special Guest Julius Lester

Julius Lester was born in 1939 in St. Louis, Missouri. He has worked as a radio and a television talk show host, has recorded two albums of original songs, and has had his photographs (taken during the civil rights movement) included in an exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution. He has been on the faculty of the University of Massachusetts since 1971 where he has been honored with all three of the university's most prestigious awards and is currently a professor in the Judaic and Near Eastern Studies Department. In 1988, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education selected him as the MA State Professor of the Year. He is a distinguished author of 35 books: 7 nonfiction, 1 book of poetry, 2 novels, and 25 children's books including *On Writing for Children and Other People* (2005), *The Autobiography of God* (2004), *Uncle Remus: The Complete Tales* (1999), *Let's Talk About Race* (2005) and *Time's Memory* (2006). Professor Lester is also known for his original fables, retelling of African, African-American, and Jewish folk tales, and picture books. When asked why he decided to become a writer, he replies, "I write because I have questions I need answers to, and the only way to find the answers is to write my way into them." Among the awards his books have received are the Newberry Honor Medal, the Lewis Carroll Shelf Award, National Book Award Finalist, National Jewish Book Award Finalist, National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist, Boston Globe/Horn Book Award and New York Times Outstanding Book. Professor Lester has two sons and three daughters and lives with his wife and cat in western Massachusetts. (members.authorsguild.net/juliuslester)

2:00-3:30 Friday Afternoon Sessions

New England's Age of Accountability: States Respond to NCLB

ALL

Linda Stimson and Panel

A panel of New England State Department of Education leaders will discuss the challenges and rewards each state has faced in responding to No Child Left Behind legislation. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about successful policies and programs in place as well as plans for the future.

Poetry Slam

ALL

Geof Hewitt

In this workshop, Vermont slam champion Geof Hewitt will lead a brief writing workshop, explain the simple rules of poetry slam, then conduct a slam among willing participants. Others in the workshop may volunteer to judge this lighthearted competition where anything goes, as long as it's original, and can be performed in 3 minutes or less! Hewitt believes that slam provides an incomparable classroom tool for addressing all four components of English Language Arts.

You're Quite A Character

ES/MS

Nancy E. Pipito

Enjoy a hands-on Language Arts/Visual Arts Integration using Crayola Dream Makers Guide, "Dreaming Beyond the Book". Learn to use simple art materials with your students to make character puppets from literature they have read. Also learn about the Crayola Dream Maker Series of Guides that help classroom teachers integrate curriculum with the Visual Arts. Material samples will be given to participants.

Teachers as Autobiographers

All

Francine G. Wacht

Why not be an autobiographer yourself, as you follow this workshop's step-by-step curriculum for a writing unit on childhood memories. We'll discuss sample student essays on childhood memories, as well as excerpts from the autobiographical writing of authors such as Elie Wiesel, Eudora Welty, Richard Wright, and Maya Angelou. After the presentation of each step, workshop participants will make notes about a childhood memory of their own. Later, they will turn their notes into an opening paragraph for their own essay, and those who wish to, will share their paragraphs with us. Please come prepared with a special memory from your childhood!

Conflict Resolution Through Literature Characters

MS/HS

Barbara Marderosian

Conflict is a part of every day life and can be viewed as an opportunity for growth rather than as an occasion to despair. Characters in literature face conflicts great and small. Many of the issues confronted are relevant to students' lives and therefore can be used to make literature more relevant. In addition to prompting students' discussion and composition, the objective of the curriculum unit to be presented is to provide a vehicle through which the concepts of mediation can be introduced by teachers to complement what they teach already on a regular basis.

SEND PAYMENT AND THE REGISTRATION FORM BELOW TO: Richard West, 843 Gould Hill Road, Contoocook, NH, 03229-2816. Make checks payable to NEATE. (Please note Cancellation Policy on page 5.)

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

SCHOOL: _____ SCHOOL ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

Would you prefer to receive confirmation by email or mail? Check one: email mail

REGISTRATIONS POST MARKED BY OCTOBER 4, 2006 - TAKE \$15 OFF CONFERENCE FEE.

CONFERENCE FEES: Member Non-member		MEAL TICKETS:	
(circle one)		(check)	
Friday only	\$100 \$115	_____ Friday Luncheon	\$23
Saturday only	\$75 \$90	_____ Friday Vegetarian Luncheon	\$23
Friday and Saturday	\$155 \$170		
MEMBERSHIP 1 Year 2 Years	AMOUNT DUE:		
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Regular	\$35 \$60	Conference Fee	\$ _____
Full-time Student \$20	\$35	Early Registration (10/4/06) (- \$15.00)	
Retired Teacher	\$20 \$35	NEPCA Reg. + \$ 15.00	
		Sub Total	= \$ _____
		Meals	+ \$ _____
		Membership Fee	+ \$ _____
		TOTAL	= \$ _____

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Your Purchase order MUST arrive prior to the conference or you will need to pay by check or credit card.

NEATE accepts Visa, Mastercard and Discover. To take advantage of this benefit, please fill in the information below:

Card Number and Type (Visa/MC/Discover)

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SATURDAY'S WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS (Go to www.neate.org for complete descriptions and scheduling updates.)

7:30-9:00 Complimentary Continental Breakfast with Guest Speaker Nora Raleigh Baskin

Ms. Nora Raleigh Baskin grew up in Brooklyn and New Paltz, New York. She began writing in the 5th grade with a poem about reincarnation and recalls “what I remember most was my teacher’s reaction. She loved it. My life was changed. I had discovered the power of words.” Her stories spring from the emotions and drama of her own life experiences. It is through her manipulation of the truth and caring more about the story than the facts that she is able to create fiction that inspires hope. She is an author of Young Adult Literature including *What Every Girl (except me) Knows*, *Almost Home*, and *Basketball (or something like it)*. Her latest novel, *In the Company of Crazyies*, due out in August, focuses on the universal feeling of being a misfit, showing that sometimes the path home is as unexpected as it is challenging. (www.norabaskin.com). Ms. Baskin is also a writer of short stories and essays, teaches creative writing to children, visits schools and travels the country speaking to groups about writing. Among the awards she has received include A Publishers Weekly Flying Start, A Booklist Top Ten first Youth Novel, and Publishers Weekly Cuffie award for “Most Promising New Author”. She currently lives in Connecticut with her husband and two sons.

7:30-8:00 NEATE Business Meeting. All are welcome.

9:00-10:30 Early Morning Sessions

Raymond Carver in the Classroom: “A (Not So) Small, Good Thing”

HS

Susanne Rubenstein

Raymond Carver (1938-1988) was the “father of minimalism” and the voice of blue-collar America. He’s also a writer who can energize your classroom. Carver’s straightforward, stripped-down style reaches readers of all levels, and his fiction and poetry inspire teachers and students alike to consider what it means to be a human being in these contemporary times. This presentation combines discussion of Carver’s work with an array of innovative writing ideas.

Finding Room for Finding the Self: Standards-Based Activities Celebrate the Psyche

MS/HS

Jean Laney, Chair, Erica Berg, Sophia Gintoff, Peter Scaramuzzo, Abigail Schultz, Margaret Stevens, and Ethan Warner

Various forces continue to push upon classroom curricula and practices, often limiting time spent on activities that encourage the exploration of the self. The interior lives of kids are getting lost amidst the external pressures of testing and other accountability measures. Presenters in this session offer several creative, standards-based reading and writing activities that nurture the affective while supporting the cognitive in the education of students. Sample lessons and handouts will be shared for classroom use.

Using Manuscripts to Consider Revision and Literary Analysis

HS

Bruce Rettman

After being introduced to a short piece of fiction, participants will have a chance to examine the manuscript of that piece and the revisions made to this manuscript. The goal will be to discuss the changes, especially those changes that change the meaning of the fiction. Participants will also discuss the nature of the revisions that effected change in meaning. Were they additions, excisions, movement of text, change of word, or change of sentence word order? Participant will discover how to use the study of manuscripts to help students develop an understanding of revision as a preface to revising their own texts.

Don’t Get Left Behind: Tried and True Lesson Plans and Survival Techniques for the New Teacher

HS

Lynne Harrington and Sasha Piccione

Hear from two soon-to-be veteran teachers about how to make it all work in your first few years of teaching. This presentation will discuss helpful tips to keep you sane while grading, planning, and organizing. Presenters will also share their experiences on getting the year started, introducing new units and alternative assessment activities. You will walk away with some valuable lessons that you will be able to adapt into your own classroom.

Fly Fishing at Wachusett: Teaching English in an Alternative Education Program

HS

Jp Perkins

Some students just don’t want to be in school. They are turned off, tuned out and waiting for the chance to drop out. While in school they appear alienated, disillusioned, lost, and often hostile. But this appearance is often just a façade. If we get a chance to peer behind the false image, we find hurt, scared, confused kids searching for answers. In this session, we will see how literature and writing is being used in the English classroom of an alternative education program to help these students understand themselves and their problems... and, with the right “fly”, to hook them into staying in school.

From Resume to Contract: How to survive the Hiring Process

All

Patty Haggerty, Debbie Wolflein and Ann West

A principal, an Assistant Superintendent and a Department Head will help you through the difficult process of finding and getting the right position for you. These experienced administrators will answer your questions from finding a good match, to completing the application paperwork that will win you an interview, to succeeding through the interview process. Whether you are a new teacher just starting out or a veteran teacher looking for a change, their advised will help you get the job offer you desire.

NEATE NOTES

Give your colleagues the recognition they deserve. Nominate him or her for the Marion Gleason Most Promising New Teacher Award or the Excellence in Teaching Award. Download nomination forms at neate.org and hand them in at the conference.

Do you have a classroom project that could use a little cash? Take advantage of the opportunity to apply for a NEATE Classroom Mini Grant during the conference. Winners will be chosen at the conclusion of the conference.

10:45-12:15 Saturday Late Morning Sessions

Revisiting the Theory and Practice of Peer Review in Composition Courses: Does It Really Work?

MS/HS/UNIV

Steve Ferruci and Susan DeRosa

This will be an interactive presentation, and participants will be engaged in a conversation about the role of peer-review in their own classes, how they structure and teach it, and what concerns they have about its usefulness, among other discussion topics. We will begin our presentation with a discussion of some “conclusions” we have reached about peer-review in our study, including a discussion of methodology and data we’ve collected; this includes a catalogue of the kinds of comments students tend to make as well as the effect those comments have on a writer’s paper. We will also examine, with the participation of audience members, ways to set up and structure peer-review so that it may help writers participate in it to their advantage.

Expand Your Teaching of Poetry with Depth of Knowledge Skills

MS/HS

Christina H. Felix

We will use assessment tools, such as Depth of Knowledge Levels and state standards, to expand the teaching of poetry. We will apply DOK levels to classroom and NECAP-like questions. These activities will create a foundation for using DOK levels in classroom instruction. Teachers will leave the workshop with a collection of new poetry projects for classroom use.

Shakespeare Set Free: A Short Course by the Folger Shakespeare Library

ALL

Michael LoMonico

The workshop will answer these commonly asked questions about teaching Shakespeare: Why is teaching through performance a useful classroom tool? What can I do on the first day of a Shakespeare unit? Should I still be teaching all about Shakespeare’s life and times? How can I get reluctant students out of their desks to perform a scene? How can editing a scene help unlock its meaning? How do I teach soliloquies? Should I teach the comedies instead of the tragedies? What are some ways to use video? How important is teaching literacy in the teaching of Shakespeare? How do I teach students with special needs?

Literature and Work

HS/UNIV

David B. Raymond

One of the most difficult tasks for literature teachers is finding a theme that will engage their students. This is especially true of those in career or technical programs where the primary concern is with their vocation. Why not bridge gap between literature and non-English majors by adding a thematic section to our courses that focuses on work? This workshop will provide teachers with a plan and reading list for making work an integral theme in any English course.

Passing the Torch: The Rewards of Mentoring for New and Veteran Teachers

All

Cherrie Fulton, Suzanne Wheeler, Deb Woodhull, Kathleen McKeown, Denise McLaughlin, and Laurie Allen

A team of district mentor facilitators will share details about their highly successful, formal, one-on-one mentoring and induction program. They will explain how a department, building, or district can institute such a program without undue expense or time constraints. The Merrimack Torchbearer Program assists new and veteran staff with HQT and alternative certification as well as curriculum, instruction, assessment, and classroom management issues.

1:00-4:00 Joint Conference Opportunity With NEPCA

ALL

The Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association Conference Sessions Being Held at Rivier College

At the conclusion of our conference sessions on Saturday, take advantage of the NEPCA afternoon sessions being held at Rivier College, just 15 minutes from the Sheraton, Nashua. Joint Conference opportunities are available for only \$15.00 for those who have registered for NEATE’s conference sessions. See the NEPCA web site for details regarding sessions being offered.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Make your reservations for the Sheraton Nashua by October 12, 2006 and get the special NEATE rate of \$125.00 (plus tax). Be sure to identify yourself as a NEATE Conference participant. Call today: (603)888-9970. For additional hotel information and directions, see www.sheraton.com.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Participants unable to attend may send a substitute without penalty as long as you notify registration; Full refund is available on or before 9/28/06; A \$25.00 handling fee will be charged for cancellation between 9/29/06 -10/13/06; No refund after 10/13/06.

**REMEMBER, REGISTRATIONS POST MARKED BY OCTOBER 4, 2006,
TAKE \$15 OFF CONFERENCE FEE.**

Richard West
NEATE Treasurer
843 Gould Hill Road
Contoocook, NH 03229-2816

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Symbol here in
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No Teacher Left Behind: Creative Strategies for Teaching and Learning in the Age of Accountability

The New England Association of Teachers of English

N.E.A.T.E. Annual Fall Conference

October 27-28, 2006

Sheraton Nashua Hotel
Nashua, New Hampshire

OVER 30 WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

Friday: 8:00-3:30

Saturday: 9:00-12:15

OUTSTANDING GUEST SPEAKERS

Award Winning Author Professor Julius Lester

Young Adult Fiction Author Nora Raleigh Baskin

Addressing the Needs of All Levels

Elementary School (ES), Middle School (MS), High School (HS), College and University (UNIV)

ADDITIONAL FEATURES

- Poetry Contest: Friday 10:45-12:00. Winners announced at the President's Reception.
- The President's Reception: Friday 3:30-5:00. Meet old friends, make new ones and enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres, wine, refreshments, music and awards ceremonies.
- Free Entrance to the Exhibit Hall: All day Friday. Includes continental breakfast and FREE PRIZES.
- Mini-Grant Prizes: Awarded Saturday.
- Joint Conference opportunity with NEPCA (Northeast Popular Culture Association): See NEPCA web site for session offerings.

FOR UPDATES ON THE PROGRAM AND MORE INFORMATION, GO TO WWW.NEATE.ORG.