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# NWP UPDATE

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## BEST ARTICLE AWARD GOES TO DIANE WAFF

Philadelphia Writing Project Teacher Consultant Diane Waff is the recipient of this year's Miriam Ylvisaker Award, presented annually to the author of the best article by a classroom teacher to appear in *The Quarterly*.

Waff's article "Romance in the Classroom: Inviting Discourse on Gender and Power" was the unanimous choice of the selection committee made up of teachers representing the range of grade levels. Committee members included Karen Katz, Glen Cove School, Vallejo, CA; Leslie Moitoza, Pinole (CA) Valley High School; Silver White, Lorenzo Manor School, Hayward, CA; and Laury Fischer, Diablo Valley (CA) College.

In making its selection the committee commented that Waff's article "served as clear evidence of a teacher as reflective thinker, someone who cares dearly about her students and her practice." Her piece "addressed an important issue — gender roles and stereotyping among high school students and looked at it as a committed teacher researcher during the course of an entire school year."

While some of the committee members found "the blunt and raw language of the students" somewhat of a shock, all agreed that part of the power of the article was driven by "the very real voices" of the students. Finally, the committee commended Waff for addressing the implications of her research: "Her conclusion gives some of the strategies she now employs in her classroom and reiterates her commitment to her profession and her students." The article caused committee members to reflect on their own practice and to "appreciate the important role that gender plays in (their) classrooms."

## PROPOSALS INVITED FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

National Writing Project Site Directors and Teacher/Consultants are encouraged to propose presentations for the 1996 Global Conference on Language and Literacy to be held in Heidelberg, Germany, August 12-14, 1996. The conference is jointly sponsored by NCTE, ANTE (UK), the NWP and the Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DODDS).

The conference, which will be attended by approximately 200 teachers from all over the world, will be small enough to allow for extended, continuing conversation among participants and richly interactive workshops and presentations.

Richard Sterling, NWP executive director and Sheridan Blau, director of the South Coast Writing Project and chair of the Conference, wish especially to encourage proposals for teams of Writing Project directors and teacher consultants representing levels of instruction from elementary grades through college.

For more information contact Pat Glazik, NCTE, 1111 Kenyon Road, Urbana, IL 61801-1096; fax: (217) 328-0977.

## CALL FOR NWP GOSSIP

Once every three months, the National Writing Project plans to produce a lighthearted "newsy-letter," *The NWP Insider*, for distribution to friends and associates. We are looking for classroom anecdotes, stories of Summer Institutes, profiles of teachers, and other Writing Project tales of romance and adventure. Make us laugh or cry in no more than three paragraphs. Please send or fax articles to: Andy Bradshaw, c/o National Writing Project Newsletter, 615 University Hall #1040, U.C. Berkeley School of Education, Berkeley, CA 94720; fax: (510) 642-4545.