



### A Peek at OCTE Fall Conference Workshops

Check out some of the workshops to be offered at OCTE Fall Conference on October 7th:

- Using Lexiles in the Classroom (grades: K-8)
- Creative Nonfiction: An Alternative to the Traditional Essay (grades: 9-12)
- Publishing in and from the Classroom (grades: General)
- Frances Fuller Victor and Her Search for Truth in the Old West (grades: General)
- Booktalking: The Art of Hooking a Reading (grades: General)
- Serial Killers, CSI, and a Phosphorescent Dot: Bringing Forensic Science and Reasoning to the Classroom (grades: 9-12)
- American Voices on Violence (grades: General)
- Powerful Picture Books (grades: K-5)
- Struggling Readers Can Become Wonderful Readers (and nothing Less!) (grades: 2-8)
- Coaxing Inference out of Dependant Readers (grades: 6-12)
- Reading and Teaching Portland: Place-Based Reading and Writing (grades: 9-16)
- Holocaust Lessons for a Broken World (grades: 6-16)
- Zen Writing: Not for Experts- Teaching the Whys and Wherefores of Writing Poetry (grades: 9-12)
- AND MORE!

### OCTE Fall Conference Attracts Local Talent!

Presenters include:

- Laureen Nussbaum**, Portland State University
- Elaine Coughlin**, Pacific University
- Jill Schwimmer**, Reading World, Inc.
- Joan Flora**, Canby High School
- John Trombold**, University of Portland
- Carol Brown**, Oregon State University
- Elaine Limbaugh**, Portland State University
- Tyrell Graham**, McKay High School, Salem
- Mike Lazar**, Visions Technology
- Dennis Stovall**, English Department, PSU
- Mary Nowland**, Jackson County ESD
- Andra Hollenbeck**, Medford School District
- Linda Olsen**, Deschutes Public Library
- Kelly McMichael**, Portland Community College
- Jay Rishel**, Wilsonville High School
- Penny Plavala**, Multnomah ESD
- Susan Hubbuch**, Lewis & Clark College
- Kathy Haynie**, Oregon City High School
- Karen K. Johnson**, Fowler Middle School, Tigard
- John Scanlan**, Pendleton High School
- Donna Shrier**, PSU, and Title I Reading Specialist, Hillsboro School District
- James R. Dott**, Clatskanie Elementary School
- Bob Bumstead**, Pacific University

AND MORE

### NCTE Annual Convention November 16-19, 2006

Are you registered yet? This year's convention, set in Nashville, Tennessee, looks great. Check out the NCTE website at <http://www.ncte.org/> and run, don't walk, down to your principal's office and get your "time-off" foot in the door! Several OCTE board members will attend this year, including Rick Hardt, President; John Scanlan, President-elect; Karen K. Johnson, Board member; and this year's Leadership and Development Award winner, Debra Groves-Harman. Join thousands of teachers and professors from across the USA, and get energized and excited all over again.



Come be a "Nashville Cat!"

This photo, from the NCTE Website, depicts Tennessee: "Music City"

#### AMONG THE PRESENTERS ARE:



MANUEL MATEO



DEBBIE LA CROIX



STEVE JONES



JOAN FLORA



ELAINE COUGHLIN



ELAINE LIMBAUGH



PENNY PLAVALA



JILL SCHWIMMER



DENNIS STOVALL



KATHY HAYNIE



CAROL BROWN



JAY RISHEL



KAREN JOHNSON



### Paying It Forward by Susan Murai, Beaverton High School



One of our many important jobs as professionals is the mentoring of pre-service teachers. The pride and accomplishment that comes with watching an inexperienced teacher evolve into an educator with more confidence and working strategies is tremendous. There are, of course, situations that try our patience, our philosophies, and our students, but even these can be opportunities to define our own values and styles. When asked to take on a student teacher, too many of us may say no. We say no because we are too busy, are well established in our classes, or simply too tired. While these are valid feelings, think of how much we ourselves owe to those who took the time and effort to share with us their experience and knowledge.

While working on my master's degree at the University of Portland, I took an elective entitled "Cooperative Teacher's Academy." My professor, Syd Steinbock, reminded us of the importance of mentor teachers and most importantly, gave us tools to make this experience an easier one.

One of the most useful tools I emerged with from this class was my "Cooperative Teacher Notebook." In it are all the things that a pre-service teacher who is working with me needs to know: a statement of my philosophy; my school's demographics; the

map of the school; our student handbook; my team's rules and expectations; copies of my units; procedures for making copies, accessing media equipment, and signing up for the library/media center. Before the notebook, I spent countless hours telling my student teachers these things; now, I hand the notebook to my student teacher, go through the contents and leave it up to him or her to read it. Now the focus of our time spent together can be on the curriculum, strategies and feedback. The notebook also gives my student teacher a place to find things out on his/her own. Especially during those first few weeks, the notebook provides information for the student teacher to study.

When I look back on my earlier frustrations with being a mentor teacher, much of it derived from the time spent on the "small" stuff. I'd much rather spend my plan helping my student teacher plan a lesson than explaining my tardy policy. My student teachers have found this helpful too. They like feeling a little more self-sufficient and having a place to find answers to their questions. Hopefully, making a notebook like this will be as helpful to others as it has been to me.

I now sit on the OCTE Executive Board with my mentor teacher, Ricky Korach of Lake Oswego High School. So much of who I am today as a professional is due to her influence. So, when I am asked to be a mentor teacher, I do sometimes say "no," but more and more often I say "yes." I see the role as a mentor teacher one in which I can "pay it forward" and honor all of the teachers from whom I have learned.

### Keyboarding Time-savers

Karen K. Johnson, Fowler Middle School, Tigard, Oregon



In this and the next several issues I will share time-saving keyboarding shortcuts.

These are for PCs; if you use a Mac, the following link has shortcuts you can use: "http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=75459"

Rather than trying to master all these at once, I recommend picking one or two at a time. A sticky note on your monitor works well.

In the following list, "C" means "control" key, "A" means "alt" key, and "W" is the key with the windows logo. Click the combinations simultaneously.

kjohnson1@ttsd.k12.or.us

Tip 1: "W" + "e" will open the Windows Explorer function to help you locate and manipulate files.

Tip 2: "W" + "d" minimizes all open applications and puts them onto the taskbar so you can access your desktop. This saves having to minimize each individually. Doing it a second time restores files to the open position.

Tip 3: "C" + "b" turns on the bold function. Doing it again turns it off.

Tip 4: "C" + "i" turns the italics function on and off.

Tip 5: "C" + "u" turns the underline function on and off.

Tip 6: "A" + "Esc" cycles through all the applications on your task bar.



### Kathy Haynie, Chalkboard Editor, Bids Us Farewell



One afternoon a couple of years ago, my phone rang at work. I heard Rick Hardt's voice on the other end, asking if I would step in as Chalkboard editor. Hmm, I said. Let me think about it. Years earlier, I had edited our church newsletter during the BPC era (Before Personal Computers). I had enjoyed banging out that newsletter on the family typewriter: the crafting of articles, the painstaking care of layout over a homemade light table, the pursuit of information that I thought would be useful and interesting to my readers.

As I mulled over Rick's offer—the opportunity to edit a newsletter again—I considered Chalkboard's impact on my teaching. For years, its arrival in my mailbox signaled more than just conference invitations, articles, book reviews, and other useful information. A subscription to Chalkboard ensured membership in a community of Oregon English teachers. A few months prior to Rick's call, I had started writing articles for Chalkboard, and I valued the opportunity to write for an audience of colleagues across the state.

And so I jumped in. I have to confess that it's actually easier to produce this newsletter than it looks. For one thing, English teachers are willing to write! Members of the OCTE board and many others are consistently willing to contribute articles and information. The layout wizards at Lowell's Print Inn in Portland take my copy and transform it into the printed product you receive, and our mailing service takes care of addresses and postage.



#### Multicultural Calendar

##### October

2 Sherman Alexie born 1966, American/Spokane-Coeur d'Alene poet and novelist

16 Guenther Grass born 1927, German novelist, essayist, and poet

17 Ken Kesey born 1935, Oregon novelist

20 Doris Lessing born 1940, British novelist and playwright

25 Bell Hooks born 1952, African-American social critic, educator, and essayist

##### November

9 Anne Sexton born 1928, American poet

13 Robert Louis Stevenson born 1850, Scottish children's author and travel writer

James R. Dott, Clatskanie Elementary



16 Chinua Achebe born 1930, Nigerian novelist

18 Margaret Atwood born 1939, Canadian novelist and poet

27 James Agee born 1909, American essayist and novelist

##### December

4 Munro Leaf born 1905, American children's author

7 Willa Cather born 1873, American novelist

10 Emily Dickenson born 1830, American poet

16 Jane Austen born 1775, British novelist

27 Ghalib born 1797, Urdu poet



#### Calendar

##### OCTOBER 2006

7 OCTE Fall Conference, Lake Oswego High School

##### NOVEMBER 2006

16-19 NCTE Annual Convention, Nashville, TN

##### DECEMBER 2006

5 Winter issue deadline for Chalkboard articles and announcements

##### FEBRUARY 2007

1 Oregon English Journal, Spring issue manuscript deadline

##### APRIL 2007

21 23rd Annual Oregon Writing Festival, Portland State University

TBA: OCTE Spring Conference



Deb Groves-Harman

All right, there's a little more to it than that. A volunteer editor, in a volunteer organization, must be able to cajole writers, pursue submissions, tactfully edit and revise, and unabashedly ask for help with the final proofreading. Readers want Chalkboard to be timely and useful, and it's the editor's job to see that it's both.

Two years and eight issues later, my own circumstances have changed, and it is time for another transition. Deb Groves-Harman, a frequent contributor to Chalkboard, and a veteran teacher who is at Canby High School, has graciously accepted the OCTE board's invitation to become Chalkboard's next editor. Deb has served the OCTE board for two years, and prior to teaching at Canby High School—she's now in her fourth year there—she taught ESL in Cambodia with the Australian Centre for Education.

Several features, which have become Chalkboard staples, will continue to keep us connected. Jim Dott, who teaches at Clatskanie Elementary School, continues to develop our multicultural calendar of authors. Karen K. Johnson, from Fowler Middle School in Tigard, will continue upgrading us with her e-literacies series. I'm grateful that Deb has asked me to continue to write about teaching Oregon literature, my particular passion. And, of course, many of you will become contributors, as Chalkboard reaches out to Oregon teachers of English and Language Arts.

To me, the best feature is the community that Chalkboard helps to build. I'm already eager for the next issue of Chalkboard. Let's keep in touch.



## Teaching with Oregon Literature

Kathy Haynie, Oregon City High School

### Up for Adoption: Oregon Literature Series

**Newsflash:** During this textbook adoption year, Oregon classrooms have the opportunity to adopt a revolutionary set of texts in lieu of literature anthologies published by large textbook publishers. The Oregon Literature Series is a unique treasure for teachers in the Northwest. The series is conveniently organized into six volumes, by genre. The series was produced as a joint venture of Oregon Council of Teachers of English and the Oregon State University Press. Information about ordering the volumes may be found on the OSU Press website: <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/press/orelit.htm>

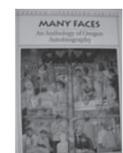
The OSU Press website includes the following descriptions:



#### The World Begins Here: An Anthology of Oregon Short Fiction

Edited by Glen A. Love. Oregon Literature Series, volume 1. 1993. ISBN 0-87071-369-8. Hardcover, \$39.95. ISBN 0-87071-370-1. Paperback, \$24.95.

Thirty-three Oregon stories ranging from a Nez Perce tale to stories by many contemporary writers including Ursula Le Guin, Craig Lesley, Barry Lopez, and Ken Kesey.



#### Many Faces: An Anthology of Oregon Autobiography

Edited by Stephen Dow Beckham. Oregon Literature Series, volume 2. 1993. ISBN 0-87071-371-X. Hardcover, \$39.95. ISBN 0-87071-372-8. Paperback, \$24.95.

Forty Oregonians, from the prominent to the plain, tell their own stories.



#### Varieties of Hope: An Anthology of Oregon Prose

Edited by Gordon B. Dodds. Oregon Literature Series, volume 3. 1993. ISBN 0-87071-373-6. Hardcover, \$39.95. ISBN 0-87071-374-4. Paperback, \$24.95.

This wide-ranging anthology of speeches, essays, and works of biography, history, and journalism, profiles the Oregon experience.



#### From Here We Speak: An Anthology of Oregon Poetry

Edited by Primus St. John and Ingrid Wendt. Oregon Literature Series, volume 4. 1993. ISBN 0-87071-375-2. Hardcover, \$39.95. ISBN 0-87071-376-0. Paperback, \$24.95.

This historical anthology opens with Native American texts and ends with a broad sampling of Oregon's finest contemporary poets.



#### The Stories We Tell: An Anthology of Oregon Folk Literature

Edited by Suzi Jones and Jarold Ramsey. Oregon Literature Series, volume 5. 1994. ISBN 0-87071-379-5. Hardcover, \$39.95. ISBN 0-87071-380-9. Paperback, \$24.95.

These traditional stories, songs, tales, and sayings--from Native American creation myths to spotted owl jokes--reveal the richness of Oregon's oral traditions.



#### Talking on Paper: An Anthology of Oregon Letters and Diaries

Edited by Shannon Applegate and Terence O'Donnell. Oregon Literature Series, volume 6. 1994. ISBN 0-87071-377-9. Hardcover, \$39.95. ISBN 0-87071-378-7. Paperback, \$24.95.

These writings, concrete details of everyday life by ordinary Oregonians, reveal a personal side of Oregon history.

I teach at Oregon City High School, where we have adopted four of the volumes: *From Here We Speak* (poetry), *Talking on Paper* (letters and diaries), *Varieties of Hope* (Prose), and *The World Begins Here* (fiction). We purchased two class sets of the four titles, which we share between our Oregon Literature and Creative Writing classrooms. The excellent selections in prose, poetry, and fiction allow me to support readers at a variety of reading levels, and to provide writing models for my students. I particularly appreciate the diverse range of voices—across time periods, ethnicities, and regions of Oregon—which I am able to include in my curriculum by using selections from the Oregon Literature Series.

As you can tell, I am quite enthusiastic about the series! I have used the texts in my classroom for the last nine years. If you would like more information on how you might include the Oregon Literature Series in your classroom, or, if you would like specific teaching ideas, please contact me: by email: [kathy.haynie@orecity.k12.or.us](mailto:kathy.haynie@orecity.k12.or.us), or you can call me at 503-785-7921.

Oregon Council of Teachers of English  
CHALKBOARD  
P.O. Box 9126  
Portland, OR 97207-9126  
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### OCTE Fall Conference 2006 Speakers



Tim Gillespie



Carol Jago



Tom Birdseye

#### Graduate Credit or PDU's Available at OCTE Fall Conference

Earning academic credit or professional development units draws many teachers to OCTE Conferences. Register onsite to earn one graduate credit from Portland State University, or just pick up your PDU certificate—5 units!-- at the end of the conference.

### Oregon Council of Teachers of English Fall Language Arts / Reading Conference October 7th, 2006 • Lake Oswego, Oregon

- A full day of conference sessions and workshops, continental breakfast, and lunch
- Choose from many presentations at elementary, middle, high school, and college levels
- Eight different program strands
- And Tim Gillespie, Carol Jago, and Tom Birdseye
- Academic Credit/PDU's
- Earn one graduate credit from PSU (separate registration at the conference)
- Earn five Professional Development Units for continuing licensure

**Pre-registration deadline: September 29, 2006**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

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TEACHERS OF  
ENGLISH



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**Calendar**  
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**Chalkboard** is the newsletter of the Oregon Council of Teachers of English, an organization that has existed for more than 60 years to support teachers of English and the language arts in Oregon elementary and secondary schools, community colleges and universities.

**Chalkboard** is our way of keeping our many members and friends informed about OCTE activities, programs of the National Council of Teachers of English, conferences and learning opportunities for students, research tidbits, book recommendations, and more.

**Chalkboard** is a member of the NCTE Information Exchange.

For inquiries, please contact:

**OCTE**  
P.O. Box 9126  
Portland, OR 97207-9126  
Editor: Deb Groves-Harman  
[harmand@canby.k12.or](mailto:harmand@canby.k12.or)

### PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Fall 2006 Language Arts/ Reading Conference  
October 7th, 2006 • Lake Oswego High School  
2501 SW Country Club Road, Lake Oswego

#### Conference Registration

(includes continental breakfast and lunch)

Number Attending	Registration Fee	Amount
____OCTE Members	@ \$60	\$ ____
____Non- Members	@ \$70	\$ ____
____Full-time Student, Retirees	@ \$30	\$ ____
	TOTAL	\$ ____

**On-site registration will be \$80 for everyone.**

A group pre-registration for 5 or more OCTE members is available at \$45.00 each. **Must request a group form (address below).**

Pre-registration deadline: **September 29, 2006**

For information: [bjwiegele@aol.com](mailto:bjwiegele@aol.com)

Make checks **payable to OCTE** and send to: Barbara Wiegele  
14867 SE Orchid Avenue  
Milwaukie, OR 97267-2454

# Chalkboard

WWW.OCTE.ORG • DEB GROVES-HARMAN & KATHY HAYNIE EDITORS

## OCTE Fall Conference October 7th at Lake Oswego High School

**Y**our room is set up, you've got all the new names memorized, and it's time to come up for some air! **OCTE Fall Conference 2006** includes a full day of sessions and workshops, continental breakfast, lunch, and interesting choices from many presentations at the elementary, middle, high school, and college levels. Our Language Arts colleagues from throughout Oregon will deliver literature, reading, writing, and composition workshops sure to pique your interest. Check out page 2 for a partial list of workshops offered.

The conference will be held at Lake Oswego High School, a popular venue for Language Arts teachers. Registration begins at 7:45 am. Four concurrent sessions will be held throughout the day, punctuated by keynote speakers who have been selected for their wide appeal.

Keynote speakers include Tim Gillespie, Carol Jago, and Tom Birdseye. Each speaker tallies years of experience in Language Arts.



**Tim Gillespie**, a past OCTE president, is familiar for so many different reasons. Never mind that he's local, teaching at Lake Oswego High School and working as a consultant with the Oregon Writing Project at Lewis and Clark College. More importantly, he is the teacher that we all aspire to be: he writes prolifically and he writes well. Not only that, he inspires his students to write too.

In addition to setting an example to Oregon teachers by writing extensively with his students, he has been recognized for his award-winning article "Why Literature Matters." He has also been honored with the US Department of Education Distinguished Teacher Award (2003). And have I mentioned his harmonica playing with the Big Blind Blues Band? If you haven't yet met Gillespie, it's time.



**Carol Jago**, an English Department Chair at Santa Monica High School in California, is the content advisor for the College Board's Advanced Placement. With more than thirty years of teaching experience, she has been Director of the California Reading and Literature Project at UCLA, as well as Editor of the California Association of Teachers of English quarterly journal. She pens a weekly education column for the Los Angeles *Times* and has authored many books helpful to teachers, including *Alice Walker in the Classroom*, *Sandra Cisneros in the Classroom*, and *Classics in the Classroom: Designing Accessible Literature Lessons*. Another title of interest to all of us: *Papers, Papers, Papers: An English Teacher's Survival Guide*.



**Tom Birdseye**, a Corvallis resident, taught kindergarten and fifth grade in Lincoln City, Oregon, and has authored several books, including *Tucker, I'm Going to Be Famous*, *Attack of the Mutant Underwear*, and *Look Out, Jack! the Giant Is Back!* He also wrote an NCTE publication, *Books that Invite Talk, Wonder, and Play*. His encouraging and lighthearted writing voice shines through the words on his website, easily found with Google. As a child, he was the left-handed one forced to write that impossibly pretty cursive with the 45-degree slant. His site offers writing tips and encouragements to young readers, and we're all young, right?

### Don't miss the OCTE Fall Conference!

It's a tradition that Language Arts teachers in Oregon enjoy every fall. Enjoy the venue, enjoy the season, and come enjoy Language Arts workshops from throughout Oregon. Bring a friend too, for some conversation over breakfast and lunch, included with admission!