(RE)INVENTING the FUTURE OF ENGLISH
--Connect. Get Energized. (Re)Invent Your Future--

The National Council of Teachers of English’s 103rd annual convention will take place on November 21-24 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston, MA. Thousands of literacy educators from pre-K to college are expected to gather and attend over 600 interactive sessions, visit hundreds of exhibitor tables and attend numerous free social events. And of course, visit the wonderful sights and have a taste of some of the best food ever in New England’s own historic Boston.

Volunteer: If you are a member of NCTE, you can become a potential volunteer with NEATE’s team who will be on hand to provide needed services, directions, and assistance to the convention attendees. A volunteer who works eight hours during the convention will receive free registration. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, visit our website www.neate.org and click on the “volunteer” link. Our team is looking forward to being an integral part of this event.

Remember, there will be no NEATE Annual Fall Conference in 2013, but mark your calendars for October 24-25, 2014 when we will return to the Holiday Inn in Mansfield, MA for another outstanding conference.

Join NEATE for our Friday night social gathering to network with friends and educators from across the nation. And be sure to stop by our booth to register for a free Kindle E-Reader and pick up our latest information packet and other free giveaways.

Register today for NCTE’s 103rd Fall Convention “(Re)Inventing the Future of English” online at www.ncte.org and plan to see a lot of friendly New England faces!

NEATE presents
Emily Dickinson at NCTE

Following NEATE’s Friday evening social hour, a special program on one of New England’s favorite poets will be presented by a panel of experts from around the country.

“Dwell in Possibility: Emily Dickinson in Your Classroom” will be the topic. Emily Dickinson looms large in the American canon, but myths and realities surrounding her life and work can make teaching her poetry a challenge. This free presentation will offer a variety of lenses through which Dickinson’s life, work, and legacy can be approached, while also highlighting connections to the Common Core.

Cindy Dickinson, the Director of Interpretation and Programming at the Emily Dickinson Museum in Amherst, MA will begin the program. Other participants include Bruce Penniman, NEATE Exec. Board member and Western Massachusetts Writing Project Special Projects Coordinator, Rosemary Loomis from Lexington High School, Lexington, MA, Elizabeth Sokolov from The Madeira School in MacLean, VA, and Cynthia Storrs from The Classical Academy in Colorado Spring, CO.

The panel will answer questions, provide curriculum plans and share their love of this poet. See you there!
AWARD WINNERS 2012

The 2012 Ann Garland West Excellence in Teaching Award goes to Erik Walker of Plymouth South High School in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Walker was recently named English Department Head there. During his presentation of the award, Walker allowed us to laugh, smile and remember why we had become teachers in the first place.

In his own words, Erik tells us: “My goals as an English teacher are always changing, but they start with the belief that we need to continually challenge all students and create authentic learning experiences. I strive to not just create a student-centered classroom, but an environment where students thrive because of choice in reading and writing tasks and authentic opportunities for learning and publishing of student knowledge.”

The Ann Garland West Excellence in Teaching Award is given to a person who exemplifies certain qualities as a veteran educator to which we all strive. These qualities include:

- Extensive knowledge of his or her discipline
- Interest in and concern for students and the ability to challenge and motivate them
- Involvement in professional organizations and/or staff development.
- Seven years of teaching experience

The 2012 Marion Gleason Most Promising Teacher Award goes to Jason Lorenz Ryan of Providence High School in Rhode Island. It is Ryan’s fourth year of teaching. Upon the presentation of his award, Ryan shared a poem he discovered in a workshop he attended at the conference on Arabic poetry presented by Mohammed Defaa. Jason is an innovative teacher, who is not afraid to take risks and push his students to succeed. Jason says: “I have committed myself to being not only a life-long teacher, but a life-long learner as well. I am constantly attempting to broaden my knowledge base, stretching the confines of traditional English content to include advancements in the sciences and technology, world history, bicycle mechanics, carpentry, pop culture, music, and film. I encourage the inclusion of this kind of information to color our exploration of literature because I believe that it deepens understanding by placing the content in a number of different contexts.”

Recipients of the Marion Gleason Most Promising Teacher Award are awarded to an excellent novice teacher who also possesses the same first three qualifications as stated under the West Award.
NEATE FALL CONFERENCE 2012

NEATE’s Fall Annual Conference, Common Core/Common Cause: Literacy Learning in the Content Areas was a great success. Keynote speaker Alan Sitomer entertained the attendees while discussing serious content matter on Common Core.

On his blog page, Sitomer discusses his own love of books: “A great book can change your perspective on life in a way that will make you a better human being. Some books have literally altered my destiny. Others, I feel, have saved my life in their own mystical way. Some books just seem to have said something to my soul at a time where something desperately needed to be said — and they did so in a unique way that no other person, art form or media format ever could have expressed. The power of music certainly comes close in the way a song can touch your soul but a great book, well, like I said... they can be magic!”

POET-OF-THE-YEAR 2012

Each year at the Fall Conference, NEATE hosts a Poetry Competition and Workshop. From the many entries received each year, the judges choose six finalists. During the workshop, each finalist reads a few poems and then participates in a question and answer period with the audience. The winner of the 2012 competition is Joel Edminster. Joel lives in Fairfield, Connecticut with his wife and two children. He is a writer and a teacher in New York where he teaches at Rye High School. Since 1988, he has been an English teacher and has taught multiple English classes including Creative Writing and AP Literature and Composition. During his time teaching, he has had a significant amount of experience tutoring students of all ages in reading and writing. Joel has spent a large amount of time working with high school students to improve their skills related to grammar and style issues, as well as college essays. He also co-directs the Rye Writing Project.

The other finalists in the Poetry Competition were Jim Brosnan, Jane Cook, Roselyn Kubek, Kerry McKay and Victoria Nordlund. Congratulations to all the participants in the competition!

ELECTIONS 2013

NEATE’s annual election usually takes place at the Fall Conference and through the mail. Because we will not be having a Fall Conference in 2013, all ballots will be mailed to our members this fall.

The Nominating Committee is looking for candidates for Nominating Committee and Members-at-Large. This is a great time to become involved with NEATE. Contact Nominating Committee Chair Michelle Eaton at michelle.a.eaton@gmail.com. Nominate yourself or a colleague today!
NEW AT NEATE

NEATE welcomes our new Newsletter Editor, Garth McKinney. Seen here in a photo with students congratulating him for his Teacher of the Year honor, Garth will take over as editor for the Fall 2013 issue of The NEATE NEWS.

Garth McKinney serves as the Language Arts Coordinator at the Merrimack Middle School (MMS) in Merrimack, New Hampshire. At MMS, he teaches and supervises the language arts department. Prior to this position, he worked as a Reading Specialist, Elementary Principal, Elementary Assistant Principal, and Classroom Teacher for grades four and six.

He has worked in public education for over seventeen years. Garth serves on the boards of the New England Association of Teachers of English (NEATE) and the New Hampshire Council of Teachers of English (NHCTE). Last month, he was named the Teacher of the Year by NHCTE.

This summer, he will be teaching graduate courses for Southern New Hampshire University. Garth holds a doctoral degree from Boston College in Educational Administration, a master’s degree from Fordham University in Reading, and a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from Stonehill College.

Sarah Lefebvre will take over the reins as Editor of NEATE’s academic journal, The Leaflet for the Fall 2013 issue. Sarah clearly enjoys the outdoors as much as she does her teaching.

Sarah Lefebvre is a high school English teacher in her third year at Wachusett Regional High School in Holden, Massachusetts. She previously worked in the Plymouth school district.

She teaches grades 9 through 12 and especially loves teaching texts from the British canon. Incorporating young adult literature into the classroom to encourage students to become readers is a focus for Sarah with her current underclassmen.

She attended Roger Williams University in Rhode Island where she studied English Secondary Education and took numerous electives in the communications program. Throughout her time in college, she spent all four years editing the school newspaper, and now is excited to get back to working in media by editing NEATE’s journal, The Leaflet.

She lives in Paxton, Massachusetts with her husband and dog. When she isn’t reading or working, she enjoys day trips to Boston or the ocean and travelling around the country.
AFFILIATE NEWS

The New England Association of Teachers of English is a regional organization with members from all six states. At one time, each of the states had their own English teacher organizations who are affiliates of NEATE. The president from each state group is automatically a member of the NEATE Executive Board and may attend meetings and serve on committees.

Currently, only Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Rhode Island have state organizations.

MAINE

The Maine Council for English Language Arts hosted a very successful conference, "Mindful Teaching: Connect, Collaborate, Create," on March 22, at Point Lookout Resort in Northport, ME. This is our third year at this very popular venue. The one-day event included three concurrent sessions of seven workshops each. Topics of workshops included the high school to college transition, literacy coaching, getting striving readers in the text, poetry, technology tools, AP English Literature and English Language strategies, and the collaborative experience among many others. Exhibitors included Permabound, Heinemann and Bedford/St. Martin’s. The keynote speaker was Eileen Landay, an adjunct senior lecturer at Brown University and co-author of A Reason to Read: Linking Literacy and the Arts (Harvard Press, 2012). For more information on our conference or Point Lookout, go to MCELA.org. Next year’s conference is already scheduled for March 22, 2014.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The New Hampshire Council of Teachers of English has sponsored many of its traditional programs throughout the 2012-2013 academic school year. Last fall we sponsored our annual fall luncheon to celebrate the Living Poetry Society of New Hampshire sharing their work and explaining their creative processes.

In the spring, NHCTE cosponsored student poetry writing contests with the Poetry Society of New Hampshire. At the annual spring conference, NHCTE honored Dr. Garth McKinney as the New Hampshire English Teacher of the Year. The conference also featured a variety of speakers on topics ranging from the Common Core to poetry and technology in the classroom. Writer Rebecca Rule was the keynote, and she reminded us of the importance of sharing and returning stories. NHCTE has seen a 30% increase in membership since 2011 and the Executive Board hopes that the membership will continue to grow. NHCTE looks forward to its fall luncheon on October 24 and the NCTE convention in November.

VERMONT

On May 3, The Vermont Council of Teachers of English Language Arts held its annual Teachers Who Write Conference in Montpelier on the campus of the Vermont College of Fine Arts. Jay Parini was the keynote, and there were four workshops. This was the 25th annual conference, and it has become a much-looked-for and appreciated event. When asked how a teacher might find time to write, Parini, who is a professor at Middlebury College, said he gets up every morning at 5 am and writes until 7. In a month, he can get a lot of writing done that way. His next book will be a biography of Jesus. The Council has started to plan for next year’s conference, which is always held at the beginning of May.
Take A Look Inside…

NCTE 2013 Convention “(Re)Inventing the Future of English,”
November 21–24, 2013 in Boston

Winners of the annual Teaching Awards and Poet-of-the-Year
A message from our Affiliates
Meet the new Editors of the Newsletter and The Leaflet

It’s NEATE

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