“Everything has changed. Nothing has changed.” These words, received in a letter from a friend, encapsulate my experience of returning to the Summer Institute for the first time in ten years. What’s changed in ten years? In 1998, the price of a gallon of gas was $1.15. The New York Times cost $.60. And the average U.S. salary was about $38,000. Many things, it seems, have changed or grown in some way. I wish I could say the same were true about my hair, but I fear it grows now as it did then...not so well. But growth is the right word here because I found newness within a familiar structure.

Technology: that’s changed a bit in the last decade. This summer I word processed, Power Pointed, iMovied, and wikied my way to a better understanding of how technology can support all phases of the writing process, but especially how it can help access wider audiences. This was not situated learning but knowledge that will follow me when I return to campus this fall. I now understand how to embed wikis and blogs into my children’s literature course as a way for students to share with each other their ideas on the texts they read. Technology stretched my teaching, and I hope it will extend their learning.

New to me, too, this summer was my role in creating and introducing the daily writing prompts. I was, in fact, Prompt Guy. For me this responsibility was unique because I do not regularly provide my students with prompts. From my past experience, though, I remembered how important the prompts were in setting a tone. I needed, then, to take this established practice and connect it to my beliefs so it made sense and supported everyone’s writing process. In short, I couldn’t mess it up. Again, the Institute moved my thoughts and practices forward. I had to arrive each day with a prompt and put it out there wondering what it might provide in return.

And what it brought was community. At the Institute, I was surrounded by people who knew a lot about literacy instruction but were as interested in learning more. Then as now, we tried to teach, listen, and collaborate to the benefit of all. I felt this support most keenly in my writing group as people went back and back to my text, guiding, suggesting, questioning. For me, this connection is the lasting impact of the Institute. It is the part that follows me, the part that provides insight, and the part that I am looking forward to go back...soon.
A Mother’s Daydream
by Ann Thompson

Time passes. 
Babies who swayed in 
hers arms, 
now tall and strong 
wave goodbye.

Moments forever lingering. 
Outstretched arms 
wrapped around her, 
as bright eyes search for hers, 
soaking in her abundant love.

Little voices leaving 
an indelible mark on her heart, 
chanting, imitating, questioning.

Cheek to cheek, 
she savors the sweet moment, 
knowing that chaos is ready to burst.

But time passes. 
What is lost to memories, 
is gained in loving satisfaction, 
knowing that she escorted babies to boys, boys to men.

Good men, 
the image and essence of their father, 
her forever love.

The River Flats
by Barb Everhart

“to capture a time when passion led actions” JL

Oh, how time has passed
The sounds of construction off the river
The birds chirping in the trees
The faint sounds of laughter
Of a team from the past

I remember those days fondly
The wading in the water at 5:30 am
The sound of the oar hitting the water
With a crisp splash
And a grunt, as it’s pushed through the river

Lifting the boat overhead
River foam, dripping from the boat onto our sweaty bodies
Climbing the hill, boat on a shoulder
Placing the eight behind some chicken wire
Located in the corner of a parking garage

But times have changed
The old buildings have come down
And new ones created
To serve the young and able-bodied women
That row for the U. today

The memories are fading
As with the setting sun on the Old Mississippi
We can still be seen, if you look really hard
We’re the women that weren’t paid, weren’t gifted
Weren’t beckoned by a Varsity coach

We were the rowers, the past
The women made of steel, and grit, and grind
No locker rooms, no showers
Only our kind
To pave the way for the Powerhouses of today.
This year’s institute experimented with wikis for collaborative writing and sharing of ideas. Each book study group was required to write a “wiki chapter” which included a book review, and “link lists” of related online resources related to the book. Investigate the four wiki chapters written for this year’s institute. Some focus more on the collaborative process of writing, and others show the possibilities of online publishing.

**Deeper Reading** by Kelly Gallagher [http://drwiki.pbwiki.com/](http://drwiki.pbwiki.com/)


**Mosaic of Thought** by Keene and Zimmermann [http://mwpmosaic.pbwiki.com/](http://mwpmosaic.pbwiki.com/)


Spring’s “Tea with Auntie Mo” provided time for reflection on the social justice work we do related to education and literacy. Through the committed efforts of TC Melissa Borgmann, MWP was able to meet with Ms. Maureen Dabula of East London, South Africa. Affectionately known as “Auntie Mo,” she shared with us her efforts to promote literacy in South African through AIDS/HIV outreach. Using the Anglican church as an infrastructure for education, Ms. Dabula has helped over 500 orphans get access to schooling. In addition to helping children, Ms. Dabula also promotes a collective knowledge through encouraging women to write about their experiences and share what they know about mothering, crop-growing, etc. When, Ms. Dabula described the situation of AIDS/HIV in South Africa as “moving faster than literacy,” everyone in the room could feel the weight of her work. Auntie Mo’s talk was then followed by questions, a time where Auntie Mo and others made connections and compared notes on their outreach efforts.

**Other Upcoming Events**

**MCTE Fall Workshop:** Monday, October 29 at Royal Cliff in Eagan. Featured speaker is Kelly Gallagher author of *Deeper Reading*. Website: [www.mcte.org](http://www.mcte.org)

**The Education Minnesota Professional Conference:** Thursday October 18 and Friday, October 19th at Saint Paul RiverCentre in downtown St. Paul. Featured speakers include Mark Victor Hansen (10/17), coauthor of “Chicken Soup for the Teacher’s Soul,” and Jonathan Kozol (10/18), author and activist for poor children. **Stop by and visit us at our MWP booth.**

**Writing Central:** A Day for Literacy at College of St. Bens’ and St. John’s University: Friday, November 9th 8:00-2:00. For more information contact Mike Borka at mbork@csbju.edu.
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The
Minnesota Writing Project Newsletter

Published quarterly by the Center for Writing
University of Minnesota
10 Nicholson Hall - 216 Pillsbury Dr. SE
Minneapolis, MN  55455

An Official Site of the National Writing Project
also funded by
the Center for Writing
and the College of Liberal Arts
at the University of Minnesota

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