

# Navigating Open Waters

**TYCA Midwest Conference**  
**Duluth, Minnesota**  
**October 2-4, 2008**  
 see pages 2 and 3 for details

TYCA Midwest Messenger  
 Illinois Central College  
 One College Drive  
 East Peoria, IL 61635-0001

TYCA

# Midwest Messenger

Two-Year College English Association (TYCA Midwest)

## Message from the Chair

*Paul Resnick • Illinois Central College*

## INSIDE:

**TYCA Midwest Conference**  
Page 2 and 3

**Reflections on 2007 Conference**  
Page 4

**Award Recipients**  
Page 5

**Contacts**  
Page 6

**Conference Reports and Best Practices**  
Page 7

Over 170 people attended our annual conference in Chicago last October. This great number of people is a testament to the work of Program Chair Jane Wagoner and Local Arrangements Chair Nancy Shemluck. Though we had so many people, the sessions still felt intimate and engaging. Each year we have so many opportunities to exchange ideas with each other in so many wonderful settings. Chicago was no exception. We had the luncheon, the breakfasts, and the dinner discussion groups to get a chance to mingle, and all were a success.

Please make plans now to attend the TYCA-Midwest conference in Duluth October 2-4 at The Inn on Lake Superior. Karen Busch, the Local Arrangements Chair, provided ample reasons to attend the conference in Duluth. At the luncheon in Chicago, Karen had her colleagues hold up large poster size photos of Duluth, with stunning sunsets and beautiful lake water scenes. Duluth is not to be missed.

There are so many reasons to attend the TYCA-Midwest Conference that I do not know where to start.

You could attend strictly for professional development reasons. If you only attended the sessions and nothing else, then you could apply immediate practical ideas into your writing courses. This happens to me every year. I crawl out of my cocoon of papers and lesson plans and schedules and into the world of other writing teachers to find out we share so much in common.

In case any of you were not aware, I am now serving as the Chair of the Executive Board of TYCA-Midwest. I am humbled and honored to take on this responsibility. I have spent my professional career serving TYCA-Midwest because I believe we need each other to become better classroom teachers. Every year I attend a conference, I come away with numerous ideas and many great experiences. I enjoy the sessions and the camaraderie of writing teachers from all over the Midwest.

In the last nine years, I have spent eight on our Executive Board, serving in such capacities as the Program Chair for the 1998 conference in St. Paul, the Membership Chair for a number of years, as well as the Local Arrangements Chair for our conference in Peoria in 2004.

As Chair of the Executive Board, I hope to increase our membership and continue to reach out to all first and second year writing instructors. We have a lot to offer each other. Through our yearly conference, we share ideas, make new friends, and reconnect with old friends. Please join us in Duluth in 2008 and Madison in 2009.



## 2008 TYCA Midwest Conference Duluth, Minnesota October 2-4

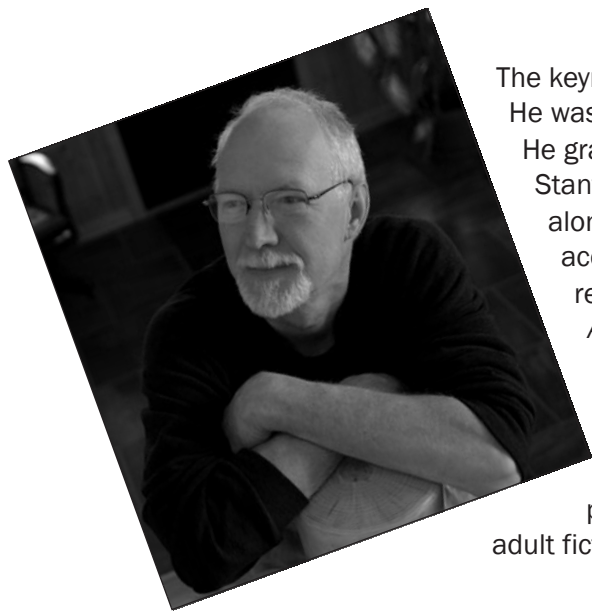
Karen Busch • Lake Superior College

The 2008 TYCA-Midwest Conference will be held at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center (DECC), located on Lake Superior.

After the day of sessions, you can take a break at The Inn on Lake Superior, which is only a short walk from the DECC. The hotel is in the heart of Canal Park, Duluth's waterfront shopping and dining district. Make sure you reserve your rooms early by calling 218/726-1111 or 1-888/668-4352. You can also access hotel information at [admin.innonlakesuperior@zmchotels.com](mailto:admin.innonlakesuperior@zmchotels.com) and don't forget to ask for the special conference rate. The hotel offers a free hot breakfast buffet and a free airport shuttle.



### Keynote Speaker



The keynote speaker for the conference is author **Will Weaver**. He was born in northern Minnesota in 1950 and grew up on a dairy farm. He graduated from the University of Minnesota (BA, English) and from Stanford University (MA, Creative Writing). His nine books of fiction, along with many short stories and essays, have earned him critical acclaim and a loyal audience of readers who appreciate high-quality realism. He received the Minnesota Book Award for Fiction for *A Gravestone Made of Wheat & Other Stories*, and three of his books—*Striking Out*, *Farm Team*, and *Hard Ball*—were chosen as the American Library Association's "Best Books" for young adults. One of Weaver's stories, *A Gravestone Made of Wheat*, was produced as an independent film, *Sweet Land*, which played in theatres across the United States. Weaver's newest adult fiction is *Sweet Land: New and Selected Stories* (2006).

## Conference Reports and Best Practices

### Report on Adjunct Issues

Nancy McMabon • Madison Area Technical College

As a professional organization, TYCA Midwest once again revealed firm commitment to adjunct faculty. Sessions presented by adjuncts were offered each day of the annual conference. The proposals for the 2007 TYCA-Midwest Outstanding Adjunct Proposal Award were well-written and of high quality. Selection criteria included title appeal, clarity and content of the abstract, and adjunct focus. The winners, Nancy Pinkston and Carrie Finn of Hawkeye Community College, presented the session "Paving Our Own Way: Creating an Adjunct Learning Community." With humor and understanding of the variety of personality types in shared adjunct office space, these two teachers created a "best practices" dialog where none had dared to explore before.

The TYCA Midwest leadership voted to increase the 2008 Outstanding Adjunct Proposal Award to \$150 for the winning proposal.

The growth of the numbers of contingent, part-time, and/or adjunct faculty in two year colleges has led to an astounding number of sections being taught by these "insecure" faculty. Many English departments employ anywhere from 30% to 80% non-tenure track faculty. In its Fall 2007 Newsletter, the Modern Language Association published its recommended salaries for entry-level, full-time, and part-time faculty members. **For part-time faculty, the MLA recommends "a salary range of \$6,200 to \$8,800 per course section, with fringe benefits and cost-of-living increases,** as reasonable minimum compensation for part-time faculty members" (16). The reality is that most community colleges pay a wide range **per credit — \$380 to \$1,822 for adjunct faculty teaching typical TYCA courses, often with no benefits.** Professional development moneys often are not available to adjunct faculty for conference attendance, but TYCA Midwest offers adjuncts a \$5.00 membership and a half price conference registration fee. A number of adjunct faculty attended the TYCA Midwest Annual Conference.

### Session Recap:

"To be, how to be and where to be? Language(s) (Re)acquisition and identity(ies)"

Carol Luvert • Hawkeye Community College

This session reiterated the complexities of language and identity as well as how we all code switch depending on the audience we are communicating with. This process becomes even more difficult when we as writing instructors are expecting students to write in standard written English. The presenters gave some great ideas on how to discuss the importance of code switching with students and why switching to Standard English in the business world is not giving up on your culture or identity.

### Exploring Our Artistic Side

Sarah Parlier • Illinois Central College

I have found great success using art and drama activities as a catalyst for writing in my developmental writing class. Patricia Dunn's *Talking, Sketching, Moving* (2001) informs teachers on ways to explore students' natural, multiple intelligences to spark their linguistic skills and develop compositions. Dunn suggests using a variety of simple art and drama activities to encourage students to revisit life experiences and analyze texts. During the first few class sessions and throughout the semester, I use art and drama to initiate conversations, foster community, and facilitate writing.

On the first night of class, students make glyphs. Using construction paper and glue, students create pictures that provide pictorial representations of a variety of information. By decoding the glyphs, the students connect with each other by learning their classmates' hobbies, families, and writing habits. As the semester continues, students draw neighborhood maps, graph out their lives, and complete various role plays to progress through the syllabus and write on a variety of topics.

Some students are taken aback at the activities, but most respond well. Many of them use writing topics developed through these activities, and their course evaluations mention these sessions as their most memorable and most engaging. I like the activities because they have a way of putting anxious students at ease. Worried about their placement in a developmental writing class, most assume that they bring limited skills to class. When students have the opportunity to draw and move in addition to completing the expected writing exercises, they realize that writing is about more than grammar and form. Writing is about thinking, and thinking comes through our exploration of multiple modalities. My goal is to help students unlock their own potential for invention and critical thought, and using art and drama is a useful key.



# TYCA *Midwest Messenger* Contacts

## Executive Board

### Chair

Paul Resnick  
Illinois Central College  
presnick@icc.edu

### Treasurer

Neville Britto  
Delta College  
nbbritto@delta.edu

### Secretary

Ruth Fairchild  
Ridgewater College  
ruth.fairchild@ridgewater.edu

### Site Coordinator

Karla Brown  
Hawkeye Community College  
kbrown@hawkeyecollege.edu

### Membership

Carol Luvert  
Hawkeye Community College  
cluvert@hawkeyecollege.edu

### Information/Web Manager

Jeffrey Schantz  
The University of Akron  
Summit College  
schantz@uakron.edu

### Adjunct Faculty Representative

Nancy McMahon  
Madison Area Technical College  
nmcMahon@matcmadison.edu

### Midwest Messenger Editor

Jen Richrath  
Illinois Central College  
jrichrath@icc.edu

### TYCA/NCTE Representative

Leslie Roberts  
Oakland Community College  
lrobert@oaklandcc.edu

### 4-Year College

Brenda Eatman Aghahowa  
Chicago State University  
be\_aghahowa@yahoo.com

### Archivist

Jane Wagoner  
Wright College  
janewwc@aol.com

### Local Arrangements Chair

Karen A Busch  
Lake Superior College  
k.busch@lsc.edu

### Co-Program Chair

Kelli Hallsten  
Lake Superior College  
k.hallsten@lsc.edu

Amy Jo Swing  
Lake Superior College  
a.swing@lsc.edu

### Assistant Program Chair

Steve Dalager  
Lake Superior College  
s.dalager@lsc.edu

### Conference Chair, 2009

Sarah Johnson  
Madison Area Technical College  
szjohnson@matcmadison.edu

## Advisory Board

### Illinois

Esther DiMarzio  
Kishwaukee College  
estherdm@kishwaukeecollege.edu

### Indiana *vacant*

### Iowa *vacant*

### Kansas

Andy Anderson  
Johnson County Community College  
aanders@jccc.edu

### Michigan

Ella Davis  
Wayne County Community College  
District  
edavis1@wcccd.edu

### Minnesota *vacant*

### Missouri

Larry McDoniel  
St. Louis Community College at Meramec  
lmcdoniel@stlcc.edu

### Nebraska

Andrea Lang  
Metropolitan Community College  
alang@mccneb.edu

### North Dakota

Jim Smorada  
Kilian Community College  
jsmorada@kilian.edu

### Ohio

Sheldon Wrice  
The University of Akron, Summit College  
swrice1@uakron.edu

### South Dakota

Jim Smorada  
Kilian Community College  
jsmorada@kilian.edu

### Wisconsin

Sarah Johnson  
Madison Area Technical College  
szjohnson@matcmadison.edu

### Manitoba, Canada

Sheila Page

*TYCA Midwest Messenger*  
is the bi-annual publication of the  
Midwest Two-Year College  
English Association.

### Editor

Jen Richrath  
jrichrath@icc.edu

### Graphic Design and Layout

Jeanne Metros

Illinois  
Central  
College

TYCA Midwest Messenger  
Illinois Central College  
One College Drive  
East Peoria, IL 61635-0001

## Conference Theme

# Navigating Open Waters

What challenges present themselves to English instructors in two-year college classrooms? What strategies do we use to deal with these challenges? Equally important, what are the rewards of helping students navigate their way to academic success? The TYCA-Midwest conference committee issues a Call for Proposals on the following topics:

### Weathering Stormy Waters

- Dealing with students with mental illnesses and/or life crises.
- Helping new faculty transition into campus/teaching life
- Assisting under prepared students
- Navigating systems/politics

### Setting a Course/Mapping Coordinates

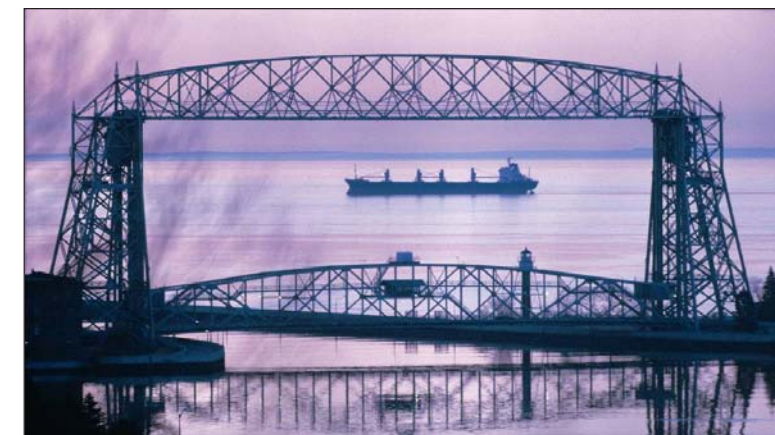
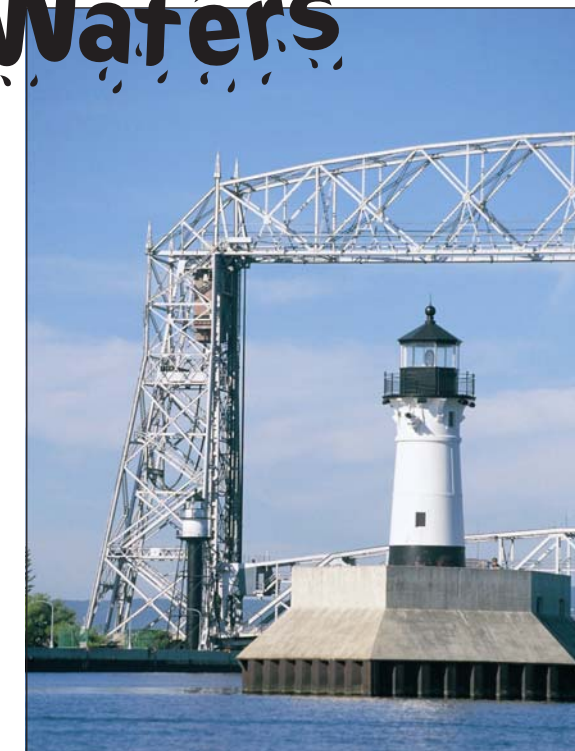
- Embracing assessment/technology
- Working toward consistency/standards in composition courses
- Advising students in new ways
- Starting new programs/pre-majors
- Helping students to prepare and plan

### Enjoying Calm Waters

- Building imagination
- Sharing new teaching ideas/success stories
- Letting students lead
- Restoring ourselves through our favorite classes
- Inviting and embracing diversity

Begin thinking about how you navigate—a proposal form is included in this newsletter, so consider becoming part of the program! The deadline for proposals is June 1, 2008.

Lake Superior College is pleased to host the 2008 conference and encourages faculty from the Midwest and Canada to join us for a fantastic weekend filled with both visual (check out some of the snapshots as a teaser!) and intellectual stimulation. For more information, contact Karen Busch, 2008 Local Arrangements Chair, at k.busch@lsc.edu or the TYCA Midwest website ([www.tycamw.org](http://www.tycamw.org)).





## Reflections on 2007 Conference

Jane Wagoner, The City Colleges of Chicago, 2007 Program Chair

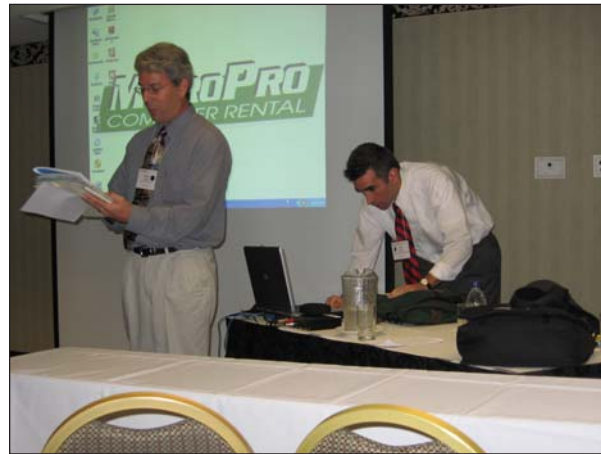
As I reflect upon the Chicago 2007 TYCA Midwest conference, the day is cold and windy. It reminds me why the past board members were so wise when they changed the conference date from February to October! Remembering the sun and warmth of a perfect October day is a great way to escape the winter blues. I am pleased to report that the beautiful weather we ordered back in the summer of 2005 showed up right on time for our October 2007 conference. The days were warm and sunny—the nights were relaxed and beautiful.

When I first mentioned that the City Colleges of Chicago might be interested in hosting the conference, I had no idea about the challenges that faced me: the seeking of financial support, reaching out to my City Colleges' colleagues, gaining the approval of the District Office and the support of the seven colleges: Daley, Harold Washington, Olive-Harvey, Kennedy-King, Malcolm X, Truman, and Wright.

While it was not an easy task, it was a rewarding one. I got to meet teachers who work across town but belong to my system. I was pleased with the tremendous support from the City Colleges because they made it possible for us to keep the costs low and to make a small profit from our conference. Money, however, is not the key to a successful conference (although it certainly helps!). The key to a successful conference is people. And TYCA Midwest has some of the most engaging, insightful and friendly people in the Midwest.

Once again I was reminded of how we have “networking” down to a science. Time after time I saw strangers speak to each other, share a moment, and walk away friends. Old friends were re-united and the years seemed to slip away. As Program Chair, I was grateful for my team of workers who worked for two years to prepare the conference. It takes a lot of people and a tremendous effort to make a conference look easy.

The proposals were outstanding. The range of topics was simply amazing – assessment, grammar tips, online learning, scholarship, writing techniques, and professional development. Our luncheon speaker, Michael Raleigh, gave us a snapshot of a community college teacher (he has just retired from Truman College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago) who is a professional writer. Mike blended his stories about students with his own struggles to write and sell his



novels. We came away with a sense of the value of both our students and the work we do each day in the classroom.

I have some suggestions for people who are planning to attend the 2008 conference in Duluth. First, get involved by making a proposal for a session. It is a great way to share a teaching technique or pedagogy with colleagues. Next, volunteer to serve as a chair for a session. Finally, sign up for the Friday night dinner discussion groups. The food will be great and the conversation will be even greater!

While Chicago 2007 is a memory, 2008 brings us another city and another opportunity to gather together in October, to share ideas, greet old friends, and make new friends. At each conference, we rediscover once again that teaching is a daily miracle, and we are so fortunate to be community college teachers who have TYCA Midwest as our professional home.

See you in Duluth!

## Award Recipients for 2007 TYCA Conference

### Outstanding New Faculty Award

Tara Coburn  
Illinois Valley Community College

### Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Proposal Award

Nancy Pinkston and Carrie Finn  
Hawkeye Community College  
Title: “Paving Our Own Way: Creating an Adjunct Learning Community”

### Unsung Heroes Award

Sheldon Wrice  
The University of Akron, Summit College



## 2008 TYCA Awards

### TETYC Best Article of the Year Award

Gregory Shafer  
Mott Community College  
Title: “A Christian Fundamentalist in a Reader-Response Class: Merging Transactions and Convictions”  
*Teaching English in the Two-Year College*, March 2007, pgs. 320-331

### Nell Ann Pickett Service Award

Jay Wootten  
Kent State University

### Diana Hacker TYCA Outstanding Programs in English Awards

■ **Reaching across Borders**  
OUTSTANDING PROGRAM AWARD  
The Arts in Ghana with Service Learning  
**The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute**

HONORABLE MENTION  
Washington Online Writing Lab (WOWL)  
**Centralia College**

#### ■ **Enhancing Developmental Education**

OUTSTANDING PROGRAM AWARD  
Gateway to Success  
**Santa Barbara City College**

HONORABLE MENTION  
The W.R.I.T.E. Brush-up Course Program  
**Nassau Community College**

■ **Fostering Student Success**  
OUTSTANDING PROGRAM AWARD  
YVCC English Department Mid-Program Assessment  
**Yakima Valley Community College**

HONORABLE MENTION  
Increasing Agency and Collaboration through the Merging of SoTL and Assessment  
**University of Wisconsin Colleges**

■ **Enhancing Literature and Cultural Arts**  
OUTSTANDING PROGRAM AWARD  
Writing and Literature Program  
**Borough of Manhattan Community College**

HONORABLE MENTION  
Women's Literature Read-In  
**Lansing Community College**

