



SMETA

Southeast Missouri English Teachers Association

Professional Pursuit...The First Connection

Volume 31
Issue 1
Fall 2017

Happy Fall Conference, ELA Colleagues!

It has been my pleasure to serve SMETA as your president this year. We have come full circle once again to conference time to gather as professionals, colleagues, and friends eager to share, discover, encourage, motivate, and inspire one another. The older I get, the more I realize the truth in the wise adage "Life is a circle."

From child to parent, from student to teacher, from novice to mentor, I find myself looking at life's journeys from a perspective that feels at once familiar and altogether new. These journeys interlock in unending circles of discovery and mastery, learning and teaching, acquiring and sharing. Interwoven throughout the journey is the never-ending thread of relationship, for it is the relational nature of the human condition that makes us unique, that gives us strength and hope, that causes us the greatest joy, the deepest pain. We laugh together. We cry together. We celebrate together. We muddle through. We soar. We struggle. We accomplish. And, it is the "we" of this circular path that makes every step easier to take.

We have seen educational theories and practices swing from one arc of the circle to the next and then back again. Whatever has been will probably come around again in one form or another...just ask anyone with more than five years of experience! The sun rises in the east and sets in the west as the very planet we call home circles the sun. I cannot help but believe there is power in the circle. It is one of the most heavily symbolized objects: the wedding ring, the ONE ring of power, life cycles of every description, magic rings, links in a chain, Olympic rings. Circles are everywhere!

We are fortunate to have this organization year in, year out that provides us with yet another circle of connection, another circle of professional information, another circle of strength and encouragement. As I consider my own career, looking back through my connection to this organization, I feel a strong sense of endurance and power. The federal government, the state government, our own local boards of education and administrators may throw at us whatever they will. We are the links of the chain that keep the process going, that make education work. We touch the lives of every child that crosses the thresholds of our classrooms. It is the "we" of this circle that gives us such strength and power.

As we begin a new school year, let us remember that we hold great power in our words and deeds, that there is great strength in our connection as a professional group, and that we are traveling in a circle of never-ending interconnectedness. Life truly is a circle. Please join us on September 22 at our Fall Conference and let the circle be unbroken.

See you 'round the circle,
Crystal Cerny,
SMETA 17-18 President

Fall Conference 2017 NEW DATE

Friday, September 22, 2017

Regional Professional Development
Center (RPDC)

Corner of Pacific and Broadway, Cape Girardeau

9:00-2:00 pm

Lunch and business meeting following conference

Kandee Oliver and Shauna Wight

will present

"Lit" Literature Circles for Middles and Junior High and High School Students

- ◆ SMETA Teacher of the Year Presentation
- ◆ A variety of Round-Table Discussions
- ◆ Catered hot lunch
- ◆ Door Prizes, including Staples and Target gift cards
- ◆ SMETA Business Meeting where we need to elect a treasurer for 2018-19
- ◆ **NEW THIS YEAR: Professional book swap! Bring a teacher resource to the conference that you would like to share!**
- ◆ SMETA t-shirts, see order form inside



Missouri Council of Teachers of English

MCTE would like to revive its membership. Please consider joining or re-joining MCTE, Missouri's state affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of English. MCTE is a professional organization which maintains a close working relationship with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Together, they co-sponsor Write-To-Learn in February at Tan-Tar-A. Through MCTE's publications and conferences, English teachers across the state are able to share their professional interests and concerns. As a MCTE member, you will receive F.Y.I, the Missouri English Bulletin and Missouri Youth Writes publications. For more information, visit our new website <http://www.missourienglishteachers.com> or contact Chris Warren at cwarren@semo.edu

SLATE

Support for the Learning and Teaching of English

NCTE Standing Committee on Social and Political Concerns, was organized at the 1975 Annual convention and

.... seeks to influence public attitudes and policy decisions affecting the teaching of English language arts at local, state, and national levels.

....seeks to implement and publicize the policies adopted by the National Council of Teachers on English.

....serves as NCTE's intellectual freedom network.

SLATE provides information and assistance with English educational issues through:

- SLATE Newsletter—SLATE Starter Sheets-Action Alerts The Newsletter provides regular reports on censorship challenges, on legislation, on issues which affect the teaching of English language arts, on publications and other resources related to SLATE's concerns.
- Report a Censorship Incident form for assistance or call Millie Davis, NCTE Division Director of Communications and Affiliate Services, directly at 800-369-6283, ext 3634
- Rationales for Challenged Books for teaching a number of literary works compiled in 2 volumes on CD-ROMS; Get Censorship information at <http://www.ncte.org/about/issues/censorship>

The local SLATE representative is Christine Warren from Southeast Missouri State University and she can be reached at cwarren@semo.edu or 573-651-2617. For more information about SLATE, visit their Website at: <http://ncte.org/about/issues/slate>.

NCTE

The National Council of Teachers of English

The National Council of Teachers of English is devoted to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education. Since 1911, NCTE has provided a forum for the profession, an array of opportunities for teachers to continue their professional growth throughout their careers, and a framework for cooperation to deal with issues that affect the teaching of English.

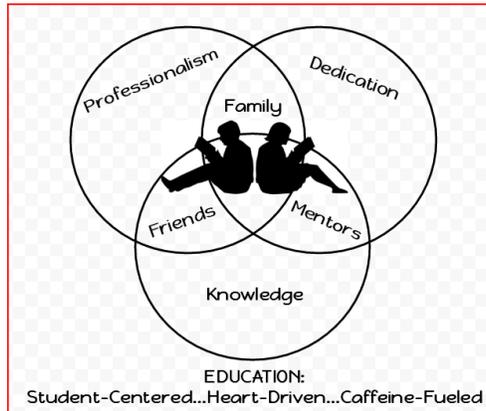
NCTE's Mission Statement states, "The Council promotes the development of literacy, the use of language to construct personal and public worlds and to achieve full participation in society, through the learning and teaching of English and the related arts and sciences of language."

NCTE has over 60,000 members and subscribers in the United States and other countries. Individual members are teachers and supervisors of English programs in elementary, middle, and secondary schools, faculty in college and university English departments, teacher educators, local and state agency English specialists, and professionals in related fields. **The 2017 National Convention is in ST. LOUIS in November.** Anyone interested in advancing English language arts education is welcome to join the NCTE membership community. For more information, visit NCTE's Website at: <http://www.ncte.org>

Southeast Missouri English Teachers Association
T-Shirt Order Form



Left Chest Design on Front



Full Size Design on Back

T-shirts are black with white lettering and are a 50-50 cotton/polyester blend.

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Name _____

School _____

School Address _____

Email _____

Circle size: S M L XL (\$10) XXL XXXL (\$12)

***Make check payable to SMETA. Send T-SHIRT ORDER ONLY to Kandee Oliver,
%Central Middle School, 1900 Thilenius, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701.***

Check one:

I plan to pick up my shirt at the conference on September 22, 2017.

Please send my shirt with _____.

Please mail my shirt to the address above (add \$3 for mailing costs).

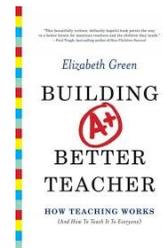
Please note: Shirts must be ordered by September 8 for conference delivery.

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Five Tips Teachers Can Use Now

Based on advice by Elizabeth Green, these tips will help teachers be their very best.

1. **Let students right their wrongs.** Lead students to the right answer through critical thinking.
2. **Never say “Shhhh!”** This command is ambiguous. Be specific with your instruction.
3. **Encourage deeper thinking.** Ask **why** and **how** questions, not **what**, **where**, or **when** questions.
4. **“Cold call” on students with purpose.** Call on students randomly after “think time” rather than on students who typically volunteer answers. This encourages active learning rather than passive learning. Decide Now is a computer app that will easily choose students randomly for you!
5. **“Show more than tell.”** Model, model, model! *No More Telling as Teaching: Less Lecture, More Engaged Learning* by Cris Tovani and Elizabeth Birr Moje is also a great resource for “making your thinking visible.”



2017 Conference Presentation

“Lit” Literature Circles for Middles and Junior High and Senior High Students

Kandee Oliver will share her successes with throwing away the old roles of “word-watcher” and “bridge-builder” and how students can connect with their reading on their own terms. Resources will be provided so that teachers can go back to their classrooms and teach a whole-class novel or have six books going at once.

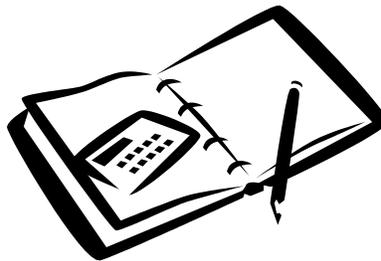
Shauna Wight will explore how to guide students in designing literature circles and creating multi-genre responses in order to investigate social and personal issues. Specifically, the presentation will cover how to help students develop strong research questions and select texts to address them. It will conclude by highlighting how multi-genre responses help students develop personal connections with these topics and texts.

SMETA

Southeast Missouri English Teachers Association

We strive to bring English teachers from our region together to share and exchange ideas. Our Fall meeting is Friday, September 22, 2017. We will spend an informative morning followed by a catered lunch at Statuary Hall at the Regional Professional Development Center (RPDC) at 920 Broadway in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. A buffet style lunch will be served after the conference. Barnes and Noble and Staples gift cards and a 2018 SMETA Conference fee will be part of the door prizes this year! Parking is plentiful on the RPDC lot at the Innovations building without a permit.

Please share this newsletter with your colleagues; they may not know about SMETA yet. Better still, bring them (and your Co-Teacher Candidate) with you to an informative 2017 conference.



Conference fee of \$35 will cover conference attendance, one year of SMETA membership, and lunch. The fee needs to be sent to our new treasurer Misty Everett by September 15, 2017.

Moments from the 2016 SMETA Conference Bring a colleague and join the fun for the 2017 Conference on September 22.



2017-18 Membership and Fall Conference Registration

Name: _____

School Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Email: _____

Make checks payable to SMETA. Membership, Conference, and Luncheon Fee of \$35.00 mailed by Friday, September 15. If you miss this mailing date, please email meverett@bellcity.k12.mo.us or cwarren@semo.edu by 9/15/17 to let us know you plan to attend and will make payment at the conference door, thanks.

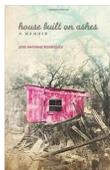
Send Membership, Conference, and Luncheon
Fee of \$35.00 by September 15, 2017 to

Misty Everett
Bell City High School
25254 Walnut Street
Bell City, MO 63735
meverett@bellcity.k12.mo.us

Help Wanted

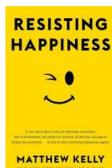
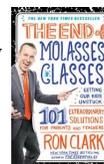
SMETA is looking for ELA teachers interested in being an officer for the 2018-19 school year
Minimal commitment required,
professional development opportunity
If interested, email Chris Warren before 2017 conference.

When You Have Time to Read, Check Out These Books...



Amanda Robins recommends *House Built on Ashes* by Jose Rodriguez. This poignant collection of vignettes follows a young Mexican boy living in Texas. Each section is poetic and hopeful, despite its complex, personal, and often dark subject matter. I had the pleasure of meeting Jose Rodriguez at the Radical Writes Conference in Jonesboro, Arkansas. If you ever have a chance to go to one of his readings, you must do it! He will bring tears to your eyes.

Chris Warren suggests *The End of Molasses Classes: 101 Extraordinary Solutions for Parents and Teachers* by Ron Clark. If you have never heard Clark speak or read one of his books, this is a good start. Chris has heard him speak twice and finds him refreshing and wise, as are the ideas in this book.



Kandee Oliver recommends *Resisting Happiness* by Matthew Kelly. This book offers wonderful advice and guidance to “live the best version of yourself.” This book has helped me on so many level. I was intrigued enough to drive to Joliet, Illinois to hear Kelly speak. He continues to inspire me as I read additional books by him.

Misty Everett recommends *Speak* by Laurie Anderson. This is such a great book about one girl who struggles with how to connect with the people she loves after being sexually assaulted. I enjoy teaching it, mostly because it has a female main character, unlike a lot of the other literature I teach. I find this book to be relevant and relatable for my students.



Crystal Cerny recently read *The Orphan's Tale* by Pat Jenoff. This book provides a different perspective on the persecution of Jews during the Holocaust and the methods and means and lengths humans will employ to survive.

2017 Conference Roundtable Discussions:

- **Active Learning Group Activities** led by Christine Warren. Chris will share her favorite time-tested small group techniques to get students talking and learning, including Spend A Buck and Silent Discussion.
- **Literature Circle Rewind** led by Kandee and Shauna who will answer any further questions you have about literature circles.
- **Sage/Rookie Question and Answer** led by Valerie Ward. Bring your questions about assessment, classroom management, parent communication—no teaching topic is taboo at this roundtable.
- **Strategies for Teaching Nonfiction** led by Corey Bennett. Corey will share some great tips and techniques for reading informational texts with your students.
- **What's New in Young Adult Literature** led by a local school librarian. Find some new titles to engage your students.
- **Videos as Tools for Classroom Motivation** led by Amanda Robins. Amanda will share ways to use videos to facilitate discussion in the ELA classroom and improve teacher instruction.
- **The ACT: Some Stuff We've Figured Out** led by Pat Kuper. Get some updates on questions, readings, downloads, and strategies to share with students to help them achieve higher scores in English, Reading and Writing sections of this test.
- **Motivating the Unmotivated** led by Julie Stausung. Julie will lead an energetic discussion on varied techniques for keeping even your most resistant students ready to learn.

For a quick connection to organizational links, the latest newsletters, and conference information, visit our newly updated Web-site <http://smeta.tripod.com> and “Like” us on Facebook!

2017 Conference Keynote Presentation "Lit" Literature Circles for Middles and Junior High and Senior High Students



**Kande
Oliver**



**Shauna
Wight**

2016 Conference Highlights



**Barb Randolph, Cape Central Junior High
SMETA Teacher of the Year**



**Helen Maschmeyer
SMETA Greef Award Recipient**

2017-18 SMETA OFFICERS

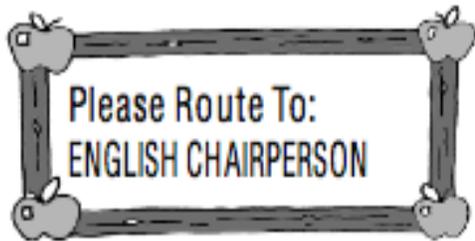


Valerie Ward
Crystal Cerny
Amanda Robins
Kande Oliver
Misty Everett

Southeast

Missouri State University,

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Cape Girardeau, MO 63701



Experience Southeast...Experience Success

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