



SMETA

Southeast Missouri English Teachers Association

Professional Pursuit...The First Connection

Volume 33
Issue 1
Fall 2019

Dear SMETA Members,

It is my privilege to serve as President of SMETA this year. I hope all of you are having an amazing year so far. Our annual conference is fast approaching on November 1, 2019 at Southeast Missouri State University. Our theme this year is Teacher Self-Care.

Self-care is important for all people; however, for teachers, self care is especially necessary. Teachers who don't take time to care for themselves often become burned out within a few years. An estimated 15 % of teachers in the United States leave the profession every year. More than 41% of teachers leave within five years.

We become teachers because we want to make a difference, because we love kids, and because we enjoy seeing the expression on our students' faces when they finally learn new concepts. We cannot bring our passion for teaching to our classroom if we no longer have energy to fuel that passion.

The best tip for teacher self-care is to set healthy boundaries. Say yes when you mean yes, and say no when you mean no. We all want to be a "super teacher", but that goal is impossible to achieve. We need to know our own threshold for success and recognize when we are close to it. When we model skills for managing our stress, we also teach our students how to manage their own stress.

I invite all of you to join me at our fall conference and discover even more suggestions for practicing teacher self care. I hope to see you there.

Misty Everett
SMETA 2019-20 President

Fall Conference 2019

Friday, November 1, 2019
Regional Professional Development
Center (RPDC)

Corner of Pacific and Broadway, Cape Girardeau
9:00-2:00 pm

Lunch and business meeting following conference

Riina Hirsch

will present

Professional "Self-Care": Reflecting Instead of Reacting

- ♦ SMETA Teacher of the Year Presentation
- ♦ LOTS of practical Round-Table Discussions from area educators
- ♦ Catered hot lunch
- ♦ Door Prizes, including Staples and Target gift cards
- ♦ SMETA Business Meeting where we need to elect a treasurer for 2020-2021
- ♦ **Chair shoulder massages!**



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>

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 2019 National Convention is in Baltimore 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>

2019 Conference Roundtable Discussions

- **The Purpose of Discipline** led by Riina Hirsch. Riina will cover classroom rules versus procedures, the goal of discipline, and student self-regulation.
- **Excite, Engage, Excel: How to Cure the Apathy Epidemic** led by Myriah Miller and Laura DeJournett. This session aims to reignite educators' passion for teaching which will, in turn, reignite students' passion for learning. Myriah and Laura will focus on how to excite and engage students through the use of "out-of-the-box" instructional strategies.
- **What's New in Young Adult Literature?** led by Mary Pensel. Mary will book talk about current fiction, nonfiction, and audiobook favorites. Walk away with lists for your students, your book club, or yourself.
- **The Passion Project** led by Ashley Raney, Jenn Lipe, and Allison Centanni. These ELA teachers invite you to join them as they describe how they give up some of their much-loved control to allow students to become involved and explore a topic they are truly passionate about.
- **The One Point Rubric** led by Amanda Robins. Single point rubrics are grading tools that focus on only one criterion at a time and can be used for both formal and informal writing. Learn how to spend less time grading.
- **Sage/Rookie Question and Answer** hosted by Misty Everett and Ashley Scheffer. Bring questions about classroom management, teaching the standards, time management—no teaching topic is taboo at this roundtable.
- **Tips for Success as a Young Teacher** led by Chase Guercio. Chase will cover differentiation instruction ideas and how to adapt in order to connect with today's students.
- **The Reading Rainbow: LGBTQ + Affirming Literature for the ELA Classroom** hosted by Kirsten LaMantia and Shannon Clapsaddle. Learn about exploring diversity through literature while affirming marginalized student populations. Your classroom can become a safer environment for all students.
- **Infusing Creative Writing in a Jam-packed Curriculum** presented by Abigail Beckwith. Learn strategies and receive prompts for ways to help students develop their personal writing styles and become richer writers in formal compositions also.
- **Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis.** Teaching artists from SFSL will share a collection of activities which can easily be used in your classroom to introduce students to Shakespeare's or other classical texts.
- **Tech Tools for ELA** led by Danna Bruns. Technology in the classroom should be an invisible enhancement to our lessons. It should add to the lesson rather than being the focal point. Danna will show some new and upgraded tools to add to lessons.
- **Fresh, New ELA Instructional Strategies** offered by Joey O'Neal. Are you looking to freshen up your ELA curriculum? Don't miss this session on curriculum ideas and both tech and non-tech strategies.

Come and Learn With SMETA

2019 Conference Presentation

Riina Hirsch will present the keynote session, ***Professional “Self-Care”:
Reflecting Instead of
Reacting***

Riina will discuss psychological and physical strategies that help teachers develop “the habit of being positive.” She will talk about the importance of understanding our own triggers and understanding the motivations of student behavior. Participants will examine their own experiences and pet peeves to develop individual strategies to try in their classrooms.

SMETA

Southeast Missouri English Teachers Association

We strive to bring English teachers from our region together to share and exchange ideas. Our Fall conference is Friday, November 1, 2019. 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. Target and Staples gift cards and a 2020 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, especially your mentee; they may not know about SMETA yet. Better still, bring them with you to an informative and relaxing 2019 conference.

REGISTER HERE

Conference fee of \$40 will cover conference attendance, one year of SMETA membership, and lunch. The fee needs to be sent to our new treasurer Myriah Miller by October 25, 2019.

Scenes from the 2018 SMETA Conference

**Bring a colleague and experience the fun on Friday
November 1.**



2019-20 Membership and Fall Conference Registration

Name: _____

School Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Email: _____

Please make checks payable to SMETA. Membership, Conference, and Luncheon Fee of \$40.00 mailed by Friday, October 25. If you miss this mailing date, please email mpmiller@jackson.k12.mo.us by 10/28/19 to let us know you plan to attend and will make payment at the conference registration table, thanks.

Please send Membership, Conference, and Luncheon Fee of \$40.00 by October 25, 2019 to

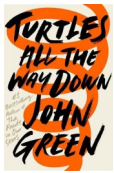
Myriah Miller
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mpmiller@jackson.k12.mo.us

Help Wanted—We Need Your Talent and Just a Little of Your Time

SMETA is looking for ELA teachers interested in being an officer for the 2020-21 school year. Minimal commitment required. Professional development opportunity.

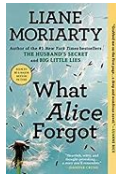
If interested, email Chris Warren before the 2019 conference, cwarren@semo.edu. She will be glad to explain the benefits of becoming a SMETA officer.

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



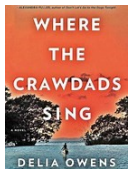
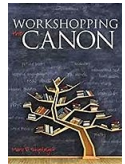
Amanda Robins recommends *Turtles All the Way Down* by John Green. This novel follows Aza who suffers from severe Obsessive Compulsive Disorder as she tries to solve a missing person mystery. She is a relatable character and the book's treatment of mental illness is interesting, complex, and nuanced. **An autographed copy will be available as a conference door prize!**

Chris Warren suggests *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate. One of Chris's goals in retirement is to read a book a week! Of all the books she read this summer, this is her favorite. It is a bittersweet story based on the real Memphis Tennessee Children's Home Society. This intriguing mystery alternates between the present and the 1930's.



Rilee Jones would like to recommend *What Alice Forgot* by Liane Moriarty. This novel is a page-turner that Rilee could not put down. She refers to it as, "the best book I have read in awhile."

Misty Everett recommends *Workshopping the Canon* by Mary E. Styslinger. This book, published by NCTE, introduces ELA teachers to a process for planning and teaching the most frequently taught texts in middle and secondary classrooms using a workshop approach. Demonstrating how to partner classic texts with a variety of high-interest genres within a reading and workshop structure, the author aligns the teaching of literature with what we have come to recognize as best practices in the teaching of literacy.



Myriah Miller is endorsing *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. This novel follows two timelines that slowly intertwine as it tells the story of Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. Myriah calls this book brilliant and unforgettable.

On-line Teacher Resources You Can Use Now

- ◆ **Peardeck:** <https://www.peardeck.com/googleslides> This interactive presentation tool works in conjunction with Google slides, "making it effortless for educators to add interactive questions and formative assessments to their presentations."
- ◆ **Flipgrid:** <https://flipgrid.com> This is a video tool that allows teachers to pose questions. Students answer those questions by recording their response. Students can watch and comment on other classmates' videos as well.
- ◆ **Quill.org:** <https://www.quill.org/> This free online resource assigns grammar activities based on student proficiency after students take a proficiency quiz. Students can then practice grammar concepts they need as individuals or the teacher can lead an entire class in a grammar lesson.
- ◆ **Wordsmith.org:** <http://www.wordsmith.org> This source is a language focused free daily email. You will receive a new word based on a theme each week day. Pronunciation, origin background, usage examples, and a daily quote make this one of your most-anticipated daily emails. What a great way to start ELA class each day.
- ◆ **Teaching Channel:** <https://www.teachingchannel.org/> This fabulous free website is filled with videos of real teachers of all grade levels in their classrooms sharing their lessons, techniques, and classroom management ideas. Videos range from a minute to a half-hour in length. The search bar will take you to almost any teaching topic you can think of. You must register to view, and you will receive an email every week featuring the newest videos available. Printable resources are also provided.
- **Classcraft:** <https://www.classcraft.com> Gamify your classroom and help your students collaborate to improve behavior and participation.

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!

2019 Conference Keynote Presentation

Professional “Self-Care”: Reflecting Instead of Reacting

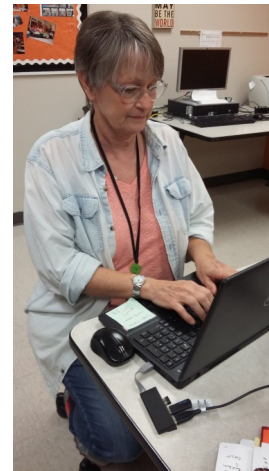


Riina Hirsch is the Coordinator of Professional Development, Curriculum, and Instruction for the Missouri Excel Centers. She taught ELA at Ritenour High School for 11 years and was also a K-12 Curriculum Coordinator for the Hazelwood School District. Join the conference and hear her inspirational ideas.

2018 Conference News



Crystal Cerny, Cape Central High School
2018 SMETA Teacher of the Year



Congratulations Crystal and thank you for all you have done and continue to do for SMETA and your students.

2019-20 SMETA OFFICERS



John Snodgrass

Misty Everett

Myriah Miller

Rilee Jones
(not pictured)



**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI
STATE UNIVERSITY · 1873**

2019-20 SMETA Officers

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