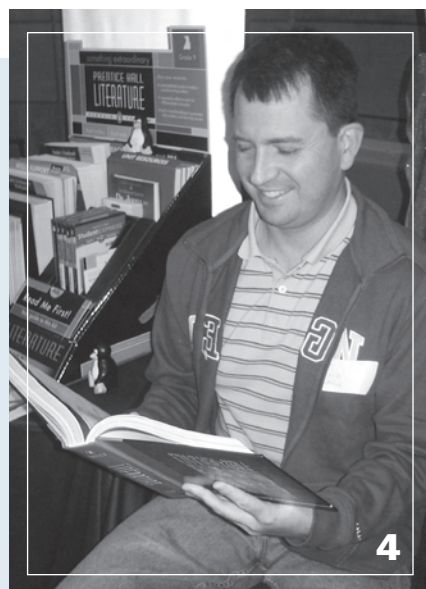




out & about

photos from nashville



1. Rick Hardt and Bob Hamm, OCTE Co-Presidents, hold a meeting of minds during the OCTE Fall Conference at Lake Oswego.

2. Karen Johnson, OCTE Board Member and a teacher at Fowler Middle School in Tigard, shows off her "Compleat Teacher" program in Nashville, Tennessee.

3. Susan Murai, OCTE Secretary and a teacher at Sunset High, Beaverton, was in charge of exhibits at the OCTE Fall Conference.

4. Erik Schenk, who teaches at Sunrise Middle School with the North Clackamas School District, peruses textbooks at the OCTE Fall Conference last October, at Lake Oswego High School.

5. Carol Jago, author, presented at the OCTE Fall Conference last October. Here's Carol at the NCTE Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

6. Sovachana Pou, who has trained extensively to return to Cambodia and teach, chooses sessions to attend at the OCTE Fall Conference.

7. Elizabeth Fiske, a middle school teacher from Michigan, takes a break from the NCTE Conference near the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee.

OREGON COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH
OCTE Chalkboard
 PO Box 9126
 Portland, OR 97207-9126
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SPRING 2007
Language Arts/Reading Conference
 APRIL 27-28 • ASHLAND, OREGON



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
WILLIAM SULLIVAN

OREGON COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH Spring Language Arts / Reading Conference APRIL 27-28, 2007 • ASHLAND, OREGON

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
 Pre-registration deadline: April 13, 2007

Name _____ Street Address _____
 City _____ State/Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____
 School _____


CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

	No. Attending	Registration Fee	Amount
OCTE Members	_____	@ \$45	_____
Non-members	_____	@ \$55	_____
Full-time Students, Retirees	_____	@ \$25	_____
Total	_____		_____ \$ _____

Academic Credit/PDUs Available
 Earn one graduate credit from PSU
 (separate registration at the conference)
 Earn five Professional Development Units
 for continuing licensure

On-site registration will be \$65 for everyone. A group pre-registration for 5 or more OCTE members is available at \$35.00 each. Must request a group form (e-mail address below). Pre-registration deadline: April 13, 2007. **For information: bjwiegele@aol.com**
 Make checks payable to **OCTE** and send to: Barbara Wiegele • 14867 SE Orchid Avenue • Milwaukie OR 97267-2454

Non-Profit Org.
 US Postage
 PAID
 Portland, OR
 Permit No. 4675

THE
 NEWSLETTER
 OF THE
 OREGON
 COUNCIL OF
 TEACHERS OF
 ENGLISH


Volume 32, No. 1, Winter 2007

 **OCTE
 Conference News**
 Pages 1, 2, 5, 6

 **Columns**
 Page 2, 3, 4

 **Calendars**
 Page 4

Chalkboard is the newsletter of the Oregon Council of Teachers of English, an organization that has existed for more than 60 years to support teachers of English and the language arts in Oregon elementary and secondary schools, community colleges and universities.

Chalkboard is our way of keeping our many members and friends informed about OCTE activities, programs of the National Council of Teachers of English, conferences and learning opportunities for students, research tidbits, book recommendations, and more.

Chalkboard is a member of the NCTE Information Exchange.

For inquiries, please contact:

OCTE
 P.O. Box 9126
 Portland, OR 97207-9126
 Editor: Debra Groves-Harman
 harmand@canby.k12.or.us



OCTE Spring Conference in Ashland

John Scanlan, OCTE President-elect

START PLANNING NOW to attend the Spring Conference in beautiful Ashland, Oregon, on April 27-28, at Southern Oregon University's Stevenson Union. Conference sessions will include **book talks, teaching strategies, and practical classroom lessons** geared at all levels. Sessions will be scheduled to allow conference attendees ample opportunities to **take in plays** and socialize in one of the true literary and cultural centers of our state.

Theater offerings include *On the Razzle, As You Like It, Rabbit Hole, Tracy's Tiger, Gem of the Ocean, and The Cherry Orchard*. Book your shows immediately as tickets are going fast. Order your tickets through the box office at Ashland (www.osfashland.org/plays/index.aspx). **If a play is sold out, request to be put on a waiting list.** This is a great opportunity to see some of the best theater on the west coast while you attend a fabulous conference with sessions from the best classroom teachers in the state.

William Sullivan, a fifth-generation Oregonian and author of ten books and numerous articles about Oregon, will deliver the keynote address on Saturday, April 28, at the conclusion of the morning concurrent sessions. He will present a slideshow detailing his epic 1,361 mile solo backpacking trek across the state of Oregon which resulted in his book *Listening for Coyote*, chosen by the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission as one of the 100 most significant books in Oregon's history. It's a marvelous book, but his slideshow details the "back story" of the creation of the book.

I will confess upfront that I am not ordinarily a fan of the "slideshow." Any time that I am at a social gathering and I see a slide projector being dusted off and set up in the living room, I'm looking for a graceful exit. I've been pinned down too many times in a darkened room viewing fuzzy slides of questionable merit, wishing I was somewhere else. It can result in tedium beyond description. I only write this to assure you that I am a harsh but honest critic of the medium. When I found myself in a room with some thirty teachers at the Oregon Council for the Humanities Summer Seminar at Reed College a few summers ago, I was fully prepared to sit in the back and slip out at the first opportunity.

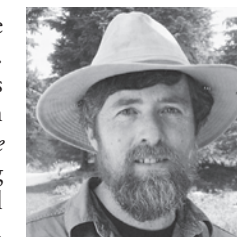
I couldn't have been more mistaken. William Sullivan's presentation on *Listening for Coyote* tells an amazing story of the natural beauty of Oregon, the eccentric folks that populate the remote nooks and crannies, and the ceaseless struggle to preserve the very essence that makes the Oregon wilderness the spectacular place we treasure and call home. Every slide tells a unique story, and with the affable and charismatic Sullivan narrating, this presentation becomes not only a collection of interesting slides but a mesmerizing narrative of an epic journey across the best places in our state. I found myself utterly engrossed.

Sullivan is more than a naturalist and hiker (although his credentials on both fronts are formidable). He is a natural storyteller, and he weaves into the presentation compelling stories of his encounters with a guerrilla marijuana grower in Southern Oregon, an eccentric bow hunter in the Cascades, and of a near-death experience with poisonous mushrooms on the trail. His chronicle of the journey, *Listening for Coyote*, is an amazing story of an incredible solo hiking adventure, and viewing the personal photos that Sullivan took along the trail is truly a privilege. Don't miss this opportunity to see places in Oregon that few of us will ever experience.

The conference will commence at 2:30 pm on Friday, April 27, and conclude Saturday the 28th by noon. This allows conference attendees to attend plays Friday evening, Saturday matinees, Saturday evenings and Sunday matinees. The conference pre-registration cost will be \$45 for OCTE members, and \$55 for non-members. Registration includes continental breakfast on Saturday morning. There are plans to schedule a social event on Friday evening for conference attendees.

Circle the dates on the calendar, order your tickets for the shows, and join us in Ashland for a great weekend of renewal. Conference registration forms are available at OCTE.ORG. Pre-registration deadline is April 13, so start planning now. ■

William Sullivan





INBOX

Debra Groves-Harman, Editor

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of you! Much is happening in the language arts arena here in Oregon. I've just skimmed the Superintendent's Pipeline to see that Susan Castillo has announced that new cut scores for state tests in reading, mathematics, and science have been proposed.

At grades 3 & 5, reading cut scores will increase by 3 points. At grade 10, the reading cut score has decreased by 3 points. I am sure that some of you will want to join the discussion or let Susan Castillo know your thoughts, so here is information from the Superintendent's Pipeline:

A comprehensive chart of recommended Achievement Standards can be found at <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=223>. Public review sessions will be held around the state during January and February to gather input prior to State Board adoption in March. A list of locations and times for the meetings can be found at <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page?id=850>.

Those who wish to give input to the proposed changes should certainly get

involved. We must stay involved in these political conversations and often must invite ourselves.

When I attended the NCTE 96th Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, in mid November, I participated on a program panel, and I also got to rub shoulders with authors and teachers from across the U.S. Attending a convention of this magnitude—more than 7,000 participants—is nothing short of amazing. My Oregon colleagues included several OCTE officers and members of the Executive Board, including Joanne Yatvin, NCTE President, who chaired the conference. She is also an executive board member of OCTE, so we admire Joanne in action with NCTE and then sit down with her at home. We are fortunate to have her here in Oregon.

The NCTE 96th Annual Convention reminded me of why I love my work. At one point in Nashville, some colleagues and I sat around a table; there we were, books all over the place, wiping our eyeglasses clean and sipping iced tea. I flashed back to a presentation given by Sherman Alexie. He was keynoting an OCTE Convention,

and jesting good-humoredly about English Teachers, unkempt, near-sighted creatures that we can be. He had been attracted to his wife, a bibliophile herself, when she dropped her book bag and his eyes immediately scanned its contents! Nashville, Tennessee, was the perfect venue for all of us: hospitable, unique, and believe me—plenty of books. Thank you to the Tennessee Council of Teachers of English for their wonderful efforts in association with NCTE.

Looking ahead a bit, the NCTE 97th Annual Convention for 2007 will be held in the Big Apple! Visit the NCTE website and stay posted. In the meantime, see the information about our OCTE Conference slated for April 27-28 in Ashland, Oregon. Enjoy your reading, relish your writing, and savor your students, and Happy New Year to every one of you. ■



[Editor's Note: Joanne Yatvin, NCTE President and 2006 Program Chair for NCTE Annual Convention, held in Nashville, Tennessee, submitted this document for publication in Chalkboard. Educators are encouraged to access the NCTE website to stay current with political news, trends, and research related to teaching. These recommendations are published there as well.]

NCLB RECOMMENDATIONS

Approved by the NCTE Executive Committee, November 15, 2006

THE 50,000 MEMBERS of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) affirm the principles of educational equity that shape No Child Left Behind (NCLB). NCTE members are dedicated to closing the achievement gap through accountability, flexibility, and high quality instruction. Although the implementation of NCLB legislation has not always led to the desired ends, we believe that full funding and changes in the law could yield more positive results. Therefore, NCTE recommends that the following changes be made in NCLB through the 2007 reauthorization process:

1. Multiple assessments are needed for an accurate portrait of the academic achievement of all students. No single test can provide an accurate portrait of students and schools. Smarter, more nuanced assessments can provide better information on achievement without increasing the testing burden and wasting valuable instructional time. Accordingly, NCTE recommends that multiple assessments be used to determine student and school progress and that assessment data be made available to teachers in a timely fashion so they can use it to shape instruction.
2. Teacher quality is an important factor in enhancing learning. NCTE recommends increasing federal funding for capacity building in schools and districts. Title II funds need to be set aside for the on-going professional development of educators, not merely for class size reduction (the focus of most current spending).
3. High-need students should have the best prepared and most experienced teachers. Unfortunately, the least prepared and least experienced teachers are disproportionately assigned to schools with the greatest need for expert literacy instruction. NCTE, therefore, recommends that federal programs be designed to support highly prepared, experienced teachers in schools with the greatest number of high-need students. In addition, providers of supplementary services should also be highly prepared teachers.
4. Reading First, as the report of the Office of Inspector General in the U.S. Department of Education shows, has been riddled with ethical and legal violations which excluded many researchers from the grants evaluation process. To improve the reliability of grant review, NCTE urges that an objective peer review system

be adopted that empowers independent panels of scholars representing multiple perspectives to make recommendations on the basis of observable data.

Re-examining the definition of "scientifically based reading research" under NCLB will improve the coherence and impact of the bill. NCTE recommends a definition that aligns with that of the National Research Council, emphasizing peer review and multiple methodologies. Finally, as required by law, rigorous research on the impacts of Reading First should be conducted.

The Oregon Council of Teachers of English has been named the 2006 winner of the Affiliate **Multicultural Program Award** by the National Council of Teachers of English: The review committee was impressed by the efforts made by OCTE

Keyboarding Timesavers

Karen K. Johnson, Fowler Middle School, Tigard, Oregon

AS IN THE LAST ISSUE, this column is all about time-saving keyboarding shortcuts.

These are for PCs; if you use a Mac, the following link has shortcuts you can use: <http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=75459>

Selecting and highlighting text

There are many ways to do this besides the most common one of left clicking and holding while moving the cursor over the text. To select everything on a page, click control and <a> simultaneously. To select

just one word, double click on that word. Triple clicking selects an entire paragraph.

Holding the shift key and moving the cursor with the arrow keys (or the home/end keys) is a way to select text without using your mouse. When selecting more than a paragraph but less than the entire page, you can choose what you want by:

1. Put the cursor at the beginning of the selection and left click
2. Move the cursor to the end of the selection and hold the shift key while you left click. This will highlight all the text between the two.

To alternate between two open items on your computer, press and hold the <alt> key then the <tab> key. Doing it again toggles it back to the first open item.

Clicking the Windows key opens up the <start> list. Following that with a <P> opens the programs list, <C> opens the search functions list, and <U> brings up the shut down (log off) list.

More next time!

—kjohnson1@ttsd.k12.or.us



CHALKDUST

A WRITING ACHIEVEMENT Award winner recently wrote: "Thank you so very much for awarding me a scholarship this year! I hope to some day become an Oregon English teacher and this scholarship can truly help me achieve this dream next year at UC Berkeley. Sincerely, Hannah Liziu-Katzen, Benson High School 2006, UC Berkeley 2010."

We've received notification from NCTE that "Teachers Matter," the Spring 2006 issue of the *Oregon English Journal*, has been approved for **national promotion** through NCTE, our 17th issue so honored. Congratulations to the 25 people who wrote articles, plus the seven poets for their contributions about their wonderful, terrible, inscrutable, and always influential teachers! This has been one of the most engaging issues of the journal.

The Oregon Council of Teachers of English has been named the 2006 winner of the Affiliate **Multicultural Program Award** by the National Council of Teachers of English: The review committee was impressed by the efforts made by OCTE

to celebrate and encourage diversity among English language arts teachers. Your affiliate will be honored at the NCTE Annual Convention in Nashville. The materials your affiliate submitted will be on display at the Affiliate Booth in the Exhibit Hall. An award certificate will be presented at the Affiliate Breakfast, and information on your winning program will be printed in the breakfast program. John Scanlan, OCTE President-Elect, accepted the award at the breakfast program.

Debra Groves-Harman, Canby High School Language Arts Teacher and Chalkboard Editor, received a Leadership Award from NCTE at the 96th Annual Convention. The award included a \$500.00 stipend.

Executive Board member **Karen Johnson** has agreed to become the OCTE website administrator, with Nick Viani staying on as consultant.

Long-time friend and helper of OCTE, **Barbara Wiegele**, has accepted the position of Executive Assistant; she will be working closely with members of the Executive Committee.

Julie Inada (Ashland school district) has joined the OCTE Executive Board, and attended the December 2 board meeting at PSU.

Do students at your high school produce a literary magazine? If so, check out the Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines (**PRESLM**), sponsored by NCTE. Your students can enter their work for evaluation and national recognition. For more information, e-mail Debra Groves-Harman, Editor, at harmand@canby.k12.or.us

The 23rd annual **Oregon Writing Festival** for students in grades 4-12 is scheduled for April 21, 2007. Get this on your calendar and register students for this event, held at Portland State University and co-sponsored by OCTE. **Deborah Hopkinson, Chris Crutcher, and Barbara Drake** will be keynote speakers. Many opportunities are available for teachers and other helpers too.

Contact Barbara Wiegele, Registrar, at bjwiegele@aol.com



Calendars

A Calendar of Writers

by James Dott



JANUARY

- 1 J.D. Salinger born 1919, American fiction writer
- 5 Umberto Eco born 1932, Italian novelist and critic
- 6 Kahlil Gibran born 1883, Lebanese poet
- 17 Anne Bronte (aka Acton Bell) born 1820, English novelist
- 25 Gloria Naylor born 1950, African-American fiction writer
- 28 Collette born 1873, French short story writer
- 31 Oe Kenzaburo born 1935, Japanese novelist

FEBRUARY

- 1 Galway Kinnell born 1927, American poet
- 7 Charles Dickens born 1812, English fiction writer
- Laura Ingalls Wilder born 1867, American children's author
- Sinclair Lewis born 1885, American novelist and social critic
- 18 Sholem Aleichem born 1859, Ukrainian-American Yiddish author
- 19 Amy Tan born 1952, Chinese-American fiction writer
- 24 Wilhelm Karl Grimm born 1786, German librarian and collector of folktales

MARCH

- 3 Patricia MacLachlan born 1938, American children's author
- 12 Virginia Hamilton born 1936, African-American novelist and children's author
- 16 Cesar Vallejo born 1892, Peruvian poet
- 20 Henrik Ibsen born 1828, Norwegian playwright
- Lois Lowry born 1937, American children's author
- 26 Gregory Corso born 1930, American poet
- 28 Nikolai Vasilievich Gogol born 1809, Russian novelist, born in the Ukraine

OCTE CALENDAR

February 2007

- 1 Oregon English Journal manuscript deadline. Theme: "Increasing Instruction in Non-fiction"

April 2007

- 13 Pre-registration deadline for 2007 OCTE Spring Conference in Ashland
- 21 Oregon Writing Festival at Portland State University
- 27 2007 OCTE Spring Conference begins. Conference ends April 28. Stevenson Union building, Southern Oregon University



Conference News



John Scanlan, OCTE President-elect, receives a Multicultural Award for OCTE at the NCTE Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.



Debra Groves-Harman receives a NCTE/Pearson Prentice Hall Leadership Award at the NCTE Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.



Joanne Yatvin, NCTE President, chaired the NCTE Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.