

Chalkboard

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-Fall Conference Recap:



Notes from a Presenter-Participant, by Delana Heidrich

I was privileged to participate in OCTE's 2018 fall conference in October as both a participant and a presenter, and greatly enjoyed both experiences. The conference itself radiated an infectious energy and positive vibe that reinvigorated me as a learner and a teacher. The workshop I presented on educational philosophies yielded an enlightened discussion by astute participants on what it means to teach and learn. The break-out sessions I attended as a participant offered enough practical ideas that I spent the next weekend reworking upcoming units in three separate classes. My creative writing class is about to write poems that celebrate, excavate, and talk back. My composition class will be looking at the subtext in cartoons before developing their own conclusions based on the photos and big data presented on the Dollar Street website. My English III class will be using an emerging theme wall to keep track of thematic developments in Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. Perhaps best of all, I gained two new email buddies with whom to share successes and challenges from now until April when the Spring Conference in April in Corvallis promises to rejuvenate me yet again in preparation for that last lap that will take us all into the summer when we can flesh out all of our great new ideas even more.

Notes from a Presenter-Participant, by Lynette Gottlieb

In math, a Golden Rule is "show your work!" But I feel that as English teachers, it's important that we too show our work and participate in community with one another. When I show my work (this time around, recent lessons and activities I developed in my teaching of *Othello* for the first time) it is a self-imposed capstone project, where I demonstrate my own learning and encourage others to adapt my materials as they see fit for their own students. It is this spirit of "showing our work" and the overarching generosity in the sharing of ideas that I so appreciate about the OCTE conferences.

This time I attended several meaningful presentations and have benefited from the sharing of others. I enjoyed the elementary-oriented activities in learning that "Roses are Not Always Red" from Karin Kayfes. On return to my school I attended our K-4 team meeting to pass them on. Upon hearing from our keynote Linda Christensen, I felt reaffirmed in reading aloud *Inside Out and Back Again*-- a poetry-novel which poignantly documents a Vietnamese girl's immigration experience-- to my 6th-graders. I hope this poetry collection will urge them to develop empathy and compassion for those who come to the USA from beloved but dangerous homelands.

Oregon Spirit Book Award Winners (2017)

We were pleased to grant these OSBAs at the Fall Conference:

- *Giant Pants* by Mark Fearing (Picture Book)
- *Snow & Rose* by Emily Winfield Martin (Middle Reader)
- *Star Scouts* by Mike Lawrence (Graphic Novel)

- *The Tragically True Adventures of Kit Donovan* by Patricia Bailey (Debut)
- *This Mortal Coil* by Emily Suvada (Young Adult)



Thinking Ahead to Houston and Thinking Back to St. Louis: NCTE Conferences 2018 and 2017, by Laurie Daugherty, President, OCTE

NCTE's annual convention will be in Houston, Texas this year on November 15-18. With the theme of *Raising Student Voice*, it will feature speakers Marley Dias, Sharon Draper, Xiuhtezcatl Martinez and Loren Long. The convention is an opportunity to inspire your practice and rejuvenate your teaching.

Last November, I was able to attend the NCTE convention in St. Louis, Missouri for my first time. Yep, I was a newbie, tabbed program in hand and ready to immerse myself in everything the convention had to offer. From the outset, NCTE President Jocelyn Chadwick with her convention theme, *Teaching our Students Today, Tomorrow, Forever*, called us to "reassert our identity, to recapture our voices and agency." From workshops and round tables to presentations, student voice and agency were promoted. I was poised to dive in!

The schedule was filled with high quality presentations by authors and literacy leaders from around the country. There were so many choices, that I ended up staying at the convention hall from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm every day. I filled a journal with ideas and inspiring quotes from Penny Kittle, Laurie Halse Anderson, Kelly Gallagher, Kylee Beers, Robert Probst, Linda Rief, Smokey Danielson, Stephanie Harvey, and so many others.

As if that weren't enough, I could have spent an entire day in the exhibit hall, where publishers were offering author signings and giving away free books. Scholastic hosted a full Thanksgiving dinner and the next morning, an author breakfast with readings by six Scholastic authors, including stacks of their books on our chairs. Fortunately, I had packed an extra bag in my suitcase. To the delight of my eighth grade students, I ended up bringing home two bags filled with YA titles.

In addition to wonderful workshops by leaders in our field, the keynote speakers were inspirational and challenging. Engineer and NASA Astronaut Leland Melvin shared the power and influence of educators in

his life and his mission to develop the nation's 5-year STEM education plan. With personal insights, author Jacqueline Woodson illuminated the pivotal time in our students' lives between childhood and adulthood. Finally, through a conversation with students, graphic artist Gareth Hinds shared his work to make canonical works accessible for all readers as graphic novels.

At the Affiliate Roundtable Breakfast, Rick Hardt, Karen Johnson, and I were able to accept awards on behalf of OCTE. Our affiliate was recognized with awards for Affiliate Website of Excellence Award (edited by Jenny Gapp) and the Affiliate Newsletter of Excellence Award (edited by Peter Thacker), and Affiliate Journal of Excellence Award (edited by Peter Thacker).

It was an honor to be a part of the Oregon delegation to the convention. Attending the convention was an opportunity to work toward moving our organization forward and to demonstrate our commitment to our students and to our profession. If you've never attended the Annual Convention of NCTE, I encourage you to consider the opportunity next year, in Baltimore, Maryland.

National Gallery of Art Resources for Teachers, *Uncovering America*, by Donna Sheets-Matthew

OCTE would like to share with teachers a resource for using art in the classroom. The National Gallery of Art in Washington DC has created materials to explore diversity in the American experience and to engage students in critical thinking. Their project, [Uncovering America](#), uses artwork to examine topics such as immigration, the environment, protest, and expression of the individual. NGA wants feedback on their materials and encourages teachers to share how they use this curriculum in their classrooms. OCTE would also like to hear from you. If you've created or plan to create NGA projects, let us know, and we'll highlight selected submissions in an upcoming issue of *Chalkboard*.

Need some support for your classroom practice?

OCTE offers grants (annually) to assist teachers in the classroom. Grants of \$150 - \$300 are available to develop curriculum, purchase materials, or otherwise enhance instruction in language arts/literacy, with a focus on social justice. Submit grant applications (online only) before February 15, 2019. Recipient decisions will be made by March 15, 2019. online: <https://octe.wufoo.com/forms/r7x3q1/> Checks are dispersed at the Spring Conference and registration for that event is covered for grant recipients.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be an OCTE member.
- Submission of receipts.

-Presentation of completed grant project at a future OCTE conference.

Inquiries: Kimberly Campbell, kimberly@lclark.edu

Save the Date!



OCTE Spring Conference, April 13, 2019
Ashbrook Independent School, Corvallis, OR

Keynote Speaker: [George Estreich](#), author of *The Shape of the Eye*, Penguin/Random House (2013) and *Fables and Futures*, MIT Press (2019).

FABLES AND FUTURES



BIOTECHNOLOGY, DISABILITY,
AND THE
STORIES WE TELL OURSELVES

GEORGE ESTREICH

Keynote speaker and workshop leader George Estreich's book will be published just before our OCTE Spring Conference. Estreich blends personal narrative and scholarship to discuss disability and narratives of technology. He considers the place of people with disabilities in an able-oriented world, the echoes of eugenic history, and the equation of intellect

and human value. A personable writer, scholar, teacher, and active Corvallis community member, Estreich will lead us in taking a look at the stories we tell ourselves about disability. As OCTE educators with a responsibility to all children, Estreich will help us bring to the classroom an imagining of the world where belonging is as broad as possible. *The Shape of the Eye* and *Fables and Futures* will be available for purchase and signing from an independent Corvallis bookstore at the conference. Hope to see you there!

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