



Or'aster

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Fall 2002



**Northeast Region TYCA Conference
Portland, Maine
October 10-12, 2002
"The Learner at the Center"**

This year's TYCA Northeast Conference begins on October 10, 2002—less than a month away! If you haven't made your travel plans and your room reservation, do it today—fall is a busy month in Maine. (See the information about alternate accommodations elsewhere in this issue.)

The conference theme, "The Learner at the Center" identifies the essence of our work as educators. The conference events will address ways in which we can put learners at the heart of what we do, and how we, as learners ourselves, can enhance our own work. "Students," "kids," "pupils" may sit in those chairs, with learning as their goal and teaching as our challenge. We'll talk, laugh, and learn from each other.

Thursday's activities begin with registration starting at 2pm. The afternoon can be spent touring the Longfellow House (as in Henry Wadsworth), and the Victoria Mansion, both within very easy walking distance of the hotel. Check the registration desk for departure time. Or, tour the Portland Museum of Art on your own. Or, visit the Portland Market, shop in the Old Port, or even take a cruise on Casco Bay. Enjoy a delectable dinner in one of Portland's many restaurants, but hold the dessert!

The evening reception begins back at the hotel at 7:30 with desserts, fruits and wine. The evening program features award-winning storyteller and performer Susan Poulin, a Maine native, who brings to the stage *Ida*, a woman of incomparable wit and wisdom. Following the performance will be an informal discussion of how *Ida* was born and what continues to give her life on the stage.

Friday and Saturday workshops and speakers are detailed elsewhere in this issue. The Friday luncheon speaker is Wesley McNair, who will address the conference after lunch. As a special addition to this year's program, featured poet Wes McNair will join the Poetry Roundtable. Bring your original poetry, and be ready for reading and discussion.

Exhibitors' booths will be open all day. In the evening, the sponsoring campuses have organized hosted dinners at a variety of restaurants. Because many of Portland's restaurants are small, most of the groups will be fewer than 10. Menus and sign-up sheets are available at the registration table.

Saturday morning focuses on our development as professionals, and includes several focused workshop sessions from 9-11. The choices:

- Creative Nonfiction, with featured speaker Bill Roorbach
- Publishing an Article in Teaching English in the Two-Year College: A Conversation with the Editor of TETYC, Howard Tinberg, Editor, TETYC. This workshop has two parts: one will involve a description of the process by which an article is submitted, reviewed, revised, and accepted at TETYC; the other a conversation regarding projects on which participants are currently working

Portland, Maine 2002

- Presenting at National Conferences: How to Get There and Be a Success, T. Ella Strother, TYCA National Representative. Learn the process and the criteria by which proposals are accepted, as well as winning presentation techniques to ensure a successful session.
- TYCA Q&A, with Paul Bodmer, from TYCA's national office. Find out what TYCA is and does, and how you can be more involved in promoting its mission.
- Faculty development session which includes a panel discussion of issues related to Writing Across the Curriculum as well as tips for publishing a textbook.

Saturday's luncheon will include a short TYCA NE business meeting, followed by a reading and address by featured speaker Bill Roorbach. Bill will be available to sign copies of his books, which will be on sale at that time. And, more door prizes!

In the afternoon, for those of you staying over Saturday night, several events await, all leaving the hotel lobby at 2:30. Stasia Callan, a veteran of the **Peak's Island tour**, will escort a group across Casco Bay to Peak's for a fall foliage island walk. Though it's a short ferry ride, the wind can be brisk, so dress accordingly.

Polly Kaufman, American Studies scholar and professor of US and women's history at the University of Southern Maine, will lead **a walking tour, "Working Women in the Old Port."** Polly is a leading authority on heritage sites for women, and has been principal writer for Boston Women's Heritage Trail, project director for the Portland Women's History Trail, the Brunswick Women's History Trail and the Walking Trail of Women's Statues in Oslo, Norway. She is co-editor of *Her Past Around Us: Interpreting Sites for Women's History*, which will be published next spring by Krieger Publishing. Some of her other books include *National Parks and the Woman's Voice: A History* (UNM Press), and *Women Teachers on the Frontier* (Yale U. Press) about women from New England and up-state New York who went West to teach before the Civil War.

Another option is Freeport--home of LL Bean and many other retail outlets and restaurants. If enough people are interested, we will have a **bus trip to Freeport**, 20 minutes north of Portland, which will return after dinner. To reserve your seat, please sign up at the registration desk and reserve your seat. Price per seat is dependent on the number of passengers.

The final event of the conference weekend is an Old Port Pub Crawl. Portland has more pubs per capita than almost any city in the eastern US, most of them concentrated in the Old Port area, a very short walk from the conference site. A crawl through these pubs will give you a glimpse of Portland's nightlife, a taste of some award-winning microbrews, and a chance to meet the locals. Leading the Crawl are two guys who really know how to have a good time--Jeff Baizley and Wil Libby, both from CMTC.

We look forward to seeing you all there—
Conference Planning Team:



Ethel Bowden and **Lucy Coombs**, Conference Co-Chairs, Central Maine Technical College
Dianne Fallon, York County Technical College
Miriam Gregg and **Karen Farrell**, Northern Maine Technical College

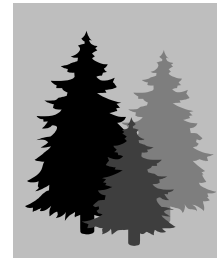
Portland, Maine 2002

TYCA 2002 Conference Schedule**Thursday Afternoon:**

- Conference Registration 2-8 pm
 Holiday Inn by the Bay, Lobby
- Guided Tours, Longfellow House and Victoria Mansion 2-4:30 pm
 (Walking distance about 5 blocks)
- Dinner on your own
- Welcome Reception, Holiday Inn by the Bay, featuring Maine humorist/story-teller, Susan Poulin, sponsored by MBNA
- Desserts, fruit, wine 7:30-9 pm

Friday:

- Book Publishers' Exhibits will be open 8 am-6 pm
- Conference Sessions
- Session A: 8:30-10
 - Session B: 10:30-11:45
 - Session C: 2:15-3:30
 - Session D: 4-5:30
- Lunch, featuring Maine poet Wesley McNair 12:00-2:00
 Book signing to follow
- Poetry Roundtable, with Wesley McNair—bring your work—Session C
- Hosted Dinners, depart 7:30 from hotel lobby
- Evening Activities on your own

**Saturday:**

- Book Publishers Exhibits will be open 8-12
- Workshops, Session E:
- Publishing your work: with TETYC Editorial Board Members, Facilitated by Howard Tinberg
 - Creative Non-fiction: Bill Roorbach, Saturday's featured writer
 - Effective proposals and presentations for the national conferences: T. Ella Strother, TYCA
 - TYCA Q&A, with Paul Bodmer, from TYCA's national office. Find out what TYCA is and does, and how you can be more involved in promoting its mission.
 - Faculty development session which includes a panel discussion of issues related to Writing Across the Curriculum as well as tips for publishing a textbook.

Lunch, featuring Maine writer Bill Roorbach, 12-2
 Book signing to follow

Afternoon activities include:

- Women's History walking trail, Old Port
- Trip to Freeport, Maine, home of LL Bean
- Ferry visit to Peak's Island in Casco Bay
- Or, get acquainted with Portland on your own

Pub Crawl: Departs lobby at 8 pm. Hosted by Wil Libby and Jeff Baizeley, CMTC

MESSAGE from the TYCA/ Northeast Regional Chair

Dear TYCA Colleagues,
September! Crisp mornings and evenings, flaming foliage, a new academic year-- once again the harbingers of fall also announce our annual TYCA/ Northeast conference.

Portland Conference

This year's host schools, members of the Maine community-technical two-year college system, offer us a stimulating and creatively-organized series of events, at the height of the "leaf-peeping" season in the charming seacoast venue of Portland, Maine. Intellectual challenges, physical activity, or simple relaxation--the Maine conference team promises to satisfy every mood. Moreover, they've strategically positioned the 2002 conference to run from October 10-12, coinciding with the extended Columbus Day holiday weekend.

Since we convened in Washington, D.C. last October, the TYCA Regional Executive Committee has had an especially busy year. Soon after the 2001 meeting, the TYCA REC began its conference preparations for Portland, 2002. At our semi-annual March business meeting, we joined the Maine planning team in Portland, at Holiday-by-the-Bay, the 2002 conference hotel. There REC members sampled the warmth of Maine hospitality and noted the abundant energy, creative vision, and meticulous planning of the Maine conference coalition.

Institutional Sponsors Initiative

During July and August, as REC Chair, I contacted English departments at more than 250 two-year colleges in the Northeast region, inviting them to become TYCA institutional sponsors for the 2002-2003 academic year. Now I ask your help in continuing this outreach program. Please remind your department chair of the unique professional development opportunities TYCA provides for regional English faculty, and urge your college to become an institutional TYCA sponsor this year. Additionally, what better method of illustrating TYCA's merits than to invite your department chair or academic vice-president to accompany you to Portland in October for an "up-close-and-personal" TYCA experience!

TYCA Organizational Objectives

In the past year, TYCA has undertaken a series of initiatives to help us access and serve our members more fully and efficiently:

- Institutional sponsors Bergen Community College and Ocean County College provided funding for our inaugural "TYCA Friday" local-area membership dinner. Held at the Middletown, NJ home of Regional Executive Committee member Sandra Brown, the event featured delicious food and a musical program of poetry by Shakespeare and Dickinson. This first "TYCA Friday" permitted us to meet potential TYCA members from nearby New Jersey community colleges, especially Brookdale, Middlesex, and Hudson.
- Institutional sponsors Cape Cod Community College, the Community College of Rhode Island, and North Shore Community College will host a "TYCA Friday" conference proposal-writing seminar in late Fall, 2002.
- Institutional sponsors Prince George's Community College and the Community College of Allegheny County will host local "TYCA Friday" events in the Maryland and Pittsburgh areas in 2003.
- TYCA/ Northeast is researching the feasibility of a permanent, full-feature website and an online newsletter.

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- TYCA/ Northeast supported a comprehensive regional mailing to publicize the TYCA/ NCTE "Outstanding Programs in English" 2001 awards competition and will once again support this important professional development opportunity in 2002.

TYCA/ Northeast sent a delegate to a national convocation at the headquarters of the National Council of Teachers of English in Summer, 2001, to participate in redefining the status of TYCA regional organizations within the national governance structure. As a result of this meeting, TYCA regionals were given a permanent voting seat on the national executive committee of NCTE.

Call for Volunteers

Finally, TYCA would cease to exist as an organization without a continual infusion of creative ideas, enthusiastic members, and talented leaders. Would you like to become involved at a level that is more challenging and satisfying than simply attending annual conferences? We'd like to welcome you as a state representative or as part of a future conference-planning team. If you want more information about a variety of regional or national professional development opportunities, please email me at jangocc@aol.com, or leave your name, school, and email address at the conference registration desk in October.

I look forward to seeing you in Portland.

Sincerely,
Judy Angona
 TYCA/ Northeast Regional Chair



Maine Highlights

Book Sales & Signing

Wes McNair

Friday, following lunch

Bill Roorbach

Saturday, following lunch

Cash or checks only, please

Friday Morning Break

***Sponsored by
Houghton Mifflin***

Camilla Mahadeo
Representative

Visit the HM exhibit!

Friday Evening Hosted Dinners

Sign up at Registration Table
Departure: 7.30 PM

Saturday Night Old Port Pub Crawl!

Painstakingly researched, the Crawl will take you to some of Portland's most unforgettable night spots. All pubs are within easy walking—or crawling—distance of the Holiday Inn.

From Your Regional Representative to National TYCA

Stasia J. Callan
Monroe Community College

The National TYCA Executive Committee met at CCCC in Chicago, IL, March 22-23, 2002.

We were pleased to learn that Ben Wiley, St. Petersburg Junior College, FL, had received this year's Nell Ann Pickett Service Award for outstanding teaching, vision and voice that have had a major impact on two-year college professionalism. Future nominations for this award can be submitted electronically. The criteria and form will be posted on the NCTE Web Page, TYCA Awards.

Much of the time at the TYCA EC meetings was devoted to other TYCA awards. The Outstanding Programs in English Awards' discussion focused on their winners. They will be invited to present at national conferences. The process for including them in conference programs is still in the planning stages. Also, the winners should be recognized at regional conferences, listed on regional web pages, and in the May issue of the TETYC. The winners of the Outstanding Programs in English Awards should feature their programs in a special Saturday session at CCCC, and they should be honored at the CCCC TYCA Breakfast.

Direct mailing of information about the Outstanding Programs in English Awards is best accomplished through regional colleges' support. The cost for printing the awards' information comes from individual contributions. This year's awards were funded by Barbara Stout, Montgomery College, MD. (Donations to NCTE are charitable contributions.)

The National TYCA EC established a new award. It is the TETYC Best Article Award. It will be administered by a committee of three appointed by the National TYCA Chair, with sensitivity to regional representation. The committee will describe the award for the NCTE/TYCA Web Page, develop its criteria, and select the best TETYC article for 2002-2003.

The Public Image of the Two-year College Committee had its process formalized at this year's meetings. Paul Bodmer stated the role of this committee is similar to the NCTE Double-Speak Committee. Its goal is to raise the public image of the two-year college. The Committee Chair will be elected by the committee and serve a two-year term. He/she will undergo the NCTE media training. The task of the Public Image of the Two-Year College is an on-going research in the media coverage of two-year colleges and awarding the NCTE/TYCA Fame and Shame Awards.

Paul Bodmer, Associate Executive Director at NCTE, introduced a significant change to the election of TYCA Associate Chair. Currently the Associate Chair is elected to serve one year as an in-coming chair, one year as an associate chair, and one year as past chair. To strengthen the organization's consistency, the proposed change includes the following: The in-coming associate chair will serve a two-year term; the associate chair will also serve a two-year term, but the past chair will serve only one year. The proposal will go into effect in Spring, 2003.

The responsibilities of the regional chairs were also reviewed. They should include the task of making sure that there is a TYCA strand in very national conference. There should be TYCA proposals from the regions for at least two panel sessions at CCCC and at least two workshops: TYCA Exemplary Practices on Wednesday and Getting a Job at a two-Year College on Saturday.

The National TYCA EC meetings were facilitated by Frank Madden, the new Associate Chair. The regional representatives filed reports highlighting the activities and accomplishments in their areas.

Stasia Callan can be reached by e-mail at scallan@monroecc.edu.

Mentoring for Beacon, A Conference for Student Scholars at Two-Year Colleges

***Dorothy Altman
Bergen Community College***

At the community college, many of our promising students are the first of their families to attend college. They are often dealing with financial problems, cultural and language differences, and the distractions of job and family obligations; thus, mentoring is especially important in helping high-achieving students acquire the skills, understanding and confidence necessary to succeed in academe and achieve their career goals. One mentoring opportunity that presents itself to community college faculty in the Northeast is Beacon, an annual conference for student scholars at Two-Year Colleges.

Beacon invites submissions of mentored research papers in eighteen different subject areas ranging alphabetically from Allied Health and Nursing to Technology and Technical Studies. The maximum length for each paper is 5000 words (about 20 pages); the panel allows twenty minutes for each student to give an oral presentation and reserves thirty minutes at the end for judge and audience to ask the panelists questions. The deadline is March 1. Three scholars in each area read the papers and decide which will be accepted for each subject panel. The student who presents the outstanding paper in each category is awarded \$100, as is the student's mentor. Beacon 2003 will be held at Ulster Community College (SUNY), Stone Ridge, New York on June 6.

Most of my Beacon scholars have written their papers in my English composition classes, although some students bring me papers they have written for other courses. When I offer to mentor a student for Beacon, I explain that they will be revising, doing additional research, often amplifying their papers and improving organization, style and mechanics. I will assist them by offering suggestions that will help their paper receive a positive evaluation, but the responsibility for the paper is theirs. I may suggest that a topic needs expansion; for example, a 2002 paper about bullying seemed to require exploration of the psychology of the bully as well as that of the victim.

For "The Koran and the Rights of Women," I suggested the student meet with a faculty member whose specialties included world religions and women's studies; her advice and research recommendations greatly enhanced the paper.

A few students take my initial suggestions, disappear for a few weeks and return with a second draft that is virtually ready to mail. More often, they submit multiple drafts and collaborate with me in person or by phone or e-mail. If their paper is accepted, I help them define the type of oral presentation they will give.

The importance of mentoring high-achieving students for Beacon may be best shown by quoting a recent e-mail from a student who attended the conference twice and is now studying at The New School:

I always knew that I could write, but when you came to me and offered to be my mentor [for Beacon], I realized that maybe my talents were greater than I had known. Writing those papers involved everything that I loved. I got to do research and write passionately on subjects that matter and have meaning in the real world. In short, the whole experience helped me to find what I wanted to do with my life.

Maine Conference Highlight

Maine businesses have donated distinctively Maine products that will be displayed in handcrafted potato baskets from Aroostook County. These baskets of goodies will serve as luncheon center pieces throughout the conference and will be given as door prizes—some Friday and some Saturday.

You must be present to win.

Outstanding Programs in English Awards

This award is made possible by the generous contribution of TYCA member Barbara Stout.

The Outstanding Programs in English Awards for Two-Year Teachers and Colleges will be given annually and will honor two-year teachers and their colleges for exemplary programs that enhance students' language learning, helping them to achieve their college, career, and personal goals. The TYCA Awards Committee is seeking submissions for the award to be given in 2003. The colleges selected for the awards (one in each category) and for honorable mention will be honored at the TYCA Breakfast at the CCCC Convention in New York on March 22, 2003.

Applicants must submit a completed submission form, a brief description of their program (60 words or fewer), a narrative of the program (1,000 words or fewer), and a 3½" diskette with the description and narrative. Submission materials must be postmarked by November 11, 2002. More information and the submission form can be obtained from Terrill Martinez, NCTE, 1111 West Kenyon Road, Urbana, IL 61801-1906; phone 800-369-6283, ext. 3613; e-mail: tmartinez@ncte.org.

<http://www.ncte.org/tyca/programaward.shtml>



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TYCA Nor'easter is the newsletter of the Northeast Region of the Two-Year College English Association. It is published twice a year, in the spring and fall, and distributed to TYCA-Northeast members via mail. Unsolicited articles and poems from members are welcome. Please submit work in ***Microsoft Word*** format as an e-mail attachment or on a floppy disk. Send to

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