A New Year, A New Format

Dear AATC Members:

You may notice a change in design for this newsletter and that is because as we move towards utilizing our website www.aatchome.org as a major resource for communication within the organization the role of the newsletter is changing as well—as one senior AATC member stated at our conference in Denver (2011) “I enjoyed the human interest pieces” Towards that end, I have tried to design a newsletter this year that will support that intent.

One of the many exciting endeavors that AATC is exploring is one of Outreach to various communities with which we are affiliated. Efforts in that direction were begun at the Denver conference, as the Outreach committee held open dialogue sessions to examine how we might enrich and strengthen our mission “to promote the scholarly study of teaching and curriculum.”

We look forward to how the organization may decide to blend both excellence in scholarly study and community action. In the coming year!

It reminds me of the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson in The American Scholar: “Action...Without it thought can never ripen into truth.”

2012 Annual Conference: San Antonio, Texas

If your academic life is anything like mine, the calendar lists of “things to get accomplished in 2012” is already filling up, however, somewhere between now and March 15, consider writing a proposal for the 19th AATC Annual Conference in San Antonio. Details: www.aatchome.org

Did you know?: San Antonio is the 7th largest city in the United States (US. Census)

Prior to 1691, native residents of the area called the place: Yanaguana which translates to “refreshing waters”.

San Antonio was later renamed by Catholic missionaries from Spain, in honor of St. Anthony of Padua.
AATC New Member Highlight

Dr. Anita Charles

Institution: Bates College
Lewiston Maine

Currently teaches: Teacher Education Senior Seminar, Early Literacy; Adolescent Literacy, Basic Issues in Special Education; Perspectives on Education

Continuing projects: Literacy outreach work in the local community which include book groups and collaborative digital media projects; Standards-Based Education research in the state of Maine

Current "pleasure" read: A is For... Murder  A mystery series by Sue Grafton. I am currently reading Q is for Quarry.

Favorite Books:
Beloved by Toni Morrison,
Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri,
Shakespeare’s tragedies

Interests/Passions: Adolescent Literacy; Aspergers Professional Development for Teachers; Anything India, and my five children!

Issues and Ideas from the Newsletter Editor

The organization’s mission statement: “To promote the scholarly study of teaching and curriculum”, gives us the beginning point to consider. There is a sustainable body of research that examines action-research/community based model (s) of inquiry and service learning. Perhaps these concepts if applied will guide the organization’s direction. Just recently, I re-read Emerson’s 1837 essay, The American Scholar. Although, not a research study, it is a remarkably relevant statement on the importance of defining ‘the scholar’ as one who is actively aware of the natural world, proficient in the literature, (has knowledge of books and the past, as Emerson puts it) and is active in being a resource to those he/she observes. As Emerson quips, “there is virtue yet (for the scholar) in the hoe and the spade.” The scholarly vocabulary that comprises AATC membership is rich indeed, it is in exploring this dictionary that we might extend our mission and cultivate our organization.

For the past few months, I have been considering, as a number of my AATC colleagues have, the possibility of actions that would blend AATC’s scholarly work with community outreach. AATC would not be the first academic organization to consider these ideas; we can be unique in achieving them.

“If it were only for a vocabulary, the scholar would be covetous of action. Life is our dictionary...” -Emerson

San Antonio Web-links: Teaching, Curriculum, and Community

These web sites include a community profile and the web addresses of universities that offer undergraduate and graduate programs in Education.

Community Profile:

University of Texas, San Antonio
www.utsa.edu

Trinity University
www.trinity.edu

St. Mary’s University
www.stmarytx.edu

Our Lady of the Lake University
www.ollusa.edu

In an effort to extend the collegiality of AATC, consider inviting a faculty member or graduate student you might know to attend the 2012 Conference in San Antonio.

Proposal details: www.aatchome.org
David Kennedy

I am a first year graduate student in the Curriculum and Instruction Program in the Morgridge College of Education, University of Denver, Colorado.

**Teaching Experiences:**

In my previous life before graduate school, I was both a middle school and high school teacher for six years. As a certified special educator in both Florida and Colorado, I have worked extensively with predominantly African American and Hispanic students. In doing so, I realized that the seamless merger of arts in education could bring about a profound change in many of my students. As a result, I developed and taught an elective high school course entitled, Hip Hop & Poetry 101.

**Current research interests:**

Originally from Kingston, Jamaica, I spent my childhood absorbing the sounds of roots, rock steady, dub mixed with reggae, and a touch of rock and R&B. After relocating to Miami, Florida, my sound collection grew to include Hip Hop. It was love at first sight, and my love for music continued to grow alongside my passion for teaching.

In an effort to blend the two, my current research interests include Hip Hop and the arts as it pertains to race and education, and reggae music and poetry as a vehicle for social change and empowerment among disenfranchised youth in the Caribbean. Additionally, I am interested in the exploration of various theories, fields, and philosophies including, but not limited to critical pedagogy, critical race theory, culturally-responsive teaching, comparative literature and Caribbean history and culture.

**A few favored quotes and wisdom:**

“It is better to be hated for what you are than loved for what you are not.”

-Andre Gide

“All children are artists, the problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.”

-Pablo Picasso

**Interests/Passions outside of academic work:**

I have held various titles, which included radio & TV host, playwright, actor, emcee, deejay, writer and poet. All these previous titles culminate into my current role as a hip-hop and reggae music artist. I perform and write my own music and poetry under the name, Coppa Stone, my alter ego.

I am also an on-site mentor/tutor for the Bridge Project here in Denver.
More Information and Details are located at our AATC website

www.aatchome.org

- 19th Annual Conference – Proposals still being accepted!
- AATC Elections
- AATC Awards
- AATC Journal, Curriculum and Teaching Dialogue
- AATC Membership and Officers

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