



**For Immediate Release**

**Instructors' Personal Writing Enhances Their Teaching**

Had you walked toward the usually quiet classrooms in the back of the Library at Penn State Harrisburg this summer, you would have heard discussion and laughter. Had you entered the Capital Area Writing Project's (CAWP) Invitational Summer Institute, you would have felt the excitement and exhilaration produced by area teachers during their four-week seminar about writing and the teaching of writing.

As they began to think about themselves as writers, participants explored how their writing could enhance and transform the ways they teach writing. The selected teachers from across all curricula dedicated hours to reading, researching, thinking, and writing about the practice of teaching writing. They now have new pedagogical methods, for "the CAWP Invitational Summer Institute brings teachers together in a collegial environment that inspires creative writing strategies that engage and energize everyone in the classroom," said Harvey Edwards, Invitational Summer Institute (ISI) instructor and teacher at Selinsgrove Area High School.

For Courtney Moore, English teacher at Big Spring High School, the ISI was "the hardest but most rewarding and purposeful professional development [she has] ever done." She cannot stop gushing about her experience because she learned so much about writing, teaching writing, being a writer, creating writers, and the actual craft of writing.

Roshaye Johnson is anxious to share her collected lessons and activities with her colleagues at Foose Elementary School, Harrisburg. Her face lights up when she thinks of her ISI experience. "Every day I looked forward to embracing my own personal writing so that I could especially be of a better benefit as a teacher," continued Mrs. Johnson as she prepares to teach her fifth-grade students mathematics and language arts.

First grade teachers Amy Fuddy and Beth Brandt will take their experiences back to Cleona Elementary School, where Principal Mary Dague invites them to share writing project concepts with their colleagues. Amy Fuddy said, "I learned many new strategies for teaching writing that I am excited to implement in my classroom this year. I have never been more excited to teach writing!"

"My vision for the writing program at Carlisle Christian Academy was reconfirmed, renewed, rekindled, and reflamed as I worked my way through the ISI this summer," explained Debbie Thomas, Fine Arts Director at the school. "The four weeks I spent with the professors, the books I read for classes, and the assignments I was challenged to teach have all intensified my desire to broaden the teaching of writing to all of my secondary students.

Based on her writing various genre this summer, especially poetry, Sandy Warfield strongly encourages risk-taking on her syllabus for her writing and speaking classes at





