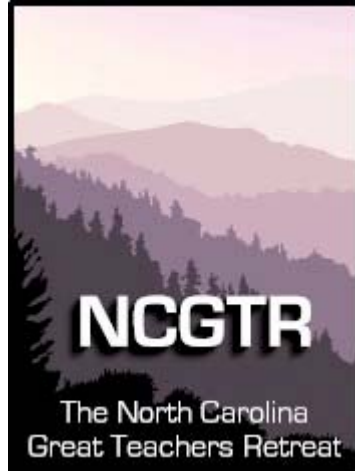


2007 NCGTR Coordinator's Report



***Written & Submitted by Kay S. Crouch
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Coordinator, 2007 North Carolina Great Teachers Retreat***

The 14th Annual North Carolina Great Teachers Retreat (NCGTR) was held February 22rd – 25th at the Kanuga Conference Center near Hendersonville, North Carolina. Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute sponsored this professional development event for NC community college faculty statewide.

SEMINAR LEADERS AND PARTICIPANTS

David Gottshall, retired faculty member from the College of DuPage in Illinois and founder of the Great Teachers Movement, was the retreat Director. Additionally, Kay Crouch, director of the music program at Caldwell Community College and Technical institute, performed duties as NCGTR Coordinator. Assisting David were North Carolina community college faculty members (and NCGTR Staff) Marilyn Linney, (Guilford Technical Community College, Accounting), Ellen Bland (Central Carolina Community College, Communication/Theatre), Jan Graham, (Mayland Community College, Developmental Reading), Dr. Bill McDaniel (Western Carolina University, Engineering), and Jason Earnhardt (Cape Fear Community College, Communication).

DEMOGRAPHICS

Forty-three (43) faculty members representing fifteen community colleges and one university participated in the retreat. The range of experience included first year faculty to those with nearly thirty years of experience. Disciplines from many areas of the college were represented, including Basic Skills, English, Cosmetology, Computer Information Technology, History, Electronics, Developmental English, Sociology, Accounting, Communications, Humanities, Spanish, English as a Second Language, Biology, Nursing, Graphics, Math, Computer Programming, Medical Assistants, Industrial Design, Anatomy and Physiology, and Business.

The following North Carolina community colleges were represented at the retreat: Cape Fear, Catawba Valley, Guilford, Halifax, Isothermal, Lenoir, Piedmont, Wake, Wilkes, Asheville-Buncombe, Central Piedmont, Coastal Carolina, Haywood, Mayland, Rowan Cabarrus as well as Southwestern Illinois College.

SCHEDULE AND ACTIVITIES

The NCGTR opened Thursday evening with an introduction to the retreat history, purpose and philosophy. The participants introduced one another, avoiding mention of their college, discipline, and/or teaching field.

Friday morning was devoted to small group discussions of the innovation papers prepared by participants, and Friday afternoon focused on discussions of the educational problems and problem solving. The “tricks of the trade” were presented in a large group session on Friday evening.

During the small group discussions on Friday, the retreat staff identified topics in which there was a great deal of interest. On Saturday morning, participants reviewed the list of topics and voted on those they wished to discuss further. The selections included the following:

- Student Responsibility in the Learning Process
- Read This. No, Really.
- Deep, Not Wide
- Improving Online Learning
- Motivating Students
- Teaching Thinking

The topic sessions were held on Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon was an opportunity for participants to individualize the retreat—some reviewed their notes and reflected on their learning, while others gathered together in special interest sessions. Some hiked around the Kanuga Conference Center while

others visited the Carl Sandburg Home, the Biltmore Estate, or other local sites in and around the Asheville/ Hendersonville area.

Saturday evening's session focused on three faculty who were new to teaching. Participants shared their thoughts and advice for successful teaching and responded to questions from those new to classroom teaching. An innovative classroom "sorting" technique was demonstrated and afterwards, participants enjoyed a social event with music performed by the instructors themselves.

Sunday morning closed the seminar with group presentations on the nature of "The Great Teacher"—all of which were profound representations of the art and spirit of teaching. The final closing circle gave each person an opportunity to express what he or she was taking home from the seminar as well as sharing profound or meaningful thoughts from books participants brought.

In addition to the structured retreat activities, participants found time to share ideas and thoughts during meals, early morning walks around the wooded grounds of the retreat center, and late night discussions. Many participants stretched themselves through new activities of various kinds.

INSPIRATIONAL BOOKS

The following books were available throughout the retreat period (browsing library) for perusal by participants and were furnished by the participants as part of the retreat format. On Sunday morning, participants had the opportunity to read an excerpt as desired.

1. *McKeachie's Teaching Tips*. Wilbert J. McKeachie, ISBN: 0-618-11649-4
2. *ZEN and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*. Robert M. Pirsig. ISBN: 13:978-0-06-058946-2
3. *Promoting Active Learning*. Chet Meyers. ISBN: 1-55542-524-0
4. *The Rules of Work*. Richard Templar. ISBN: 0-13-185838-6

5. *A Life in School: What the Teacher Learned.* Jane Tompkins. ISBN: 0-201-91212-0
6. *Teaching Across the Curriculum.* Vincent Ryan Ruggiero. ISBN: 0-06-045667-1
7. *Who Moved My Cheese.* Spencer Johnson, MD. ISBN: not listed
(www.whomovedmycheese.com)
8. *Tuesdays With Morrie.* Mitch Albom. ISBN: 0-38548451-8
9. *The Winning Attitude: Your Key to Personal Success.* John C. Maxwell. ISBN: 0-8407-4377-7
10. *Boy Scout Handbook*, June 1954. Call Dave Billings!
11. *Preventing Death by Lecture.* Sharon Bowman. ISBN: 0-9656851-5-2
12. *A Community of Writers.* Steven Zeman / Harvey Daniels. ISBN: 0-435-08463-1
13. *The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life.* Parker Palmer. ISBN: 0-7879-1058-9
14. *Lies My Teacher Told Me.* James W. Loewen. ISBN: 1-56584-100-X
15. *Small Groups in Writing Workshops: Invitations to a Writer's Life.* Robert Brooke, et.al. ISBN: 0-8141-4483-7
16. *The St. Martin's Guide to Teaching Writing.* 3rd Edition. Robert Connors, Cheryl Glenn. ISBN: 0-312-10349-2
17. *If You Don't Feed the Teachers They Eat the Students!* Neila A. Connors. ISBN: 0-86530-457-2
18. *Attention Deficit Disorder in Adults: Practical Help and Understanding.* Dr. Lynn Weiss. ISBN: 0-87833-980-9
19. *Facing Your Giants.* Max Lucado. ISBN: 0-8499-0181-2
20. *There's a Spiritual Solution to Every Problem.* Wayne W. Dyer. ISBN: 0-06-019230-5
21. *The Hog Farm Chronicles.* C. Allen Powell. Library of Congress 99-93341
22. *The Art of 3D Computer Animation and Effects.* Isaac V. Kerlow. ISBN: 0-471-43036-8

23. *The Thinker's Guide to Fallacies: The Art of Mental Trickery & Manipulation*. Not listed. www.criticalthinking.org
24. *Enhancing Adult Motivation to Learn*. Raymond J. Woldkowski. ISBN: 0-7879-0360-4
25. *When I'm On My Knees*. Anita Corrine Donihue. ISBN: 1-55748-976-9
26. *On Course: Strategies for Creating Success in College and in Life*. Skip Downing. ISBN: 0-618-37977-0
27. *Cooperation in the Classroom*. David W. Johnson, et al. ISBN: 0-939603-04-7
28. *Fish! A Remarkable Way to Boost Morale and Improve Results*. Steven C. Lundin, et al. ISBN: 0-7868-6602
29. *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*. Edith Hamilton. ISBN: Not listed. Mentor Books
30. *Six Not-So-Easy Pieces*. Richard P. Feynman. ISBN: 0-201-15025-5
31. *Quantum Success*. Sandra Anne Taylor. ISBN: 978-1-4019-0732-7
32. *The Excellent 11*. Ron Clark. ISBN: 1-4013-0141-X
33. *Animal Farm*. George Orwell. ISBN: Not listed. Harcourt, Brace, and Company
34. *Systematic Assessment of Learning Outcomes: Developing Multiple-Choice Exams*. Mary E. McDonald. ISBN: 0-7637-1174-8

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