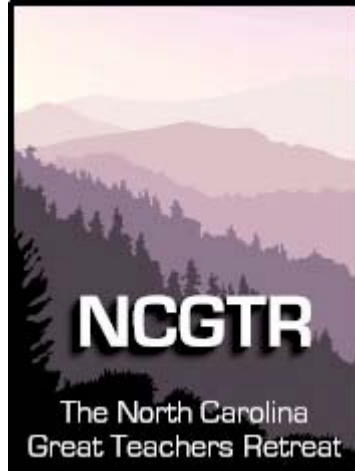


2008 NCGTR

Coordinator's

Report



Written & Submitted by Kay S. Crouch
Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute
Coordinator, 2008 North Carolina Great Teachers Retreat

The 15th Annual North Carolina Great Teachers Retreat (NCGTR) was held February 21st – 24th 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 Steve Smith (Chief Deputy, Scotland County Sheriff's Office).

DEMOGRAPHICS

Thirty-one (31) faculty members representing seventeen community colleges from four states (NC, WV, FL, HI) 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 English, Computer Information Technology, Electronics Engineering Technology, Developmental English, Sociology, Accounting, Communication, Humanities, Spanish, English as a Second Language, Nursing, Mathematics, Religion, Culinary Arts, Chemistry, Sustainable Agriculture, Hotel and Restaurant Management, Music, and Business Administration.

The following North Carolina community colleges were represented at the retreat: Cape Fear, Craven, Davidson County, Central Carolina, Isothermal, Piedmont, Wake, South Piedmont, Pitt, Sandhills, Wilkes, Asheville-Buncombe, Coastal Carolina, Mayland. Participants also came from Valencia Community College in Orlando, FL, Blue Ridge Technical Community College in Martinsburg, WV, and Hawaii Community College in Hilo, HI.

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:

- If I’m Talking, I’m Not Listening
- Fun and Games
- 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. *Invitational Education* - John Novak and William Purkey – 0-87367-688-2
2. *Everyday Mind: 366 Reflections on the Buddhist Past* – Ed. Jean Smith –
1-57322-633-5
3. *The Relaxed Home School: A Family Production* – Mary Hood –
0-9639740-0-9

4. *Ishmael: An Adventure of the Mind and Spirit* – Daniel Quinn –
0-553-37540-7
5. *Mars and Venus on a Date* – John Gray – 0-06-017472-2
6. *Becoming the Totally Responsible Person – Enhancing Personal Success*
www.trpnet.com
7. *Creative Growth Games* – Eugene Randsepp – 0-399-50415-X
8. *Writing Down the Bones* – Natalie Goldberg – 0-87773-375-9
9. *Teaching the Bible* – ed. Mark Roncace, Patrick Gray – 978-1-58983-171-1
10. *The Neglected Majority* – Dale Parnell – 0-87117-154-6
11. *McKeachie's Teaching Tips*, 11th ed. – Wilbert McKeachie – 0-618-11647-4
12. *The Artist's Way – A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity* – Julia Cameron –
1-58542-1464
13. *Up the Down Staircase* – Bel Kaufman – Library of Congress # 64-24258
14. *The Art of Learning* – Josh Waitzkin – 0-7432-7745-7
15. *What the Best College Teachers Do* – Ken Bain – 0-674-01321-5
16. *The Four Agreements* – Don Miguel Ruiz – 1-878424-31-9
17. *Chicken Soup for the Teacher's Soul* – ed. Jack Canfield and Mark Hanson
0-439-45806-4
18. *147 Practical Tips for Teaching Professors* – ed. Robert Magnan, 1990 –
Atwood Publications
19. *The Lexus and the Olive Tree* – Thomas L. Friedman – 0-385-49934-5
20. *That's Not What I Meant!: How Conversational Style Makes or Breaks
Relationships* – Deborah Tannen – 0-345-34090-6
21. *Oops! I Won Too Much Money – Winning Wisdom from the Boardroom to
the Poker Table* - Tom Schneider – 1-933285-38-9
22. *Lessons in Excellence from Charlie Trotter* – Paul Clarke
www.tenspeed.com

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