

# NEWSLETTER

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ILLINOIS ENGLISH BULLETIN

IATE NEWSLETTER

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Illinois Association of Teachers of English

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#### ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

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IATE is a professional organization for teachers of English/language arts. IATE publishes the *IATE Newsletter* and the *Illinois English Bulletin* and hosts an annual fall conference. IATE is organized by districts throughout the state, each district having a district leader and providing local activities to members throughout the year.

IATE also maintains standing committees that address a number of professional interests and works with other professional organizations to further the interests of teachers. Composed of nearly 1,000 teachers throughout the state, IATE provides a working network for the exchange of teaching tips, current research, and professional development as well as enduring friendships.

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#### PUBLICATION INFORMATION

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The *IATE Newsletter* is an official publication of the Illinois Association of Teachers of English, Inc. Published two times a year by IATE. Member: NCTE Information Exchange Agreement.

The *IATE Newsletter* and the *Illinois English Bulletin* are produced at the Publications Unit of Illinois State University's Department of English.

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#### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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Manuscripts should usually range in length from 500 to 2500 words (roughly two to ten typed, double-spaced pages). Query about longer manuscripts before you submit them.

If possible, submit your article electronically in Rich Text Format (.rtf) as an e-mail attachment. Alternatively, you may submit your article in hard copy (x3) to the editor's address (see above). Follow current MLA style—including documentation of references and using internal citations wherever possible.

Avoid lengthy notes and references.

Follow the NCTE guidelines for nonsexist use of language.

Include a separate title page with the following information: title of submission, author's name, author's professional affiliation, author's address, and author's telephone number.

Include a cover letter summarizing the article and stating that the work has neither been published nor submitted elsewhere.

The editors will acknowledge receipt of your manuscript and may make minor changes (for clarity, length, or language) in the manuscript without notifying you.

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#### IATE OFFICERS

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<b>Barb Chidley</b>	President
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<b>Janice Neuleib</b>	Executive Secretary
<b>Deborah Will</b>	District Leader Coordinator

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

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JANICE NEULEIB



The two November conferences, the National Writing Project (NWP) and the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), were exciting and fulfilling. I should say at first, though, that the NWP conference was sad because the leaders had just heard that their grant proposal for federal funding for 2019–2020 had not been funded. Until eight years ago, the NWP was funded as an earmark. All earmarks were removed from federal funding, and the former grants under that umbrella had to be submitted as new grants. This time the NWP was refused. The group is working hard on other funding, and the activities were all about writing as always, but those of you in both the Illinois Associate of Teachers of English (IATE) and the NWP may want to get out there and help the NWP return to funding.

At the annual NCTE convention, a variety of amazing speakers gave some new perspectives on reading and writing, especially novelist Jacqueline Woodson and astronaut/Associate Administrator for Education at NASA, Leland Melvin. These two plenary speakers amazed huge audiences

with extremely dynamic presentations. Both spoke for over an hour, in perhaps the best presentations I've seen in my forty years of attending NCTE. We also had great Affiliate meetings, with a sad but lovely send-off into retirement for our own Claire Lamonica at the Affiliate Breakfast and a round table workshop led by our own Cheryl Simonds. Next year, the NCTE will be in Houston, and the Writing Project sessions will be a strand of NCTE. So send in a proposal for one or both!

As usual, let us all thank our wonderful Program Chair, Bill Curtin, for the fall IATE conference in Normal. The conference ran like clockwork; sessions were amazing (at least I went to amazing sessions); we all listened, talked, wrote, and smiled. My dear friend Doug Hesse was the final keynote speaker, so I want to personally thank Bill Curtin for bringing Doug to town. I also want to thank Doug and the other speakers for their fine sessions.

The Executive Committee is planning a retreat in early January (by the time you read this note, it will likely have happened) so that we can renew our goals, find new directions if needed, and get ready for the coming year's work. Please do give us any suggestions for the coming year's work, even if it's after January 2018.

Thanks! ✍

## 2017 CONFERENCE REPORT

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BILL CURTIN

On October 20, teachers of English from across the state gathered in Normal for our 110th Illinois Association of Teachers of English (IATE) annual fall conference. This year's theme encouraged us to RE-imagine our practice and our profession; not starting over from scratch, but as part of a process of continual improvement. Many of our presenters

and speakers encouraged us to push beyond our present practice and seek new ways to reach our students. The conference kicked off with the 2012–2013 Illinois Teacher of the Year Brian Curtin, who challenged us to engage students

2017 Conference Report *continued on page 4*

Join the Conversation!

Submit a proposal for the 2018 IATE Fall Conference, visit

<https://iateonline.org/present/>

2017 Conference Report *continued from page 3*

authentically. At lunch, the 2010 National Teacher of the Year Sarah Brown Wessling spoke about the difficulty of trying new approaches, and pointed out that, “we have to fear mediocrity more than we fear failure” in order to take risks for our students. Throughout the day, members and guests shared innovative classroom practices and research which attendees will be able to use to enrich their teaching. The evening was capped off with an opportunity to relax and socialize over cocktails and a formal dinner, along with live music and presentation of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Teacher of Excellence Award to Genevieve Sherman.

Saturday morning began with the 2017 Author of the Year Adam Selzer discussing his experiences as an author and haunted tour guide in Chicago—including some shocking anatomical facts about the infamous H. H. Holmes—and reading

from his most recent novel. Members again spent the day in breakout sessions learning from one another, but gathered at lunch to hear from teacher and author Dave Stuart Jr. about maintaining focus on what’s most important in the classroom in order to maintain balance in the rest of our lives. The weekend concluded with NCTE Past President Doug Hesse, who offered some thoughts about the changing, yet timeless nature of language and the future direction of our profession.

In addition to the expertise of many of our lifelong members, scores of first-time attendees brought a lot of new energy to the conference, and next year we look forward to more of the same! If you haven’t attended an IATE conference in a while, or if next year will be your first time, be sure to take the plunge and join us in Hoffman Estates October 19–20 for a weekend of professional learning, networking, and inspiration. ✍

## ADAM SELZER, 2017 IATE AUTHOR OF THE YEAR

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GENEVIEVE SHERMAN



After being introduced by our 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner, Deborah Will, this year’s Illinois Association of Teachers of English Author of the Year, Adam Selzer, entertained Saturday’s attendees with terrific tales of writing about Chicago. Selzer outlined various stories of research and ghost

tours that kept our members wanting more. Because Lake-Cook publishers donated various Selzer books, attendees could peruse his collection and keep the one they wanted most. This proved to be a difficult task because his books

are both fascinating and varied in topics and style. His books include fictional tales like *Just Kill Me* and *I Kissed a Zombie, and I Liked it* and also non-fiction stories such as *The Ghosts of Chicago: The Windy City’s Most Famous Haunts* and *Ghosts of Lincoln: Discovering His Paranormal Legacy*. Adam Selzer suffers no lack of intelligence and imagination to fuel his writing passion for the written word. After his delightful speech over french toast and coffee, attendees were able to meet Adam Selzer for a book signing. ✍



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## More Ways to Connect with IATE

Follow us on  @IATENow, or Like us on 

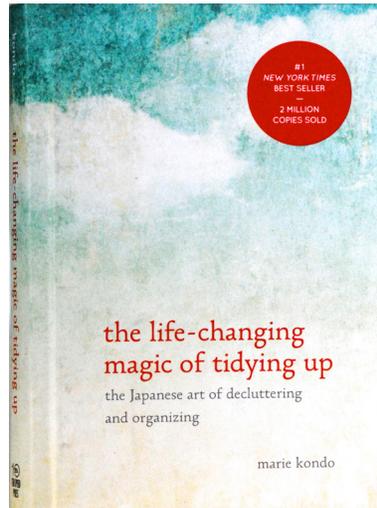
## IATE FALL 2018 CONFERENCE: OCTOBER 19–20

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*Educating the whole person as a whole person.* This year's IATE fall conference will take place on Friday and Saturday, October 19–20, 2018 in Hoffman Estates.

It seems that everywhere you look the trend toward simplifying and decluttering is taking hold. Maybe, under the tutelage of Marie Kondo's *Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, you have carefully held ten years' worth of old homecoming T-shirts trying to decide whether or not they bring you joy. Or maybe you felt the triumph of finally pitching a ledge full of dead dry erase markers. There is something very satisfying about cutting through the detritus to make room for what really matters.

In our profession, nothing matters more than people: the students, the



teachers, our communities, and our families. In 2018, the Illinois Association of Teachers of English (IATE) fall conference asks us all to think critically about how we can honor what matters most as we trek through the daily grind of teaching and learning.

We invite you to share the ways you make space for your students as whole people and citizens of the world, techniques that clear the path for more meaningful collaboration with colleagues, and routines and habits that give you peace of mind or time for self-care.

Submit your proposals online here: <https://iateonline.org/present/>. The deadline to submit proposals is Friday, April 6, 2018. Please contact Conference Chair Carrie Thomas at [cthomas@wths.net](mailto:cthomas@wths.net) with questions. ✍

For more info or to post comments,  
log on to the IATE website today:

<https://iateonline.org>




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## Call for Papers

### PUBLISH YOUR WORK IN THE *ILLINOIS ENGLISH BULLETIN*

*Illinois English Bulletin* is the written forum in which Illinois teachers of English share their ideas. Please see any recent issue of the *Bulletin* for a detailed "Call for Submissions." The deadline to submit materials for possible inclusion in the spring issue is the previous **November 1** and the deadline for the summer issue is the previous **January 15**. If you need any further information—or encouragement—to complete a teacher-research project and submit it for possible publication, please contact *Bulletin* editor Janice Neuleib at [jneuleib@ilstu.edu](mailto:jneuleib@ilstu.edu). ✍

### PUBLISH YOUR WORK IN THE *IATE NEWSLETTER*

The *IATE Newsletter* welcomes articles, reviews, reports, announcements, brief teaching narratives, calls for papers, and other material important to the professional lives of English teachers in the state of Illinois. IATE district leaders are especially encouraged to send reports of district events. The deadline for submitting material for the Fall 2018 *Newsletter* is **May 15, 2018**. Please send inquiries or submissions via e-mail to Cris Embree at [cechris@ilstu.edu](mailto:cechris@ilstu.edu). ✍

# iate

Illinois Association of Teachers of English

IATE homepage: <https://iateonline.org>

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