

IATE NEWSLETTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Illinois Association of Teachers of English

NEWS & FEATURES

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Post-Conference Report

BY DR. KAITLIN GLAUSE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Thank you so much for all the wonderful presentations and connections made at the IATE Fall Conference 2022. We welcomed 85 English teachers from across the state of Illinois, and it did indeed feel like the start of a new chapter. During the Fall Conference, I was able to introduce some of the new resources being housed at Millikin University to those in attendance at the conference, and I will share them here as well for those who were not able to join us in person:

IATE office and display case

As part of our mission to serve IATE and showcase its many contributions to ELA pedagogy and practice in Illinois, we have developed a designated IATE office space and display case. This office space currently houses the Illinois English Bulletin (dating back to 1913), conference materials, and organizational documentation. We are happy to be participating in the maintenance and accessibility of our organization's materials and resources.

Surveys for IATE leadership

At IATE, there are many different ways that members can choose to serve the organization and English teachers across Illinois.

(Continued page 3)

Welcome Home

BY DEB WILL, RETIRING 2021-2022 IATE PRESIDENT

Welcome Home

Even though it was our first fall conference at our new institutional home, coming to Millikin University still felt like returning home to me. I know this feeling is a direct reflection of the people who made our conference a special event. Even though we changed our schedule and our format, the feeling of IATE still prevailed. The reason? Our members.

Being truly present with other teachers who are dedicated to their students, to learning, and to constant improvement is a balm to my tired soul. Sharing the stories of our schools and our lives and focusing on solutions and continued growth helped revive my creativity and energy. Listening to the gifted authors and speakers helped rejuvenate my spirit and inspire me to keep learning. And seeing our past presidents who have motivated and encouraged us all brought me sincere joy.

For those of us who were fortunate enough to attend this conference, I hope that we can bring the lessons we learned home to our schools and our communities. Let's dedicate ourselves to advocating for all English teachers to have this experience next year because all teachers can benefit from having a supportive professional home.

Finding Joy and Meaning

BY JEN GOVIN, 2022-2023 IATE PRESIDENT



This year's conference, chaired by 1st Vice President Betsy Geiselman, was a wonderful way to "celebrate a new chapter" for the Illinois Association of Teachers of English. Hosted in our new university home, Millikin University in Decatur, we were able to gather together in a beautiful setting and enjoy one another's company and expertise, along with presentations from phenomenal children's and YA authors.

As we continue to recover from the pandemic's effects on students, learning, and the education world itself, I am hopeful that we can still find joy and meaning in our professional lives. In my experience, IATE has been an integral part of that professional joy, meaning, and perseverance,
(Continued page 3)

Finding Joy and Meaning, Cont.

even in the face of challenging circumstances. I encourage you to become involved in our organization, in whatever way suits you and wherever your strengths lie. The future of our organization - and our profession - depends on growth in membership and participation, so please help us in that endeavor.

Please invite your English colleagues to join us. Keep up to date on professional development opportunities for members through our newsletter and on our website, and plan to join us again in fall 2023 at Millikin.

Post-Conference Report, Cont.

As a member of the executive council, I want to personally invite and encourage you to consider new ways to be involved this year. Below are two surveys full of leadership and service opportunities that you can take up for IATE.

IATE student administrative assistant

I am excited to introduce Royalty Jackson to our organization as she takes on her role as student Administrative Assistant. Royalty is a sophomore English Education major at Millikin University, where she is involved in English Club and cheerleading. Royalty has been hard at work this semester compiling district-level data to support IATE in their recruitment and outreach to English Language Arts teachers across the state of Illinois. Welcome, Royalty!



To the left are images of the display case where we have displayed several of the Illinois English Bulletin editions that we uncovered in our move from Illinois State University to Millikin University. These editions are over 100 years old!

We are so lucky to have these organization artifacts.



Destiny Jackson



IATE Review Board for the Illinois English Bulletin



IATE Leadership Survey

Conference Wrap Up

BY BETSY GEISELMAN AND JEN COUIN

Our first conference in our new institutional home Millikin University, chaired by Betsy Geiselman, was a joyous celebration of our “new chapter.” Attendees from all over the state enjoyed incredible author presentations, enlightening sessions, and invigorating discussions with our fellow English teachers.

We kicked off the conference on Friday with our first session from 9:30-10:30, followed by our annual business meeting, where President Deb Will presented the 2022-2023 officers for approval by the membership. Next, we enjoyed lunch and an inspiring keynote by one of our featured authors, Sona Charaipotra. Growing up as the child of immigrants, Sona was encouraged to pursue a practical career. She wanted to be a writer but knew that her practical dad would not approve, so she instead pursued a career in journalism. Yet the dream of writing never left her, and through her work as a reporter, she continued to grow as a writer. When Sona met a South Asian author, she began to see how she could write herself into the story. Soon after, Sona took up scriptwriting and initially had a script that looked like it was going to be greenlit into a film. That, unfortunately, didn't happen for her, but what did happen was that she began writing creatively, and eventually doors opened up for her.

Throughout the conference, attendees had an opportunity to choose from over thirty different sessions focusing on various topics, including writing, literature, assessment, inclusivity, and collaboration. We also had several sessions centered on book challenges and how to address this growing trend. There truly was something for everyone in our session selections.

We began our Friday evening with “Cocktails & Conversation,” which included the opportunity to sample hors d’oeuvres and catch up with and/or meet new IATE friends. Attendees had the option of purchasing raffle tickets to win a variety of baskets, with the proceeds going to our minority scholarship fund. If you know a deserving December 2022 or May 2023 English Ed. graduate, please nominate them on this form.

After dinner, we honored our 2022 IATE Lifetime Achievement Award winner Dianne Chambers, who is retiring as our teacher education chair. Carol Medrano and Angelo Bonadonna shared many stories of Dianne’s time in IATE. We appreciate all of her contributions to our organization over the years and wish her the best. Finally, attendees were treated to a poetry reading from Allison Joseph, our IATE Illinois Author of the Year, who entranced the room with her beautiful words and delivery.

(Continued page 5)

Conference Wrap Up, Cont.

She also shared a poem about Metropolis and the Ohio River, capturing the power of place, written by her late husband, poet John Tribble. Following the conference, Allison spoke about how much she appreciated the warmth and friendliness of IATE members, and she is hoping to bring a poetry writing workshop to IATE members in the coming year.

Saturday provided a full day of sessions, in addition to two of our featured speakers. In the opening session, author Andrea Wang gave a moving presentation about how she grew up always afraid, of things both small and great. Like Sona, her parents' experiences as immigrants shaped her and how she grew up as a fearful child. As a child, she wrote stories that she later realized were her attempts to process her fears of being misunderstood and treated as an outsider. These early fears were based on her reality - she did not speak English as a child, and people did not understand her; as the only Asian American student in many of her elementary classes, she also was made to feel like she didn't belong. Andrea spoke about writing through her fears, how these early stories were the seeds of her becoming a writer, and how the loss of her dear mother was the event that moved her out of her fear because her greater fear became disappointing the legacy her mother left her. The rest of her speech focused on her transition to becoming a full-time writer and her desire to write stories where Asian American children could see themselves as living not in ancient, faraway places, but in modern, everyday settings.

At our Past Presidents' Luncheon, author Kyle Lukoff shared his experiences in the LGBTQ+ community and how his books allow young people to see themselves and their experiences in them. Like Sona and Andrea, the feeling of being an outsider shaped much of his writing, as he is passionate about making children feel seen. Kyle also talked about the importance of reading for the subtext in stories, but also for needing stories where the subtext becomes the accessible text. He discussed his growing belief that it is important to be cautious about overusing metaphorical language when writing books for and about children or when speaking about tender subjects. He pointed out that while there are many stories that use animals as parallels for humans, children need and deserve more direct representation so that they can be enabled and empowered to see themselves and so that they can have language to articulate what they are feeling and experiencing. In speaking of his experience within the Trans community, he discussed the need to "call in" rather than "call out," which means that instead of naming and shaming, it is important to work with a person to fix the harm done and to make things better. We also honored our past president attendees, including our former Executive Secretary Jan Neileub, whose contributions to our organization cannot be overstated. President Deb Will also passed the gavel to incoming president Jen Gouin.

(Continued page 6)

Conference Wrap Up, Cont.

Many thanks to our participating vendors: Brain Lair Books, Boho Chic, Millikin University, Roxy & Lola, and DePaul University. Special thanks to Lake-Cook Publishing, whose generous annual donations help us continue to provide professional development to our membership.

Through these diverse experiences throughout the weekend, our members celebrated our “new chapter” by learning and engaging with one another. Thanks to all who attended and participated in this new experience at Millikin University. If you presented, please upload your presentation materials on our website; attendees may access them there as well. As we continue to plan for future professional development opportunities, we would appreciate your feedback on this form.

We look forward to seeing you again next October 20th and 21st, also at Millikin University, where 2023 conference chair Kim Kotty invites us to explore “Authenticity in Action.”



2022 Conference Repository

BY ANGELO BONADONNA, WEBSITE COORDINATOR

Greetings from your IATE Website Coordinator, Angelo Bonadonna!

Conference presenters have been sharing handouts, slides, and presentation websites at the home page of the 2022 conference, “Celebrating a New Chapter.” To access the home page—for presenters to upload, or attendees to download, materials—please visit <https://iateonline.org/2022-fall-conference-home-page/>. The IATE site will continue to house materials from our recent conference, as well as past and future conferences.



Angelo Bonadonna

To submit materials for inclusion in the archive, please fill out the form available here: <https://iateonline.org/presenter-upload-site-for-2022-fall-conference>. For an alphabetical listing (by presenter name) of all materials that have been uploaded, please visit: <https://iateonline.org/alphabetical-listing-of-presenter-materials-2022-conference/>

Please do not hesitate to send your suggestions for improvement of the conference home page, the conference repository, the IATE website, or anything related to IATE to bonadonna@sxu.edu.

Session Spotlight: IATE Conference 2022

BY GENEVIEVE SHERMAN



In the Saturday session “Visualizing Through a Character’s Lens” led by the wonderful Jamie Wilson, conference attendees had the opportunity to lose themselves in constructive crafts that serve as both educational and creative.

As Jamie allowed us to grab a record, yes a real record, that she repurposed from a library that no longer needed them, she talked easily about the reason for using this activity to get students involved in the lesson.

She said that when students get to use something other than construction paper (which also works just fine), they get more invested. Some of the participants could not bring themselves to use a record for this purpose, others dove right in. (Continued page 9)

We're So Happy You Came!

BY DELORES ROBINSON, DISTRICT LEADER COORDINATOR

We love when we have an opportunity to meet colleagues from across the state, especially those who are attending for the first time! Let's meet Angie Heiser!

Can you please provide a few sentences of your take-aways from the conference?

As a first-time attendee, I was overwhelmed (in a good way) with all of the innovative and creative ideas the speakers and learning session at the conference offered in regard to content. All the instructors had ideas teachers could implement in their classrooms right now, and I left with so many resources and things to consider using in the classroom. It was also an enlightening experience to hear various author's read their works aloud and discuss the journeys/ stories that inspired their writing. Each of the authors had inspiring messages for all to hear, and signed books to take home.



What is one of the things you found valuable in the sessions you attended? Was the experience something you'll look forward to next fall?

I loved the session called "Shaking up Shakespeare". The instructor had so many fun, creative ideas to use in the classroom to get students more interested in the Shakespearean texts being taught. I am most excited to implement some of her ideas. For example, I am excited to host a Murder Mystery party with my class to introduce the concept of King Hamlet being dead. Instead of just telling them the context of the play, they will be surprised with King Hamlet's murder and will have to use inference skills to figure out which character they think is most guilty. Again, this is such a creative and fun idea for students to practice the skills necessary to have as they read the text.

Why should other English and LA educators attend?

It's a beautiful thing to be in camaraderie with other educators in our field, to share the joys and struggles we each encounter, and to learn together. I found myself being inspired by every educator I met and so intrigued to hear about what they are teaching and how they are teaching it. I left with so many great ideas, resources, inspiration, and connections, all things necessary to have a sustainable and successful career in the classroom.

Millikin is the perfect home base for the IATE conference. The facilities are beautiful and create a very professional, clean space to learn. The campus is small, but has big campus vibes. The facilities are easy to get to; parking is accessible, and the surroundings are gorgeous.

Session Spotlight, Cont.

I was one who dove right in. The assignment: use magazine pictures and words to visualize what a character thinks/dreams. I chose Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodriguez as my “character” because we are currently reading “This One is for the Hairy Girls” in Latinx literature and composition. Rodriguez is the writer telling her story about growing up not looking like the hairless White girls in magazines, how that affected her, and what she is doing to change the narrative.

The participants helped each other, talked with each other, and were generally in the zone looking for the right images/words to put on their collages. Jamie’s students and the participants in the class were lucky to have this type of assignment to find flow and forget about the outside world for a little while.

Thank you, Jamie, for an amazing lesson plan that I will use in the classroom this year.

Genevieve Sherman is an English teacher at Zion Benton Township High School and a Past President of IATE. She currently serves as our Honorary Awards Chair on the Executive Council.

Seeking Minority Scholarship Nominees

IATE understands the importance of diversity in education and that both our schools and our organization would be enhanced by the addition of more diverse voices.

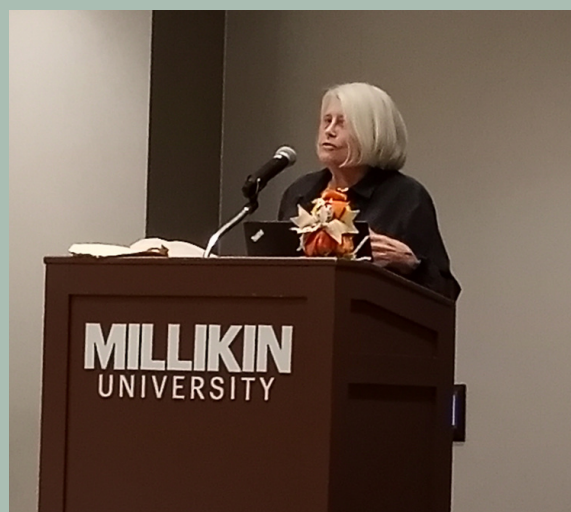
This year we will be offering two \$500 scholarships for graduating college seniors (December or May) who identify with a minority group and will be entering the English Education profession. These scholarships can be used for professional clothing, moving expenses, graduation expenses, or anything the new educator will need as they start their career.

If you are someone who has direct contact with a deserving graduate, please nominate them by completing the Google Form found here: [Minority Scholarship Nomination Form](#). If you have any questions, please email sradcliffe@lchsrailers.org.

Nominations are due by February 15, 2022.

Dianne Chambers Awarded 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award

BY ANGELO BONADONNA AND GENEVIEVE SHERMAN



Each year, IATE awards someone who has dedicated a portion of their professional lives to making IATE better. This is always a fun process because we get to see who has already won, who has done a lot for the organization, and who gets to present the award at dinner. It is like the game of Clue, but better because it ends with an award instead of solving a murder.

Dianne Chambers proved to be the perfect recipient this year. Her dedication to new teachers and IATE has been pivotal to its growth over the years.

When Angelo and Carol introduced her, there was plenty to say. They interviewed members and found that when Dianne speaks to anyone, she gives her full attention. Because of this, she always meets her conversation partner with exactly what they need, be it a gentle nudge in the right direction, a bigger push, a hug, or simply a listening ear. Colleagues praised Diane for her years of service on the Teacher Education Committee of IATE. Several commented on how she is always looking for new and creative ways to connect the English language arts teacher preparation programs and leaders across the state. Members noted her collaboration with Tom McCann and Betsy Kahn for several years now in running the new teacher forum at our fall conference. Folks observed that she's done so much for our organization, and in so many different ways, and so silently and effectively—that few people have really seen or understood the scope and depth of the contribution. In short, Dianne's been here with us, often in the background, but always supportive. Angelo concurred that everything about Dianne is unassuming and without fanfare—but he praised how she engages all aspects of being a colleague, a teacher, and a scholar with uniqueness and excellence. She has long served as a respected professor at Elmhurst College shepherding students through their teacher education programs on their way to becoming English teachers. In literary studies, her last book on Edith Wharton garnered high praise. “Chambers reminds us why we still need feminism: her examination of four of Wharton’s novels illuminates the pervasive and damaging matrix of storytelling, power, and gender” (Jennifer Haytock). Carol and Angelo also shared stories of past adventures with Dianne at conferences and meetings, with wonderful stories of adventures and smiles across the years.

Allison Joseph Shines as the 2022 IATE Author of the Year

BY GENEVIEVE SHERMAN



Each year, the IATE fall conference serves as a source to rejuvenate teachers in our now-stranger-than-ever professions. The key-note speakers, the sessions, and the camaraderie fill our buckets as we head into the winter season of the school year.

This year's IATE author of the year, Allison Joseph, didn't just read a few poems from her collections, she swooned the audience with her beautiful cadence and mesmerized us with the stories of her life. Allison is the

director of the MFA program of Creative Writing at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and the audience got a glimpse of what it would be like to be led to greatness by her. Her humor, her sensitivity, and her honesty come through in her poetry and her speech. She talked about love, loss, lust, and the purchase of a first bra as we all accompanied her on the journey through her words.

The following day, some of us were lucky enough to learn from Allison as she gave us a lesson to take with us. This lesson was on short poetry and the value of teaching shorter poems. She even categorized the shortest as micro-poems. I can see high school classes jumping for joy when they learn the poem they are going to read is less than five lines!

As with all things, our conference had to come to an end, but we hope to see you all next year, and I have heard that we might see Allison again in 2023. Her authenticity will be anticipated as the conference grows closer.

(Continued page 12)



Select Books:

My Father's Kites; Smart Pretender; Our Time Among Roses; Any Proper Cave

To learn more, visit:

<http://www.allisonjosephpoetry.com/>.

Photo courtesy of Cultural Front.

2022 IATE Author of the Year, Cont.

IATE Vice President, Betsy Geiselman, shared the following poems that Allison shared with high school students at a community African American Read-In. The first, "Thirty Lines about the Fro" celebrates pride in being Black and in knowing that Black is beautiful. The second, "Extraction," beautifully speaks to the urgency of writing our own experiences. Enjoy them and share them with your students and colleagues.

Thirty Lines About the Fro

The fro is homage, shrubbery, and revolt—all at once.
The fro and pick have a co-dependent relationship, so
many strands, snags, such snap and sizzle between
the two. The fro wants to sleep on a silk pillowcase,
abhorring the historical atrocity of cotton.
The fro guffaws at relaxers—how could any other style
claim relaxation when the fro has a gangsta lean,
diamond-in-the-back, sun-roof top kinda attitude,
growing slowly from scalp into sky, launching pad
for brilliance and bravery, for ideas uncontained by
barbershops and their maniacal clippers, monotony
of the fade and buzzcut. The fro has much respect
for dreads, but won't go through life that twisted,
that coiled. Still, much love lives between
the two: secret handshakes, funk-bottomed struts.
The fro doesn't hate you because you're beautiful.
Or ugly. Or out-of-work or working for the Man.
Because who knows who the Man is anymore?
Is the president the Man? He used to have a fro
the size of Toledo, but now it's trimmed down
to respectability, more gray sneaking in each day,
and you've got to wonder if he misses his pick,
for he must have had one of those black power ones
with a fist on the end. After all, the fro is a fist,
all curled power, rebellious shake, impervious
and improper. Water does not scare the fro,
because water cannot change that which is
immutable—that soul-sonic force, that sly
stone-tastic, natural mystic, roots-and-rhythm
crown for the ages, blessed by God and gratitude.

Extraction

If there's a poem in you,
get it out by any means necessary—use pliers
if you must, or grab it with your bare
hands and pull, dislodging stony roots,
thorny bushes. Don't let that poem
hunker beneath your skin, unsaid,
unshed, stuck between bones or
swallowed. If it's too weak to come
out, too fluttery and unstable, feed
yourself lines from other, stronger
poems until your poem grows thick-
thighed, sable-tongued, ready to strut,
sultry, agile. If your poem is minnow-
slippery, just as quick, you must move
quickly too, casting your net wide
but not letting your poem tangle
in its nylon. No excuses when a poem
burgeons, nascent, budding on the cusp
of your lips, terrace of your tongue.
Don't let that poem sail from you,
send you a postcard later. Go get it
now, before it scurries away,
scattering words in its wake.

Meet the Newly Elected Second Vice President



Kim Kotty is in her 19th year as an English teacher at Fenwick High School in Oak Park. Kim holds a B.A. in Secondary Education with a concentration in English and an M.A. in Writing, Rhetoric, and Discourse with a concentration in Teaching Writing both of which she earned from DePaul University. In the classroom, Kim especially enjoys teaching American Studies, which she co-teaches with a member of the history department. Additionally, she teaches pre-service English teachers as an adjunct instructor in the Department of Teacher Education at DePaul University. Kim currently serves as the West Suburban District Leader and District Leader Coordinator for IATE.

2023 Conference Theme

BY KIM KOTTY, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT AND CONFERENCE CHAIR

Each day, we enter our classrooms doing our best to “keep it real”. What makes coming to this conference every year so special is the ability to take what we learn from this conference and put it into practice. We get genuine inspiration from our author’s sharing their authentic selves with all of us. It is this kind of authenticity that we try to bring into our classrooms. We choose texts that resonate with our students. We encourage them to be themselves and incorporate social emotional learning. We develop authentic assessments and writing tasks, use the media our students consume in bulk, like TikTok. We teach grammar in context and have turned our classrooms into miniGlobe theaters when we teach Shakespeare. We help students to find their voices. Authenticity is not simply a noun. In our classrooms, it is a verb. It is what we do. So, please join us in Decatur at Millikin University on October 20 and 21 for IATE 2023 Authenticity in Action. Bring yourself, bring your friends, and bring your authentic literacy practices.

Get Published in the 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. For any timely information, the deadline for submitting for the next month's newsletter is the second week of the previous month. All other submissions will be taken on a rolling basis.

Recurring columns:

Technology in the Classroom (250-500 words) - Submissions for this column could include reviews of devices, programs, and/or apps for the classroom, as well as lesson ideas utilizing technology in the classroom. Submissions should include the name of the technology, as well as any cost associated with it.

IATE Reads (400-600 words) - This column is devoted to building our libraries, both professionally and for our students. You might consider sharing books that are great for read-alouds or First Chapter Fridays, books that speak to our students and their experiences, or books for our professional libraries. Submissions might also include ideas for teaching specific books, places to find affordable books, discipline specific books to create cross-discipline connections, and other ideas for creating lifelong readers. When sharing recommendations and ideas, please include the text title, author, and publisher, as well as a "recommended for." (Continued page 15)

Get Published in the Newsletter, Cont.

Job Corner (100-200 words) - Do you know of any English openings that you can share? Please include any details about the job and district, as well as contact information.

Brag Book (100-200 words) - Tell us something good! Pat yourself on the back or pat someone else on the back. Let's celebrate the good things happening around us.

Honoring Our Retirees (100-200 words) - Our veteran teachers deserve recognition for their contributions to our profession. If you know someone retiring from the English classroom, tell us! Let us give them a "cheers for all their years!"

A Tribute to Meaningful Educators (100-200 words) - We all have someone who inspired us or inspires us as an English educator. This column is devoted to your favorite English teacher. Be sure to share who they are, where they are, and why they hold a special place in your heart. Pictures of your honoree are welcomed for this column.

But What About? (100 words) - This column is devoted to all of those questions we have as educators, whether we are new or veterans. Send in your questions and we'll provide the platform for sharing ideas and answers to your most pressing issues, even if it's as simple as maintaining your classroom library or how to make time for that bathroom break.

Teacher Creators - We teach in the English classroom, but we also have passions and talents outside of those four walls. Share your work with us. We invite submissions of original poetry and prose, photography, cartoons, art. You name it. Your submission should include your name, affiliation, and a brief statement accompanying your piece.

This Was Awesome! - We would love to include pictures of the amazing work you and your students are doing in your classroom. Please send pictures of your fabulousness. Your submission should include your name, affiliation, and a description of the image. If including student work, please be sure you have permission.

District News - We encourage District Leaders to share new about upcoming events or any other news pertinent to your districts.

Please send inquiries or submissions via e-mail to Michelle Ryan at iateonline@gmail.com.

Meet Our New DL Coordinator



Delores Robinson

I have taught since the last decade of the last century, which is my wry observation about getting older! I was a first-generation college student who went to U of IL in Champaign-Urbana in the middle of the school year (having graduated high school a semester early). Looking back, it was perhaps not the best decision, but we live and learn. I spent a couple of years teaching junior high/high school in a small, rural district and then got a wonderful teaching position at Glenwood HS in Chatham, Illinois, near Springfield. Those were some very formative years for me as an educator, and I worked with a great group of colleagues.

From there, I transitioned to teaching as an adjunct instructor at the community college level along with working in a Writing Center as a professional tutor. When I was hired full-time at Illinois Valley Community College as an English/speech instructor, one of my friends in the English Department introduced me to IATE--I've been a member ever since. I'm honored to be working with the IATE leadership. Please don't hesitate to contact me at Delores_Robinson@ivcc.edu. I look forward to getting to know my fellow lovers of language and teaching even more in the coming months! (Continued page 17)

District Leaders Wanted

Are you ready to develop your leadership skills and support other teachers in your area? If so, please consider signing up as a district leader! Many districts can have additional leaders, and the districts below all need your leadership. Please reach out to Kim Kotty at kkotty@fenwickfriars.com or stop to see Kim at the registration table during the conference if you are interested!

Next to each open district, you will see the counties it encompasses. Open districts are as follows:

- Metro North & West: City of Chicago north of I55 and Parochial Schools in City of Chicago
- Northwest Suburban: Bounded on the south by Hwy 19, on the north by Lake County Line Road, on the east by Lake Michigan, and on the west by Cook County Line
- Kaskaskia Valley: Clinton, Monroe, St. Claire, Washington
- Northeastern: Boone, Carroll, JoDaviess, Stephenson, Winnebago
- Wabash Valley: Clay, Crawford, Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne, White
- Western: Fulton, Henderson, Knox, McDonough, Stark, Warren

Meet Our New DL Coordinator, Cont.

From there, after having started a family and a graduate program at the same time, I transitioned to teaching as an adjunct instructor at the community college level along with working in a Writing Center as a professional tutor. When I was hired full-time at Illinois Valley Community College as an English and speech instructor, one of my wonderful friends in the English Department introduced me to IATE, and I've been a member ever since. It's so great to be able to reach out to teachers both nearby and across the state and discuss our profession and ask for assistance and advice. I'm honored to be working with the IATE leadership and although a little nervous about helping out in this new role as the statewide District Coordinator, I'm sure my colleagues and friends at IATE will help me navigate this new challenge. Please don't hesitate to contact me at Delores_Robinson@ivcc.edu. I look forward to getting to know my fellow lovers of language and teaching even more in the coming months!

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 - Wabash Valley: Clay, Crawford, Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne, White
 - Western: Fulton, Henderson, Knox, McDonough, Stark, Warren
-

Membership

Interested in becoming an IATE member? Our membership includes access to the Newsletter published monthly, the Illinois English Bulletin (currently being relaunched), and free professional development opportunities. Visit <https://iateonline.org/membership-form-2/> for more information.

Poetry Prose Contest 2023 Information

DEADLINE: Submit all contest entries electronically through the IATE submission manager found on the website no later than January 31, 2022.

Visit <https://iateonline.org/best-illinois-poetry-and-prose-contest/> to submit poetry and prose student work.

FORMAT: Accepted file types include .doc, .docx, and .rtf.

COVER LETTER: The “Cover Letter” field must include:

- Full name of student
- Title of student’s work
- Student’s grade level at time piece was written
- Full name of school
- School’s complete mailing address
- Full name of teacher and teacher’s IATE district
- E-mail address of teacher
-

IMPORTANT: The student’s name, the school’s name, and the teacher’s name must not appear anywhere other than in the “Cover Letter” field.

LIMITS:

- 1.) Five prose and ten poetry entries per teacher
- 2.) One thousand words of prose per entry; forty lines of poetry per entry.

SOME SUGGESTIONS FROM THE JUDGES:

- 1.) Please see that students abide by the line and word limits. Have them revise and shorten pieces that exceed these limits since submissions that surpass the limits are eliminated from consideration.
- 2.) Please emphasize to students that prose and fiction are not synonymous. While fiction submissions continue to be accepted, encourage students to explore the possibilities of expository essays, personal narratives, arguments, and creative non-fiction pieces, along with other genres.

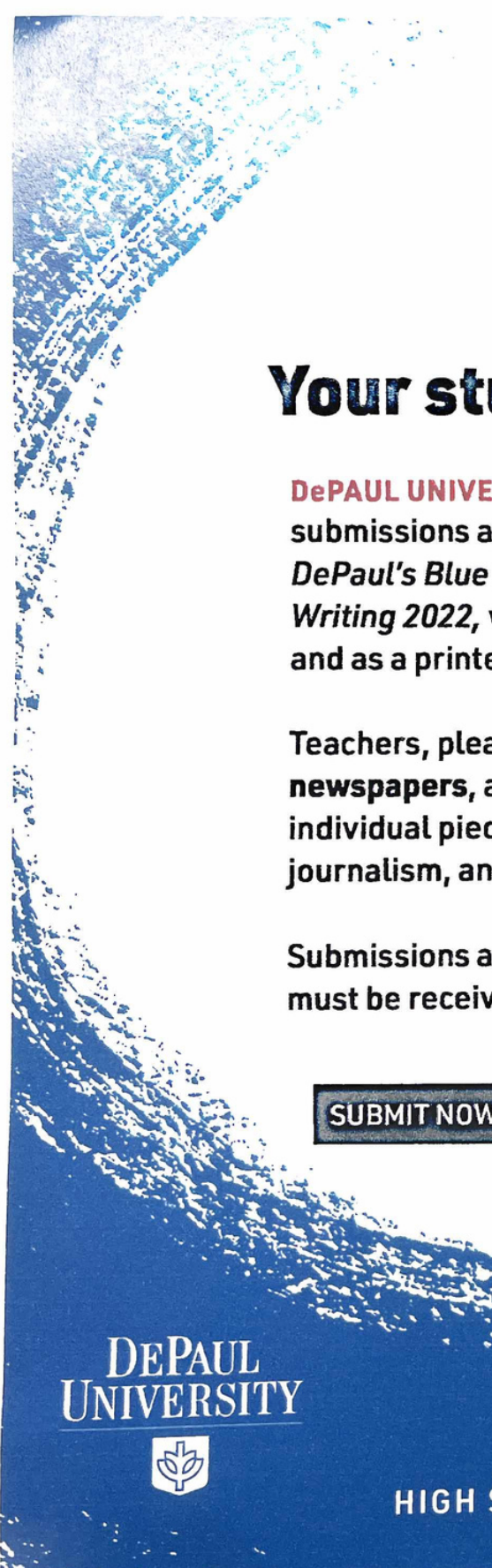
CONTEST COORDINATORS:

Elizabeth E. Tacke and Melissa Ames

Eastern Illinois University

IATE Poetry Contest

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit <https://iateonline.org>



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One entry per student, per contest

Must be less than 21 lines

Must be original & in English

Grade Divisions K-3, 4-6 and 7-9

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