

Late Spring 2008



TYCAT Times

Special points of interest:

- * Plans for fall conference announced
- * NSCC member receives special recognition
- * Opening speaker remains a mystery no longer
- * Finally, we *will not* have to sing for our supper

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Greeting from the TYCAT Chair Joel Henderson

Spring has sprung, and exciting things are afoot here at TYCAT headquarters as we continue to make plans for our fourth annual conference October 3-4 at the Renaissance Center in Dickson. It's hard to believe that we're already in our fourth year of existence as an organization. It seems like only yesterday that a small group of us were sitting around in Jackson, Mississippi speculating about the feasibility of starting a statewide two-year English teacher organization. Today, over 115 of our colleagues from around Tennessee (and the Southeast) have attended at least one of our three conferences.

2008's event promises to be even better than those in pre-

vious years. Murder mystery writer Maggie Barbieri will be joining us as our opening speaker on Friday evening. Maggie's novels *Murder 101* and *Extracurricular Activities* are fun reads, and if you can't get to them before the conference, I know you'll want to purchase signed copies after Maggie speaks to us. The Friday evening party this year will be at King's Court in Dickson and will feature a buffet-style meal of prime rib, catfish, chicken, a salad bar, assorted vegetables, bread, and dessert. As always, Friday evening's meal and Saturday's lunch are included in your \$50 registration fee. Friday night's entertainment will feature Pam Gadd, Nashville singer/songwriter, regu-

lar guest of the Grand Ol' Opry, and frequent collaborator with Porter Wagoner before his recent death. Pam's music has earned her the label of "bluegrass maven," and *Entertainment Weekly* has described her voice as going "down like honey with a touch of sour mash." Friday and Saturday will feature our usual blend of roundtable discussions and individual/group presentations on topics of importance to our profession. New to the mix this year will be our featured panel discussion on Saturday morning entitled "What is College Writing?" This group discussion will include representatives from a four-year university, a two-year college, a *(continued on page two)*

Last Call for Presentations

What are some of the "hot topics" dealing with teaching English at the two-year level in Tennessee? Colleagues at sister schools in the state face many of the same issues and challenges.

This is an opportunity for us to share with each other what works in our situation and network to find new ideas. The deadline for proposals for the October 3-4 conference is Friday, May 2, 2008.

Contact Michele Singletary michele.singletary@nsc.edu ASAP for further information. We look forward to invigorating discussions and the exchange of valuable teaching ideas.

Greeting from the TYCAT Chair (cont.)

(continued from page one)
public high school, and TBR. The panelists will address issues of articulation, preparedness, and standards.

Your Executive Committee is very excited about our upcoming conference. We do, however, still need representatives from the following schools: Roane State and Jackson State. If you know anyone that might be interested at those two schools, please let me know ASAP. All twelve of the other two-year schools in Tennessee are

currently involved in the planning to varying degrees. It would be nice for every school to have a voice at the table. Our annual Executive Committee Summer Planning Meeting will be May 16. If you have any suggestions or ideas for the 2008 conference, please email them to me prior to that date. Ideas from the membership are always welcome. Thank you for your continued support and involvement. You make TYCAT great! See you in Dickson.

Friday, October 3

3-4 Registration
3-5:30 Publisher Exhibits
4-5 **Opening Session**
Plenary Speaker:
Maggie Barbieri
5:15-6:15 **Breakout Session**
6:45-11 Dinner King's Court
Entertainment from Pam Gadd
starting at 8:00

Saturday, October 4

8-1:30 Publisher Exhibits
8:30-9 **Opening Session**
9:15-10:15 **Breakout Session**
10:45-11:45 **Panel**
"What is College Writing?"
12-1:15 pm **Lunch/Meeting**
1:30-2:30 **Breakout Session**

"Please continue to let us know of members at your college who have received special recognition. We are always delighted to share the news with our colleagues across the state."

TYCAT Member Recognized for Outstanding Work

One has to work as an English teacher at a community college to understand the



level of work and commitment it takes to do the job at all. As members of TYCAT we commit ourselves to doing an outstanding job

even with the heavy student loads and the many other expectations placed on us.

Nashville State Community College has taken the time to recognize the outstanding work done by one of our members. Michele Singletary won the Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year award at the college. In recognition of her efforts, Michele receives

an award of \$1,000 for professional development.

We at the *TYCAT Times* extend our congratulations to Michele. Please continue to let us know of members at your college who have received special recognition. We are always delighted to share the news with our colleagues across the state.

Murder Mystery Writer Maggie Barbieri as Plenary Speaker

The conference planning committee has arranged a special guest speaker to start us off this fall. Maggie Barbieri is a freelance English textbook editor as well as a mystery novelist. Her father was a member of the New York Police Department, and his stories provide much of the background for her mysteries. She lives in Westchester County, New York.

Barbieri's delightful debut

mystery, *Murder 101*, introduces us to Alison Bergeron, a recently divorced college English professor who becomes reluctantly entwined in a murder investigation when one of her students turns up dead – and stuffed in the trunk of Alison's stolen car.

Murder 101 is a unique mystery with intelligence and heart, combining the traditional academic mystery with a romantic twist.

Her *Extracurricular Activities* has her professor preparing for her best friend's wedding when she finds her philandering ex-husband dead sans his hands.



Barbieri's work has garnered favorable reviews. Autographed books will be available at the conference. Do not miss this event.

A Clarion Call & a Challenge!~Viki Dasher Rouse, TYCA-SE Representative

Since you are reading this newsletter, my guess is that you are already a member of TYCAT. However, out of the 13 two-year colleges in Tennessee, active TYCAT membership is only 73, and TYCA-SE membership numbers 39, the lowest in our history. Clearly, we have growth potential!

As your new state representative to TYCA-SE, I want to place a challenge before you. Why not talk up these organizations to your own colleagues, emphasizing the value of membership? New and adjunct faculty especially may be unaware of the tremendous benefits available from membership in both professional organizations. I can remember so well my first year at Walters State, when I was inundated with material from everywhere – join this, join that, do this, do that, read this, don't forget that committee – oh yes, and remember that little detail called *teaching*. Most likely, I would not have paid much attention to TYCA-SE or TYCAT had it not been for my colleagues who were members. They were enthusiastic about the conferences, the journals, and the camaraderie, and they issued a personal invitation for me to join them for the next conference. They assured me that I would receive practical teaching ideas, enjoy scholarly discourse, and make

instant friends for life. They were not exaggerating. Perhaps best of all, though, was the fact that the journals, conferences, and conversations with my new friends helped me to find ways to deal more effectively with all the necessary and time-consuming tasks of academia, often seen as URGENT, and helped me to realize anew that teaching is the IMPORTANT aspect of my profession. I came away revitalized, with renewed commitment and a clearer understanding of why I teach. I suspect that many of you have experienced something like this.

So, here's a suggestion. First, make sure that you are a current member of both organizations. It's as easy as going to the websites. Next, find a colleague and encourage his or her participation. Tell these folks what a great presentation opportunity these conferences offer. Suggest ways in which they can use their own teaching ideas and scholarly pursuits, and even offer to help put together a joint or panel proposal. Let them know about the excellence of conferences that you have attended, and assure them that you can travel as a pair – or, better yet, gather a whole group from your college. Group traveling is cost-efficient and fun. Some of the best ideas have come from on-the-road conversations.

Professor David White of Walters State Community College has already gone into action. He is planning to sponsor TYCA-SE membership for a WSCC adjunct instructor at a cost of \$10, a small financial investment with far-reaching significance. Additional funds are available from TYCA-SE to help adjuncts with conference expenses. Sponsoring an adjunct increases membership, demonstrates support from full-time faculty, and builds our collective professional skills. What if each of us made this commitment? Once you have recruited an adjunct into TYCA-SE, you might suggest that membership in TYCAT is both inexpensive and worthwhile, and you can let them know adjunct assistance is available from the organization for the fall conference in Dickson.

Let's challenge ourselves to double Tennessee's membership in both TYCA-SE and TYCAT. Hmmm. . . if everyone recruited one full-time faculty member **and** sponsored one adjunct from his or her campus, we could TRIPLE our membership. Is it possible?

See you in Dickson in October 2008 and in Greensboro, NC, in February 2009!



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<http://www.tyca-se.org/>

TYCAT Times

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Pam Gadd to Entertain in Dickson

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"Pam has worked with luminaries such as Patty Loveless and Johnny Russell. She was a weekly guest with the late Porter Wagoner on the Grand Ole Opry"

It is with a tear in our eye that we must announce that Schulte and His Bluegrass Boys will not be headlining our conference this year. Nevertheless, singer/songwriter and bluegrass instrumentalist Pam Gadd will fill the gap by performing on Friday night.

As former instrumentalist/vocalist for the Kentucky based *New Coon Creek Girls*, Pam moved to Nashville to provide lead vocals for Capital Recording artist's all-female band, *Wild Rose*. They helped introduce new audiences to the Bluegrass/Country sound. Their innovation earned them a Grammy nomination and a similar nod from the Academy of Country Music for Best New Vocal Group of the Year.

Three CDs and four videos later, Pam rejoined *The New Coon Creek Girls* in 1995 for a full year, playing "jo-bro" (a Gibson 5-string dobro-banjo) and banjo. Following this stop, she released her first

solo project, "The Long Road." "The Time of Our Lives" followed. Both highlighted her exceptional songwriting skills, charted and received rave reviews. Pam's 2001 CD, "The Time of Our Lives" charted Top 5 in the Bluegrass charts, and "Virginia Man" charted Top 10 in 2002.

In 1999 Pam Gadd was nominated by the International Bluegrass Music Association for Emerging Artist of the Year; and she has been recognized by the Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music with nominations for Song of the Year, "Virginia Man," and Songwriter of the Year in 2002.

The Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville recognizes Pam's ability to spark audience interest through her banjo demonstrations, workshops and hands on participation.

Pam has worked with luminaries such as Patty Loveless and Johnny Russell. She was a weekly guest with the late Porter Wagoner on the Grand Ole Opry and was the last performer to complete a duet CD project with him which was released on King Records in 2004.

