

Armstrong Teacher Newsletter

August 2006

The 2006 Armstrong Retreat, held June 23 -25 in Bloomington, was a big success. After checking into the new Hilton Gardens Hotel downtown, teachers and spouses gathered at the Southern French bistro, Le Petit Café, for wine, savory appetizers and lively conversation. The room was filled with laughter and conversation as the guests renewed acquaintances, met new people and shared stories. We were especially pleased that Ann Armstrong Hodge was able to join us for the opening of the Armstrong Retreat. Ann is the daughter of Martha Lee and Bill Armstrong, for whom our endowment is named. What a way to begin our weekend!



Diana Lambdin and Frank Lester welcome Ann Armstrong Hodge.

As Diana Lambdin welcomed current and past Armstrong teachers, IU faculty, and Dean's Advisory Council students on Saturday morning, we enjoyed a casual continental breakfast at the School of Education.



Chris Floyd and Alex Holtz talk with students from the Dean's Advisory Committee.

Cindy Newton (05-06), Sheryl Seabrook (06-07), Alex Holtz (06-07) and Jeff Rudkin (05-06) were our morning presenters.



Sheryl Seabrook discusses mentoring with James Damico

We were informed and captivated by their presentations with titles, respectively: "The Power of Blog," "Mentoring Matters," "School Accountability," and "Teaching Standards Through Student Media Projects."



Cindy Newton introduced us to the "Power of Blogs"

"The teacher presentations were terrific – inspiring and thought provoking" – attendee response

A catered lunch was served in the Matrix Gallery, where we socialized surrounded by a display of mathematical quilts. These beautiful pieces of art were created by local quilters for loaning to area school classes.



Our afternoon continued with "Uh, Mrs. Floyd-This Class Makes My Head Hurt – But-In a Good Way!" an inspiring presentation by Chris Floyd (06-07). The final hour of the day was an open forum led by former Armstrong teachers, Dorothy Kittaka (05-06), Jeff Rudkin (05-06), Cindy Newton (05-06), Janet Tassell (99-00) and Jill Ohlsen (05-06). Breaking into small groups gave the retreat attendees an opportunity to discuss and share their own ideas of the characteristics of a model teacher. As the day ended, Armstrong teachers gathered to make group plans for dinner on the town.

The final morning of the retreat began with breakfast and conversation at the School of Education. Diana led a discussion of Armstrong projects and future collaborations. Laura Stachowski, Director of the IU Cultural Immersions Project, shared the numerous possibilities available for IU student teachers. Did you know that IU students can student teach abroad in any of 13 countries and also on American Indian reservations in the southwest United States?

Before our morning ended, Jonathan Plucker, Director, IU Center for Evaluation and Education Policy, engaged us in thought provoking conversations concerning the Achievement Gap in Indiana. This discussion left us with questions and strong feelings regarding the future of education in Indiana.

Such a brief summary can't do justice to the time we spent together at the Armstrong retreat, but there is no reason you can't get on board next year to experience it for yourself. Rooms have already been reserved at the favorite Grant Street Inn, so please mark your calendars for the 2006 Armstrong Retreat on the **weekend of June 22, 2007**. We hope to see you there!



Check out the Armstrong Website for additional retreat information, pictures and news: www.indiana.edu/~atea

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The new Armstrong teachers will be participating in two panel discussions on the Bloomington campus this fall.

September 22 – Transitioning from the Textbook to Your Classroom Curriculum
November 17 – Challenges that Novice Teachers Face