



SVETN

Distance Learning Solutions

Volume 4 Issue 2

Sharyn McCrumb Conducts Writing Workshop

On November 22 Sharyn McCrumb, nationally recognized, award winning author graciously donated her time to 2 classes of SVETN's online students. During the first 2 hours of her visit at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, the Journalism in Appalachia students engaged in a lively roundtable conversation with the author about The Hangman's Beautiful Daughter, one of her early ballad novels that the class had just finished. Students from Write! Write! Write! joined the group and the second part of the visit was a conversation between Ms. McCrumb and students about the craft of writing. Ms. McCrumb ended up discussing the genesis and development of her next novel, St. Dale, due in February 2005. She talked candidly about the intense research she had to do in order to write about a topic (NASCAR) with which she was completely unfamiliar and had no real interest--certainly a

valuable lesson for aspiring writers.

She also talked about the importance of setting aside

specific time for writing each day, a time that fits the writer. She explained how she gets her ideas for her novels and short stories and how she organizes her writing projects--pre-writing is important even when you are as experienced as she! She shared her

thoughts on character development as well as the importance of point of view in fiction. In discussing her upcoming novel, she talked about the importance of accuracy when using historical events (in this case, recent history!) and what happens when a writer discovers a mistake that changes the whole story.

She was kind enough to allow SVETN to record her comments as well as the conversation about The Hangman's Beautiful Daughter. These recordings may be viewed upon request in your SVETN classrooms. SVETN thanks Journalism in Appalachia instructors, Debbie Raines and Melissa Wilson for arranging this special event.



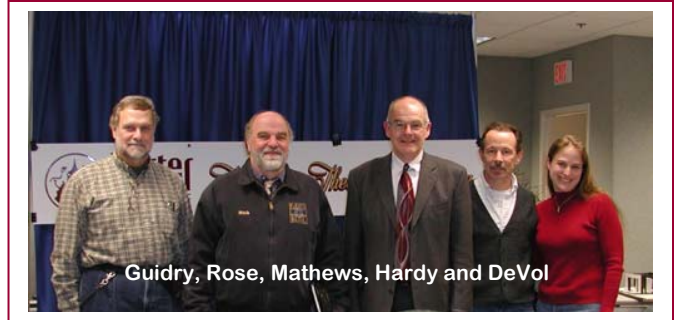
Ms. McCrumb, Ms. Raines and Ms. Wilson with some students from the Journalism is Appalachia class



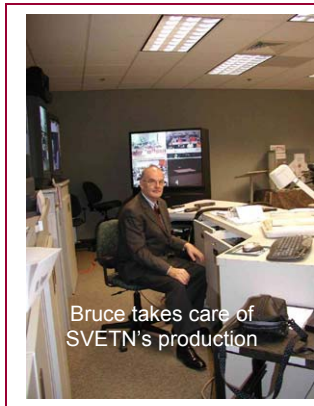
Appalachian novelist, Sharyn McCrumb

Behind the Scenes with Barter Theatre

Barter Theatre recently conducted a series of ITV classes for high school drama students. The topic was the play *A Modern Christmas Carol*, adapted and modernized from the Charles Dickens' classic by Richard Rose, Producing Artistic Director for Barter Theatre. John Hardy, Barter's Associate Artistic Director led the discussion from the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center. The group connected with students at Mt. Rogers Combined School, John Battle High School, Carroll County High School and Haysi High School using the fiber optic network. Joining Hardy were Rose, Cheri DeVol, Resident Scenic Designer, and Roland Guidry, Costume Designer.



Guidry, Rose, Mathews, Hardy and DeVol



Bruce takes care of SVETN's production

Rose's intentions, when writing the play, were to give it a contemporary feel. This was done through set design, characters, costumes, the use of modern technology, and 21st century situations. In the center of the stage is a large projection screen located in Scrooge's office. The screen is used throughout the play.

In a survey of participating schools, the Barter class met the student expectations and they looked forward to participating in future events.



Set design model

Introducing students to the aspects of technical theater that they would otherwise be unaware of was a strength of the class. Both students and teachers voiced their enthusiasm for seeing *A Modern Christmas Carol* after acquiring their "behind the scenes" knowledge.



VIC Culinary Classes link with SVETN's ANGEL

Virginia Intermont College will begin teaching culinary classes using ANGEL. Jon Kimbrough, Assistant Professor and Director of Culinary Arts for VIC, is working with SVETN to develop three courses. Culinary Entrepreneurship, Hospitality Law, and Nutrition and Healthy Cooking are the courses to be introduced spring term 2005. Students will have the advantage of flexibility when fitting the courses into their schedules. Asynchronous courses are available 24/7 and allow the students to work at a time convenient for them. After receiving coaching from Debbie Colley Kimbrough recently conducted ANGEL orientation for students enrolling in the courses.

SVETN Director Nolan Kilgore Honored

Nolan Kilgore, SVETN director from Wise County Public Schools, was one of nine outstanding educators honored by The Virginia Department of Education on Dec. 2 with the Education Technology Leadership Award for advocacy and use of educational technology in the commonwealth's public schools. The awards were presented during the department's December 1-3 Educational Technology Leadership Conference in Roanoke.

"The Education Technology Leadership Award recognizes individuals who demonstrate a shared vision with the school division for the effective use of technology to support teaching, learning, and school administration and management," said Assistant Superintendent for Technology Lan Neugent.

A former teacher and principal, Kilgore is currently the assistant superintendent for technology and student services for Wise County. His efforts in the area of technological resources have assisted students in obtaining 21st-century skills and have provided opportunities to support, enhance, and extend teaching and learning opportunities. Congratulations, Nolan!

Reminders

Send in your SNOW schedules for your classes as soon as possible. Fax to 276.628-9478 or e-mail to ayoung@swcenter.edu.

Identify who will inform SVETN if a weather delay is declared. You may contact SVETN by phone (276 619-4320) or email (avound@swcenter.edu) for schedule changes.

Watch for information on asynchronous courses for the year 2005-06 coming soon. Information will be sent to schools and available on our website, www.svetn.org.



*Have a safe
and happy
holiday!*