

## A 2012 Fellow's Reflection:

### CTI Connects Creative Teachers



Mark Buzzee, Language Arts Teacher  
Jay M. Robinson Middle School  
2012 CTI Fellow  
"African American Literature of the Civil Rights Movement" Seminar

One of CTI's salient benefits for me was the way it connected me personally with my fellow teachers. At one early CTI dinner, I discovered mid-conversation that I was talking to my high school biology teacher, herself a Fellow. In my seminar group, I frequently sat near (and joked with) an old friend from my very first teaching job. I also got to know a veteran male teacher with a depth of knowledge to rival that of a college professor. He was that rarer of birds – inspiring a vision of a potential self as career public school instructor, an image not unsavory in the least. Now I count him, too, as a friend.

At my own school, I found myself overwhelmingly lucky that three classroom doors adjacent to my own led to teachers who were either current or former Fellows. Across the hall was Brook Blaylock, something of a CTI all-star, who, though not a Fellow at the time, had been both a CTI Steering Committee member and Yale National Fellow. It was the sharp ring of Brook's voice at a faculty meeting a few years back that called my attention to CTI. Because I knew she had a critical eye regarding professional development, the program she was vouching for piqued my curiosity. Later she helped demystify the more confusing elements of unit-writing, including such riddles as the proper format for Chicago Style footnotes. My other two neighbors on the hall (good friends who were Fellows in the "All Immigration Is Local" seminar) and I shared frenzied departures on Thursday afternoons, the rush of meeting unit deadlines, and collective exhalation and pride when it was all over.

The take-away for CTI Fellows is not simply professional and academic, but also the camaraderie that shared experience breeds.

**CHECK OUT all the 2009-2012 CTI Fellows'**

**Curriculum Units now posted online at:**

**[www.charlotteteachers.org](http://www.charlotteteachers.org)**

## CTI National Fellows Convene at Yale

Congratulations to CTI's National Fellows selected for the Yale National Initiative's Summer Intensive Session July 8-19 at Yale University: Gloria Brinkman (Harding High), Torrieann Dooley (David Cox Road Elementary), Alexandra Edwards (Bailey Middle), Miesha Gadsden (Lansdowne Elementary) and Matthew Kelly (Independence High).

Joining our National Fellows at Yale are CTI Seminar Leaders Ann Fox and Durwin Striplin (Davidson College) and Ralf Thiede (UNC Charlotte); and CTI Director Scott Gartlan.



### 2013 CTI Fellows – Very Cool Teachers!

CTI's 2013 Fellows and Seminar Leaders gathered at Discovery Place for Orientation and their first seminar meetings this Spring.

## CTI Welcomes 104 Fellows for 2013

Charlotte Teachers Institute welcomed 104 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools teachers into eight innovative, long-term seminars that kicked off this spring and continue until December. This new cohort of CTI Fellows includes teachers in over 15 subject areas in 43 schools, in grades K-12. Fellows are working closely with each other and faculty from Davidson College and UNC Charlotte to explore a variety of content areas and create new curriculum for their own students. Seminars include:

*Charlotte as a New South City: Using the Collections of the Levine Museum of the New South; The Nature of Energy: How We Use and Store It to Power Our Everyday Lives; Math and Sports; Imagining Modern Bodies: Disability and Art at the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art; Grammar for the Real World; Human Social Groups; Chemical Magic; and Urban Encounters: Hispanic and African American Literature.*

This year's Fellows are a diverse group of new and experienced teachers with an average of 11 years teaching experience. They represent the full range of K-12 instructional levels and a wide variety of disciplines: art, bilingual education, biology, chemistry, drama, earth science, English, French, history, math, media, physics, social studies, Spanish and special education.



### Thanks to a Leading Supporter!

Wells Fargo awarded a new generous gift to CTI – for the fifth year in a row. Wells Fargo Community Affairs Manager Jay Everett announced this year's contribution of \$50,000 in June. "Charlotte Teachers Institute provides a significant career development opportunity for teachers in our region," Everett said. "By participating in the program, teachers create new, compelling classroom curriculum that is then shared nationally with other educators." Wells Fargo has supported CTI since its inception in 2009. "Teachers and students in CMS have benefitted significantly from Wells Fargo's visionary support," said CTI Director Scott Gartlan. "Wells Fargo and CTI share a commitment to excellence, collaboration and leadership."