

# Asilomar 57

Asilomar Conference Grounds  
Pacific Grove, California

September 28 – 30, 2007

## Restoring Hope in a Time of Fear

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*photo by Ken Williams*



Curriculum Study Commission  
Central California Council of Teachers of English

# Asilomar 57 Restoring

**A**SILOMAR IS ULTIMATELY about nourishing ourselves. As Marianne Williamson says, "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our Light, not our Darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you *not* to be?"

It is our goal as teachers to liberate our students by helping them become the best people they can and make a difference in the world. In times of decreasing opportunities for authentic instruction and increased testing, however, our own light often dims and hope fades. Our hope is that this conference will restore hope by reminding us that we all have the light within us and that we should let it shine.

Through his poetry and professional experience, Taylor Mali will speak directly to teachers about instructing with courage and with a sense of adventure. By reflecting on his writings about the connections between our earth, culture, classrooms and selves, Derrick Jensen will remind us of what it means to be truly human and how to heal. Youth Speaks, a group dedicated to inspiring young people to speak their truths, worries, and sorrows through poetry, will also perform this weekend. By giving young people a public voice, they inspire countless others, young and old, to do the same.

This weekend, we invite you to take the time to remember how truly inspirational and amazing you are, reflect on the changes you can and will make, and share these hopes and dreams with those around you.



photo by Ken Williams

*Noted poet, playwright, director, and professor at Columbia University, Nathalie Handal makes a point during her presentation to Conference Attendees.*

## Program

### Friday, September 28

3:30-9:00 Registration  
4:30-6:00 CCCTE Reception  
6:00-7:00 Dinner  
7:15-8:30 General Session: Taylor Mali at Merrill Hall  
9:00-10:00 Group Session #1  
10:00-11:00 Join the NCTE Emeritus Assembly for Coffee in Asilomar Lodge

10:45-12:00 Group Session #3  
12:00-1:00 Lunch  
1:30-3:00 Group Session #4  
4:30-6:00 Reception and Book Signing  
6:00-7:00 Dinner  
7:15-8:30 Around the Hearth Session I: Youth Speaks  
8:45-10:00 Around the Hearth Session II

### Saturday, September 29

7:30-8:30 Breakfast  
9:00-10:15 Group Session #2

### Sunday, September 30

7:30-8:30 Breakfast  
9:00-10:15 Group Session #5  
10:45-11:45 General Session: Derrick Jensen in Chapel

## If You Have Questions...

... about registration or accommodations, or if you need extra copies of this brochure, please visit our updated and expanded web site at [www.cccoe.net/csc/](http://www.cccoe.net/csc/)

For additional information, you may write or telephone...

#### ...the Conference Registrar:

Dan Wolter (707) 253-9397  
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Napa, CA 94559  
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#### ...the Commission Chair:

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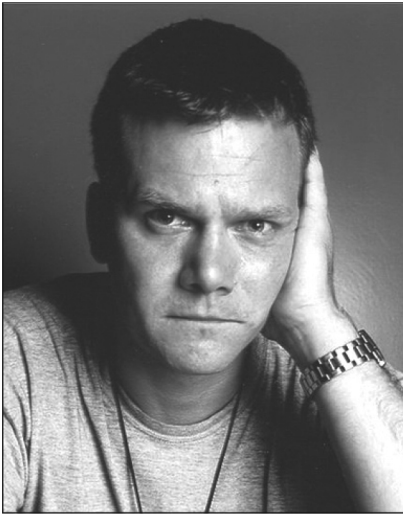
... or contact one of the **Conference Chairs:**

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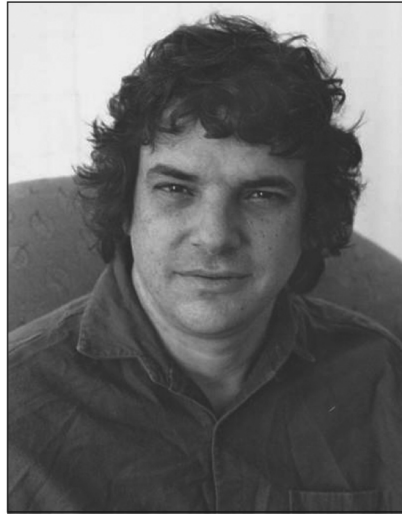
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# Hope in a Time of Fear

## Featured Speakers and Writers



Taylor Mali



Derrick Jensen



Youth Speaks

### Taylor Mali (Friday Night Speaker)

A poet, teacher, and playwright, Taylor Mali is a four-time National Poetry Slam champion. Mali recently showcased his new one-man show, *Teacher Teacher* for NBC, and at the HBO Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen where he won the Jury Prize for Best One Person Performance. He was one of the original poets on HBO's *Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry*.

Mali is no stranger to the theatre. He put his theatrical ambitions on hold to pursue a career in poetry "because that's where the real money is." But he won't be halfway through his first outrageously dynamic poem before you realize that this classically trained, Shakespearian actor has taken a lot of theatre with him. A seventh-generation New Yorker, Mali is an Oxford-educated actor with an M.A. in English literature who until recently put those skills to use teaching math to sixth graders at a private school in Manhattan. "There is a poetry in numbers unlike any that can be found in words," he says.

In addition to his live spoken word performances, Mali recently released *What Learning Leaves* (Hanover Press) and two CDs entitled *Poems From the Like Free Zone* and *The Difference Between Left and Wrong*. He was one of the principal subjects in Paul Devlin's 1997 documentary *SlamNation*.

### Derrick Jensen (Sunday Morning Speaker)

Hailed as the philosopher poet of the ecology movement, Derrick Jensen is the widely acclaimed author of *Endgame, A Language Older Than Words*, *The Culture of Make Believe* (a finalist for the 2003 J. Anthony

Lukas Book Prize), and *Walking on Water*, among many others. Jensen's writing has been described as "breaking and mending the reader's heart" (*Publishers Weekly*). Author, teacher, activist, small farmer, and leading voice of uncompromising dissent, he regularly stirs auditoriums across the country with revolutionary spirit. Jensen holds a degree in creative writing from Eastern Washington University, a degree in mineral engineering physics from the Colorado School of Mines, and has taught at Eastern Washington University and Pelican Bay State Prison. He lives in Crescent City, California.

### Youth Speaks (Saturday Night Around the Hearth)

Founded in 1996 in San Francisco, Youth Speaks is at the forefront of a national Spoken Word performance, education, and youth development movement. In the Bay Area, over 40,000 young people use this powerful medium to communicate directly with their peers. Politically aware, critically engaged, and unafraid to speak, they are picking up the pen and grabbing hold of the microphone, moving themselves into positions of power—claiming voice when they've been voiceless, and access where they've been sidelined.

Youth Speaks strives to shift the perceptions of youth by combating illiteracy, alienation, and silence. A global movement of brave new voices brings the noise from the margins to the core. Empowering the next generation of leaders, self-defined artists, and visionary activists through written and oral literacies, we challenge youth to find, develop, publicly present, and apply their voices as creators of social change.

## Saturday Night Around the Hearth

First Evening Session 7:15-8:30

### Youth Speaks Poetry Slam

We Need text that specifies the poetry slam activity and does not repeat the Youth Speaks Description above.

Second Evening Session 8:45-10:00

### A. Traveling Solo: Women's Tales of Courage and Adventure

Join us as C.M. Phillips, Lauren M. Connolly and Stephanie McKurtis share personal and other women's experiences overcoming the risks, fears, and stereotypes involved in crossing global frontiers through solo travel.

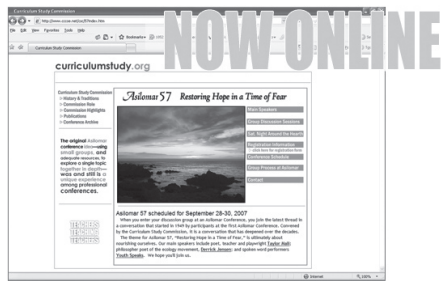
### B. State of the Profession

Miles Myers will lead a discussion dealing with critical issues in education today. Come Share your thoughts and learn from your colleagues.

### C. Open Mic Poetry Reading

The audience is invited to participate in an open mic reading. This session will follow the Youth Speaks Poetry Slam.

<http://curriculumstudy.org>



▷ conference updates ▷ links ▷ more



*photo by Ken Williams*

**2006**

## Scholarship Winners

Last year's Asilomar Scholarship recipients gather on the steps of Merrill Hall. Each year, the Curriculum Study Commission awards all-conference-expenses-paid scholarships to qualified student teachers and teachers new to the profession. These scholarships include a one-year membership in the California Association of Teachers of English. For more information, contact Scholarship Chair Charleen Delfino (pictured in the back row, second from left) at <[ambro411@aol.com](mailto:ambro411@aol.com)>.

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**Dan Wolter, Registrar**

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**Napa CA 94559**



The Asilomar Conference is sponsored by the Curriculum Study Commission of the Central California Council of Teachers of English, an affiliate of the California Association of Teachers of English and the National Council of Teachers of English.