President's Report

Lea McGee
University of Alabama

Greetings!

The semester got off to a howling start here in Alabama. How time flies! In no time, we will be arriving in San Antonio for a great 2004 Conference. Don Leu has added some exciting new features to this year’s event including sessions for graduate students, addresses by international scholars, and a revitalized Vital Issues.

In the past few months, we have faced many challenges. After the untimely death of Ted Grace, the Executive Board appointed Lee Gunderson as acting Treasurer. I am happy to announce that Arlette Ingram Willis has agreed to be NRC’s Treasurer. She will serve a one-year term, to be extended in the future. Megan Kelley and Annette Hess both left TEI. Angela Owens, supported by Jeff Armstrong, has taken up the reins of conference planning. TEI has a new customer relations department, and Scott Sherer assures me that this department is handling all member questions in a timely fashion. Our new website is up and running and includes all committee chairs and members.

During the past months, the NRC Board has made several important decisions. First, the board voted to accept a contract with Erlbaum to publish the *Journal of Literacy Research*. The contract specifies that Erlbaum will pay NRC $5,000 for the first year of publication and $10,000 each year after that. Furthermore, Erlbaum will pay NRC $9,000 to support editors in their work on this journal. Pending board approval of several revisions, the contract will be signed. We are looking forward to a productive relationship with this publisher and expect to see the journal more widely adopted in university libraries worldwide.

Sandra Baxter, Director of the National Institute for Literacy invited NRC to present nominations for a new national panel examining reading research. The National Institute for Literacy, a federal agency dedicated to promoting literacy across the lifespan, announced the creation of a Commission on Reading Research to review research on how children learn to read in July. The Institute, through its Partnership for Reading project, will charge the Commission with assessing research-based reading knowledge, including the effectiveness of various approaches of teaching children to read, to help inform the practice of reading instruction.

The Commission will investigate topics of its own choosing that include, but are not limited to, the topics addressed by the National Reading Panel. The Commission will develop questions about the selected topics and determine the most appropriate methodologies to use to answer the questions. The types of studies to be reviewed—experimental, quasi-experimental, correlational, descriptive—will be determined by the research questions that the commission establishes.

NRC’s Executive Board collaborated with the Executive Director of NCTE, Kent Williamson, and NCTE’s President-Elect, Randy Bomer, to nominate members for the Commission on Reading Research. We are happy to announce that NRC members Donna Alvermann, Kathryn Hu-Pei Au, James Hoffman, P. David Pearson, and Donald J. Leu agreed to be nominated for this critical activity.

Our three-year contract with TEI as the headquarters team expires in 2005. The Executive Board members are discussing ways to review the support provided by the headquarters team and to review whether to renew the contract. If members have comments about the headquarters staff, their responsiveness to members, or their timely attention to member issues, please e-mail me at lmcgee@bamaed.ua.edu. Lee Gunderson’s 2004 review of Headquarters revealed that the team at TEI was improving from our early years, provided adequate support in most areas, and in some areas provided very good support for NRC activities.

President Elect’s Report

Don Leu
University of Connecticut

My colleagues and I have worked assiduously to organize an exceptional conference for you in San Antonio, Texas, from December 1-4 at the newly renovated Crowne Plaza Riverwalk. This year, over 400 rigorously reviewed, research reports will present the latest findings in reading and literacy research from around the world. Research presented at NRC defines our field.

Please visit our conference site to register and locate additional information: [http://www.nrconline.org/conference/conf04.html](http://www.nrconline.org/conference/conf04.html) Register and make hotel reservations early, since space will fill quickly this year.

Here are just a few of the highlights of the conference:
**Wednesday, December 1**

- “What Defines Literacy’s Past and Present?” Consider today’s conference experiences in light of this Conversational Issue of the Day. Then, join us all for a Vital Issues session in the evening to discuss the answer. We have planned a panel and a membership conversation. (Please see today’s final bullet, below.)
- Study Group sessions begin on selected topics. Complimentary coffee and tea will welcome all early risers who attend a study group session, helping these dedicated folks begin the day properly.
- We begin a special Research Methodology Series, exceptionally organized by Marla Mallette and Nell Duke. This session is designed specifically for graduate students but it is open to all. All sessions will take place in the Board Room so graduate students can meet other graduate students and have a place to call their own.
- The Newcomers Luncheon, provides first-time attendees with an exceptional lunch and mid-day conversation with other researchers from around the world.
- The International Reading Association’s Teacher Education Task Force presents its recent research.
- Gunther Kress, University of London, gives our very first Distinguished International Scholar Address: “Cultural Technologies of Representation and Communication: Reading and Writing in the Era of the New Screens.”
- Lea McGee, University of Alabama, gives the Presidential Address: “The Role of Wisdom in Evidence-based Reading Programs.”
- We present the winner of this year’s Student Research Award.
- Tickets for boat rides along the Riverwalk are available at the registration desk.
- In the evening, we begin an important initiative to reconstitute Vital Issues with both panel and membership conversations. Join P. David Pearson, Deborah R. Dillon, Taffy Raphael, Richard Allington, and Douglas Hartman for this first Vital Issues session on defining our past and present in literacy research.

**Thursday, December 2**

- “How Do We Achieve Excellence in Literacy Research?” Consider today’s conference experiences in light of this Conversational Issue of the Day. Then, join us all for a Vital Issues session in the evening to discuss the answer. (Please see today’s final bullet, below.)
- An International Symposium on the Assessment and Evaluation of Literacy Achievement presents its work.
- Michele Knobel, Montclair State University, and Colin Lankshear, University of Ballarat and Central Queensland University, give the plenary address: “From Pencilvania to Pixelandia: Mapping the terrain of new literacies research.”
- We present the National Reading Conferences Early Career Award.
- Renee Hobbs, Temple University, delivers an invited paper. “Multiple Visions of Multimedia Literacy: The Dynamics of an Emerging Field.”
- We celebrate our future by providing graduate students with a pizza luncheon on the Riverwalk Patio.
- Patrick Shannon, Kathy Escamilla, and Skip Macarthur each give invited papers.
- Robert Calfee, University of California, Riverside, gives the Oscar Causey Address: “Exploring the Mind and Heart of the Reading Teacher.”
- We announce this year’s winner of the Oscar Causey Award.
- We announce this year’s winner of the National Reading Conference’s Distinguished Scholar Award.
- Ilana Snyder, Monash University, Australia delivers the Distinguished International Scholar Address: “Doing Technoliteracy in Schools: Perspectives from Down Under.”
- The National Endowment for the Arts presents their recent report, “Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America.” Cathy Roller, Mark Dressman, Sandra Stotsky, and Bruce Gans serve as discussants.
- Kelly Chandler-Olcott and Michael McKenna guide us through our annual Town Meeting, celebrating the true NRC spirit of common commitment and conversation. Follow the smell of popcorn to our location, but arrive early if you wish some!
- In the evening, join Donna Alvermann, David Reinking, Betty Sturdevant, Diane Schallert, Jo Worthy, Colin Harrison, and Kathleen Hinchman for a Vital Issues session to discuss how we might achieve excellence in literacy research.

**Friday, December 3**

- “What Will Define the Future of Literacy Research?” Consider today’s conference experiences in light of this Conversational Issue of the Day. Then, join us all for a Vital Issues session in the evening to discuss the answer. (Please see today’s final bullet, below.)
- Michele Foster, Claremont Graduate School, will give the plenary address: “What Contemporary Policy Reveals About Educational Research and the Struggle for Education 50 years after Brown.”
- Edward Fry will speak about the Edward B. Fry Book Award and Linda Kucan, Appalachian State University, will announce this year’s award winner.
- Peggy McCardle, from NICHD, and Elizabeth Albro, from the Institute for Educational Science, will discuss federal funding opportunities in reading and literacy.
- Colleagues who are helping to frame the National Assessment of Educational Progress present the session “The National Assessment of Educational Progress Reading Framework for 2009 and Beyond.”
- Catch up on email each day in our Cyber Café.
- Our important annual Business Meeting is held.
- Be certain to check the latest bids at our Book Display and Silent Auction. The last day of the silent book auction will take place and books will be distributed.
- The Editors of the NRC Yearbook and the Journal of Literacy Research invite members of their review boards to a reception from 6-7 pm.
- In the evening, join Michele Knobel, Colin Lankshear, Michele Foster, and Ilana Snyder for a Vital Issues session to discuss what will define the future of literacy research.
Saturday, December 4

- Victoria Purcell-Gates invites next year’s Area Chairs to the Program Area Chair’s Breakfast Meeting to begin work on next year’s exceptional program.
- The National Early Literacy Panel presents its research review findings.
- We announce this year’s winner of the Albert J. Kingston Award.
- Annemarie Sullivan Palincsar and Bridget Dalton deliver the NRC Annual Research Address.
- Gay Su Pinnell delivers the keynote address, “Research as a Foundation for Teaching” to the annual Saturday afternoon Research into Practice Conference.
- We present our annual Saturday afternoon Research into Practice Conference for Texas educators. Sessions presenting exceptional classroom practices, derived from research, will be led by Elizabeth Moje, Sharon Vaughn, Sylvia Linan-Thompson, Patricia Mathes, Sharolyn Pollard-Dudradora, Elsa Cardenas Hagan, Shelley Xu, Nell K. Duke, Julie Coiro, Elizabeth Schmar-Dobler, Keonya Booker, Marcia Invernizzi, Montanna McCormick, Linda Kucan, and Larry Sipe.

For more than 50 years, NRC has attracted scholars to a warm location during the first week in December, where we engage in spirited debate, dialogue, and conversation about the research we conduct. We also work hard to mentor new members and graduate students into our research community and we provide local literacy educators with a special, one-day conference linking our research with promising instructional practices. Finally, we always manage to have a bit of fun, enjoying the pleasures of seeing friends and colleagues and meeting new ones. If this is your first conference, you are in for a treat!

It will be an exciting time in San Antonio! I look forward to seeing you there!

Vice President

Victoria Purcell-Gates

I have been focusing most of my effort since last Spring in organizing what has become known as the Teacher’s Conference for the 2004 NRC Conference in San Antonio. Leigh A. Hall, from Michigan State University, has joined me as Co-Chair, and together we have worked diligently to put together an exciting and informative Saturday afternoon for local San Antonio teachers. This will be the third year of this “conference within a conference” and we are hoping to match the previous two in the degree of enthusiasm with which it is received by teachers.

The Teacher Conference takes place on the last day, Saturday, of the annual conference. Teachers from the area in which the NRC Conference is held are invited to register for a day of research and practice presentations. They may attend the research presentations scheduled for Saturday morning. Following this, and after lunch, a research-into-practice keynote address is presented, after which the attendees select among 4 sessions in each of two time blocks, prepared for them by NRC researchers. Those who have attended in the past have expressed a great deal of enthusiasm and appreciation for this opportunity to hear top literacy researchers discuss the ways in which their research is relevant to classroom practice.

The Teacher Conference program this year promises to provide San Antonio teachers with a wide array of topics and issues of interest. We wish to express our deepest appreciation to the NRC researchers who agreed to add one more presentation to their responsibilities for the conference and to develop presentations that are focused specifically to teachers.

The afternoon conference begins with Gay Su Pinnell (Ohio State University) giving the Keynote, “Research as a Foundation for Teaching.” Session presenters will include: Nell K. Duke (Michigan State University), Elizabeth Moje (University of Michigan), Sharon Vaughn and Sylvia Linan-Thompson (University of Texas), Patricia Mathes (Southern Methodist University), Sharolyn Pollard-Dudradora (Texas A&M University), Elsa Cardenas Hagan (University of Houston), Shelley Xu (California State University at Long Beach), Julie Coiro (University of Connecticut), Elizabeth Schmar-Dobler (Emporia State University), Keonya Booker (Randolph-Macon Woman’s College), Marcia Invernizzi, Montanna McCormick (University of Virginia), Linda Kucan (Appalachian State University), and Larry Sipe (University of Pennsylvania).

We also wish to thank the following NRC researchers/graduate students, from Michigan State University and the University of Alabama, who have agreed to stay over one more night to help with the Teacher Conference: Annie Moses and Kristen Perry (Conference Committee and Session Chairs), Alison K. Billman (Session Chair), Jory Brass (Session Chair), David Gallagher (Session Chair), Linda Golson (Session Chair), Katherine Hilden (Session Chair), Mary Kaye Johnson (Session Chair), and Julia Reynolds (Session Chair).

Update on Publications

Diane Barone
University of Nevada at Reno

The Editors of JLR and the Yearbook have been busy reviewing and adjudicating manuscripts and meeting all necessary deadlines. They also have a prominent web presence on the NRC website that you might want to check out. There is important information at JLR’s site about becoming a reviewer, the review board, and details about submitting manuscripts. At the Yearbook site there is information pertinent to submitting manuscripts for the Yearbook.

Journal of Literacy Research Update

The JLR Editors—Wayne Linek, Nancy Padak, Tim Rasinski, and Elizabeth Sturtevant—invite all NRC members to consider writing for the journal. Manuscript information is located at http://nrconline.org/jlr.html.

The editorial review board application process for 2004-05 was completely electronic. Eighty reviewers responded to the first call. Invitations were extended to former reviewers who did not apply to ensure that all areas of expertise are covered.
Editors are currently completing work on Volume 36 of the journal. Issues 36 #3 and 36 #4 will include articles by Donna Alvermann; Jim Hoffman, Misty Sailors, and Natasha Beretvas; and Kristina Love and Julie Hamston. Book review authors will include Bill Brozo, Jackie Edmondson, Julie Kidd, and Denise Stuart.

Yearbook Update
The Editors of the Yearbook—Colleen Fairbanks, Jo Worthy, Beth Maloch, Jim Hoffman, and Diane Schallert—expect to send the Yearbook to the printer on September 28, 2004.

The Yearbook will be mailed by November 1 so members should have the Yearbook well before the Conference (hopefully!). For the 2004 Yearbook (based on 2003 conference), we received 68 manuscripts and accepted 21. We will be posting the Call for Manuscripts on the NRC website in October and encourage all presenters at the 2004 Conference to submit their manuscripts for consideration.

Publications Committee
The NRC Publications Committee consists of the following individuals—Jerrell Cassady, Judith Lysaker, John Readence, Carol Donovan, and Joyce Many. We meet at each NRC conference. If you have ideas or suggestions for NRC’s publication work, please contact one of us and we will bring your suggestions to our annual meeting for consideration. The email addresses of Publications Committee members are listed on the NRC website under Publications Committee.

We are proud of the fine work of our Editors. When you pass them at the NRC conference, please thank them for the contributions they are making to literacy research. Through the journal and yearbook, our work becomes visible to teachers, researchers, and policymakers.

Past President (Acting Treasurer)
Lee Gunderson
University of British Columbia

My primary responsibility as Past President this year was to conduct the annual review of headquarters. This year a survey instrument was developed and members were asked to respond on-line. The final report has been posted at nrconline.org. I hope you will find it interesting.

I have observed as Don Leu has completed his work as conference chair. I am convinced you will find the results to be extraordinary. We can look forward to an incredible conference in San Antonio.

I have served as Acting Treasurer this year since the death of Ted Grace. It has been a somber responsibility serving in this position that he so ably held. I believe we have managed to continue his fine work. We now are able to report on the funding for each of the restricted funds and we have a healthy reserve of about $100,000. I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio in December.

Field Council
Joyce Many
Georgia State University

At each year’s annual conference, the NRC Field Council members host a luncheon for Newcomers. This year’s luncheon will be held on Wednesday Dec. 1st. The luncheon will provide an opportunity for Field Council representatives and NRC board members to welcome first time attendees and graduate students to our conference. Any newcomer or Field Council representative planning to attend the luncheon should sign up for the luncheon when they register for the conference. We look forward to seeing you there!

Ethnicity, Race and Multilingualism Committee

Dr. Doris Walker-Dalhouse
Minnesota State University Moorhead

Dr. Gwendolyn Thompson McMillon
Oakland University

Ethnicity, Race and Multilingualism Committee Scholarship
In the interest of assisting NRC in becoming a more diverse organization, the Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee attempts to support and promote scholars from differing ethnicities, races, and languages. Scholars whose proposals are accepted for presentation at the annual conference can apply for monetary awards to help defray the costs of attending NRC. This year, the committee will award eight scholarships of $300 each. Nominations should reach the committee no later than October 1st; self-nominations are welcomed. E-mail nominations, with the scholar’s curriculum vitae and accepted proposal, to Doris Walker-Dalhouse, walkerd@mnstate.edu, or Gwendolyn Thompson McMillon, mcmillon@oakland.edu.

Scholarship Criteria:
Scholarships will be awarded to graduate students or assistant professors from underrepresented ethnic, racial, or linguistic backgrounds that show promise of scholarship in the literacy field. Scholars should have received a letter of acceptance for their presentations at the forthcoming National Reading Conference. Scholarship nominations should include a curriculum vitae and the accepted proposal.

Conference Symposium
Last year, the Multicultural Committee (the Ethnicity, Race and Multilingualism Committee) organized a session, “Life for me ain’t been no crystal stair: Minority scholars discuss their “pathways to success” in the academe”, which focused on the pivotal roles that mentors play in the professional and personal lives of minority scholars. This year’s symposium entitled “Crossing Over to Canaan: Engaging Distinguished Women and/or Minority Scholars in Critical Conversations about Tenure” will continue the dialogue addressing the difficulties of scholars of color and women in achieving tenure in academia. The panelists for the alternative 80-minute symposium will be Donna Alvermann, Kathryn Au, Patricia Edwards, Jane Hansen and Robert Rueda.
**Ethics Committee Report**

Janet C. Richards  
University of South Florida

The Ethics Committee invites all NRC members to attend our planned Ethics Committee meetings at the 2004 conference. We have received some new members and look forward to adding to our group. Future activities include inviting a guest speaker who has experience in ethical educational issues to the 2005 NRC Conference, and forming a committee to determine the feasibility of writing a book prospectus devoted to ethical dilemmas in education.

**International Committee**

Sam Miller  
University of North Carolina Greensboro

The International Committee has funds to support colleagues traveling from outside of the US to the NRC conference. The Committee anticipates distributing 6 awards of $300 dollars each. Preference is given to persons presenting at the conference. If interested, please contact Sam Miller at sdmille2@uncg.edu by November 10.

**NRC Early Career Achievement Award**

Wendy Kasten  
Kent State University

Janet W. Bloodgood  
Appalachian State University

Members of the NRC Early Career Achievement Award Committee offer thanks to our colleagues who took time to write nominating letters for candidates for the award. The committee members weighed these letters and other supporting documents carefully as we chose the winner to be announced at the December NRC meeting.

The NRC Early Career Achievement Award provides NRC members with an opportunity to identify and honor those who are within seven years of receiving their doctoral degree and have actively contributed to literacy research and to NRC from the very beginnings of their careers. The award is available to anyone who has been a member of NRC for at least three years and has established a research program that shows promise for making significant contributions to our knowledge of literacy and literacy education. NRC members may nominate candidates in the spring by sending a letter that describes the nominee’s research, publication record, and contributions to NRC to the new committee chair.

**NRC's Literacy Research Methodologies Series**

*(Please read the research exemplars prior to each session.)*

**Wednesday—10:15-11:45 Experimental and Correlational Methodologies**

Chairs: Jill Castek, University of Connecticut  
Ruby Sanny, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Shenglan Zhang, Michigan State University

I. Experimental Methodologies in Literacy Research

Jonna Kulikowich, Penn State University


II. Correlational Methodologies in Literacy Research

Anne Cunningham, University of California, Berkeley

III. Using Structural Equation Modeling in Literacy Research

Richard Lomax, University of Alabama


**Wednesday—2:45-4:15 Ethnography and Case Study Methodologies**

Chairs: Crystal Caffey, Southern Illinois University Carbondale  
Dana Cammack, Teachers College  
Jon Callow, University of Western Sydney

I. Qualitative Inquiry: Philosophical Foundations and Disciplinary Histories

George Kamberelis, University at Albany, State University of New York

Greg Dimitriadis, University at Buffalo, State University of New York

II. Ethnography and Case Study in Literacy Research

Diane Barone, University of Nevada, Reno


III. Using Digital Data in Literacy Research

Savilla Banister, Bowling Green State University

Richardson, J. (2004, July/August). Content area literacy lessons go high tech. Reading Online, 8(1).
Thursday—8:45-10:15 Using Mixed Methodologies in Literacy Research

Chairs: Laurie Henry, University of Connecticut
        Mary Sheard, University of Nottingham
        Jeremie Seror, University of British Columbia

I. What’s Mixed in Mixed Methods?
   Elizabeth Birr Moje, Michigan State University
   Cathy Roller, International Reading Association


II. Formative Experiments as Mixed Methodology Research in Literacy
   David Reinking, Clemson University
   Barbara Bradley, University of Georgia


Thursday—3:00-4:45 Discourse Analysis

Chairs: Annie Moses, Michigan State University
        Katina Zammit, University of Western Sydney

I. Discourse Analysis in Literacy Research
   Susan Florio-Ruane, Michigan State University

II. Critical Discourse Analysis in Literacy Research
   Ernest Morrell, Michigan State University
   Leslie Burns, Michigan State University

Friday—8:45-10:15-Looking forward into our future: Upcoming methodologies and issues with new definitions of literacy

Chairs: Julie Coiro, University of Connecticut
        Katie Hilden, Michigan State University
        Mary Love, University of Georgia

I. Considering paradigms and possibilities for research in electronic environments
   Chuck Kinzer, Teachers College

II. Examining Electronic Data Collection: Benefits, Concerns, and Future Possibilities
   Rachel Karchmer, University of Delaware


III. Bringing together screen and talk data in digital research: a multimethod approach to investigating how students engage as users and creators of curricular knowledge
   Claire Wyatt-Smith, Griffith University

Friday—1:15-2:45 What makes for excellence in literacy research methodology?

Chairs: Deborah Golos, University of Colorado
        Kristen Perry, Michigan State University

I. Perspectives from the Editors of Reading Research Quarterly
   Donna Alvermann, University of Georgia
   David Reinking, Clemson University

II. Perspectives from the Journal of Literacy Research
   Nancy Padak, Kent State University

III. Understanding Methodology in Grant Writing
   Richard Anderson, University of Illinois, Urbana

Saturday—8:45-10:15 Questions and Conversation with the Series Participants

Chairs: Donald J. Leu, University of Connecticut
        Marla Mallette, Southern Illinois University
        Nell Duke, Michigan State University

Panel:

   Jonna Kulikowich, Penn State University
   Richard Lomax, University of Alabama
   George Kamberelis, State University of New York, Albany
   Greg Dimitriadis, State University of New York, Buffalo
   Diane Barone, University of Nevada, Reno
   Savilla Banister, Bowling Green State University
   Elizabeth Birr Moje, University of Michigan
   Cathy Roller, International Reading Association
   David Reinking, Clemson University
   Barbara Bradely, University of Georgia
   Susan Florio-Ruane, Michigan State University
   Ernest Morrell, Michigan State University
   Chuck Kinzer, Teacher College, Columbia University
   Rachel Karchmer, University of Delaware
   Claire Wyatt-Smith, Griffith University
   Nancy Padak, Kent State University
   Richard Anderson, University of Illinois
You are cordially invited to a Newcomers’ Welcome Luncheon

Hosted by the Members of the NRC Field Council

Let us welcome you to the annual meeting of the National Reading Conference and provide you with an opportunity to get to know the NRC Board members, Committee Chairs, and the Field Council Representatives from your area.

Wednesday, December 1
12:00 Noon
R.S.V.P. When you register for the Conference.
# Conference Registration

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*Please make hotel reservations with the Crowne Plaza Riverwalk formerly Adams Mark (888) 623-2800 or (210) 354-2800.*

## Payment Information

- Check
- Visa
- MasterCard
- American Express

**Name:**

**Address:**

**City, State, Zip:**

**Work Phone:** ____________________ **Home Phone:** ____________________ **Fax:** ____________________

**E-mail:** ____________________ **Affiliation:** ____________________ **Exp. Date:** ____________________

**Signature of Card Holder:** ____________________

**Students:** Please indicate name of Advisor or Dean: ____________________

After September 1, 2004 the program will be available online, a hard copy will be provided at the conference unless you choose to have it mailed to you before the conference for a service fee.

Full registration includes the 54th National Reading Conference Yearbook, published in December 2005.

Daily registrants not eligible to receive the 54th National Reading Conference Yearbook offer.

Registrations will not be processed without payment, please make all payments in US Dollars.