



NEWSLETTER

Jacqueline Lynch, Editor
Fall 2008

President's Report

Norman A. Stahl
Northern Illinois University

Memories Old and Memories New

I'm an old San Franciscan. Yes, I'm a native, and there are not many of the breed to be found. If you share with me a knowledge and love of the City, as many NRC members do, you know that in the area called the Outside Lands, where the City touches the vast reaches of the Pacific at Ocean Beach, the sun rarely shines throughout the summer because it is covered by a blanket of fog nine days out of ten. But then come the last days of summer. September means that it is cooler in the central valley. The fog vanishes from the Outside Lands for days at a time, and the temperatures rise to shortsleeve weather. For the residents of the City it becomes the happy times. For an old, hippie surfer, the memories of cutting class at Lincoln High School and riding the near-perfect waves that would come to Sloat Beach in September are now permanent year-round fixtures in my mind. Still after all these years and all the miles, when the last days of summer arrive, my heart and soul are sitting on my old Lance Carlson noserider some hundred yards out in the blue Pacific waiting for one of those gifts of September.

Today the realities of the end of summer focus more on the start of the school year, with standard activities such as new faculty to mentor (we landed some great colleagues this year), quality part-time instructors to hire (always a challenge), and countless students to enroll in classes. In addition, this year we also had the near-perfect academic storm with the unveiling of the new PeopleSoft system (what a nightmare!), the submission of two NCATE SPA reports (do I have to comment?), and the writing of a mid-cycle review for the university assessment panel (will it ever stop?). Hurricanes Ike, Gustav, and Hanna pale in comparison. So in my case, my thoughts, along with a cry for sanity, look ahead to the last days of the fall semester when NRC colleagues come together for our annual meeting in Orlando.

You see, as warm and deep as my memories are of Sloat Beach in September, so are my memories of the annual meeting of NRC. Whether the event was held in San Diego, Palm Springs, Orlando, Miami Beach, or at the infamous "Don," there have always been opportunities for learning and fellowship. The new learning of theories and research provide the foundation for our personal scholarship for the year ahead. We are enriched as scholars in a manner that can only be hoped for by other gatherings of literacy professionals throughout the year. Furthermore, the fellowship we find at NRC cements the bonds between colleagues for a lifetime.

While I welcome the former, I hunger for the latter. Anthony Petrosky was right when he said that life in the academy meant we might have few friends in our own institutions, but we would have wonderful colleagues throughout the continent, if not the world. You are such to me, and our NRC has been the vehicle for such to happen.

Don't get me wrong—the research presented at NRC is second to none. You are an amazing group of scholars. But the memories of grand and great people are what pull at the heartstrings. It's the memory of David Pearson entering the bar area at the "Don" in his signature, ratty old green sweatshirt and turning to Rob Tierney to say, "Who the ?#*/ are all these people?" It was a new generation, and David, you were a great role model for us...well, perhaps not when it came to dress. It's the memory of a former NRC President who, in 85-degree weather, put on a raincoat with ever so many pockets to pilfer most of Jerry Harste's beer, as the new kids wanted to have a beach party. Jerry, I don't think we ever thanked you, and I guess having told this story, several of us owe you a beer (if not a case) or two. It's the memory of Peter Afflerbach and Donna Alvermann among others who were forcibly evicted from the hot tub in Palm Springs because of rowdy behavior. You'll note that the NRC annual meeting has never been back to Palm Springs. Coincidence? I think not. And, it's the memory of Don Leu and the ..., wait a minute, I promised I would never talk about such activities as long as Don still had graduate students. Don, have you ever thought about what might be the statute of limitations in Florida, or was that in Texas? It all gets so foggy.

So folks, do come to the annual meeting in Orlando this year. Make a memory. Kathy Hinchman has put together a bang-up program of scholarship and other activities for you. The conference will be first class, I promise you that! There are great keynote speeches and a plethora of quality sessions. We will deal with several important issues including a potential name change at the Annual Business Meeting, so please do plan to attend.

But equally important, please come to the annual meeting to make your own NRC stories. We will have the NRC legal counsel on stand-by just in case! If you desire to plan ahead, contact our able headquarters' staff so that you might put Saul's phone number on the speed dial.

Finally, as you sit around the cabana by the pool, please plan to tell some of your favorite NRC stories to old friends and do so to at least one new colleague. After all, you are the story of NRC. And what a never-ending story it is...

President-Elect's Report

Kathleen A. Hinchman
Syracuse University

I am pleased to invite you to the 58th Annual Meeting of the National Reading Conference. It will take place from December 3 to December 6 at the Wyndham Orlando Resort in Florida. The theme for this year's conference is *Literacy Research: Merging and Emerging Perspectives*, a theme that reflects the wide array of presentations on our conference schedule.

In keeping with this theme, Marla Mallette and Nell Duke have planned a phenomenal **Research Methodology Series** to be held each day of the conference, to help us with our design of rigorous and compelling research. Speakers include Richard Lomax, Tony Onwuegbuzie, Sari Knopp Biklen, Alysia Roehrig, Ian Wilkinson, Robert Jiménez, P. David Pearson, Sheila Valencia, and Colin Harrison. Sessions are also planned to help us with gaining understanding about publishing and grant writing.

Our **Plenary Speakers** are provocative and engaging, including Ronald Marx, from the University of Arizona, and Alfred Tatum, from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Scott Paris will give this year's **Oscar S. Causey Address**, and our **Integrative Research Review**, presented by Sharon Walpole and Michael McKenna, will take place, as usual, on Saturday morning. Of course, "Uncle" Norman A. Stahl will delight us with his **Presidential Address** on Wednesday afternoon.

Be on the lookout for *Idea Jars* around the conference venue on Wednesday and Thursday morning. They will be sitting next to a stack of index cards, which you can use to write anonymous questions and comments about NRC, governance, or policies for the *Town Meeting* on Thursday night. We will, as usual, also welcome comments and questions from the floor, so you will want to see what your colleagues are thinking and saying. You'll also want to put the annual *Business Meeting* on your dinnertime agenda for Friday evening.

The Wyndham Resort is reminiscent of many past NRC conference sites. Besides luxurious hotel and conference spaces, its many paths lead to three swimming pools, wonderful gardens, and secluded lagoons. There are two on-site restaurants, a delicatessen, game room, jogging path, and an ice cream store—all in all, a stimulating environment for our discussions with one another. The site includes both lobby and pool bars for our evening *Vital Issues* repast. You will want to make special plans to join us for Wednesday evening's Presidential Reception and for Friday evening's *Vital Issues ReVitalized*, with music at the pool bar.

Our location on International Drive puts us quite close to a host of other restaurants, stores, and facilities. Orlando is also famous for its bustling downtown and magnificent amusement parks. Arrive early or stay an extra day to visit Walt Disney World, Universal Studios, and Sea World, as well as numerous Central Florida golf courses and other outdoor adventures.

You will find out more about this important annual event at www.nrconline.org. Do please join me for this important once-a-year opportunity for sharing our ideas, learning about improving our work, and visiting with our friends in the NRC community. I look forward to seeing you in sunny, warm Orlando for our hundreds of exceptional plenary addresses, symposia, alternative format sessions, papers, and roundtables.

Albert J. Kingston Award Committee

Diane Corcoran Nielsen, Chair
University of Kansas

Albert J. Kingston Award
Call for Nominations

Please nominate your hard-working NRC colleagues for the Albert J. Kingston Award. The purpose of the award is to honor an NRC member for distinguished contributions of service to the National Reading Conference. Those nominating an individual for the Kingston Award are asked to submit: (a) a copy of the nominee's current curriculum vita, and (b) a letter nominating the individual that briefly describes the service contributions made to the National Reading Conference. Nominees must have belonged to NRC for at least five years. Any NRC member may nominate deserving candidates for recognition of their work. Please send nominations or inquiries about the award to the Kingston Award Committee Chair, Diane Corcoran Nielsen, at dnielsen@ku.edu.

History of the Award

The Albert J. Kingston Award is given to honor an NRC member for distinguished contributions of service to the National Reading Conference. The Albert J. Kingston Award has been presented annually since 1985. Information on Albert Kingston, including his role in the founding of NRC, is available on the NRC Web site.

Award Review Process

Hard copy or electronic copies of each nominee's curriculum vita and nomination letter are sent to members of the Award Committee. Committee members rank each nominee in order from highest to lowest according to the stated criteria of substantial and significant contributions of service to NRC and the breadth, depth, and length of contributions to NRC. The chairperson averages these rankings, and the recipient is selected according to the person receiving the highest average ranking. The recipient of the Albert J. Kingston Award will be announced at the annual conference and receive a plaque and a lifetime membership in NRC.

Past Award Winners

Harry Singer (1985), Irene Athey (1986), Frank Greene (1987), Thomas H. Estes (1988), Michael L. Kamil (1989), Trika Smith-Burke (1990), Edward B. Fry (1991), Patricia L. Anders (1992), Jerome C. Harste (1993), Jerome A. Niles (1994), John E. Readence (1995), Richard Robinson (1996), Donna E. Alvermann (1997), Ronald P. Carver (1998), Lea McGee (1999), Lee Gunderson (2000), Linda Gambrell (2001), Jim Hoffman (2002), Martha Ruddell (2003), Peter Mosenthal (2004), Colin Harrison (2005), Douglas Hartman (2006), Michael McKenna (2006), John McEneaney (2007).

Ethics Innovative Community Group (ICG)

Karen M. Feathers, Co-chair
Wayne State University

Cynthia B. Leung, Co-chair
University of South Florida St. Petersburg

The Ethics ICG will hold its business meeting at NRC 2008 on Wednesday, December 3 from 12-1 p.m. in the Largo Room at the Wyndham Orlando. At that time members will plan proposals for alternative sessions on Ethics and Literacy Research for NRC 2009. Some ideas that have been suggested for alternative sessions: 1) ethical issues in conducting research in school and out-of-school settings; and 2) ethical issues that arise when literacy researchers study and write about teachers. All are welcome to attend the meeting and to share your ideas as well as help plan for next year's Ethics Sessions at NRC.

If you would like to be a member of the Ethics ICG and join the ICG Listserv, or if you are currently a member and would like to update your e-mail address, please e-mail Christopher Roper, the administrator at NRC Headquarters, at c.roper@nrconline.org. The address of the discussion list is NRC_Ethics_ICG@nrconline.org.

Everyone is welcome to join the Ethics ICG and to share ideas with other ICG members through the Listserv.

Ethnicity, Race and Multilingualism Innovative Community Group (ICG)

Jennifer D. Turner, Chair
University of Maryland, College Park

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 diverse ethnic, racial, and language backgrounds. Scholars whose proposals are accepted for presentation at the annual conference can apply for monetary awards to help defray the costs of attending the NRC. This year, the Committee will award several scholarships of \$300 each. Nominations should reach the Committee no later than October 27, 2008. Self-nominations are welcome.

E-mail nominations with the scholar's curriculum vita and accepted NRC 2008 proposal to: Jennifer D. Turner at jdtturner@umd.edu. Once applications are received they will be read by the Chair and/or a small subcommittee established by the Chair.

Scholarship Criteria

Scholarships will be awarded to doctoral students or assistant professors from under-represented ethnic, racial or linguistic backgrounds who show promise of scholarship in the literacy field. Preference will be given to scholars who are presenting their personal research. Scholarship nominations must include a curriculum vita and the accepted proposal for the 2008 NRC Annual Meeting. Due to time constraints,

incomplete nomination packets will not be considered. If you have received the scholarship in the past year, you are not eligible for this award.

Invitation to Attend the 2008 Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee Meeting at NRC

We welcome everyone to the Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee meeting at the NRC 2008 Conference. Our meeting will be held on Friday, December 5th at 7:25am. At this meeting, we will discuss current and future initiatives for the Committee. Recipients of the Ethnicity, Race and Multilingualism scholarships will also be formally recognized at our meeting.

International Innovative Community Group (ICG)

Jiening Ruan, Chair
University of Oklahoma

The NRC International Committee is one of NRC's Innovative Community Groups (ICGs). We welcome anyone who is interested in cross-cultural or international research to attend our functions and to get placed on our membership list. Members from all countries, including the U.S., are encouraged to participate.

The ICG has small grants to help international presenters defray the cost of travel to the conference. Eligibility WILL BE BASED on the following criteria AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED before submitting your application:

1. Have an accepted presentation at the conference;
2. Live outside of the U.S.A.;
3. Submit an application to become a committee member (free membership); and
4. Submit an application for the grant.

All applications should be submitted to Jiening Ruan via e-mail at jruan@ou.edu by the Nov. 1st, 2008 deadline. Grant notification will be sent out shortly upon the approval of the steering committee.

The committee will hold three major events during the annual conference:

- (a) Committee meeting on Wednesday, December 3rd, 2008 from 12-1 p.m. in Oleander B;
- (b) Annual social get-together on Wednesday, December 3rd in the evening. The details will be provided at a later date;
- (c) A research symposium on Thursday, December 4th from 8:30-10 a.m. in Lemon.

Please consider joining the ICG and participating in our events during the conference. See you in Orlando!

Publications Committee

Shelley Hong Xu, Chair
California State University-Long Beach

JLR Update

JLR's transition from the University of Connecticut to Michigan State University was completed by June 17th, 2008. Since that time 28 manuscripts have been received, 27 are in various stages of the review process, and one is fully reviewed with a disposition letter ready to send. In addition to our existing translation teams in Chinese, French, and Spanish, we are in the process of searching for teams to translate *JLR* abstracts into Russian, Japanese, Arabic, and German. We currently have 202 NRC members serving on the journal's editorial review board. At the 2008 NRC meeting in Orlando, Florida, *JLR* will co-host a "Writing for NRC Publications" lunch-hour session with the *Yearbook* from 12-1 p.m. Friday (December 5th) in Orange. The *JLR* Team will host a breakfast for the *JLR* editorial review board at 7:25-8:25 a.m. Friday (December 5th) in Orange.

NRC Yearbook Update

The *Yearbook* Editors (the lead Editors: Youb Kim and Victoria Risko; the collaborating Editors: Donald Compton, David Dickinson, Kevin Leander, Melanie Hundley, Robert Jiménez, and Debbie Rowe) reviewed over 91 manuscripts with 23 selected for publication in the *57th Yearbook*. The *57th Yearbook* reflects a diverse collection of papers presented at the 2007 annual meeting, which was held in Austin, Texas last November. The accepted papers include topics ranging from assessment, classroom instruction, critical perspectives, language diversity, literacy curriculum, technology and new literacies, and teacher education and professional development.

Sankofa, the theme of the 2007 conference, symbolizes one's quest for knowledge. This theme well represents the papers published in the *57th Yearbook*. Researchers situated their work in the study of previous research to offer new conceptual understandings of literacy practices, and to consider diverse perspectives to derive interpretations of current and multiple events and issues affecting classroom instruction and literacy policy.

In addition to the 23 peer-reviewed pieces, the *Yearbook* also includes papers from Patricia A. Edwards (Presidential Address), Doug K. Hartman and David H. Davis (Integrative Research Review), Michael Kamil (Oscar S. Causey Address), and Elizabeth Petroelje Stolle (Student Outstanding Research Award). Also included are brief biographies of the conference award winners Scott Paris (Oscar S. Causey Award) and John McEneaney (Albert J. Kingston Award). The *Yearbook* concludes with an Introduction to the 2007 Program, written by Norman A. Stahl, and a list of all presentations at the 2007 annual meeting. The *Yearbook* will be sent out to NRC members the week of October 20th. Finally, the Editors wish to extend their thanks to the 160 reviewers, including 40 student reviewers of the *57th Yearbook*, for their timely and invaluable feedback on the submitted manuscripts. And we thank Jenny Kasza, the editor at NRC headquarters, and Michelle Majerus-Uelmen, the graphic designer at NRC headquarters, for their support and ability to move the *Yearbook* forward to meet the

various deadlines along the way. We will be calling on members again soon as we look forward to the *58th Yearbook* recording of all the great work that will be presented at NRC in Orlando this December.

Technology Committee

Mariam Jean Dreher, Chair
University of Maryland, College Park

The Technology Committee and the members of the Technology Innovative Community Group (ICG) are pleased to report that beginning in Orlando, LCD projectors will be available to all presenters. Also, before the conference this year, you will be able to upload your paper and handouts for others to access. We hope this new feature will increase more interaction among conference participants.

The Technology committee worked with AREA 10, Literacy, Technology, and Media, to help sponsor technology-related featured speakers for December. Don't miss the panel discussion by Gloria Jacobs, Hiller Spires, and Ian O'Byrne on "*Bridging In and Out of School Literacies in an Era of Gaming, Instant Messaging, and Other Digital Technologies.*"

A concern of the Committee relates to the posting of plenary address recordings on the NRC Web site. Although the plenary addresses for both 2006 and 2007 were recorded and are ready to be posted, the NRC Web site does not have enough bandwidth to support the posts. At the May 2008 Board meeting, there was unanimous support for a motion to purchase additional bandwidth at the cost of \$20 per month to host plenary speaker videos for viewing and downloading. The Committee hopes that the delay between the conference and the posting of the plenary speaker videos will soon be resolved.

All interested NRC members are welcome to attend the Technology Committee meeting in Orlando on Thursday, December 4th from 12-1 p.m. in Oleander A. We will have a special 10-minute presentation on *Nings* by Technology Committee member Lisa Zawilinski. A *Ning* is a social networking software that provides the opportunity to set up groups and communication around classes, sessions or special interests. If you are already familiar with *Nings*, you can add to Lisa's discussion. If not, you will learn something new. We are always looking for new ideas, so please come and share.