



LITERACY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2015

Jacquelynn A. Malloy, Clemson University

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Janice F. Almasi

University of Kentucky

The onset of a new academic year brings with it the hope, promise, and excitement of continued learning and inquiry. As well, it also brings to mind the promise that, at the end of the semester, we will join each other to collaborate and network with one another and share and listen to cutting edge literacy research when we meet for our annual conference.

Evaluation and Planning

Per LRA's policies and procedures, this spring LRA and our management firm, Kautter Wenhold Management Group (KWMG) conducted independent evaluations to examine the strengths and challenges of our organization and managing it. We worked jointly to enhance communication and revise our contract so that moving forward our organization operates smoothly and efficiently. August marked the beginning of our third year working with KWMG, and we are grateful for their expertise in managing our organization and the guidance and direction they provide to us as we plan for our future. We look forward to continuing our relationship with KWMG in the coming year.

Strategic Planning

As noted in the winter newsletter, the Executive Committee and Board of Directors have been working diligently to examine and analyze the data gathered from the Needs Assessment Survey that was sent to all LRA members in January. A total of 417 LRA members completed the survey, and the data were analyzed and used to inform our strategic planning process, which was led by Dave Wenhold, the CEO of KWMG. Our overall goal for strategic planning was to enhance organizational growth and enable the Board of Directors to set directions and priorities that not only align with our mission and vision, but also with the needs identified from the Needs Assessment Survey. In February, Dave worked with the Executive Committee to examine the data from the Needs Assessment Survey to identify LRA's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. We used that analysis to identify five areas for growth: (a) communications, (b) diversity, (c) governance, (d) mentoring and energy, and (e) policy and advocacy.

Throughout the spring and early summer, the entire Board of Directors worked to develop goals, action plans and timelines related to each of the five areas for growth. The Board will continue to refine those plans this fall. The resulting plans will be shared with the entire membership at the annual conference in December.

Board of Directors

It has been an honor and a privilege to work with the Board of Directors throughout the year. We began the year with the goal of developing a strategic plan, which meant that, in addition to the numerous tasks that Board members engage in, they also committed to participate in the labor-intensive process of planning for LRA's future. Typically, the Board of Directors meets face-to-face each spring for four hours. This year, the Board volunteered to dedicate an entire day to engage in strategic planning. Afterward, they worked throughout the remainder of the spring semester in smaller groups to draft the strategic plan. As mentioned above, they will continue to refine the plan this fall prior to beginning implementation. With every opportunity that I have had to work with this Board I am reminded of how fortunate the organization is to have so many thoughtful, visionary, and dedicated leaders. I am grateful to this entire hard-working Board for their tireless efforts and support. This fall, the following exceptional leaders will cycle off of the board: Arlette Willis (Past President), Cynthia Lewis (Board Director), Ray Reutzel (Board Director), and Misty Sailors (Board Director). Please join me in thanking them for their years of dedicated service to the organization. As well, please join me in welcoming our newly elected leaders who will begin their terms at our annual Business Meeting on December 4, 2015: Gay Ivey (Vice President), Elizabeth Dutro (Board Director), Carmen Medina (Board Director), and David O'Brien (Board Director).

New Appointments

Committee Chairs. Please join me in welcoming Anne McGill-Franzen (Policy and Legislative Committee), Rachel Karchmer-Klein (Publications Committee), and Michael Manderino (E-editor) to new roles within LRA. Each was approved by the Board of Directors and appointed to their new roles in the spring of 2015. We look forward to their leadership over the coming years.

Publications. This spring the Publications Committee, chaired by Rachel Karchmer-Klein, completed a search for the next editorial team, which will be responsible for volumes 49-51 of the *Journal of Literacy Research*. The Publications Committee recommended, the Board of Directors approved, and I have appointed the editorial team to be led by Misty Sailors, Dennis Davis and Miriam Martinez (University of Texas at San Antonio). Associate editors Logan Manning (University of Texas at San Antonio), Arlette Willis (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), and Virginia Goatley (University at Albany, State University of New York) will also assist the effort. The next editorial team will begin their work on December 4, 2015.

Please join me in congratulating the next editors of JLR. As well, I would like to extend appreciation to Rachel Karchmer-Klein and the Publications Committee for their hard work in conducting the search. Finally, join me in extending gratitude to the current editorial team led by

Patty Anders and David Yaden (University of Arizona) and Associate Editors Christina da Silva Iddings (University of Arizona), Laurie Katz (The Ohio State University), and Theresa Rogers (University of British Columbia) for their vision, leadership, and commitment to LRA while editing our journal. Their tireless efforts, and their gift of extending their editorial responsibilities for an additional year, will enable LRA to have a seamless transition between the outgoing and incoming editorial teams.

We also look forward this fall to the first digital version of *Literacy Research: Theory, Method and Practice* (formerly known as the *LRA Yearbook*), which is being edited by Betsy Baker and Jennifer Clifton (University of Missouri) and their co-editors Carol Gilles, Laurie Kingsley, Candace Kuby, Amy Lannin, Lenny Sánchez, and Angie Zapata.

Finally, thanks are extended to Jackie Malloy (Clemson University) for her dedication and service as the Newsletter Editor. Jackie's editorial expertise, patience, and gentle nudges are greatly appreciated.

LRA Website

The architecture has been completed, professional liability and media insurance have been purchased, and we have worked with our attorney to develop Terms of Service and Privacy policies for the new LRA website. These behind-the-scenes changes to the LRA website, when launched, will afford members a much wider range of online experiences. We are currently working to refine content and aesthetics for the LRA website, and will look forward later this fall to launching the enhanced website. Thanks are extended to our headquarters staff; the Technology Committee, chaired by Erica Boling; and e-editors Greg McVerry, Ian O'Byrne, and Michael Manderino for their generous donations of time and expertise as this undertaking moves forward.

Finally, we eagerly anticipate all that Pat Enciso, Conference Program Chair, and Becky Rogers, Co-chair, have planned for us in Carlsbad, CA, at the Omni LaCosta Resort and Spa when we join each other for the 65th Annual Conference this December. Thanks are extended not only to Pat and Becky, but also to our headquarters staff, all of the area chairs and all of the reviewers for rigorously reviewing the overwhelming number of proposals, thoughtfully planning and scheduling accepted proposals, and orchestrating all of the events as we look forward to what promises to be an extraordinary conference.

PRESIDENT ELECT'S REPORT

Patricia Enciso

Ohio State University

The 2015 LRA Conference will be held in Carlsbad, California, at the Omni La Costa Resort, Wednesday, December 2, through Saturday, December 5. This year's theme, "Literacy, Equity, and Imagination" focuses on new possibilities for inclusion and equity across multiple communities, languages, and expressive modes.

As Program Chair, I have enjoyed working with many people as the program developed, came into focus, and was finally 'framed' as a complete composition. I liken this experience to the development of an 'old school' photograph - blurred and shaded at first, with clarity rising up out of the chemical bath, as layers of shadings from deep black to white form unexpected patterns around a focal image. The

program has distinct patterns, related to twelve Areas of inquiry, and a focus on equity in education. I invite you to compose a conference experience that inspires new ways of seeing your ongoing research concerns.

Thank you...

The program development process depends on generous, smart, skillful colleagues, serving as Area Chairs, who read, reread, and discuss the potential of all the questions, conceptualizations, theories, methods, data and narratives in your research proposals. I am grateful for their commitment to service in LRA. I am especially grateful to Rebecca Rogers, Program Co-Chair, for her time and insights, and for Janice Almasi's guidance as past Program Chair. Finally, our program administrator at KWMG, Barbara Beatty, has followed us every step of the way with technical support and direction.

2015 Proposal Statistics

As happened in 2013 and 2014, proposal submissions exceeded expectations (n=1047). Area Chairs previewed proposals, assigned reviewers, collated reviews and made final recommendations. They worked closely with me to follow decision procedures for all recommendations. They completed all reviews and formed paper sessions ahead of the June 1 deadline. In support of this process, more than 3000 reviews were completed by hundreds of LRA volunteers who diligently completed (the much requested) comments to authors for every review. Thank you!

The acceptance rate for proposals, overall, was 68%. This percentage varied by Area (64% to 72%) and proposal type. Papers (65%) and roundtables (59%) had the lowest accept rates and alternative format (75%) and symposia proposals (81%) had higher accept rates. All 24 Study Groups were accepted. The proposals were excellent; and we had room at the Omni for exactly the number of groups proposed.

New Formats

- **Discussants.** This year I asked Area Chairs to assign discussants only in cases where they were certain of the expertise and experience of the assigned scholar. You will note in the online and paper program that some paper sessions have three or four papers with no discussant. This is an experiment. I believe that in many cases, presenters will have more time for their presentations and an opportunity to continue a dialogic conversation about their work with attendees.
- **Roundtables – Single and Paired.** Single roundtable papers will be presented in the Costa Del Sol Ballroom D. I also worked with Rebecca Rogers to pair some roundtable proposals, so that scholars might experience a more dialogic conversation with other scholars and attendees about the direction of their methods and findings. Please look for 'Roundtable Sessions' in the online program to find the roundtable pairings. These informal presentations will be presented in the Carnation Room of the Coastal Event Center as well as the Costa Del Sol, Ballroom D.
- **Saturday Focus.** Throughout Saturday morning, from 8:30-10:00am, sessions will focus on literacy research as a community practice. Scholarship includes work with youth and adults on video-making, writing, drama, collaborative decision-making, and the specific literacy resources and questions valued by community members.
- **Bilingual Sessions.** In these sessions, presenters will use Spanish and English as needed to express their ideas and represent their participants' voices and perspectives as fully as possible.

Translations (bi-directional) may be offered within the presentation, through slides, or on handouts.

Highlights

- Invited Sessions. Area Chairs for 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 created sessions representing leading scholarship in their specific literacy research domains. Please search the online program for 'Invited Sessions' and plan to attend at least one of these outstanding sessions.

Plenary Sessions. Dr. Janice Almasi, Carol Lee Robertson Endowed Professor of Literacy at the University of Kentucky, will present the Presidential Address on Wednesday, December 2, 2015, at 4:45 in the Poinsettia Ballroom, Coastal Events Center.

Title: "Crossing Borders in Literacy Research: Opportunities and Missed Opportunities"

All are invited to the Presidential Reception, which will follow immediately after the Presidential Address on the Vista Terrace of the Coastal Events Center.

Dr. Susan Neuman, Professor of Educational Studies at the University of Michigan, will present the Oscar Causey Award on Thursday, December 3, 2015, at 10:30 in the Poinsettia Ballroom, Coastal Events Center.

Title: "Opportunities to Learn: Give Kids a Fighting Chance"

Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings, Kellner Family Chair in Urban Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is the 2015 recipient of The Distinguished Scholar Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Ladson-Billings' presentation will be Thursday, December 4, 2015, from 3:00 - 4:30 pm in Poinsettia Ballroom I, Coastal Events Center.

Title: "Literate Lives Matter: African Americans Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening"

Dr. Norma E. González, Professor of Teaching, Learning and Sociocultural Studies at the University of Arizona, will deliver an Invited Plenary Address on Thursday, December 3, 2015, from 4:45 - 6:00 pm in the Poinsettia Ballroom, Coastal Events Center.

Title: "Imagining Literacy Equity: Theorizing Flows of Community Practices"

Dr. Michelle Fine, Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Urban Education at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, will deliver an Invited Plenary Address on Friday, December 4, 2015, from 4:45 - 6:00 pm in the Poinsettia Ballroom, Coastal Events Center.

Title: "Prec(ar)ious Knowledge and Neoliberal Blues: Participatory Analysis of Education Reform with Youth Engaged in Survivance"

Dr. Valerie Kinloch (Ohio State University), Dr. Joanne Larson (Rochester University), and Dr. Marjorie Orellana-Faulstich (UCLA), will present the Integrated Research Review, moderated by Dr. Cynthia Lewis (University of Minnesota)

on Saturday, December 5, 2015, at 10:30 am in the Poinsettia Ballroom, Coastal Events Center.

Title: "Literacy, Equity, and Imagination: Research with/in Communities Gatherings"

Vital Issues will continue, under the organizational leadership of Field Council. Vital Issues is a time to continue discussions about vital issues in literacy research and meet old and new friends in an informal setting. It will be held from 9:00 pm onward in the lobby bar each evening. All members are invited to attend and continue conversations about each day's events.

- Newcomers' and Graduate Students' Breakfast. 7:30 - 8:45 am, Thursday, December 3, 2015. Costa Del Sol Ballroom Salon D. A full breakfast buffet will be served while attendees learn about the many opportunities available for engagement with the research community, and for recognition of their research through awards and publications. Please join us!
- Town Hall Meeting. Thursday, December 3, 2015, immediately following the plenary. During the Town Hall Meeting, issues of concern to the organization are brought forward and discussed publicly. As Program Chair and Co-Chairs, we are rethinking the format of this year's Town Hall so that groups, such as ICGs, will have an opportunity to plan and present questions and concerns. The Town Hall invites a lively face-to-face exchange that gives leadership an opportunity to listen to members, as members also have an opportunity to voice ideas and questions with one another.

Business Meeting. The annual business meeting will be held Friday, December 4, 2015, immediately following the plenary session. This event offers an opportunity to learn about the mechanics of the organization (i.e., finance, governance, future conference sites, election slates, transfer of leadership)

Hotels

Conference attendance is growing and therefore conference sites are going to be full. Fortunately, nearby hotels can accommodate the overflow. This year, we planned for more than 1700 room nights (250 more than last year), but these were filled by July 25 and people reserved more than 1900 rooms. A new contract included the additional 200 rooms and added 160 more room nights (2060). This is a huge number of room nights for LRA.

In 2016 the conference will be held at the Omni Nashville, a brand new hotel with about 150 more double rooms and 200 more rooms overall than the Omni La Costa. We are hopeful that everyone who wants a room in Nashville will be able to reserve one.

Thank you for growing with LRA! See you in Carlsbad!

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rebecca Rogers

University of Missouri-St. Louis

I am honored to serve on Literacy Research Association's Executive Committee (EC) at an important moment in the history of the organization. The EC is made up entirely of women, with the majority

being from racially, ethnically or linguistically diverse backgrounds. Many of our efforts at creating a more inclusive and equitable organization are coming to fruition at the level of leadership and I look forward to continuing this work at all levels of LRA.

We have a wonderful Nominating Committee that will form the slate for the 2016 election. The Nominating Committee includes: Gerald Campano, David Reinking, Jennifer Rowsell, Jennifer Turner, President-Elect Patricia Enciso and Past-President Arlette Willis. I serve as the Chair of the committee. Thank you to LRA's membership for submitting nominations for the three open Board of Directors positions and Vice-President elect. We will work hard to ensure the slate for the 2016 election reflects LRA's criteria for leadership: significant contributions to literacy research, racial/ethnic and gender diversity and service and leadership to LRA.

Each year, members of LRA Executive Committee spend a great deal of time searching for the perfect conference site. In recent history, the site is confirmed two years in advance. With the leadership of Past-President Arlette Willis and President Janice Almasi, the EC made the decision to book conference sites three and four years in advance to have a wider selection of properties and more competitive rates. In the spring of this year, Vice President-elect Gay Ivey and I visited multiple properties. KWVG, our management team, has special expertise in this market and we were pleased with the properties we toured. We entered negotiations asking for a multi-year contract to get the best concessions and room rates for LRA members. We think LRA members will be pleased with the property for our 2017 conference. It has ample meeting space, is located very close to the servicing airport, is modern and tech-friendly and has excellent walkability to restaurants, cultural and historical districts. We are also considering this site for 2019 because of the excellent room rates and concessions. Lingering questions for me from these visits are: what is LRA's responsibility to the places where our conferences are held? How might we represent our work in new ways and recognize the important work of local communities? I hope to engage with some of these questions in my work as Conference Co-Chair and Chair.

Over the summer, President-Elect Patricia Enciso and I met in Columbus, Ohio, for several days to work on the program for the 2015 conference to be held at the Omni La Costa Resort and Spa in Carlsbad, California. As Conference Chair, Pat has gracefully integrated issues of equity, diversity, dignity and compassion into the administrative work of planning this conference. Thanks to Pat's commitment to multilingualism, for the first time, LRA's call for proposals was available in English and Spanish. This is an important step in reaching out to literacy researchers across the Americas who are multilingual and/or who research multilingualism. She also solidified a line item in the budget for future translations. Pat has been working tirelessly on this year's conference from the time All Academic opened for proposal submissions. She worked closely with the Area Chairs and put into place several new procedures that strengthened the review process. I want to thank her in advance for the countless hours she will spend this fall making sure this year's conference will be an intellectually engaging experience. At every turn in the Executive Committee road, I am deeply appreciative of LRA's past leaders who had the wisdom to create an apprenticeship model for each of the leadership positions.

This fall I will continue to work with Pat Enciso to prepare this year's conference program. We will be reaching out to the Chairs

of our Innovative Community Groups (Doctoral Student, Formative Experiment and Design-Based Research, Gender & Sexualities, History, International, Multilingual/Transcultural) and the Policy and Legislative Committee to dialogue about possibilities for our Town Hall meeting. How might we use our Town Hall to more intentionally respond to pressing policy, research and practice issues? In what ways might Town Hall be an opportunity to dialogue with diverse publics? In December, I will present the theme, keynote speakers and call for proposals for the 2016 conference that will be located in Nashville, Tennessee (November 30 - December 3, 2016). The Omni Nashville is located in downtown Nashville just steps away from restaurants, music and cultural sites. Finally, if you are interested in becoming an Area Chair, please contact me. I will be making appointments in December of this year.

Our 2015 meeting, "Literacy, Equity, Imagination..." will be an intellectually stimulating conference. Be sure to register early!

PAST-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Arlette Ingram Willis

University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign

The Literacy Research Association (LRA) became my professional home when I gave my first presentation in 1990. Perhaps like many other LRA members, I presented a snippet of research drawn from my dissertation; a history of reading comprehension research in the United States. Over the last twenty-four years, literacy research has seen tremendous growth and improvements; from national reports of progress, to greater engagement by national, state, and local governments, and improved funding for literacy research across grade levels. However, there is much work that remains, as reflected in my 2014, Presidential Address, "Literacy and Race: Access, Equity, and Freedom." LRA members possess the expertise to address challenges of inequitable access and to demand transformative literacy education. I am privileged to be a member of an organization of literacy researchers who have dedicated their lives and lifework to improving literacy access and opportunities for all learners.

As I end my tenure on the Executive Committee, there are two tasks to complete. First, is the appointment of committee chairs and committee members. The criteria and processes for committee appointment are described in the Literacy Research Association's Policy and Procedures Handbook. I have consulted with the chairs of committees for recommendations and welcome members in good standing to contact committee chairs as well. Second, LRA President, Janice Almasi, has asked me to work on locating possible conference sites for the years 2018+. It is an overwhelming task to review properties that will meet the multiple needs of conference attendees. There are so many variables to consider: Historically, LRA has sought conference sites two years before the conference date, however, in today's economy this plan has limited our choices and access to major cities. Many properties that can accommodate the growing number of LRA conference attendees are booked three or more years in advance. The Executive Committee in consultation with the Board of Directors has reconsidered the site selection process and we have begun to seek potential conference sites for 2018 and 2019. This summer, I led a team composed of Executive Director, Lynn Hupp, Conference Planner, Julie Dross and Vice President-Elect, Gay Ivey in a review of proposals from a range of

possible properties for 2018. We have visited several properties that appear able to accommodate the needs of LRA, and we have inspected these sites to determine the 'fit' between the features of the properties and the needs of LRA conference attendees. We hope to make an announcement regarding future conference sites at the Friday evening Business Meeting during the 2015 conference (I know, really early!).

In closing: it has been an honor to serve LRA and work with colleagues who have given their unwavering support to the organization and continue to work in the best interest of LRA. I am so very grateful to have had the opportunity to work with knowledgeable colleagues, intelligent graduate students, and our extraordinary management team. The future remains bright as our current leadership is composed of forward thinking individuals who seek to sustain the amazing history of LRA, as they champion literacy research.

COMMITTEES

Ethics Committee

Kelly Cartwright, Chair

Christopher Newport University

The LRA Ethics Committee proposed an Alternative Format session for emerging scholars and doctoral students on Negotiating (and Surviving) the IRB Process, which was accepted for presentation at LRA 2015. A panel of senior scholars from varying types of universities (liberal arts universities to R1s) and with significant, collective experience on Institutional Review Board (IRB) Committees, including several IRB Chairs, will offer insights and discussion of IRB issues. Although this session was originally designed to support new and emerging scholars, we welcome all LRA colleagues to discuss the IRB process in literacy research on December 3, 2015, from 1:15 to 2:45 pm in the Clubhouse, Veranda – Lobby Level.

We look forward to hearing from you as we continue our exploration into the ethical issues we encounter in our research.

Ethnicity, Race, and Multiculturalism Committee

Marcelle M. Haddix, Chair

Syracuse University

As part of the ERM committee, the STAR (Scholars of color Transitioning into Academic Research institutions) program is a two-year mentoring program for scholars of color beginning their careers as literacy researchers. Members of the 2015-2017 cohort are:

Dr. Maneka Deanna Brooks, Texas State University
(Mentor: Dr. Eurydice Bauer, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Dr. Theda Gibbs, Ohio University
(Mentor: Dr. Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz, Teachers College, Columbia University)

Dr. Bong Gee Jang, Oakland University
(Mentor: Dr. Ramón Antonio Martínez, Stanford University)

Dr. Lamar Johnson, Miami University
(Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Danridge Turner, University of Maryland)

Dr. Patriann Smith, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
(Mentor: Dr. Mileidis Gort, The Ohio State University)

Dr. Bonnie Williams, California State University, Fullerton
(Mentor: Dr. Carmen Kynard, John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY)

Come learn more about the STAR mentoring program and the Fellows' research projects by attending the STAR roundtable session, "Research, Theory and Practice for Equity in Literacy Education" at the 2015 LRA annual conference on Friday, December 4, 1:15 to 2:45 pm, in Costa Del Sol Ballroom, Salon C.

To learn about and become involved with the ERM committee, please attend our committee meeting on Thursday, December 3, 7:00 to 8:30 am, Coastal Events Center, Gardenia II, Upper Level.

On Friday, December 4, the ERM committee will sponsor four sessions at the annual conference:

"Sharing Stories and Narratives through Students' Bilingualism and Multilingual Perspectives: An ERM-Sponsored Symposium"
Friday, December 4, 8:45 to 10:15 am, Coastal Events Center, Poinsettia III

"Countering Deficit Language Perspectives: Imagining a New Literacy Pedagogy"
Friday, December 4, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm, Costa Del Sol Ballroom, Salon C

"STAR Session: Research, Theory and Practice for Equity in Literacy Education"
Friday, December 4, 1:15 to 2:45 pm, in Costa Del Sol Ballroom, Salon C

"Privileging the Voices of Black and Brown Youth: An ERM Organized Symposium"
Friday, December 4, 3:00 to 4:30 pm, Costa Del Sol Ballroom, Salon Gallery

Research Committee

Gay Ivey, Chair

University of Wisconsin

A theme in our work over the past year has been to capitalize on the collective scholarly expertise within our organization. Following the success of our study group last year in Marco Island, the Research Committee proposed a new study group for the 2015 conference titled "If I Knew Then..." We are happy to report that the proposal for this group, designed to support emerging scholars—both doctoral students and early career professors—has been accepted and will feature conversations highlighted by personal narratives from experienced scholars Valerie Kinloch, Maisha Winn, Deborah Rowe, and Peter Afflerbach. We also constructed an Alternative Format session intended to stir conversations on how theories and the practice of research inform each other throughout the research and dissemination processes. This session, titled, "The Imaginative Potential of Theory," will feature Kris Gutiérrez, Marcelle Haddix, and Peter Johnston.

We also co-sponsored a proposal for a new initiative spearheaded by a team of professors and doctoral students from the University of Texas at Austin. The CITE Review of Research in Preservice Teacher Preparation in Literacy, which has now been approved by the Board

of Directors, involves the creation of a website hosting an ongoing critical review of empirical work in teacher education related to literacy that will be available to all LRA members. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting new development.

Technology Committee

Erica C. Boling, Chair

Rutgers University

As always, our e-editors and a number of other dedicated LRA members have been working very diligently on our LRA Research to Practice shows and new website. The e-editors, consisting of Ian O'Byrne, Greg Mcverry, and Michael Manderino, are working closely with the Technology Committee and the Board to identify and clean up last minute edits on the new website. The e-editors have also reached out to all award granting committees to verify and correct the information presented on the site.

One of the exciting new features of our new website will be an LRA blog that highlights, on an ongoing basis, current literacy hot topics, news, policy issues, research findings, and more. The e-editors have reached out to all Area Chairs to obtain a list of two "bloggers" for each area. These names will be submitted to the Board for approval. Upon approval, these individuals will post content relevant to each area on the front of the website. We would also like to thank Katie Paciga for working closely with our e-editors to set a blogging schedule and for serving as liaison with our bloggers.

Our LRA Research to Practice (LRA R2P) show continues to grow and is now partnering with the *Yearbook* (renamed *Literacy Research: Theory, Method, and Practice*; LR:TMP). Each monthly episode will focus on one of the authors of submissions in LR:TMP. The show will examine the field and theoretical perspectives included in the piece. The panel of researchers will then provide guidance for the implications of this work on classroom instruction.

The first episode of the new version of the LRA R2P show was held on August 14 and focused on Feminist Pedagogy, Writing, and the CCSS. Brooke Langston-DeMott, Christine Mallozzi, Amy Vetter, Angela Wiseman, and Allison Wynhoff Olsen joined Shea Kerkhoff, and host Julie Warner to share relevant research and promising practices relating feminist pedagogy and Common Core writing standards. Upcoming shows and the full schedule for the remainder of the year will be announced soon. You can also view previously recorded shows at our [LRA YouTube Channel](#).

AWARDS

Albert J. Kingston Award for Outstanding Service to LRA

Jill Castek, Chair

Portland State University

Each year, LRA members nominate their colleagues for the Albert J. Kingston Award. The purpose of this award is to honor an LRA member for distinguished contributions of service to the Literacy Research Association. More information about this award including its history and a brief video introduction to the individual for whom the award is named, the criteria used in the review process, and a listing of past recipients, can be found on the [LRA website](#).

There are many LRA members who are worthy of consideration due to contributions such as:

- being an active member of LRA at all levels in the organization
- expanding the reach and impact by presenting cutting edge research at the LRA Annual Conference
- publishing stimulating articles in *JLR* and *Literacy Research: Theory, Method, and Practice*
- bringing along newcomers to the conference who then become members of LRA
- encouraging new members to submit proposals
- reviewing proposals for the LRA Annual Conference, *JLR*, and *Literacy Research: Theory, Method, and Practice*
- serving as a board member, area chair, committee member, or field representative

Recipients of the Kingston Award, which has been presented annually since 1985, receive a plaque and a lifetime membership in LRA. A [video](#) is available celebrating LRA service with an inspiring list of previous Kingston awardees.

To nominate a deserving colleague for the 2016 Albert J. Kingston Award, please submit one copy of the nominee's updated curriculum vitae and a letter of nomination that describes the nominee's service contributions to LRA. Nominees must have belonged to LRA for at least five years.

Any LRA member may nominate an individual for recognition of their distinguished service to LRA. To nominate a colleague send the following materials to via e-mail to the Kingston Award Committee Chair, [Jill Castek](#), by August 15, 2016:

- a nomination letter outlining the colleague's substantial and significant contributions to LRA
- the nominee's CV

EARLY CAREER AWARD

Diane Lapp, Chair

San Diego State University

Members of The Early Career Awards Committee would like to thank all of you who submitted nominations of so many outstanding early career colleagues. We have finished our work and look forward to introducing the 2015 Early Career Award recipient at the 2015 conference. If you nominated someone who still meets the early career criteria for eligibility, please re-nominate him or her because the final scores were very close.

See you soon in CA!

EDWARD B. FRY BOOK AWARD

Barbara A. Bradley, Chair

University of Kansas

Please consider nominating a book for the Edward B. Fry Book Award. The award, established by Dr. Fry, recognizes an outstanding book on literacy research and practice. Eligibility for the award is limited to current members of LRA who have written or have been one of several authors of a book. The book must have a copyright date

within five years of the date of the award being given. Nominated books should:

- Advance knowledge about literacy
- Display inquiry into literacy
- Show responsible intellectual risk taking

Application Guidelines

A letter of nomination along with a copy of the nominated book should be mailed to the committee chair before the deadline of May 15, 2016. Self-nominations are accepted, although committee members cannot nominate a book they have authored. A book may be re-nominated if it has been previously nominated but did not win the award. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact [Barbara](#).

For more information, please see:

<http://www.literacyresearchassociation.org/index.php/component/content/article?id=85>

J. MICHAEL PARKER AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO ADULT LITERACY

Silvia Nogueron-Liu
University of Georgia

The J. Michael Parker Committee is receiving submissions for this award until October 1, 2015. This award is aimed for new scholars—i.e., graduate students and those who completed their doctorates within the past six years—for a paper presented at the conference about adult literacy/language development and instruction.

About the Award

The award was established in 2001 in honor of J. Michael Parker, winner of LRA's Student Outstanding Research Award for his work in community-based adult literacy. To be true to the spirit of J. Michael Parker's work, the award recognizes studies that examine ways adults further their own language and literacy development within or outside of formal learning contexts, including different social and cultural contexts for learning. The award is designed to encourage work in adult literacy with a variety of populations, including, but not limited to, learners in formal settings such as adult basic education and ESOL classes, as well as those engaged in literacy practices embedded in diverse cultural settings.

Recipients of the award receive a small cash award to be used for conference expenses, as well as a plaque commemorating the award. They are also recognized during a general session of the conference and are recognized during a general session of the conference. The award is presented to both papers with a single author and to co-authored papers. For single authored papers, the recipient will receive \$500 and a plaque commemorating the award. For co-authored papers, the recipients will each receive a plaque and will decide amongst themselves how to divide the \$500 award.

Eligibility for Submission

In order to be considered for the Award, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- The author(s) of the paper are doctoral students or untenured faculty at the time of the paper submission (October 1, prior to the Annual Meeting).

- The paper is based on a proposal accepted for presentation at the LRA Annual Meeting.
- The author(s) of the paper are LRA members in good standing at the time of the paper submission.

Criteria for Consideration

The LRA member selected for receiving the J. Michael Parker Award should conduct research that is judged capable of making a significant contribution to theory and/or practice of adult literacy learning and instruction. This means that:

- the Committee considers the methodology to be appropriate to the research question and of sufficient rigor;
- the implications of the research are of a scope needed to impact the field; and
- the author(s) must be a doctoral student or an untenured professor at the time of submission.

Application Procedure

Applicants should submit a full research paper (25 pages or less), based on the accepted proposal. The paper should be submitted electronically by October 1, 2015 to silvia.nogueronliu@colorado.edu. Papers must be double-spaced and in 12-point font. The text limit does not include references or any appendices.

Review Process

Applicants will be notified of the results prior to the conference, and the plaque and honorarium will be presented to the winner during a plenary session at the conference.

More information

Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the [award chair](#) to discuss how their research may fit with the intentions and scope of the award.

Visit the following resources for a list of previous winners and paper titles:

<https://jmpadulteracy.wordpress.com/about/>
<http://www.literacyresearchassociation.org/index.php/component/content/article?id=86>

P. DAVID PEARSON SCHOLARLY INFLUENCE AWARD

Taffy Raphael, Chair

University of Illinois at Chicago

The P. David Pearson Scholarly Influence Award began in 2013, awarded then to Dr. Peter Johnston of S.U.N.Y. at Albany and, in 2014, to Dr. Nell Duke of University of Michigan. This annual award honors, in P. David Pearson's name, the author(s) of an article/chapter/book written at least 5 years prior to the nomination, that has demonstrably and positively influenced/impacted literacy practices and/or policies within district, school and/or classroom settings.

We encourage you to think about influential materials that have affected your professional work and submit nominations by September 25, 2015, for consideration in 2015. Nominators should demonstrate how the findings or implications of the article/chapter/book have been used directly by educators to craft influential policies and/or initiate and implement innovative classroom practices.

The submission packet should include a letter of nomination outlining the case with supporting evidence (along with the key piece of writing, author CVs and documentation of the influence of the piece on instruction and/or policy). Please submit to [me](#) via email.

Committee members include: Patty Anders, University of Arizona; Kathryn Au, SchoolRise LLC; Fenice Boyd, S.U.N.Y-Buffalo, Wanda Brooks, Temple University; Douglas Fisher, San Diego State University; Lesley Morrow, Rutgers University, and Taffy Raphael (Chair), University of Illinois at Chicago.

STUDENT OUTSTANDING RESEARCH AWARD

Catherine Compton-Lilly

University of Wisconsin - Madison

Are you a graduate student who is already looking forward to this year's LRA Conference? Are you conceptualizing a promising paper based on your research? At our conference, we will announce the 2015 winner of the Student Outstanding Research Award, but encourage you to begin thinking forward to 2016. The Student Outstanding Research Award is awarded annually to honor a student member of LRA in recognition of an outstanding research paper presented at the Annual Conference.

Last year's award was presented to Jaye Thiel, an Assistant professor at the University of Tennessee Kentucky and alumni of the University of Georgia. Jaye's award winning paper, "The Role of Objects in the Construction of Young Children's Literacies," was selected from a competitive selection of submissions.

In order to be considered for the award, the author must hold student status and the research must be conducted by the student. The paper must be written solely by the student or co-authored with students, and cannot be co-authored or co-presented with a faculty member. The proposal must have been accepted by the Annual Conference Committee for presentation at the Annual Conference. Papers representing various forms and genres of research (including conceptual papers) are welcome. More information can be found soon at <http://www.literacyresearchassociation.org/index.php/component/content/article?id=88>

INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY GROUPS

Formative Experiments and Design-Based Research Innovative Community Group

Marc Nachowitz, Chair

Miami University

Thanks to the guidance and initiative of David Reinking, our new ICG elected an inaugural chair and steering committee:

Chair: Marc Nachowitz, Assistant Professor, Miami University
Megan Adams, Assistant Professor, Kennesaw State University
Barbara Bradley, Associate Professor, University of Kansas
Jamie Colwell, Assistant Professor, Old Dominion University
Elizabeth Jaeger, Assistant Professor, University of Arizona

Michael Manderino, Assistant Professor, Northern Illinois University
David Reinking, Professor, Clemson University
Jennifer Schneider, Associate Professor, University of South Florida

Our thanks to the members of the formative experiment and design-based research LRA listserve that contributed to nominations and facilitated elections.

The steering committee is currently working towards official admission as an LRA ICG by the Board of Directors, crafting our mission statement, goals, and charges for our committee members. The chair has facilitated sessions dedicated to formative experiments at the 2015 LRA Annual Conference, and the steering committee will be meeting to draft a mission statement describing ways our ICG can disseminate information about this emerging research paradigm, encourage new scholars, and promote the publication of studies employing this research methodology.

Gender and Sexualities Innovative Community Group Corrine Wickens, Chair

Northern Illinois University

The Gender and Sexualities ICG is initiating two new mentoring opportunities this fall/ winter for doctoral students and non-tenured faculty whose research focuses upon or intersects with issues of gender, gender identity or expression, sexuality or sexual orientation.

The first mentoring opportunity will be held at the annual meeting in Carlsbad, CA. The title can be found in the online program under "Gender and Sexualities ICG Research and Mentoring," Wed. Dec. 2 from 1:15-2:45 in the Costa Del Sol Ballroom, Salon D. This session is open to all Gender and Sexuality ICG members. A senior scholar will work with three emerging scholars based upon interest and expertise. The senior scholar will provide feedback on short papers/ proposals that have been rejected or are in progress. LRA Gender/ Sexualities ICG members are welcome to 'sit in' as scholars review and discuss work under consideration.

Individuals interested in this mentoring opportunity and having their work reviewed by a senior scholar should complete a [Mentoring Roundtable Application](#).

Submissions are due by Oct. 13, 2015. Applicants will be notified by Oct. 20, 2015. They will then need to contact their mentors and submit writing to be reviewed and discussed at the conference by Nov. 8.

In preparation for proposal submissions for LRA 2016, the Gender and Sexualities ICG will offer a second mentoring opportunity. Doctoral students and junior scholars may submit a proposal they intend to submit to a senior scholar for review and feedback.

For more information about either of these opportunities, individuals should contact [Corrine Wickens](#).

Looking forward to seeing you in Carlsbad!

INTERNATIONAL INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY GROUP

Amma Akrofi, Texas Tech University

Lori Assaf, Texas State

Patience Sowa, Education Consultant, Kansas City, MO, Co-Chairs

New Study Group

The International Innovative Community Group will host a new study group titled International Research on Literacy Teaching and Teacher Education. The purpose of this study group is to provide a formal space for LRA members who are engaging in international literacy research or who are interested in international literacy research to come together as a community of learners (see Wenger, 1998) and learn from one another. Meeting for an hour each day during the conference and online through blog postings will provide LRA members the opportunity to (a) learn how ideological models of literacy in global contexts shape our research and literacy learning; (b) explore transnational/translingual identities and possibilities; and (c) share insights, issues, and questions about topics such as funding, cross cultural communication, culturally responsive methodology, nurturing international collaborations, and publishing. For each study group session, two to three guest speakers will discuss their professional experiences on the topics for each day, followed by a large group discussion. The ICG will also create a website with a blog and additional resources to be used after the conference.

International Regional Activities

Puerto Rico

42nd Puerto Rico TESOL Annual Convention, November 20-21, 2015

University of the Sacred Heart, San Juan, Puerto Rico www.puertoricotesol.org email: info@puertoricotesol.org

Caribbean

Read and Write in a Different World: Challenges and Prospects - September 30-October 2, 2015 (Dominican Republic)

CODE's 2016 Burt Award for Caribbean Literature Open for Submissions - Deadline - October 31, 2015 (Trinidad and Tobago)

Hawaii International Conference on Education - January 6-9, 2016 (Honolulu, Hawaii)

Physical Literacy: Gender, Science and Sport for Development - January 13-15, 2016 (Trinidad and Tobago)

Havana International Book Fair - February 12-19, 2016 (Cuba)
Caribbean Studies Association Conference - June 5-11, 2016 (Haiti)

Caribbean American Month Book Festival - TBD 2016 (Washington, DC)

Calabash International Literacy Festival - TBD 2016 (Jamaica, West Indies)

Literacy Programs/Projects in Caribbean:

Caribbean Literacy and School Support (CLASS) - Hands Across the Sea

The Caribbean Children's Book Project - U.S.V.I.

International ICG Member Presentations and Publications

Janet Richards

Richards, J. C. (June 2015). Creating and sharing annotated bibliographies: One way to become familiar with exemplary multicultural literature. *Reading Improvement*, 52(2), 61-69.

Richards, J. C. (, 2015). Modeling historical fiction lessons as a bridge to primary students' content reading: What I didn't know and learned about the standards. *Journal of Reading Education*, 34-39.

Richards, J. C. & Bennett, S.V. (Spring, 2015). Aesthetic Connections To Multicultural Literature: Supporting All Elementary Children's Literacy Development Through Arts Integration. *Excelsior: Leadership in Teaching and Learning. The New York State Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (NYACTE)*, 9(2), 39-56.

Patriann Smith

Smith, P., & Kumi-Yeboah, A. (2015). Handbook of research on cross-cultural approaches to language and literacy development. Hershey, PA: IGI Global.

International ICG Awards

Patriann Smith

Scholars of color Transitioning into Academic Research (STAR) Institutions Award, Literacy Research Association (LRA) (2015-2017)
Language and Social Processes (LSP) Special Interest Group (SIG) Emerging Scholar Award, American Educational Research Association (AERA) (2015).