



LITERACY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2016

Jacquelyn A. Malloy, Clemson University

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Patricia Enciso

Ohio State University

I am pleased to report on LRA's continuing growth and change.

LRA has nearly 1500 members (864 U.S., 628 International) contributing to the research and policies that impact literacy experiences for young people and adults around the world.

Website

In service to members, LRA begins Autumn 2016 with a new website. As you may have already seen, the new organization of pages and links enables more direct navigation through LRA's services to members, including access to our outstanding *Journal of Literacy Research* and annual online journal, *Literacy Research: Theory, Methods, and Practice*, as well as access to a STAR Program video featuring colleagues discussing their experiences and hopes for supporting diversity and equity in literacy research and education. Members will also find updated lists of members serving as Area Chairs, Committee Chairs, Committee Members, and LRA Award Honorees. In addition, members can easily access the regularly updated Policies and Procedures Handbook (PPH) and LRA's Bylaws.

A new website calls for many notes of gratitude. Members of the Board of Directors reviewed website service contracts and participated in online discussions and voting procedures in May 2016. Through our deliberations we determined that *MemberClicks!* could provide the most economical and full-service platform for our website. Lynn Hupp and David Wenhold of KWMG offered exceptional support for our timeline and costs so that more than 100 staff hours could be devoted to completing this project by July 25.

I am also grateful to members of the current Technology Committee, including Jayne Lammers (Chair), eEditors (Greg McVerry, W. Ian O'Byrne & Michael Manderino) – as well as the the 2012-2015 Technology Chair and members – who dedicated many hours of meetings and design review to create the most usable formats and content. Finally, on behalf of the Executive members, I want to acknowledge Janice Almasi's commitment over the past two years as she initiated and worked toward a new design and implementation of a final iteration of our website.

KWMG Contract Update

Per our Policy and Procedures, Janice Almasi, Past President, chaired the annual management evaluation committee and led the distribution and analysis of a survey of Executive, Board, and Committee Chairs who have worked with KWMG over the past year. Satisfaction is high across most categories (the website had not been finalized) and we are continuing our contract negotiations for 2016-2017, anticipating a completed contract by mid-October.

Appointments: Welcome and Farewell

Parliamentarian. In April 2016, the Executive and Board Members welcomed Dr. Caitlin Law Ryan (East Carolina University) as the incoming Parliamentarian, appointed by the President, and approved by the Board of Directors. Dr. Ryan has been active in LRA for many years as an Area Chair and, more recently, with the Gender and Sexualities ICG. Dr. Patriann Smith, LRA's current Parliamentarian, will be leaving this position as she begins her STAR Mentee Award commitments. Dr. Smith's service to LRA has been exceptional and invaluable. Our meetings functioned on time and in order; our organizational documents have been reviewed, aligned, and updated twice a year; and our decisions and values have been sharpened and deepened by dialogue related to equity, diversity, and the experiences of early career scholars of color. Thank you, Patriann.

STAR Director. We also thank Dr. Marcelle Haddix for her leadership of the STAR program over the past four years. As Vice President-Elect, Dr. Haddix will no longer be able to serve in this role. Per PPH guidelines, in collaboration with Dr. Haddix and Dr. Price-Dennis (ERM Chair), and with Board approval, the President appointed Dr. Millie Gort (University of Colorado-Boulder) as the incoming STAR Director. Dr. Gort has served as a STAR mentor and has been active and committed to the STAR program for many years. Her expertise and accomplishments as a scholar will serve the program well as the STAR program continues to support the scholarly endeavors of LRA early career scholars who are committed to thriving and contributing as non-dominant scholars in predominantly white institutions.

Board of Directors and Committee Chairs. Our Board of Directors members have made significant contributions to the ongoing work of defining and finalizing LRA's Strategic Plan. They have also taken on the responsibility of addressing racial inequality and the needs of minority scholars in our organization and educational institutions. I have been privileged to be part of this ongoing work and am grateful for the leadership, insight, and commitments of our Board's members.

Past President. In 2016, we will say farewell to one of LRA's most engaged leaders, Janice Almasi (Past President). We cannot thank you enough, Janice, for the deliberate and thoughtful approach you have taken in establishing patterns of practice and direction for LRA's future. In turn, we look forward to Marcelle Haddix's contributions to LRA, as incoming Vice President.

Board Members. Our thanks to Randy Bomer, Diane Schallert, and Guofang Li for your insights and direction over the past three years. On December 4, we will welcome new Board members: Hillary Janks, Carmen Martínez-Roldan, and Karen Wohlwend. Thank you for your service to LRA members and our mission.

Committee Chairs. In the coming weeks, I will announce new appointments as Research Committee Chair, Ethics Committee Chair, and Publications Committee Chair. Current Chairs, Lara Handsfield and Judith Lysaker (Research), Kelly Cartwright (Ethics), and Rachel Karchmer-Klein (Publications), have provided leadership in more aspects of LRA's organization and direction than members may realize. Their leadership enables Executive and Board Members to make informed and open decisions. I want to express further thanks to Rachel Karchmer-Klein, who has been a wonderful steward of LRA's publications. She has helped steer transitions, contracts, and goals in support of our high quality research publications. Thank you!

Awards Committee Chairs. In the coming weeks, Past President Janice Almasi will appoint new Awards Committee Chairs for the Albert J. Kingston, J. Michael Parker, and Oscar S. Causey Awards. On behalf of the Board and LRA members, I extend our gratitude to Jill Castek, Silvia Nogueron-Liu, and Laurie Henry for their three years of service as Chairs of these awards. Their stewardship enables all of us to celebrate the beginning points and legacies of people who inspire and shape our field.

Publications

The **Literacy Research: Theory, Methods, and Practice** editorial team, Betsy Baker and Jennifer Clifton (University of Missouri) and co-editors Carol Gilles, Laurie Kingsley, Candace Kuby, Amy Lannin, Lenny Sánchez, and Angie Zapata submitted a proposal for renewing their three-year term. The Board unanimously approved their reappointment and expressed gratitude for the team's expertise and engagement with the transition to a digital format. Both *Journal of Literacy Research* editorial teams (current and new) are completing final transitions, including a new cover design for the journal. Our thanks to Editors, Patty Anders and David Yaden, and Associate Editors Christina da Silva Iddings, Laurie Katz, and Theresa Rogers for completing the final Volume 48 production and assisting in the transition to the new editorship.

Newsletter Editor. Jacquelyn Malloy has graciously agreed to continue in her appointment as Newsletter Editor. Thank you for your patience and care with this bi-annual publication.

Social Media. We continue to ask how LRA can best use social media as part of our effort to provide timely discussion forums and summaries of new research. The *Voices of Literacy* podcast offers monthly interviews with journal authors; and the *Research to Practice* show features *Literacy Research: Theory, Methods, and*

Practice authors' research. Executive and Board members are working with the Technology Committee, eEditors, and KWMG to review possible directions for revising and increasing our social media presence. For the upcoming conference, be sure to activate a Twitter account and follow #LRA16.

Strategic Planning

As described in previous newsletters, Executive and Board Members have focused on developing a Strategic Plan that will enable us to define and assess our effectiveness as we strive to meet the needs of members and advance our mission. The planning process, initiated and led by Janice Almasi, is now in its final stages of refinement and will be prepared for review and discussion with Past Presidents and during the Fall Board Meetings. The domains of the plan focus on Governance, Policy and Advocacy, Diversity, Communications, and Mentoring/Energy.

Bylaws

During our April 2016 meeting, Executive Members recognized several inconsistencies between the PPH and Bylaws. In order to reconcile the differences, we will need to make changes to the Bylaws. A presentation on the Bylaws changes will be put forward during the December 3, Annual Business Meeting.

Annual Conference

The Conference site planning process is now four years ahead of the conference date, making it possible for LRA to locate a wider selection of suitable hotels and negotiate better prices on room rates and food costs. My thanks to Gay Ivey and Marcelle Haddix, assisted by KWMG staff, in leading the search for the 2020 conference site.

The 2016 conference, chaired by Rebecca Rogers (President-Elect) and co-chair Gay Ivey (Vice President) will be the highlight of our year, featuring more than 420 sessions, study groups, and keynotes. Becky has anticipated this year as a time to envision and enact the relationships between literacy and community. We will see this vision in action throughout the conference, especially in a renewed Town Hall Meeting format and a Friday night celebration of Nashville's African American musical history.

Wishing everyone smooth travels and a wonderful conference experience,
Pat

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REPORT

Rebecca Rogers

University of Missouri-St. Louis

We are in the midst of an unprecedented refugee crisis that involves people fleeing their homes because of war, politics, or the climate. Many are not allowed to cross borders or they suffer exploitation and discrimination when they do. This global crisis reminds us of the interconnectedness of our lives and the urgency to transform educational landscapes with our literacy research.

The theme of LRA's 2016 conference is "Mobilizing Literacy Research for Social Transformation." Many of you extended this theme within your conference proposals. When we gather in

Nashville November 30 - December 2, sessions will inspire us to consider what *mobility, movement, and transformation* in our research epistemologies, methodologies, and literacy areas means for the material lives of the people with whom we work. The conference program includes many sessions that take a critical look at the research methods we employ, the complexity of interpretation and the implications for policy, particularly where historically underserved communities are concerned.

Rooting the conference in place and also attending to mobility, movement, and transformation was important to me as Conference Chair. As you read my report, I hope you get a glimpse into the ways in which Gay Ivey (Co-Chair of the Conference), Area Chairs, colleagues in Nashville, and I worked together to make it visible that our week is grounded in Nashville, Tennessee. At the same time, you will find special sessions and programmatic features that will invite you to engage with mobility that transcends place. A special thank you to the Area Chairs who coordinated high quality reviews and organized sessions. A complete list of LRA's Areas and Chairs can be found on our newly renovated [website](#).

This year's LRA conference offers more than 300 research sessions on Wednesday through Saturday. Our plenary addresses include:

- Patricia Enciso, President of LRA, will deliver the Presidential Address on Wednesday, November 30, from 4:45 pm - 6:00 pm. The title of her address is "Stories Lost and Found: Mobilizing Imagination in Literacy Research and Practice." All attendees are invited to attend the Presidential Reception immediately following the address.
- Elfrieda Hiebert, President/CEO of TextProject, will deliver the Oscar Causey Address on Thursday, December 1, from 10:45 am - 12:00 pm. Her address is entitled "The Texts of Literacy Instruction: Obstacles to or Opportunities for Educational Equity?"
- Richard Milner, Helen Faison Endowed Chair of Urban Education, Professor of Education as well as Director of the Center for Urban Education at the University of Pittsburgh, will deliver the plenary address on Thursday, December 1, from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm. The title of his presentation is "Rac(e)d Literacy and Opportunity Gaps: Confronting Dangers in (Teacher) Education."
- The Distinguished Scholar Award will be presented to Dr. Allan Luke. His talk is scheduled for Thursday, December 1, from 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm, and is called "No Grand Narrative in Sight: Double Consciousness, Place and the Politics of Literacy."
- Dr. Barbara Comber, Professor of Research at the University of South Australia, will present the plenary address on Friday, December 2, from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Her presentation is titled, "Geography, Literacy, and Pedagogy: Imagining Translocal Research Alliances for Education."
- Saturday's Integrative Research Review plenary session will be held on Saturday, December 3, from 10:45 am - 12:00 pm. It focuses on "Readings and Experiences of Multimodality" and will include leading scholars of multimodality including: Seemi Aziz, Stergios Botzakis, Christian Ehret, David Landry (Nashville-based graphic novelist/artist), Kevin Leander, and Jennifer Rowsell. Our featured speakers will review their orientation to multimodality and how it informs their reading and experience of a life-sized graphic novel created by Nashville artist David Landry. The graphic novel will be on display throughout the conference and integrated into Saturday's plenary session for attendees to experience and interpret.

Area Chairs developed a number of featured sessions that invite us to expand our understandings of literacy research and transformation, making our scholarship visible to diverse publics. Be sure to check the online program for these sessions:

- Leading authors, librarian, and scholars K.T. Horning, Ashley Perez, Ebony Elizabeth Thomas, Denise Dávila, and Edi Campbell will share research that examines social media as a tool for advancing more diverse and informed reviewing and publishing practices;
- J. Helen Perkins, Professor at the University of Memphis, will share how her research has transformed the literacy practices of children and teachers in Memphis, Tennessee;
- Mimi Ito, Chair in Digital Media and Learning at the University of California, Irvine, will share her research with the connected learning research network;
- On Friday morning, Kevin Leander of Vanderbilt University will lead a walking research presentation focused on literacy, embodied movement, and social movement in Nashville;
- A session called "Transformation and Innovation: J. Michael Parker and the Adult Literacy Research Community at LRA" brings together representatives from adult literacy organizations in Nashville and adult and family literacy scholars from LRA to focus on evidence and engaged scholarship.
- We will hear from Karen Ford, Marcia Invernizzi, Carmen Martínez-Roldán, and Mileidis Gort about current research and policy efforts with and for emergent bilinguals.

LRA's 66th Conference also features twenty-three Study Groups (12:00 pm - 1:00 pm), paired research roundtable presentations, award presentations, a renovated Town Hall meeting, and many opportunities for meeting and talking with colleagues during planned events, Vital Issues, the Policy Briefing Room, PecháKucha, and other informal gatherings. Plan on joining LRA friends and colleagues at the Omni for a special Friday night entertainment by the Jefferson Street Sounds. This is another opportunity to learn

about the history and culture of Nashville. If you find you have a little wiggle room in your schedule, you may want to check out *Hatch Show Print*, one of the oldest letterpresses in the country. It is located in the conference hotel. Or, a short walk from the hotel will take you to Nashville Public Library where you can explore the Civil Rights Room.

I want to draw your attention to a few other important aspects of this year's conference:

The Board approved a fully digital program for LRA's conference. We will be using a mobile App called "Guidebook" which allows us to provide you with:

- the most up-to-date session schedules;
- an easy way to search for people and by research topic;
- instant notifications on your mobile device;
- a platform to experiment with how digital tools might support our conference;
- new opportunities for networking across research epistemologies, methodologies, and literacy areas;
- curated lists of places to visit in the Nashville area.

LRA Executive Director Lynn Hupp and Conference Planner Sasha Jaquith will support your use and integration of the App before and throughout the conference. A searchable PDF of the program will be sent via email to all registered conference participants. It will also be available on the LRA website.

If you are new to LRA, you may consider attending the Newcomers/ Graduate Student breakfast on Thursday, December 1, from 7:00 am - 8:30 am. This event offers people the opportunity to meet the leadership of LRA and learn more about the organization. The Board approved a limited number of reduced registration applications for Tennessee teachers. Be sure to welcome them to LRA. Many thanks to Anne McGill Franzen and Deborah Rowe for their work with the Tennessee Department of Education to make this happen.

The Town Hall Meeting (THM) is an important part of the Literacy Research Association's annual meeting. This year, in an effort to inform and extend the impact of our research efforts, the THM will feature a participatory dialogue amongst LRA members about the transformative impact of our research. Join us on Thursday, December 1, from 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm, to contribute to the growth, development, and transformation of the organization.

LRA's Business Meeting will be held on Friday immediately following the plenary session. Please come learn about the governance of our organization including: finances, future conference sites, and election slates. The time of the Business Meeting will be extended slightly for people to contribute to a draft of LRA's strategic plan.

Finally, LRA has partnered with the *Latino Parent Engagement Program* run by Conexión Americas and housed at Casa Azafrán in Nashville. Conexión Américas has been successfully implementing *Padres Comprometidos* for Latino parents since 2008. The

partnership aims to forge a working relationship between Latino parents and schools, to ultimately improve children's academic achievement. Please consider a generous donation when you register for the conference. You can learn more about this initiative at <http://www.conexionamericas.org/>

We look forward to seeing you in Nashville!

VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REPORT

Gay Ivey

University of Wisconsin

I am privileged to serve this organization, and the past year has brought many opportunities to understand the massive efforts not only of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, but also of committee, program area and ICG chairs, committee members, reviewers, and others who give to LRA in ways unseen. Thank you a million times over for your support of LRA and your willingness to volunteer in the midst of very busy and often difficult times, both professionally and personally.

The process of determining a slate of candidates for our next LRA election for the office of Vice President-Elect and for three new members of the Board of Directors is well underway. This year's Nominations Committee includes Tom Bean, James Cunningham, Tisha Lewis Ellison, Janet Gaffney, Past President Janice Almasi, and President-Elect Rebecca Rogers. I thank them for answering the call to serve. As you know, the slate of candidates will be announced at the Annual LRA Business Meeting in Nashville. Please come to support all of the candidates, and please remain engaged in this very important process. I appreciate all who submitted nominations and also those of you who indicated your future interest in LRA leadership on our recent Volunteer Survey.

Also in progress is our search to identify a site for our 2020 conference. Recall that last year, under the leadership of then Past President Arlette Willis, current Past President Janice Almasi, current President-Elect Rebecca Rogers, we secured contracts not only for our 2017 conference (Marriott Waterside-Tampa), but also for the 2018 (Indian Wells Renaissance-Palm Springs) and 2019 (Marriott Waterside-Tampa) conferences. My thanks to Vice President-Elect Marcelle Haddix and to Lynn Hupp and Sasha Jaquith from our KWMG management team for their incredible assistance.

Recent conversations at Town Hall Meetings and postings to the LRA listserv have raised important questions about decisions on location, limits of accommodation, and affordability, as well as concerns over equity. One step in moving the conversations forward is to make the processes of site identification more transparent. The Executive Committee is currently weighing options for how we might accomplish that. We also believe that the contracts we have secured for the next several years are responsive to many of the concerns expressed by members. I will announce the 2020 conference location at the Annual LRA Business Meeting, but please know that I am available anytime before, during or after the conference for conversations about the process.

Another of my responsibilities as Vice President is to appoint two new members of the Barr/Mosenthal Handbook of Reading Research Fund Committee. I am pleased to announce that Lori Czop Assaf and James Hoffman have agreed to serve in these roles.

Finally, even as we are preparing for the 2016 conference in Nashville, I am excited about planning the 2017 meeting in Tampa. Please stay tuned for the conference theme. We are very pleased to announce the addition of a new program area, *International Research on Literacy Teaching and Learning*, which will appear on the 2017 Call for Proposals. The Board of Directors approved this new area in their April 2016 meeting. I am in the process of appointing Area Chairs for the inaugural period of this area, as well as for openings in several other areas. I appreciate those of you who have volunteered to serve as Area Chairs.

For now, I wish to congratulate President-Elect Rebecca Rogers on what I know will be a meaningful 2016 conference. I spent a few days with Becky in St. Louis this summer helping to finalize some details and have been privileged to remain in conversation with her throughout the planning. Her commitment to social justice and equity, both within the organization, and importantly, in carrying out the mission of LRA to the world, is humbling. Thank you, Becky, for your vision and integrity.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Janice F. Almasi

University of Kentucky

During the spring of 2016, as per LRA's Policies and Procedures Handbook, the Management Relations Committee, which consists of Gay Ivey, Diane Schallert, and myself conducted an annual review of the performance of the Executive Director and LRA's Headquarters staff. Our survey was based on evaluations used in previous years and consisted of 44 items. Those items focused on general administration, board and committee relations, membership, meetings, publications, and communications/social media. We distributed the electronic survey to all members of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. After gathering the data, we analyzed the responses and reported our findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors at their meeting in April.

As well, I served as a member of the Nominations Committee, which is chaired by Gay Ivey. Our committee worked throughout the summer and fall to solicit nominees and develop a slate of candidates for Vice President and the Board of Directors for the 2017 election.

This year I also worked with our headquarters staff and the Executive Committee to develop a Volunteer Survey to determine member interest in volunteering to serve on committees, be a part of an Innovative Community Group, assist with the annual conference, or pursue leadership opportunities within LRA. The Volunteer Survey was disseminated electronically to all LRA members in early August. The data gathered from this survey will be used to inform committee appointments this fall.

The final task that I am working on this year, along with Gwen McMillon, is developing a draft of a mid-career Leadership

Mentoring program. The focus of the program will be to enhance mentorship within the organization to develop Executive Committee and leadership talents.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the organization over the past four years as Vice President, President-Elect, President, and Past President. Though the work has been plentiful, I remain humbled and awestruck by the passion and dedication of our members, and the quality and rigor of the research being conducted by our community. Thank you for your trust, and for the opportunity to serve our community and lead our organization.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee

Detra Price-Dennis

Teachers College, Columbia University

ERM-sponsored Events Nashville, Tennessee

ERM will host a variety of events during the conference, including one research session and one co-sponsored event with the Gender and Sexualities ICG (location and time TBA):

Confronting Inequitable Language Policy in the Classroom: An ERM-sponsored Symposium

Thursday, December 1, 8:45 am - 10:15 am, Omni Nashville, Level 2, Broadway Ballroom B

Exploring Intersectionality: A Conversation with the ERM Committee and Gender and Sexualities ICG

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. The new director of the STAR program is Dr. Mileidis Gort, University of Colorado-Boulder. Members of the 2015-2017 cohort are:

Dr. April Baker-Bell, Michigan State University
(Mentor: Dr. Tonya Perry, University of Alabama at Birmingham)

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, Syracuse University
(Mentor: Dr. Ramón Antonio Martínez, Stanford University)

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

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 Fellows session, "Navigating the Academy:Voices of Early Career Literacy Scholars of Color" at the 2016 LRA annual conference on **Friday, December 2, 1:15 pm - 2:45 pm, Omni Nashville, Level 3, Cumberland 2.**

To learn about and become involved with the ERM committee, please attend our committee meeting on **Thursday, December 1, 7:30 am - 8:30 am, Level 3 Cumberland 2.**

Field Council

Grace Enriquez

Lesley University

LRA Field Council is an active committee focused on recruitment, retention, and reclamation of our organization's membership. The Field Council works throughout the year to promote the Literacy Research Association and reaches out to provide support and networking opportunities to all attendees at the LRA annual conference. The Field Council invites the greater LRA membership to join us in our efforts this year to recruit, retain and reclaim members to this premier literacy research organization.

This fall, the Field Council Regional Chairs have been busy recruiting LRA members to serve as Field Council Representatives in states that have vacancies. If you are interested in serving as a Field Council Representative, don't hesitate to contact the Field Council Representative or Regional Chair for your state. Also, please sign up at the Committee/ICG Exhibit at the conference to let us know you're interested in helping LRA grow and support its members.

The Field Council will also continue to sponsor and host several annual conference events that welcome and support conference-goers through networking and active service:

- **Committee/ICG Exhibit** – This exhibit provides conference attendees the opportunity to learn more about LRA's various standing committees and ICGs and to sign up to become more involved in them. The exhibit will be open each day of the conference during lunch and before the plenary sessions. Sign up for as many committees and ICGs as you'd like. Those interested in joining a standing committee will be added to a list of nominees for upcoming committee openings (to be appointed by the outgoing LRA President), while those who sign up for ICGs will automatically become members.
- **Lunch & Dinner Out Opportunities** – Each day of the conference, the Field Council provides newcomers, lone travelers, and those wishing to network with opportunities to meet new people during small group meals. Stay tuned for information about signing up to join fellow conference-goers for a good meal and conversation.
- **Vital Issues** – These nightly sessions welcome all conference-goers and provide a place and time to participate in informal networking and lively discussion

about vital issues in literacy research. Vital Issues begins each night at 9:00 pm in the hotel lounge.

- **The Lighter Side of Vital Issues** – Following the success of last year's Pecha Kucha session, this year's Vital Issues interactive event will be another celebration of the "lighter side of LRA," featuring a variety of mini-presentations, skits, and other performances. Ian O'Byrne and Jud Laughter will once again head the evening of entertainment and reflection. The Lighter Side of Vital Issues will take place on Thursday, December 1, at 9:00 pm. Attendees are welcome to move between both this event and the traditional Vital Issues in the hotel lounge throughout the evening.
- **Newcomers' and Graduate Students' Breakfast** – Both newcomers and graduate students are welcome at this session to enjoy breakfast with fellow conference attendees and learn of the opportunities available to them through LRA. The breakfast will be held on Thursday, December 1, from 7:00 am - 8:30 am.

The Field Council will once again revisit the findings from the 2015 Reclamation Survey to gauge our progress in addressing them and reclaiming "lost" members. Efforts to recruit new members to LRA will also continue through the spring, including congratulating new faculty members and reaching out to new conference attendees with information about the support, networking opportunities, and avenues that LRA provides its members for developing and growing as literacy researchers.

Finally, the Field Council invites all LRA members to join in the Three R Effort. Encourage colleagues who are already members to become active in the organization, as well as those who may have once been members to join again. Encourage doctoral students, new faculty members, and international colleagues to join our organization. LRA provides networking opportunities for collaborative research and opportunities to grow professionally through LRA's publications, the conference, committees, and ICGs. Encourage colleagues who are already members to become involved. LRA offers a number of ways to connect and serve, such as reviewing for conference proposals, serving on committees and ICGs, and participating in study groups at the conference, which often thread into research and discussion throughout the year. Commit to inviting one potential member to join the Literacy Research Association this year!

Research Committee

Lara J. Handsfield

Illinois State University

Judy Lysaker

Purdue University

Since last spring, the Research Committee has been involved in two primary areas of work. First, we have continued collaborating with faculty and graduate students at the University of Texas, Austin, who are conducting and constructing a comprehensive online literature review of Initial Teacher Preparation in Literacy

(ITEL). Second, we planned, submitted, and will host three sessions and a study group at the annual conference.

In their ongoing work with their ITEL review, the UT Austin team has been developing an interactive web platform for both conducting and disseminating the review. The review is thus intended to be critical, interactive, transparent, and evolving (CITE). Co-Chairs Lara Handsfield and Judy Lysaker have each Skyped into ITEL-CITE meetings to offer support and ideas as needed. Stay tuned for further information from the ITEL-CITE team at this year's conference!

The Research Committee members also organized three sessions focused on theory, research methodologies, and funding: 1) A symposium titled "Exploring Literacy Teacher Development and Decision-Making Through Multiple Methodological and Theoretical Lenses," 2) an alternative format session titled, "Conversations about the Influence of Methodology on Current Research in Academic Language," and 3) an alternative format session titled "Obtaining Grant Funding for Literacy Research," which includes an IES grants officer and eight experienced scholars who have obtained grants from IES, NSF, the Spencer Foundation and the W.T. Grant Foundation. In addition, due to its popularity at the 2015 conference, we will again host a study group titled, "If I knew then what I know now..." which brings together long-standing LRA researchers with a wide variety of interests, theoretical perspectives, methodological expertise, and pedagogical commitments to share their insights.

These sessions all further the Research Committee's goal of supporting LRA members' increase awareness of relevant trends in literacy and related research and opportunities for funded research related to literacy. We hope to see you at these sessions in Nashville!

Technology Committee

Jayne Lammers

University of Rochester

The Technology Committee is pleased to have played a role in supporting the launch of the new LRA website. Thank you to all of the current and past members of the Technology Committee who contributed to this launch. We will continue to work with the Executive Committee and management company to launch new features and make improvements to our association's webspace and social media presence. If you have any comments or suggestions about the website, please direct them to Jayne Lammers, chair of this committee.

In the coming months, the Technology Committee will continue working with other committees on our shared efforts to promote LRA members' research, publications, and other contributions to the literacy field. Please consider attending our Committee meeting in Nashville to find out how you can work with us!

INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY GROUP REPORTS

Doctoral Student Innovative Community Group

Colleen Whittingham

University of Illinois at Chicago

The Doctoral Student Innovative Community Group (DSICG) membership continues to grow and we are looking forward to the conference in Nashville in December! We are continuing to deepen and expand our work on several initiatives to support the doctoral students of LRA, including our newsletter, our first webinar, and our upcoming study group series at the 2016 conference.

This year our newsletter editing team adopted a new publication template, appealing to our readership in a more visual and modern format. They continue to provide in-depth and substantive information for our membership, including articles on topics of interest to students at various stages of their graduate careers. Our Summer 2016 issue can be found at bit.ly/2aeBZ4U, and our Fall 2016 issue will be distributed through our listserv and on social media (@LRADSICG) in November.

Also in an effort to connect members between conferences, and to contribute useful information to the ongoing graduate student conversation, the DSICG hosted its first webinar on Google Hangout On Air with panelists Dr. Michelle Falter, Dr. Leigh Hall, and Dr. Christine Mallozzi. An archive of the webinar can be found on the DSICG YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ab90tWbmCGA>. We were excited to try out this new platform, and are so grateful to our panelists who were able to offer helpful advice to our membership, specifically addressing questions graduate students had submitted prior to the session.

Our Study Group series at the December conference, entitled *Navigating the Multiple Pathways to Publication*, will feature contributions from a number of renowned scholars. Dr. Alfred Tatum, Dean of the College of Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago, will begin the week by narrating for students his publication journey as an assistant professor. As editors of the *Journal of Literacy Research*, Drs. Dennis Davis, Ginny Goatley, Miriam Martinez and Misty Sailors plan to talk through the process of submitting a manuscript for peer review and how to interpret reviewer comments. We will end the week with a provocative panel discussion inspired by Eve Tuck's *Suspending Damage: A Letter to Communities* (2009), problematizing how we represent research participants in our writing. We will be joined by panelists Drs. Fenice Boyd, Noah Golden, Marcelle Haddix, Lamar Johnson, Ghodly Muhammad, and Yolanda Sealy-Ruiz. All Study Group sessions will take place from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm and can be found in the LRA Conference Program.

We will also continue to offer our Academia 101 panel presentation in Nashville this year, providing graduate students with opportunities to hear from recent graduates in a variety of academic and research positions. Also while in Nashville, graduate students are encouraged to attend our annual Sara B. McCraw

networking event that will take place on Wednesday morning, the DSICG-sponsored Happy Hour that will take place Thursday evening, and our annual business meeting where we will elect new leadership on Friday morning. We are looking forward to a wonderful conference, chock-full of events for graduate students!

Lastly, our membership secretaries and our technology team maintain an email listserv (lra.dsicg@gmail.com), a Twitter presence (@LRADSICG) and a Facebook page to promote relevant events and networking opportunities among doctoral students. Our technology team is in the process of launching a new website that we look forward to showcasing at the conference.

The DSICG is always open to new opportunities that will help further graduate students' professional development. If you have suggestions or opportunities for students that you would like us to advertise, please contact us. We are always open to new members. If you are interested in joining the DSICG or know students who might be, please contact lra.dsicg@gmail.com to join the Doctoral Student listserv, follow us on Twitter, and/or visit our Facebook page.

Thank you!

Formative Experiments and Design-Based Research Innovative Community Group

Marc Nachowitz

Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

The Formative Experiments and Design-Based Research ICG continues to make progress in promoting this research methodology within and beyond the Literacy Research Association membership. Thanks to Jenifer J. Schneider, University of South Florida, our first newsletter was distributed to our membership this spring. Maintaining our mission to disseminate research, debate and build consensus, and encourage scholars to employ FDBR methods, our inaugural newsletter contains must-reads, core texts, networks, and recent publications from our ICG members. Anyone wishing to receive our newsletter, join our ICG listserv, or access our Digital Dropbox containing a repository of FDBR research, may email me at nachowm@miamioh.edu for information.

Regarding this year's annual conference, we are pleased to note that many papers employing this methodology will be presented. Additionally, a daily noontime work session for our members is scheduled to share, disseminate, debate, and encourage present and future scholars. Specific details regarding work sessions and our annual business meeting will be available in the conference program.

It has been an exciting year for us as we continue to build and strengthen relationships with journals, other scholarly organizations, and collaborate within our membership to address the unique challenges within this research paradigm.

Gender and Sexualities Innovative Community Group

Corrinne Wickens

Northern Illinois University

The Gender and Sexualities ICG is, for its second year in a row, sponsoring a mentoring opportunity that will be held at the annual meeting in Nashville. This mentoring opportunity is open to all Gender and Sexualities ICG members who are doctoral students and non-tenured faculty whose research *focuses upon* or *intersects* with issues of gender, gender identity or expression, sexuality or sexual orientation. A senior scholar will work with up to 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.

The title of this program can be found in the online program under "Gender and Sexualities ICG Research and Mentoring," Thursday, December 1 from 8:45 am - 10:15 am in Cumberland 3, Level 3 of the Omni Nashville hotel.

Individuals interested in this mentoring opportunity and having their work reviewed by a senior scholar should complete a Mentoring Roundtable Application found at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1gPcWAu2UWW_SJOn8inmapTv-pezlQ_RjXr3HWU_XstQ/viewform?usp=send_form

Submissions are due by October 31, 2016. Applicants will be notified by November 7, 2016. They will then need to contact their mentors and submit writing to be reviewed and discussed at LRA by mid-November.

For more information about this mentoring opportunity or joining the Gender and Sexualities ICG, please contact Corrinne Wickens at cwickens@niu.edu.

AWARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Albert J. Kingston Award for Service to LRA

Jill Castek

The University of Arizona

LRA is a strong and vibrant professional organization because so many of its members generously give service. Service takes many forms, from serving on a committee to reviewing conference proposals or leading the organization on the executive board. Many members give service in ways that help the organization grow and endure. These contributions often go unrecognized by members who are generous with their time, effort, and energy.

Please nominate a deserving colleague for the Albert J. Kingston award for distinguished contributions of service to LRA. Recipients of the Kingston Award, which has been presented annually since 1985, receive a plaque and a lifetime membership.

To submit a nomination, send one copy of the nominee's updated curriculum vitae and a letter 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 a deserving individual for recognition of their service to LRA.

The deadline for nomination materials for the Kingston Award had to be submitted to Committee Chair, Jill Castek by **August 15, 2016**. All nominations remain active in the pool for a period of three years, with the opportunity to update each year. More information about the Kingston Award, including its history, criteria used in the review process, and a listing of past recipients, is also available on the [LRA website](#).

Distinguished Scholar Lifetime Achievement Award

Patricia A. Edwards

Michigan State University, Chair

Guofang Li

University of British Columbia, Board Liaison

The Distinguished Scholar Lifetime Achievement Award (DSLAA) Committee had a productive meeting on Thursday, December 3, 2015 at the Omni La Costa Resort in Carlsbad, California. The DSLAA committee congratulate the 2016 award winner Dr. Allan Luke, Emeritus Professor, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia. Dr. Luke's Address is scheduled on **Thursday, December 1, from 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm**, in the Broadway Ballroom East. The title of Dr. Luke's Address is *No Grand Narrative In Sight: Literacy, Displacement, Political Struggle*.

The Distinguished Scholar Lifetime Achievement Award was first presented at the Annual Conference in 2001. The Distinguished Scholar Lifetime Achievement Award was initiated to recognize a distinguished scholar for a lifetime contribution that has had a significant impact on the field of literacy theory, research, and practice. The award acknowledges an outstanding individual who has not been actively involved in LRA committee work, editorial work, or presentations, but whose lifetime work, nevertheless, has had a major influence on literacy theory, research, and practice of the LRA membership.

Thank you to DSLAA members for their support and involvement. I would especially like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the 2015 DSLAA committee members:

Gerald Campano, University of Pennsylvania
Deborah Dillon, University of Minnesota
Elizabeth Jaeger, University of Arizona
Barbara Laster, Towson State University
Margaret-Mary Sulentic Dowell, Louisiana State University

And, welcome to our newest committee members:

Althier Lazar, Saint Joseph's University
Lisa Patel, Boston College

Comments and questions can be directed to Patricia A. Edwards, Distinguished Scholar Lifetime Achievement Award Committee Chair, at edwards6@msu.edu.

Edward B. Fry Book Award

Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz

Teachers College, Columbia University

The Edward B. Fry Book Award was established by Dr. Fry and recognizes an outstanding book on literacy research and practice. The committee is currently reviewing the books that have been nominated and a winner will be announced at the conference.

J. Michael Parker Award

Silvia Nogueron-Liu, PhD

University of Colorado-Boulder

Dear LRA Colleagues:

If you are presenting adult literacy/ language research at this year's LRA conference, please consider **applying for the J. Michael Parker Award**. This award is aimed at new scholars—i.e., graduate students and untenured, early career scholars—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; and 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, 2016**, 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 (silvia.nogueronliu@colorado.edu) 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:

<http://www.literacyresearchassociation.org/award--j--michael-parker-award>

<https://jmpadulteracy.wordpress.com/about/>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND REGISTER TODAY!



WWW.LITERACYRESEARCHASSOCIATION.ORG

The hotel reservation cut-off date is approaching.
Contact the Omni Nashville to make your reservations today.
1-800-THE-OMNI and mention the LRA room block.