

Marla Mallette & Rachel Karchmer, Co-Editors  
Spring, 2002

## NRC President's Report

**Deborah Dillon**  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, MN



Thanks for a great 2001 Conference!

I want to start by thanking everyone who attended the 2001 NRC Conference in San Antonio for making this meeting a stimulating and meaningful event. As I reflect back over the meeting—with a clearer head than I probably exhibited when you witnessed my stress during the conference!—I was impressed with the sessions that were presented and the conversations people engaged in over the course of the meeting.

First, I want to compliment our Plenary Speakers. They were superb. Peter Mosenthal, then President of NRC, challenged us to think about defining literacy, including science in search of art or art in search of science. Peter's high energy and passion for his message made a vivid impression on all of us, and we thank him for his commitment and his talent as our President during his 2000-2001 term. Michael Pressley presented the Oscar Causey Address. His critique of the

National Reading Panel Report and the ideas he presented regarding research that needs to be considered when thinking about effective beginning reading instruction were outstanding. James Gee, our second Plenary Speaker, challenged us to think about the new literacies young people embrace and practice and about our role as educators in studying as well as valuing these practices. Concha Delgado Gaitan talked with us about the power of literacy in community, sharing a videotape that documented the voices of community

members and their literacies and the impact of cultural background on students' school lives. Finally, James Hoffman presented our Annual NRC Research Address. Jim analyzed and discussed historical trends and current issues surrounding vocabulary in beginning reading texts. Through the use of visual images, we could see the pages of basal readers and other reading materials to understand the impact of these texts on how teachers taught and children learned to read over the years.





Multiple paper and roundtable sessions, alternative and symposia presentations, and committee meetings complemented the large-group Plenary Speakers' presentations. A total of 506 proposals were submitted this year, comprised of 183 roundtables, 10 joint roundtables, 206 papers, 38 alternative sessions, and 69 symposia sessions. These proposals were reviewed within 14 Program Areas; 393 of these submissions were accepted (78%). The accepted presentations reflect a breadth of literacy topics, with a focus on preschool through college-level learners in school, community, work, and other settings. The Program Area Chairs and reviewers did an outstanding job of selecting high quality presentations. The staff at NRC HQ (Judi and Crissy) also did a wonderful job of helping to prepare the conference program and organize all aspects of the conference events. Thank you to all!

### **Planning for 2002: Strength, Courage and Wisdom**

As I think about what lies ahead in the next year, I am reminded of the song "Strength, Courage, & Wisdom" written and sung by India Arie, an outstanding new African American singer from Georgia. India writes from her own experiences. She talks about a dream hiding inside her—a dream she is afraid to allow anyone to see because of the judgment that might follow. She knows that to see the dream fulfilled she has to "step out on faith" to get around procrastination, and to use the tools that she has deep within herself: "strength, courage and wisdom." I resonate with this song as NRC President as well as in my role as a mom, spouse, department chair, colleague, and friend, because daily I, like you, perhaps(?) am besieged with issues that soak up every moment of my time

and attention. How do we determine what issues are the most important to address?

NRC, as a community, has been focused on addressing this very question. The leadership of the organization has pledged to sort through our many competing demands and focus on several key issues, see these through to fruition, and with the members of NRC, move forward to embrace the continuing and exciting challenges in the field of education in general and literacy in particular. At this point in time, our ability to move forward as an organization rests on the completion of at least the following four goals. We have mapped out tasks under each to note what we will work on as an organization during 2002:

#### **1. Continue to develop a meaningful and workable organizational structure and clear documentation that details the way we do our work together.**

Tasks:

- Present the Revised Bylaws to the membership for feedback
- Revise the Policies and Procedures Manual to clarify and update the charges of committees, how they function, membership, budget issues, and guidelines and timelines for activities. Each Committee Chair and Board Liaison will work on respective sections of the manual; drafts will be completed by March 15th and sent to the NRC Secretary; drafts will be read and then discussed at the Spring NRC Board meeting in San Francisco; revised drafts will be prepared before the December 2002 Board meeting and the membership will be presented with the Revised Policy and Procedures Handbook for their input.
- Use the Newsletter, the Website, "Broadcast" Membership Emails, and Conference Sessions to keep the membership well informed about processes and decisions and seek input throughout the process.
- Provide information on how mem-

bers can become more involved in the organization as committee members or on the Board.

**2. Continue to develop communication structures that promote a flow of information and ideas between the leadership of the organization and the membership, from the members to the leadership, and between the two groups as well as in collaboration with other organizations.**

Tasks:

- Develop the use of the Web site to enable substantive work to be completed electronically by committees and the membership.
- Create a Web site Task Force to examine how we can continue to improve our web site and draw upon technology to do our work and communicate better in NRC (Michael McKenna, Chair of the Technology Committee, Don Leu, Peter Mosenthal, and Crissy Coit from NRC HQ; they will seek input from Barbara Guzzetti and John McEnerney).
- Establish relationships with individuals in education organizations and other literacy groups to share information and develop partnerships for future problem-solving work.

**3. Selectively identify key goals and tasks for NRC to undertake, link these efforts with previous initiatives yet with an eye toward future endeavors, and seek the support of NRC leaders, NRC HQ, and the membership to enable the completion of tasks and to maintain momentum.**

Tasks:

- The President will develop a planning calendar of events/deadlines/goals or an "organizational history" for NRC. This will facilitate a seamless flow of activities and expectations from one conference to the next and from one set of leaders to the next. This communication structure includes a renewed goal to support Board members and Committee Chairs as

they do their work, as they seek input from and inform the membership, create reports, and prepare to take action at Board meetings.

- NRC HQ will provide enhanced support for the work of the Board and Committee Chairs as they communicate and work on projects with committee members, gain input on activities "in-progress," and communicate between Committee Chairs about work to enable collaborative efforts.

**4. Broaden and strengthen the diversity of scholars of color who comprise part of the membership of NRC and who attend the conference and contribute to the organization; develop new forms of communication to influence those individuals outside of the organization about our work and seek to influence policy and policy makers.**

Tasks:

- Actively involve new, current, and former members of NRC within the organization.
- Charge the Vice-President Elect, Lea McGee, and Board member Elizabeth Moje, to reconceptualize the 14 Program Areas we currently use to organize conference proposal submissions. This process is intended to update and clarify the conference review process and be more inclusive of literacy scholars' work while, simultaneously seeking high quality proposals.
- Charge Program Area Chairs to seek proposals from scholars of color and those who investigate diverse topics/groups of people who may not attend our conference.
- Allocate NRC monies for competitive travel awards and scholarships to support greater diversity in presentation content ( e.g., topics and methods), sponsored by the Diversity Committee, and more involvement of international scholars and scholars of color, sponsored by the International and Multicultural Committees, respectively. Monies have also been allocated to support competitive gradu-

ate student travel awards for students who have papers accepted on the conference program.

- Charge the President and Vice President to develop ways to connect NRC with IRA and other organizations to enable us to continue to develop a role in policy decisions and advocacy activities. Barb Kapinus and Peter Winograd, as Co-Chairs of the Policy and Legislative Committee, will also be seeking ways to help us stay informed, but also provide strategies for how to make a difference at the local, state, national, and international levels. Our White Papers/Research Briefs are also intended to allow NRC to have a voice in the political arena and the Field Council, with Joyce Many as Chair, is seeking ways to promote communication among the membership, promote our organization, and provide members with strategies to impact state and national policies.

Communication is key to each of these goals. Many of our members who spoke during the 2001 Town Meeting and Business Meetings offered comments about the need to solicit feedback from the membership and make conversations and decisions of the Board more explicit. The leadership of the organization has pledged to do so, and we would welcome your suggestions about how. For now, here is our plan:

1. We will provide the Newsletter in hard copy as well as electronic form and outline important information and announcements in this missive; we ask that you read and respond to issues and allow us to use your feedback in an ongoing fashion to improve our efforts and enlist your talents to solve problems.
2. We will update the membership database/email address list and send broadcast emails of events and announcements. We need your help in updating your database information and letting us know when you are not receiving NRC communications.



3. We will solicit feedback on the conference in the form of a questionnaire over email, but we are open to feedback at any time. Our new email survey, sent in January 2002 to solicit ideas about the 2001 conference and other issues, has yielded numerous responses with useful suggestions. We will keep up this method of collecting, analyzing, and using information to strengthen the organization.
4. We will use the web site to provide updated and ongoing information to the membership; we will seek ways to draw your attention to this site so it becomes a place where eventually we can conduct most of our business and communications related to the organization. We will need your help in using the web site to find out what is going on in NRC; to access documents or contact information; to communicate with others, and engage in the work of the organization; and to provide feedback about what is helpful or what could be improved at the site.

In sum, where does the theme of strength, courage, and wisdom come into play? Aside from the personal application of these ideas to one's daily activities, I see these as being touch points for NRC. To complete our goals and tasks we will need to draw upon the *strength* of all of our members; the tasks are too formidable to accomplish by a small number of people. We will need the *courage* to make uncomfortable decisions, face challenging situations, and have tough conversations while maintaining civility with our sights on completing tasks in a manner that benefits NRC. And, most of all, we will need the *wisdom* to help us refrain from getting caught up in the day-to-day craziness of life that spurs us from one event to the next with little time for reflection. Our primary consideration is to carefully consider both the good of the whole and every member of NRC. Best wishes to each of you in 2002.

## NRC President-Elect's Report

**Lee Gunderson**  
**University of British Columbia**  
**Vancouver, BC**



Congratulations to Deborah Dillon for organizing a wonderful 2001 NRC Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Many individuals reported to me that they thought it was an outstanding conference with exceptional presentations and superb speakers. Thank you for all your hard work on behalf of NRC, Deborah.

Lea McGee and I have begun the process of organizing the 2002 NRC Conference in Miami, Florida.

### The Site

The 2002 Conference will take place in Miami, Florida, from December 4 to December 7 at the Hotel Inter-Continental Miami. The Hotel Inter-Continental Miami has the room to allow us to schedule all of our sessions on the same floor. We have available a movie theatre and are exploring ideas to use it during the conference. If you have any ideas let me know as soon as possible. The hotel is located on Biscayne Bay in the heart of Miami's financial district. Within walking distance of the hotel is Bayside Market, where there are more than 200 shops and popular

restaurants. Rooms feature oversized windows with incredible views and high-speed Internet access. South Beach and Coconut Grove, two exciting dining and shopping attractions, are just minutes away.



### The Conference Program

We are convinced that the 2002 Conference will be stimulating and exciting. We will continue the tradition established by Deborah Dillon of having raffles. Lea McGee and I are also trying to plan some way to include teachers in the conference. The last time NRC was held in Miami, the largest number of teachers ever attended. We hope we can attract even more in 2002. The Plenary Speakers will provide some provocative insights concerning their views of literacy, particularly as it relates to scholarly publishing. The success of the conference will depend, however, to a very large extent, on the number and quality of the proposals submitted. Please help by submitting your proposal.

### Important Dates

The good news about the 2002 conference is that proposals are due March 1, 2002 (post marked March 1 and received by March 8). The Call for Proposals is available at NRC Online (<http://nrc.oakland.edu/>). This year there are 14 proposal areas. As usual only proposals received on time will be reviewed. Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed. We must follow these guidelines to be able to adhere to our very tight schedule in organizing the conference. This time frame will allow Area

Chairs time to assign appropriate reviewers to examine proposals and carefully assess their quality. Area Chairs will adjudicate reviews and submit their recommendations to me. The task of constructing the program will begin just after IRA in May. There are some guidelines in the 2002 Call that I want to draw to your attention.

- First, please note that individuals should appear on the program no more than four times (including serving as a discussant, chair, or presenter). Exceptions include serving in an official NRC capacity or as an invited speaker.
- Second, we are asking for your help in ensuring that all proposals are prepared so that reviewers can actually engage in a blind review of the materials. This means that you need to use APA style guidelines when listing your name within the body of the proposal and in the reference list. Proposals will not be reviewed if they are not blinded.
- Third, we are requesting that all proposals adhere to the 2-3 page single-spaced, typed summary guidelines with the addition of an attached reference list (bibliography). The reference list is needed by the reviewers to ensure that a current and appropriate research base exists for the proposal.
- Fourth, Symposia and Alternative Format Session submissions require a 50-word abstract that provides a concise, yet clear, explanation of the overall session. Examples of several abstracts are shown on page 10 of the Call. Please know that the exact wording you choose for your abstract will be used in the program, so we need your help to ensure that you adhere to the space limitation and that your abstract is error free.
- Fifth, there are three areas designated as electronic submissions only. No hard copy proposals will be

accepted for Areas #2, #3, and #13 (#2 Literacy Processes: Long Standing NRC Emphasis, Elementary and Secondary; #3 Literacy processes: Long Standing NRC Emphasis/College and Adult Reading; and #13 Technology and Media). Please contact the Area Chairs if you need further information or help.

- Sixth, please alert your graduate students and new colleagues to NRC Online (<http://nrc.oakland.edu/>) and encourage them to submit a proposal. We also urge you to mentor graduate students and new faculty as they prepare proposal materials for the first time. You can help!

An electronic version of the 2002 NRC Program will be placed on NRC Online (<http://nrc.oakland.edu/>) as soon as it is possible in late summer. This will allow conference attendees to see when they are slotted to present and note sessions they would like to attend. **We will not be sending a hard copy of the program to conference attendees prior to the conference.** For those members who really wish to have a hardcopy of the program, it will be available at a cost.

### Call for Reviewers

We typically receive about 525 proposals for the NRC Conference. We need reviewers. Please contact one of the Area Chairs and volunteer to be a reviewer. The e-mail addresses are printed on the 2002 Call for Proposals. You will be serving NRC and you will be helping us to ensure that the 2002 Conference lives up to your expectations.

Lea McGee and I are delighted to be working on the awesome task of organizing the 2002 NRC Conference in Miami, Florida. We know that, with your help, it will be great.

See you in Miami in December!

## Diversity Committee

### Laurie MacGillivray, Chair

The Diversity Committee met to discuss what role we could play in NRC and initial actions we could take as a new committee. Fenice Boyd, Devon Brenner, Karen Feathers, Larry Ferguson, Christine Jenkins, Wayne Linek, and Patrick Manyak made a commitment to working this upcoming year on a variety of tasks. The actions mentioned below are in various stages of planning.

- First, we want to reach out formally to local undergraduates in Miami to invite them to a few specific sessions and possibly have their own discussion with a presenter at the end of the day.
- Second, we have begun to reach out to deaf educators and plan to make the 2002 conference a positive experience for them through coordinated translators.
- Third, the committee is going to support programmatic diversity through monetary scholarships to those presenting on underserved populations. Currently we are defining this as researchers who are presenting work on underrepresented populations (such as people of color, people from minority cultures, people with physical handicaps/differences, and other groups still to be determined) or researchers who are presenting on their own position which is rarely heard from directly (such as classroom teachers).
- Fourth, we plan to continue to informally encourage connections that support individuals presenting from minority epistemology perspectives, research methodologies, and presentation formats.
- Fifth, committee members seek to act as a conduit to learn about diverse populations and bring their needs to the Board.

We realize that NRC members may be already working on some of these actions and hope they will contact us

if that is the case. We plan to continue to make sense of what it means to be a committee of diversity of the National Reading Conference. Ideas and support for the membership are welcome. Please contact Wayne Linek at [Wayne\\_Linek@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:Wayne_Linek@tamu-commerce.edu) or Laurie MacGillivray at [macgill@usc.edu](mailto:macgill@usc.edu) if you know of any deaf or hard of hearing educators who are interested in coming to the 2002 conference so translators can be present at designated sessions.

## Oscar S. Causey Award

### Mark Conley, Chair

Dr. Oscar S. Causey was the founder of the National Reading Conference and served for many years as Chair of the Executive Committee. The Oscar S. Causey Award is given each year for outstanding contributions to reading research. Dr. Patricia Alexander received this prestigious award in 2001 at our annual conference. Congratulations, Patricia for this important recognition of your many significant contributions to our profession!



The committee would like to thank Don Leu for chairing this past year. Mark Conley will chair the committee for the 2002 nomination and selection process.

We invite our membership to nominate worthy recipients for the 2002 Oscar S. Causey Award. All nominees will remain in the candidate pool for a total of three years. If you wish to nominate a candidate for the 2002 Oscar S. Causey Award, please send a letter of nomination and the candidate's current vita, by **September 15, 2002**, to:

Mark W. Conley  
Michigan State University  
359 Erickson Hall  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
[conleym@msu.edu](mailto:conleym@msu.edu)  
517-432-9603 (work phone)  
517-432-5092 (fax)

## Albert J. Kingston Award

### Peter Afflerbach, Chair

Congratulations to Linda Gambrell, the 2001 winner of the Albert J. Kingston Award. She has committed her professional life to issues related to literacy, literacy education, literacy research, and teacher education. She has been a strong supporter and

advocate of and for NRC. She was an elected member of the Board of Directors, Vice-President, President, Co-editor of the *Journal of Reading Behavior*, member of the Publications Committee, Chair of the annual conference, and a member and Chair of the Field Council, to name a few of her contributions to NRC.

The Albert J. Kingston Award is given to honor an individual for distinguished contributions of service to the National Reading Conference. The Kingston Award Committee encourages all NRC members to consider nominating deserving candidates for this important recognition of their work.

To nominate an individual for the Kingston Award, please submit: a) one copy of the nominee's vita and b) a letter nominating the individual that describes the service contributions made to the National Reading Conference.

As stated in the NRC Guidelines, the nominee must have belonged to NRC for at least five years. The Award Committee will rank nominees according to the criteria of substantial and significant contributions of service to NRC and the breadth, depth, and length of contributions to NRC. Nomination materials must be

### Call for Deaf or Hard of Hearing Literacy Educators

The Diversity Committee is making plans for translators at the 2002 conference. We need to know how many deaf or hard of hearing literacy educators might attend and their areas of interest. If you are interested, please notify Wayne Linek at [Wayne\\_Linek@tamucommerce.edu](mailto:Wayne_Linek@tamucommerce.edu) or Laurie MacGillivray at [macgill@usc.edu](mailto:macgill@usc.edu).



received by **May 30, 2002.**

Nominations should be sent to Chair of the Albert J. Kingston Award Committee:

Peter Afflerbach  
2304C Benjamin Building  
Department of Curriculum and Instruction  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD 20742

## Edward B. Fry Book Award

**Linda Kucan, Chair**

This year's Edward B. Fry Book Award was presented to Susan Florio-Ruane for her book, *Teacher Education and the Cultural Imagination: Autobiography, Conversation, and Narrative*. The book provides a description of a book club for preservice teachers who came together to talk about the autobiographies of people from diverse cultural backgrounds. In the process of learning about these people, the students as well as their teacher discovered more about their own cultural identities and about the potential impact of culture on classroom interactions.



Congratulations, Susan!

The committee is seeking nominations for the 2002 Edward B. Fry Book Award. The award includes a plaque and an honorarium. In addition,

the publisher of the honored book is provided with award seals to be used in marketing the book. All nominations must be submitted before **May 15, 2002**, by sending a letter of nomination and a copy of the book to the committee chair. Self-nominations are accepted.

Books must be written or edited by current members of NRC. Books are evaluated by the committee based on the following criteria: (a) advancing knowledge about literacy; (b) displaying inquiry into literacy; and (c) showing responsible intellectual risk taking. The publication date for nominated books must be from 1997 to 2002. Nominations should be sent to:

Linda Kucan  
152 Creekside Lane  
Boone, NC 28607

## Early Career Achievement Award Committee

**Janet Bloodgood, Co-Chair**  
**Wendy Kasten, Co-Chair**

Congratulations to Lawrence Sipe, NRC's 2001 winner of the Early Career Achievement Award. Larry's work has been not only significant, but also substantial, with the publication of over 30 related articles in refereed and edited journals and books, and numerous scholarly presentations at national and international conferences. Larry's theorizing about young children's response to literature does far more than simply apply current theories to young children. He has provided new ways of thinking about and describing a developmental theory of response, grounding the theory in the day-to-day experiences of children with literature; working with teachers as well as directly with children; and providing a basis for literature-based instruction in the early grades that provides a direction for instruction in both literacy and literature.



The Early Career Achievement Award is a recent award program of the National Reading Conference. It was designed to recognize the new members of our community who have been actively engaged in research, teaching, and service for approximately three to five years and have demonstrated outstanding commitment and accomplishment. This honor provides encouragement to those newest to our profession.

The Early Career Achievement Award Committee is asking members of NRC to nominate individuals they believe to be worthy of the award. Nominees must be members of NRC (for at least three years, but not necessarily consecutively). NRC members may nominate candidates by sending a recommendation letter outlining the candidate's contributions to the field of literacy research and the nominee's participation in NRC. **Friday, April 12, 2002**, is the deadline for receipt of nominating letters.

Nominees must then submit a current curriculum vita that includes affiliations, degrees, research honors and awards, research publications, and service on editorial boards of research journals in addition to a statement delineating their professional growth and research agenda. An additional letter of support from the candidate's current institution (e.g., teaching/research colleague, department chair) is also required.

These materials must be received no later than **Friday, May 3, 2002.**

Please send all materials to one of the Early Career Achievement Award Committee Co-Chairs:

Janet Bloodgood  
LRE Dept., Appalachian State  
University  
P.O. Box 32085  
Boone, NC 28608-2085

Wendy Kasten  
Kent State University  
402 White Hall  
Kent, OH 44242-0001

As part of the National Reading Conference's effort to recognize and promote excellence, the Early Career Achievement Award fills an important niche. Your support in identifying our brightest and best is necessary for this program to be successful.

## Student Research Award

### Josephine Peyton Young, Chair

The NRC Student Award Committee was pleased to have so many outstanding candidates for the 2001 Student Outstanding Research Award. The papers from this cadre of new researchers represented a cross-section of topics and research methods. There were three finalists for the award and one winner. The winner received a plaque commemorating her accomplishment and an honorarium of \$500.

The finalists (and their sponsoring faculty members) were: Linda Laidlaw (Dennis Sumara, University of Alberta) and Karla Moller (Jo Beth Allen, University of Georgia).

The winner of the 2001 Student Outstanding Research Award was Nancy A. Place (Sheila Valencia) from the University of Washington for her paper titled *Policy in Action: The Influence of Mandated Early Reading Assessment on Teachers' Thinking and Practice.*



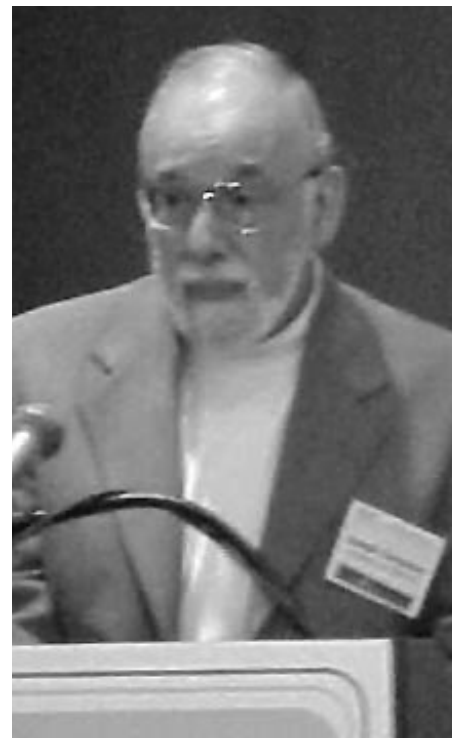
Students are encouraged to submit proposals for conference papers, which is the first round of review for the student award. After the paper is accepted, students may apply for the award. Please contact Josephine Peyton Young, Arizona State University, College of Education, P.O. Box 870911, Tempe, AZ 85287, (480) 727-6747, jyoung@asu.edu for information regarding application procedures for the award competition.

**The research must have been conducted in part after August 1, 2000. The deadline for submission of the paper is September 25, 2002.**

## Distinguished Scholar Award for Lifetime Contribution to Literacy Research, Theory, and Practice

### Trika Smith-Burke, Chair

The first NRC Distinguished Award for Lifetime Contribution was accepted by Joseph Campione on behalf of his wife, Ann Brown. The award recognized Dr. Brown for her seminal body of work in literacy theory and practice.



## Multicultural Issues Committee

### Patty Ruggiano Schmidt, Co-Chair Shelley Hong Xu, Co-Chair

Angela Ward, Virginia Daniels, Mary Ortiz, Yvonne Tixier Y Vigil, Ted Grace, Claudia Finkbeiner, Judith Scott, Victoria Purcell-Gates, and co-chairs, Shelley Hong Xu and Patty Schmidt attended the annual Multicultural Issues Committee meeting in San Antonio. The committee continues to carry out the work of its founders who had the sensitivity and perseverance to establish it as a standing committee of NRC.

For the first time, the committee awarded travel grants to three new scholars from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. They were Jennifer Turner, Michigan State University; Youb Kim, Michigan State University; and Claudia Finkbeiner, University of Kassel, Germany. Members of these underrepresented groups were selected on the basis of their resumes and their accepted proposals for this year's Annual Conference. These grants were NRC's way of recognizing the recipients' literacy research and demon-



strating a commitment to their membership. The committee decided that it would be beneficial, in the future, to hear grant recipient presentations at the annual committee meeting.

It was also reported that the cross-cultural analyses study group, suggested at last year's meeting, had strong participation during the first morning session. Examples of pre-service teachers' work were shared which stimulated active discussion. It was recommended that another proposal for a cross-cultural literacy study group be submitted.

For next year's conference the committee composed a list of potential speakers and transmitted it to President-Elect, Lee Gunderson, and his program area chairs.

Several committee members encouraged all to write multicultural literacy proposals for the Miami conference since they felt there were fewer sessions this year. It was also recommended that multicultural presentations be designated with a special symbol on the program to alert NRC membership.

To assist committee communication throughout the coming year, Shelley Hong Xu has established a listserv. The e-mail address for it is [mcissues@lyris.acs.ttu.edu](mailto:mcissues@lyris.acs.ttu.edu). Use this address to send e-mail to the list. Users can subscribe themselves to the list by mailing [lyris@lyris.acs.ttu.edu](mailto:lyris@lyris.acs.ttu.edu) and putting "subscribe mcissues" in the body of the message. Users can also subscribe using the Lyris web interface at <http://lyris.acs.ttu.edu>

It has been an active and rewarding 2001 for the Multicultural Issues Committee!

## Publications Committee

### Lesley Mandel Morrow

There were several activities associated with NRC publications at the San Antonio Conference. There was a lunch meeting for the Editorial Advisory Board for the *Journal of Literacy Research* and a breakfast meeting for the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Yearbook*. In addition there was a session on publishing in the *Journal* and the *Yearbook*. These events were all well attended.

### What's Happening with JLR?

The new editors of *Journal of Literacy Research*, Wayne Linek, Nancy Padak, Tim Rasinski, and Betty Sturtevant reported at the San Antonio conference that the journal operations are proceeding very well. Thanks to support from Dave Reinking and the previous editorial team at the University of Georgia a near seamless transition has been made to the new editors.

The editors have divided up responsibility for various aspects of the journal. Betty is coordinating the makeup of the editorial review board. Wayne is handling manuscript intake and initial processing, and Nancy and Tim are responsible for final editing, proofing, and printing of manuscripts accepted for publication. All editors will work with individual authors who submit their manuscripts for publication in the journal.

The first issue of *JLR* under the editorship of the new team will come out in March 2002 (Volume 34, #1). This issue, however, represents a transition, as the manuscripts included in this first issue will have been accepted under the tenure of the previous editorial team.

Questions regarding the submission of manuscripts should be sent to Wayne Linek or Kim Klakamp, the *JLR* editorial assistant, at [JLR@tamu.commerce.edu](mailto:JLR@tamu.commerce.edu).

### What's Happening with the Yearbook?

The *50th NRC Yearbook* made its debut at the NRC Conference in San Antonio. This excellent edition consisted of 38 manuscripts from the 95 submitted. The review process was handled electronically with three reviewers per manuscript. In addition to these research articles the editors worked with the authors who wrote the manuscripts for the Oscar Causey address, student award address, annual review of research, and the presidential address.

The editorial team consisting of Jim Hoffman, Diane Schallert, Colleen Fairbanks, Jo Worthy and Beth Maloch, are proposing to have the next volume of the *Yearbook* to the membership in November 2002, which is a month before the annual Conference in December. A new plan for the coming year is to propose a symposium for the next NRC conference based on manuscripts to be published in the *51st Yearbook*. Research presented would be representative of several different areas of literacy instruction.

In consultation with Lee Gunderson, Program Chair and President-Elect of NRC, we will be selecting the annual review speaker for the next NRC conference with a possible focus on diversity. In addition, NRC is exploring ways of making literacy policy issues dealt with by the federal government available to its membership.

## NRC LISTSERV

Anyone wishing to join the NRC Listserv should contact Barbara Guzzetti at: [guzzetti@asu.edu](mailto:guzzetti@asu.edu)

## **JLR Editors Seek Book Reviewers**

The editors of the *Journal of Literacy Research* invite potential book reviewers to submit proposals for professional book reviews. Potential reviewers should send a written proposal that includes the title of the book, rationale for the book to be reviewed in *JLR*, and a brief statement or resume of their own writing experience.

*JLR* Editors will review proposals and contact the proposer within four weeks of their decision.

Book review proposals should be sent directly to:

Nancy Padak or Tim Rasinski

Journal of Literacy Research

Kent State University

Reading and Writing Center

402 White Hall

Kent, OH 44242

## **Ethics Committee**

### **Nancy Knapp, Chair**

The Ethics Committee has been busy this year, considering how to best implement our traditional role in relation to the NRC Ethics Statement and also how to expand our service to the NRC membership at large in providing a forum for community discussion of ethical issues in literacy research and education.

Members attending the committee meeting during the annual conference brought a number of good suggestions for ways to facilitate community discussion on ethical issues of concern to the members. It was decided that the Committee would submit a proposal for a session at the next annual conference, with an invited speaker or panel who will address a specific issue relating to ethical responsibilities in research. We also plan to open the Committee meeting next year, as we did this year, to all interested NRC members, and to structure the meeting around a group discussion of a current ethical issue related to literacy education, to be announced in the meeting

program. We are looking into the possibility of scheduling a study group or Birds of a Feather session focused around these issues or others brought up by the membership. To facilitate the choice of relevant issues for future conferences, we hope to survey the general membership via e-mail or the fall newsletter regarding which ethical issues they would like to see addressed in future sessions.

During the conference, a member of NRC presented a concern to the Committee chair that the NRC Ethics statement did not address any issues relating to on-line communication or publication. A suggestion was brought to the Board that a subcommittee be appointed to draft possible additions to the Ethics Statement to deal with these issues, which have become increasingly salient in the years since the original Ethics Statement was approved.

Finally, we are taking steps to initiate and maintain closer contacts with the ethical arms of professional organizations with purposes and memberships closely related to those of NRC (e.g., IRA, NCTE, AERA). Increasing these

ties among related organizations can only help us by increasing our awareness of ethical issues as they arise and potentially strengthening our voices as we address these issues in the public and policy arenas.

All of these plans and purposes are intended to serve you, the members of NRC. Please send your feedback, ideas, concerns, suggestions, and especially your nominations for specific ethical issues you would like to see discussed or addressed, to me at [Nknapp@coe.uga.edu](mailto:Nknapp@coe.uga.edu), or call me at 706-542-4255, and I will forward your ideas to the rest of the Committee. We look forward to hearing from you!

## **Field Council**

### **Joyce Many, Chair**

This year brings exciting changes to the Field Council and a host of initiatives designed to improve our support for current members and our outreach for new members.

First, in accordance with the new Bylaws for our organization, the number of Field Council Representatives

for each state, province, or country has changed from two representatives to a "minimum" of two representatives. This provision will allow us to expand the number of representatives as needed. We are excited about this change in that it will allow us to involve a greater number of members in the work of the Field Council.

Traditionally, Field Council Representatives have been responsible for contacting Literacy faculty in their areas to encourage them to have their libraries subscribe to NRC publications. This year, we have added new outreach initiatives. The first of these initiatives took place at our 2001 Conference with the wonderfully successful Newcomer's Luncheon. Deborah Dillon welcomed participants and newcomers, and each table had the opportunity to converse with representatives from the Board of Directors and with the chairs of various committees. Newcomers also heard from David Lund who shared information regarding the NRC Collaborative Research Network. (If you haven't looked into this great way to find colleagues with whom you can chat about research topics of interest to you - be sure to go to NRC Online (<http://nrc.oakland.edu/>) and check it out!) This spring, Field Council representatives will be continuing our efforts to support our newest NRC members by contacting these newcomers and offering to answer questions or provide support in any way they can.

Field Council Representative will also be working to share the word about our organization in new ways. This spring we are developing information brochures and a new NRC banner. Field Council Representatives will be able to use these materials to set up information booths at regional, state, and local literacy conferences. We are also in the process of establishing procedures for members interested in proposing NRC co-sponsored sessions

at state and local conferences. In these ways, we hope to maximize our ability to reach out to diverse groups of teachers and researchers and share the word about our organization.

We are excited about our efforts to welcome and support our new members and about the possibilities for increasing the visibility of NRC as an organization. We'd love to see an increased number of active NRC members involved in these activities. If you think you might be interested in serving as a Field Council representative or if you know someone in your area who is looking to get involved, feel free to e-mail me ([mstjem@gsu.edu](mailto:mstjem@gsu.edu)) for more information.

## **A Message from the Vice President-Elect**

**Lea McGee  
University of Alabama  
Tuscaloosa, AL**

Greetings!

I have been asked to complete three tasks in the next year. First, I am working with Elizabeth Moje to redefine the areas of submission for the annual conference. This seemingly simple task became fraught with difficulties last year-not the least was our collective beliefs about how the areas for submission perhaps reflect

our beliefs about literacy and ought not be changed too much!

My second task is to become more knowledgeable and skillful in advocacy. Toward that end I am attending the International Reading Association's Government Relations Conference in Washington, DC, in late January. The Government Relations Committee has planned a program of activities which promises to be enlightening and useful.

Third, I am arranging a special Saturday conference-within-a-conference at the 2002 NRC meeting for local teachers. My initial thoughts are to have teachers register for all day Saturday. They will attend the Saturday plenary session and one research session of their choice. We will have a sandwich and salad buffet followed by two afternoon sessions. These sessions will be presented by NRC members and focus on the areas of comprehension and English as a second language issues. The sessions will first provide a review of relevant research and then classroom-based applications or teacher-research studies. I am urgently seeking NRC members who want to get involved in this project. I need ideas on how to organize the sessions and how to select speakers (paid for by NRC). If you have any ideas and/or suggestions, or better yet, would like to become a member of this ad hoc group, please e-mail me ASAP at [lmcgee@bamaed.ua.edu](mailto:lmcgee@bamaed.ua.edu).

## **Next Issue**

Send articles and announcements for the Fall 2002 NRC Newsletter  
via e-mail to: Rachel Karchmer at [r.karchmer@att.net](mailto:r.karchmer@att.net)  
or Marla Mallett at [mmallett@siu.edu](mailto:mmallett@siu.edu)



## **Programmatic Diversity Scholarship**

In the interest of assisting NRC in offering greater diversity in presentation content, the Diversity Committee is going to support programmatic diversity through monetary scholarships to those presenting on underserved populations. Currently we are defining this as researchers who are presenting work on underrepresent-

ed populations (such as people of color, people from minority cultures, people with physical handicaps/differences, and other groups still to be determined) or researchers who are presenting on their own position which is rarely heard from directly (such as classroom teachers). The scholars will be presented with monetary awards that would help defray the costs of attending NRC. Nominations should reach the com-

mittee no later than August 31, 2002; self-nominations will be welcomed. Upon notification of acceptance for proposal presentations at the forthcoming National Reading Conference, send e-mail nominations, with the scholar's curriculum vitae and accepted proposal, to Laurie MacGillivray at [macgill@usc.edu](mailto:macgill@usc.edu) or Devon Brenner at [devon@ra.msstate.edu](mailto:devon@ra.msstate.edu).

NRC  
11 E. Hubbard, Suite 5A  
Chicago, IL 60611

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