



# National Reading Conference NEWSLETTER

Heidi Anne Mesmer, Editor  
Fall 2003

## NRC President's Report

**Lee Gunderson**  
University of British Columbia

I bring greetings from the NRC Executive Members. We all hope and trust you had time to relax during the summer. There have been a number of changes, challenges, and developments at Headquarters in Milwaukee to report.

In August, Ed Grochowski resigned as NRC's Executive Director to take up a position as a high school teacher. **Annette Hess** (a.hess@nrconline.org, 414.768.8000, ext 119) has assumed the role. The Executive team met with Annette in Milwaukee in mid-September and we are convinced she will make a dramatic difference in NRC's operations.

I regret to inform you that John Readence has resigned as NRC's Treasurer. We thank him sincerely for his hard work and dedication to NRC. I have had the pleasure of serving as Acting Treasurer. This has been an interesting endeavor. We are presently searching for a new treasurer. I can report that NRC is in very good financial condition. As of mid-September we have about **980 members** and one of Headquarters goals is to increase this number.

Membership and conference registration are now on-line. As of mid-September 40 members had registered for the conference and about 15 new members had joined NRC. The new Bylaws are posted on the web. There is also a conference database that allows one to search through the schedule of sessions of accepted papers. We are presently working to get committee information updated and placed on the web. To find these great on-line resources go to [www.nrconline.org](http://www.nrconline.org).

Our election was conducted on-line and it worked quite well after some de-bugging. I am happy to announce that **Victoria Purcell-Gates** was elected **Vice-President** and **Kathleen Hinchman, David Reinking, and Norman Stahl** were elected as **Board Members**. Congratulations. We extend our most sincere appreciation to all of the individuals who consented to stand for election. We truly appreciate your dedication to NRC.

New Officers and Board Members	
Victoria Purcell-Gates . . . . .	Vice-President
Kathleen Hinchman . . . . .	Board Member
David Reinking . . . . .	Board Member
Norman Stahl . . . . .	Board Member

The Executive team met in mid-September to work on conference plans. Lea McGee has organized an awesome conference and for the first time proposals were submitted entirely on-line. We are delighted that Marie Clay will participate, both as a recipient of an award and as a presenter. We all hope to see you at the DoubleTree in Scottsdale.

I conclude with a special thanks to Scott Sherer and his staff at TEI who have worked tirelessly to get NRC into shape. We believe we have just about completed our transition stage and are happily seeing new developments that will make NRC even more responsive to all its members.

Happy Fall - See you in Scottsdale!

## NRC President Elect's Report

**Lea McGee**  
University of Alabama

This year's NRC Conference is to be held December 3-6, 2003, in the DoubleTree Paradise Resort in Scottsdale, AZ. It is packed with thoughtful and well-crafted research presentations and critiques. The program represents NRC's diversity of perspectives and research traditions. It should prove to be a lively meeting!

Thanks to everyone for their patience and good will in submitting all proposals online. We only lost a few proposals, and most have been located in time to review them for the conference. I am guessing that everyone is finding our first on-line searchable data base of conference sessions helpful. If not, I would have heard grumbling on the list serve!

Our opening plenary session, on Wednesday afternoon, will feature the NRC Presidential Address delivered by **Lee Gunderson**, University of British Columbia. His address, "The Language, Literacy, Achievement, and Social Consequences of English-Only Programs for Immigrant Students," will challenge us to think deeply about issues of English Language Learning and Instruction. We hope everyone will join us after the plenary for a pool-side reception to honor our current and past NRC presidents. Immediately following the reception, Deborah Dillon will chair a Memorial in honor of **Rebecca Barr**. All members are invited to attend and share cherished memories of this Past NRC President.

Thursday morning **Connie Juel**, the 2002 Oscar Casey Award Recipient for Research, will present musings about the directions we are taking in reading research. Her presentation, titled "Reading Research: What Questions Keep Me Up At Night?"

will challenge NRC members to consider the thrust of current research and its effects on children's experiences inside and outside school.

Thursday afternoon's plenary session will be delivered by **Marilyn Cochran-Smith**, Boston College. Dr. Cochran-Smith will critique the ways that research and researchers have been positioned in discussions of teacher education in her talk titled "Promises and Politics: Images of Research in the Discourse of Teaching and Teacher Education".

Friday at noon NRC will host a special session in which **Marie M. Clay** will be presented the NRC Distinguished Scholar Award. Dr. Clay has graciously agreed to provide remarks titled "Simply by Sailing in a New Direction." The plenary session Friday afternoon will be presented by **Frederick Erickson**, University of California, Los Angeles. His talk titled "Teaching, Learning, and Research in 'Real Reading': Some Observations from a Laboratory Setting" will question how reading is currently being defined and measured.

The annual review of research will be presented in the final plenary session on Saturday morning. This review will be delivered by **Robert Jimenez**, University of Illinois, and **Kris D. Gutierrez**, University of California, Los Angeles. Their titles ("Theoretical Promise, Perennial Problems, and Empirical Progress Concerning Latino Students and Literacy" and "Literacy as Laminated Activity: Rethinking Literacy for English Language Learners") reflect concerns about the contributions that research has made in our understandings of issues in English language learning and instruction.

We hope all NRC members will spread the word about the **Newcomers' Luncheon** planned for Wednesday at lunch. Please invite all first-time attendees (including graduate students) to register for this event specially planned to integrate newcomers into our NRC community. Members of NRC who come with a newcomer are invited to attend the luncheon as well. Members of the Student Outstanding Research Award Committee are hosting a special **Pizza Luncheon** for all committee members, award applicants, and graduate students to be held at noon on Thursday. Also, please plan to attend the **Town Meeting** on Thursday evening and our **Annual Business Meeting** on Friday evening. Prior to the Town Meeting, we will have an open bar so members can come with beer and popcorn in hand. Friday we will have a reception honoring our NRC publications and other

### NRC Listserve

Interested in having your finger on the pulse of literacy happenings? Interested in benefiting from the knowledge of your esteemed NRC colleagues? Join the NRC listserve. E-mail Bonnie Kuchinski at [bonnie@NRC.org](mailto:bonnie@NRC.org)

publishers attending the conference. We invite all members to attend this reception.

We have a special event, an **Art Walk**, planned 7:00-9:00 Thursday evening. NRC members are invited to stroll through Old Town and visit art galleries who will host open houses welcoming visitors to their galleries. The hotel will provide transportation to and from old town from 6:00 to 10:00 to accommodate NRC visits to this exciting local event.

I am sure you will have a wonderful time at the 2003 NRC Conference and I look forward to meeting you there!

### Vice President's Report

**Don J. Leu**  
**University of Connecticut**

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Arizona at the DoubleTree. I have been working to put in place conference preparations for NRC 2004 when we will gather at the Adam's Mark hotel in **San Antonio**. You will recall that our previous management group committed us contractually to this conference hotel without consulting us about the decision.

The upcoming review process will again take place online and we will continue to improve upon the submission process. Our management group has been especially helpful in this area. We will begin using a new set of program areas in the review process this year. You will recall that I shared these on the NRC listserv and invited revision suggestions. I will be posting a call for program area chairs shortly. I invite you to contact me if you are interested in contributing to our organization in this fashion. Area chairs must be NRC members and have published research in our field. I am also looking for chairs who are able to meet deadlines on time since we will try to move decisions up a bit.

Once again this year, NRC will hold a Saturday conference, the **Best Practices Conference**, for literacy educators in our host area. This is becoming a wonderful addition to our traditional NRC conference, providing literacy educators in the area with an opportunity to hear the latest research and consider how this may be integrated into their classrooms. We have put together an exceptional conference with a focus on research in the morning and research into practice session in the afternoon. The program for this special conference-within-a-conference is located online at <http://www.nrconline.org/conference/conf03/saturday.asp>. **Kris Gutierrez** and **Robert Jimenez** will keynote the morning sessions and **Pat Cunningham** will keynote the afternoon session. If you live in Arizona or California, please invite literacy professionals to join us on this special day.

### Key Personnel at Headquarters

#### NRC Executive Director

Annette Hess  
[a.hess@nrconline.org](mailto:a.hess@nrconline.org)

#### Membership

Jenny Jozwiak  
[mbrship@nrc.org](mailto:mbrship@nrc.org)

#### Financial Controller

Margaret Zizis  
[m.zizis@nrc.org](mailto:m.zizis@nrc.org)

#### President TEI

Scott Sherer  
[sherer@nrc.org](mailto:sherer@nrc.org)

#### Chief Technology Officer

Roy Smith  
[nrc@nrconline.org](mailto:nrc@nrconline.org)

I am currently working to identify plenary speakers for next year's conference. I welcome any suggestions that you may have. Let me know before November 1.

Finally, we are selecting our venue for NRC 2005. This will be an East Coast location and we are close to finalizing the contract. I hope to be able to announce the hotel in Arizona. I have taken into account the wonderful set of criteria we developed together on the NRC listserv.

Thanks, again, for sharing these suggestions.

## Ethics committee

**Nancy F. Knapp**  
University of Georgia

The Ethics committee is pleased to host **Dr. Diane L. Stephens**, winner of the 2000 NCTE Alan Purvis Award and primary author of the South Carolina Reading First grant application, for an invited address on Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 10:15 in the Forum Room. In her talk, entitled "Walking the tightrope: Dilemmas of a literacy researcher and teacher under current federal policy," Dr. Stephens will share her own dilemmas of "knowing" and "acting" in the current political context, and those of her colleagues teaching in the public schools. There will also be a significant amount of time set aside for audience comment and participation.

The regular Ethics committee meeting will be held Saturday December 6th in the Four Peaks Room. All NRC members who are interested in joining the committee or have an ethical issue they want to bring to the larger community are invited to attend.

## Diversity Committee Travel Awards

**Devon Brenner**  
Mississippi State University

**Laurie MacGillivray**  
University of Southern California

The Diversity Committee aims to broaden the range of research methodologies and topics presented at NRC, and to increase the participation of presenters not typically represented at NRC. A scholar who wishes to apply for the award should send a vitae and an accepted NRC proposal to the chairs of the committee by October 15, 2003. Co-chairs: Devon Brenner [devon@ra.msstate.edu](mailto:devon@ra.msstate.edu) and Laurie MacGillivray [macgill@usc.edu](mailto:macgill@usc.edu).

## Albert J. Kingston Award Committee

**Peter Afflerbach**  
University of Maryland

We are currently seeking nominations for the **Albert J. Kingston Award** for outstanding service to the National Reading Conference. A letter of recommendation and support, along with an account of the nominee's contributions to NRC should be submitted. The CV of the nominee, if available, may

## Next Issue of the NRC Newsletter

Please send articles and announcements for the Spring, 2003 NRC newsletter to:

Heidi Anne Mesmer  
Oklahoma State University  
College of Education  
249 Willard Hall  
Stillwater, OK 74078  
405-744-8020  
[haemesmer@hotmail.com](mailto:haemesmer@hotmail.com) or [mesmerh@okstate.edu](mailto:mesmerh@okstate.edu)

be used to help describe these contributions. Submissions should be received by October 15, 2003 and submitted to [pa15@umail.umd.edu](mailto:pa15@umail.umd.edu).

## Oscar Causey Award Committee

**Mark Conley**  
Michigan State University

The Oscar Causey award is given for outstanding lifelong achievement in literacy research. All that is required is a letter of nomination and a vitae. Nominations should be sent to Dr. Mark Conley, Michigan State University, 359 Erickson Hall East, Lansing, MI 48824.

## Multicultural Issues Committee

**Patricia Ruggiano Schmidt**  
Lemoyne College

**Shelley Hong Xu**  
Texas Tech University

Each year the Multicultural Issues Committee gives travel awards to new scholars who are from underrepresented groups related to diverse language, ethnic, and racial backgrounds. \*A scholar who wishes to apply for the award, should send a curriculum vitae and an accepted NRC proposal to the chairs of the committee by October 15, 2003. Patricia Ruggiano Schmidt [Schmidt@lemoyne.edu](mailto:Schmidt@lemoyne.edu) or Shelley Hong Xu [shelley.xu@ttu.edu](mailto:shelley.xu@ttu.edu).

## Field Council

**Joyce E. Many**  
Georgia State University

At each year's annual conference, the NRC Field Council members host a luncheon for **Newcomers**. This year's luncheon will be held on Wednesday December 3rd, at noon, in Paradise Park. The luncheon will provide an opportunity for Field Council representatives and NRC board members to welcome first time attendees and graduate students to our conference. Any newcomer or Field Council representative planning to attend the luncheon should RSVP to Annette Hess at [a.hess@nrconline.org](mailto:a.hess@nrconline.org).

# 53<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL READING CONFERENCE

DECEMBER 3-6, 2003  
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

## Conference Registration

Category	Advance	On-Site	Daily	Amount
			<input type="checkbox"/> Wed   <input type="checkbox"/> Thur   <input type="checkbox"/> Fri   <input type="checkbox"/> Sat	
Regular member	\$170.00	\$200.00	\$125.00	_____
Student or Emeritus	\$80.00	\$90.00	\$50.00	_____
Non-Member	\$200.00	\$220.00	\$150.00	_____
Shipping and Handling to Mail Program Book <i>(Available before November 1<sup>st</sup>)</i>			\$5.00	_____
<b>Total:</b>				_____

Please make hotel reservations with the DoubleTree Paradise Valley Resort (480) 947-5400.

## Payment Information

Check    Visa    MasterCard    American Express

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Card Holder: \_\_\_\_\_

Students: Please indicate name of Advisor or Dean: \_\_\_\_\_

After September 1, 2003 the program will be available online, a hard copy will be provided at the conference unless you choose to have it mailed to you before the conference for a service fee.

Full registration includes the 53<sup>rd</sup> National Reading Conference Yearbook, Published in December 2004.

Daily registrants not eligible to receive the 53<sup>rd</sup> National Reading Conference Yearbook offer.

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

## Mail, Fax or Register Online!

National Reading Conference  
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Oak Creek, WI 53154  
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Fax: (414) 768-8001  
<http://www.nrconline.org>