



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### **Patricia L. Anders** **The University of Arizona**

Welcome, LRA members! This LRA fall newsletter is packed with information about the operations and governance of LRA—read to learn about the LRA committee work being accomplished by committee members and the many preparations Vice President Jiménez and his planning committee are making for the upcoming LRA Annual Conference in Jacksonville, FL, November 30-December 3, 2011.

A goal of this year's Executive Committee (members are Past President Reinking, President Anders, President Elect Jiménez, Vice President Beach, Parliamentarian Bauer, Secretary Tracey, and Treasurer L'Allier) has been to improve communications with Technical Enterprises, Inc. (TEI), LRA's association management company. One procedure, which seems to have helped, is monthly phone calls between members of the Executive Committee and the TEI leadership. One project we have been working diligently on is the reconstruction of the website. The technology committee's recommendations (David Lund, Chair; Erica Boling and Dana Wilber, E-Editors; committee members; and Rick Beach) are being executed by Roy Smith of TEI in a systematic and timely manner. Soon, the changes will be evident and members will need to access the new site to recommend adjustments as well as update their member profile.

Three other infrastructure committee projects are underway. The first is that the bylaws are being revised to provide for member vetting of any bylaw changes. Once this change is approved by the LRA Board of Directors, all future bylaw amendments will be presented to the LRA membership for a 30-day review/comment period prior to any vote.

Second, a membership survey was developed by Past President Kathy Hinchman and committee members Janice Almasi, Eurydice Bauer, and Douglas Fisher. The survey will be distributed after Labor Day. Please take the time to fill it out. The results of the survey, combined with improved membership demographics as part of the website revision, will help inform the Board of Directors as it considers the development of a formal strategic plan for LRA.

Finally, under the leadership of Past President Reinking and Treasurer L'Allier, the Financial Advisory Committee is creating a five-year financial plan for LRA. The plan will inform the Board of Directors and provide a venue for reviewing and discussing issues critical to the financial well being of LRA. Included in their charge is refinement (as needed) and establishment of a Financial Procedures Handbook as well as designing structures for advising donors to LRA regarding potential investment areas and institutionalizing bequests.

Vice President Robert Jiménez and his planning committee have been hard at work preparing for the LRA conference. As reported here, the preparations sound marvelous and all seems to be in order.

Best wishes for a productive fall, and I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Jacksonville.

## PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REPORT

### **Robert T. Jiménez** **Vanderbilt University**

We will soon be meeting in Jacksonville, Florida for the 61<sup>st</sup> annual conference of the Literacy Research Association. This year we will be staying at the very beautiful [Hyatt Regency Riverfront Hotel](#) located on the St. Johns River. Please make sure to register and make your hotel reservations and travel arrangements. It's always a pleasure to see everyone and I am sure this is going to be a fantastic meeting. Also, if you get a chance, encourage your colleagues to attend.

This year's conference theme is *Widening the Circle for Literacy Research and Practice: Expanding Access, Knowledge, and Participation*. Many of you incorporated the theme into your conference proposals and I know the sessions are going to be informative, interesting, and useful. Our plenary speakers this year are Donaldo Macedo, Eve Gregory, and Lesley Mandel Morrow. We will electronically distribute some representative publications from our invited speakers to give you a sense of their work. Please take advantage of this resource. In addition to making the plenary sessions available on the LRA website, we are experimenting this year with podcasting paper, symposia, and alternative sessions. To do this, however, we need you to bring a tape recorder to record your session. If you do, please inform Chris Roper ([c.ropер@literacyresearchassociation.org](mailto:c.ropер@literacyresearchassociation.org)) and we will add your podcast to our website.

As I write this at the beginning of July, we have finished organizing the annual meeting and all sessions have been assigned a time and a place. We received 660 proposals and we accepted 486. I would like to personally thank all of the area conference chairs for all their work, as well as each and every reviewer. As you are well aware, this work took a good deal of time, beginning in March and ending in late May. It required a lot of careful reading and—very often—difficult decision-making. Please thank your Area Chairs and the reviewers who completed this work for us; their names will be listed in your Conference Program.

Also, please encourage your colleagues and students who are new to LRA to attend the Newcomers' Lunch. This is a good way to get to know those who are new to our organization. Advanced registration is required and is part of the online registration process, so please sign up early.

And because I've been to Northeast Florida more than a few times, I want to encourage you not only to attend the conference but to also find some time to enjoy the natural beauty and attractions of the area. Make sure you sign up early and reserve your place on the Lady St. John's Dinner Cruise that will leave from directly in front of the hotel on Thursday evening. Dinner will be served aboard an old-time paddle-boat and a cash bar and a DJ will be provided. Previous boat cruises have been a big hit, so don't miss this one. Also, to help with Christmas shopping, we have arranged for a free shuttle for a dine-and-shop trip on Wednesday to the St. John's Town Center. This place is a city unto itself and it includes 11 anchor stores and a range of fine restaurants. And, the pièce de résistance will be the St. Augustine

Tour, so plan on staying through Saturday. This tour leaves the Hyatt Riverfront on Saturday at 1 pm after our integrative research review. St. Augustine is delightful; it has the feel of a seaside resort with excellent restaurants, beaches, and architectural wonders such as the 17<sup>th</sup> century Spanish fort, or Castillo de San Marcos and the 19<sup>th</sup> century Hotel Ponce de Leon (now Flagler College). And, finally, to get you from the airport to Hyatt Riverfront, we have arranged a very reasonably priced shuttle service. The cost will be \$16 (inclusive of taxes and gratuity); you will need to reserve your place on the shuttle at least 48 hours in advance. Conference details, including tour information, ground transportation, discounts, and much more, can be found on the [2011 conference website](#).

To wrap up, we want you to have opportunities to get involved in LRA. If you are a committee member, please stay in touch with your chair and make sure you know where your committee is meeting. You can also sign up for one of our committees at the registration desk. In addition, we love seeing you at the Annual Town Hall, where members are asked to speak on any topic of their choosing, but we really need you to attend our Annual Business Meeting on Friday. The Annual Business Meeting is not typically well attended and we need your presence to carry out the business of the association. And, we are already getting ready for next year's conference in San Diego at the Sheraton Hotel and Marina. Check it out by clicking [here](#). Take care and see you soon!

## THE J. MICHAEL PARKER AWARD

### William Muth, Chair, Virginia Commonwealth University

If you are presenting adult literacy or language-related research at this year's LRA conference, it is not too late to apply for the J. Michael Parker Award! The J. Michael Parker Award is given to graduate students and untenured professors for papers they present at the conference that address adult literacy/language development and instruction. The award was established in 2001 in honor of J. Michael Parker, winner of LRA's Student Outstanding Research Award for his work on community-based adult literacy programs. It recognizes studies that examine ways adults further their own language and literacy development within or outside of formal learning contexts.

The award is designed to encourage work on adult literacy with a variety of populations, including, but not limited to, learners in: adult basic education, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes, post-secondary developmental reading classes, and other targeted literacy initiatives. 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.

**Applicants are required to submit the full paper (25 pages or less) electronically by October 1, 2011.** Papers must be double-spaced and in 12-point font. The text limit does not include references and any appendices. Submissions and questions should be sent to the committee chair, William Muth, at [wrmuth@vcu.edu](mailto:wrmuth@vcu.edu).

## ALBERT J. KINGSTON AWARD: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

### Donna Alvermann, Chair, University of Georgia

The purpose of the Albert J. Kingston Award is to honor an LRA member for distinguished contributions of service to LRA. Susan L'Allier was the recipient of this prestigious award in 2010.

On behalf of the Albert J. Kingston Award Committee Members (Jill Castek, Sandra Chambers, Mark Conley, Deborah Deal, Susan Piazza, and Victoria Purcell-Gates), you are invited to nominate an LRA colleague for this award in 2011. Any LRA member may nominate deserving candidates for recognition of their service to the organization.

The recipient of the Albert J. Kingston Award, which has been presented annually since 1985, will receive a plaque and a lifetime membership in LRA.

The **nomination procedure** consists of these three steps:

1. Please make certain that the individual you intend to nominate has been a member of LRA for at least five years.
2. Submit one copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae (CV) and a letter that describes the person's service contributions to LRA.
3. Send the nominee's CV and your letter of nomination as attachments in an e-mail to Donna Alvermann ([dalverma@uga.edu](mailto:dalverma@uga.edu)) by **August 15, 2011**.

## LRA TO LAUNCH A REDESIGNED WEBSITE

LRA will launch a new redesigned website this fall that is designed to foster social networking, interactions, and research resource-sharing for its members. LRA is following the lead of other professional organizations in providing websites consistent with the larger uses of social networking communication. This website is similar to the new International Reading Association's (IRA) Engage site (<http://engage.reading.org>) as well as the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Connected Community forum (<http://www.ncte.org/community>).

The new website will contain a number of new features. A **My Profile** page will provide members with information about their current membership status, as well as information provided by members about themselves, including a link to their bio page/website.

A **Forums** page will provide members with opportunities to engage in discussions with all members, as well as members of specific LRA committees and Innovative Community Groups (ICGs). While the current listserv will continue, these forums will eventually replace the listserv, but would be tied to an e-mail notification service where members would choose whether or not to receive the e-mails and how frequently.

A **Research Resources/Publications** page will provide members with information and resource links related to literacy research. This will include a Member Research Repository that will contain links to member bio pages and/or their university research repository pages. These member pages will then be tagged according to a limited category system so that the Repository is searchable. Members can then search for those LRA members and/or topics related to their own research interests.

A *Community* page will include information about the different groups in LRA, as well as policy initiatives, resolutions, announcements, and other activities.

And, a *Conferences* page will include information about the annual conferences and submitting proposals.

## ETHNICITY, RACE, AND MULTILINGUALISM COMMITTEE

### **Julia Lopez-Robertson, Chair, University of South Carolina**

The Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee proudly presents: "Shake Your Booty, Bebe! Exposure of 'Body' and Soul to Fitness Literacy in a Turbo-kick Class." The class will be available during the 2011 Annual Conference in Jacksonville, Florida.

The instructor, Yoo Kyung Sung, an Assistant Professor at the University of New Mexico, is AFAA (Aerobics and Fitness Association of America) and TKB (TurboKickboxing) certified and has taught TKB for eight years.

Classes will meet at 6:15 a.m. daily to allow members the chance to get in a workout before attending the Study Groups. Please check out the conference program for specifics on class location. We hope to see you there!

## JOURNAL OF LITERACY RESEARCH

### **Doug Hartman, Editor, Michigan State University**

The *Journal of Literacy Research (JLR)* is pleased to announce its transition to SAGE Publications' ScholarOne manuscript system called *SAGE Track*. To submit a manuscript please go [here](#) and click on the "Register Here" link. *SAGE Track* allows authors to track the status of their submitted manuscript from start to finish. The intuitive interface provides ease of use and submission by outlining the *Journal of Literacy Research's* submission standards. *JLR* is now accepting submissions through *SAGE Track* on an on-going basis. The journal's editorial team looks forward to reviewing exceptional scholarship in the fields of language and literacy studies. To learn more about the *Journal of Literacy Research* and its call for publications, please click [here](#).

## INTERNATIONAL INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY GROUP (ICG)

### **Xiaoming Liu, Chair, Towson University**

### **Yvonne Pek, Co-chair, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

### **2011 International Innovative Community Group (ICG) Survey**

This summer, the International ICG is conducting our first survey. The survey aims to gain feedback from our members and to find out how we can best meet their needs. By surveying our members' opinions, we hope to determine possible areas of focus for future projects and approaches for making connections with researchers in locations within and outside of the U.S.

So far, our 17 respondents have given us much to think about. We thank all those who have responded and encourage those who are interested in international and global research to participate in the survey. We will be sharing the survey results during our business meeting at the 2011 LRA conference.

The International ICG committee encourages you to [click here to participate in this survey](#). We will extend the deadline to September 15, 2011 so that your opinions may be heard. Thank you for your support!

### **2011 International ICG Travel Grants**

This year, the LRA Board of Directors has once again kindly granted a sum of money for awarding travel grants to presenters who reside outside of the U.S. We will provide more details about the eligibility criteria via the International ICG listserv as well as the LRA listserv. Please look out for the call around mid-September 2011.

### **Join the International ICG**

If you would like to join the International ICG, please e-mail Christopher Roper, LRA Executive Director, at [c.ropер@LiteracyResearchAssociation.org](mailto:c.ropер@LiteracyResearchAssociation.org), Xiaoming Liu at [xliu@towson.edu](mailto:xliu@towson.edu), or Yvonne Pek at [yvonne.pek@gmail.com](mailto:yvonne.pek@gmail.com). If you would like to share ideas and suggestions with other members, the ICG listserv is [NRC\\_International\\_ICG@nrconline.org](mailto:NRC_International_ICG@nrconline.org).