

President's Report

David Reinking
Clemson University

As I write this installment for the Fall LRA newsletter, the recurring rhythms of a new academic year are just underway. Like many of you, I am quickly reestablishing routines that revolve around my university commitments, most of which were lying pleasantly dormant during the summer months. The somewhat more leisurely pace of summer that made more space for reading, writing, and taking up non-academic pursuits has again drawn to a close. A bittersweet feeling sets in with a combination of regret for summer's passing and a pleasant anticipation of the challenges and opportunities of the year ahead. Maybe even more than a summer's respite, the beginning of each new academic year instills a palpable sense of renewal that helps drain away some of the cynicism, disappointment, unfulfilled expectations, and sometimes the sheer exhaustion built up during the previous academic year.

LRA has its own rhythms too that blend into and sustain the academic year. For example, the beginning of the Fall term reminds us that the Annual Conference is just around the corner. The conference itself provides several days to shed the built-up tensions and distractions of a busy semester, although some of us are still contemplating or correcting final exams. Nonetheless, we are invigorated by reconnecting with colleagues and friends and by nourishing our research selves that may have been submerged during a semester when teaching and other university commitments have occupied much of our attention.

Many members involved in LRA's ongoing activities generously donate their time and energies that put them more on the fringes of these predictable academic rhythms. Managing the business of our increasingly large and complex organization occurs year round, and the work is not always in sync with these normal cycles. Those of you who serve or have served as administrators have likely experienced this discontinuity to some degree.

Here is a representative sample of LRA activities that have kept many of your fellow members busy during the now-past summer:

 **Seeking and evaluating proposals for the next publisher of *JLR*.** A hard-working and diligent ad hoc committee, chaired by Kelly Chandler-Olcott (also chair of the Publications Committee), has been working on this critical task most of the summer. The committee's work included, but was not limited to, developing criteria and requirements to turn into an RFP, contacting publishers, evaluating the proposals received, and

many telephone conversations and e-mail exchanges. The issues are particularly complex because of LRA's commitment to making literacy research more openly accessible online (see LRA's position statement on the current home page).

 **Developing an organizational response to policy issues.**

The Policy and Legislative Committee (Colleen Gilrane, Chair) has been considering the organization's response to policies such as the new core standards, the What Works Clearinghouse, and a disturbing court case in Arizona in which the court required researchers to reveal participants' identities despite IRB safeguards (see <http://www.insidehighered.com/views/2010/08/18/levine>).

 **Completely redesigning the organization's website.** Erica Boling and Dana Wilber have graciously agreed to lead and coordinate this task with input and guidance from the Technology Committee chaired by David Lund. During the summer they have consolidated and prioritized a list of needed changes and new features, which were communicated to the LRA headquarters staff who will begin implementing them soon.

 Julia Lopez-Robertson, Chair of the Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee, and the other committee members have been busy **soliciting and evaluating applications for LRA's innovative STAR program as well as refining and clarifying the request for applications.**

 Dixie Massey, LRA's historian, made a trip to headquarters in August, with a side trip to Northern Illinois University to **inventory and organize many LRA historical documents and archived materials, with an eye toward eventually digitizing most of them.**

 No one has been busier than Patty Anders, our President-Elect. **The summer is when all the pieces of the annual conference are put together.** There are extraordinary numbers of details to which she must attend and there are always a few glitches to resolve. Other members of the Executive Committee (EC) also have summer duties. Secretary Diane Tracey condenses and disseminates copious notes from the April meetings of the EC and Board, and our Treasurer Susan L'Allier manages and offers advice to the EC and various committees about aspects of our budget and finances. Past-President Kathy Hinchman is working on a membership survey and chairing a committee that will develop and disseminate an RFP from management companies including TEI, our current management firm. Robert Jiménez, Vice-President, and Richard Beach, Vice-President-Elect, spent several days visiting and evaluating sites for our 2012 conference.

📖 I could go on. Of course, the work of our *JLR* editors never has an off-season, and, in fact, summer often means a jump in submissions. Award committees are busy soliciting nominations and evaluating nominees, and the field council is always active, to identify a few examples.

Whatever the rhythms of their professional lives, virtually all LRA members are exceptionally busy and professionally active people with many commitments and obligations. I'm sure, though, that many of you, like me, have an underlying certainty that we are in the best of all professions. In one of the first meetings of a seminar for new education doctoral students last week at Clemson, I asked each to explain why he or she had decided to pursue a doctorate. "To remain a student for a lifetime and to get paid for it," was one eager student's reply. Well said.

President-Elect's Report

Patricia Anders
University of Arizona

The 60th annual meeting of the National Reading Conference/Literacy Research Association is scheduled for December 1-4, 2010. As the program chair, I enthusiastically and happily invite you and your colleagues to attend.

We are in the midst of a name change, which is both exciting and daunting. This is the last program to be under the name of NRC; hence, I chose to name this year's program: "NRC 1950, 60 Years of Literacy Research, CELEBRATE! LRA 2010. The title is meant to convey a sense of transition. The word "Literacy" in the name of our organization indicates, perhaps, a broader focus than the word "Reading." That is why I encourage you to invite colleagues who might be interested in this broader conception of our work. I, for one, am looking forward to welcoming new colleagues for whom the name Literacy Research Association resonates.

One opportunity for welcoming new colleagues is at the Newcomers/Graduate Student Lunch on Wednesday. Advanced registration is required, so please let your students and other newcomers know about the importance (and fun) of attending this lunch.

The conference is in Fort Worth, Texas—the site of the very first National Reading Conference 60 years ago. In those days, our membership was primarily made up of professors who were teaching returning troops from World War II. The GI Bill changed the college scene, and NRC members met to share knowledge and experiences about teaching this new type of student. This conference will provide many opportunities for reminiscing about our rich past.

The Annual Meeting is at the all-new Omni Fort Worth Hotel in Fort Worth, Texas. This new-construction property was completed in January 2009 and features many fine amenities. Visit the hotel information on the registration website. In order to receive free Internet access in your guestroom during your stay (as well as other amenities), you need to join the Omni's frequent guest program. A cyber café will also be available. The hotel is within walking distance of many restaurants

and a short ride to the world-famous "Stockyards." Also, the museums in Fort Worth are amazing, including the Kimbell Art Museum.

Other information you are likely to want to know follows.

- 📖 The Presidential Address will be presented by LRA President David Reinking on Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. and will be followed by the Presidential Reception.
- 📖 The invited plenary speakers are provocative. Dean Lorrie Shepard from the University of Colorado will speak about assessment on Thursday afternoon. Hilary Janks, of the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, will speak about critical literacy on Friday afternoon.
- 📖 Barbara Taylor, who received the Oscar Causey Award in 2009, will present the Oscar S. Causey Address on Thursday at 11:45 a.m.
- 📖 The Integrative Research Review is scheduled for Saturday morning at 11:45 and will be presented by Catherine Compton-Lilly of the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Please plan your return home flight so that you can hear this terrific review of literature.
- 📖 In addition to a full program on Saturday morning, the Center for the Study of Reading is hosting a reunion program at a nearby hotel on Saturday afternoon and evening. No doubt, details about this meeting will be made available soon.

LRA strives to be a membership-driven organization. Committee meetings are scheduled every day, so be sure to be on the lookout for when your committee is meeting. If you are not a committee member and would like to be, simply let your wishes be known at the registration desk. Other opportunities for involvement include the Annual Town Hall—an open forum for discussion among the membership on Thursday—and the Annual Business Meeting on Friday.

For more information about the conference, visit the website at www.nrconline.org.

I look forward to seeing you at this once-a-year opportunity to present research, share ideas, meet new colleagues, and connect with friends.

Happy 60th birthday, NRC! And welcome LRA!

Past-President's Report

Kathleen Hinchman
Syracuse University

This is my last newsletter contribution as a member of the Literacy Research Association Executive Committee. What does the Past President do, you may well ask? You will hear about most of my charges over the next few weeks, some even before you receive this newsletter. Well, I get to appoint committee members, and I am involved in such projects as a membership survey and solicitation of management firm bids so we can determine if we will stay with TEI or move on. Thus, I am busy, busy as usual as the days get shorter and fall semester begins on my campus.

You already know this since you elected them, but I can offer testimony that I am leaving you in good hands. My colleagues on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors have exciting new ideas to go along with our new name and our 60th Anniversary. They also have nuanced insights regarding old issues that need revisiting. Please do not hesitate to approach any of them in Fort Worth, or send along an e-mail, with your concerns or suggestions.

Do also continue to let your elected representatives know how you'd like to be involved in the organization. You may want to consider volunteering to review conference proposals or stepping up when you're asked to review for the *Yearbook* or *Journal of Literacy Research*. In addition, standing committee meetings and innovative community group meetings are on the conference agenda, and you are welcome to participate in these meetings and follow-up tasks—a good way to become known by committee members and chairs. Also, if you have an interest that isn't addressed well by the organization, consider gathering colleagues to form an innovative community group, following the directions in the Policy and Procedures Manual. And, finally, if you are asked to run for the Board or Presidency, please say yes.

The members of this organization make serving it an absolute pleasure. I am grateful that so many of us choose to attend the conference annually, and that we have members who deliver papers as promised at this important event. I especially want to thank those who stepped up when I asked for help, whether it was serving as an area chair or as a last-minute session chair stand-in, consulting on or reviewing a draft position statement with the quickest turn-around time ever, waving and smiling as I jogged down various hallways to address crises du jour, giving a keynote, sitting on an ad hoc committee, committing to a new term as Secretary, Parliamentarian, and Treasurer, participating in straw polls, or buying me a drink after the Presidential Address. No one—no one—refused any of my requests, big or small. Your support has made this one of the most humbling—and enchanting—segments of my professional life. Thanks to all for such all-embracing support.

Ethics Innovative Community Group (ICG)

Kelly B. Cartwright, Co-chair
Christopher Newport University

Lois K. Haid, Co-chair
Barry University

Everyone is welcome to join the Ethics ICG and to share ideas with other ICG members through the listserv. If you would like to be a member and join the listserv, or if you are currently a member and would like to update your e-mail address, please e-mail Christopher Roper at c.roper@nrconline.org. The address of the discussion list is NRC_Ethics_ICG@nrconline.org.

Members of the Ethics ICG have put together an alternative session for the LRA 2010 conference entitled "Ethical Issues in Teaching and Researching in a Virtual World." Lois K. Haid, co-chair of the Ethics ICG, will chair the session from 10:20 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. on Friday, December 3, 2010 in Texas I. Kelly Cartwright, co-chair of the Ethics ICG, will act as the discussant. The purpose of this alternative session

is to provide a venue for LRA members to explore ethical issues that arise in the relatively new research and teaching environments that have emerged as a result of new media such as e-mail, online surveys, and virtual worlds. Panelists will introduce and discuss broad ethical issues such as: online teaching and learning, researching and teaching in virtual worlds, conducting online surveys, confidentiality, and security issues that cut across multiple online research and teaching arenas.

Session participants will then break into five discussion groups. Each group will be facilitated by panel members and will focus on ethical issues related to conducting research and teaching in virtual environments. Groups will discuss issues raised by the panelists and other group members.

The facilitators of these discussions include the following Ethics ICG members:

- 📖 Barbara Guzzetti, Arizona State University
- 📖 Barbara P. Laster, Towson University
- 📖 Cynthia B. Leung, University of South Florida St. Petersburg
- 📖 Carol S. Rhodes, Queens College, City University of New York
- 📖 Janet C. Richards, University of South Florida Tampa
- 📖 Kenneth J. Weiss, Central Connecticut State University

This session will interest researchers at all stages of their careers since we face new ethical issues whenever we begin a study. Graduate students who are planning and beginning to carry out their own research studies may particularly benefit from talking about ethical issues and dilemmas with experienced literacy researchers. We invite you all to participate in this session.

Other members of the Ethics ICG have been busy planning an edited book based on the 2009 Ethics ICG session at LRA. This book will explore multiple issues of ethics in literacy research. The editors, Carol Rhodes and Kenneth Weiss, are currently accepting proposals for chapters. They can be reached via e-mail at weissk@ccsu.edu or Carole.Rhodes@qc.cuny.edu with proposals or questions.

The Ethics ICG committee meeting will be held at the annual meeting in Fort Worth. We do not have a time or day yet, but will send that information out on the Ethics listserv (NRC_Ethics_ICG-owner@nrconline.org) when it is confirmed. At the meeting, members of the Ethics ICG will plan an alternative session for LRA 2011 on ethics related to literacy research and teaching. All LRA members are welcome to attend the meeting.

Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee

Julia Lopez-Robertson, Chair
University of South Carolina

The Scholars of Color Transitioning into Academic Research Institutions (STAR) mentoring program was initiated by the Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism (ERM) Committee of the Literacy Research Association to promote excellence in literacy-related research and

support researchers of color and/or researchers whose first language is not English in the early years of their academic careers. The central goal of the program is to support researchers who conduct high-quality, literacy-related research that addresses issues and opportunities related to diversity. I am pleased to announce our second cohorts:

Cohorts of 2010

Seemi Aziz of Oklahoma State University. Seemi's research focuses on a content analysis of text about multicultural groups, specifically about Muslims. She strives to develop a specific methodology for conducting content analysis in the field of children's literature. Within the analysis of text, Seemi is also vested in the detailed study of visual images grounded in the field of semiotics and discourse analysis. In projecting analyses of Muslim representation in children's literature, Seemi is taking an outwardly non-aggressive and peaceful medium to open discussion about issues within authenticity, misrepresentation, and mis-portrayal of underrepresented groups and its impact on the mindset of the youth within the U.S. Seemi's mentor is Maria Franquiz, Associate Professor in Curriculum and Instruction at The University of Texas at Austin.

Carol Brochin-Ceballos of the University of Texas El Paso. Carol's ambitions as a literacy researcher can be described as twofold. First, as a teacher educator, she wants to help preservice and practicing teachers draw from their own sociocultural resources and transform how we teach literacy across the curriculum by validating the rich literate and linguistic resources of bilingual, multicultural students. As a literacy researcher, Carol plans to document and make visible the rich and diverse literacy practices found within Latina/o communities that are currently underrepresented in literacy research. As a bilingual, Mexican American who was born and raised on both sides of the U.S./Mexican border in South Texas, she is committed to research that affirms the dynamic, complex, and transnational literacy practices of Latina/o students. Carol's mentor is Helen Abadiano, Professor and Chair of the Department of Reading and Language Arts at Central Connecticut State University.

Tisha Lewis of Georgia State University believes that while there have been numerous studies that have raised awareness about the proliferation of adolescents' multiple literacy practices, there is still an absence of studies on family literacy, particularly studying digital literacy practices among African American families. One objective of her research is to rectify that omission. Because previous research has overlooked and neglected the many voices, practices, and experiences of diverse cultures, this study of an African American family's digital literacy practices are significant. Tisha's research will not only trigger further examinations and contribute to the sociocultural theories in literacy research regarding African American families, but will open new claims and opportunities in how research needs to further examine digital literacy practices for all persons of color. Tisha's mentor is Gwendolyn Thompson McMillon, Associate Professor of Literacy Department of Reading & Language Arts at Oakland University.

Yoo Kyung Sung of the University of New Mexico. Through her research, Yoo Kyung has found that while cultural authenticity is an important criterion in writing and reading culturally relevant literature, the texts and illustrations in books and book reviews show a lack

of critical perspectives for examining cultural accuracy and authenticity. Yoo Kyung found that in nonfiction literature, a wide range of (mis)conceptions of people in global communities are shown that mirror an imagined community mindset to others. Her research questions internationalism and multiculturalism and challenges what is read and used in classrooms under the guise of "multicultural education." Yoo Kyung is particularly interested in studying Korean-American students' book clubs exploring the role of literature within Korean-American children's identity and family literacy around literature about Korean culture. Yoo Kyung's mentor is Kathryn Au, chief executive officer of SchoolRise LLC and former President of the National Reading Conference.

The STAR Mentors and Mentees will be participating at a preconference workshop on Tuesday, November 30, 2010.

Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee Scholarship Competition 2010

In the interest of assisting LRA in becoming a more diverse organization, the Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee attempts to support and promote scholars from diverse ethnic, racial, and linguistic backgrounds. Scholars whose proposals are accepted for presentation at the annual conference can apply for monetary awards to help defray the costs of attending LRA. This year the Committee will award several scholarships. Nominations should reach the Committee no later than October 22, 2010. Self-nominations are welcomed. E-mail nominations with the scholar's curriculum vita, accepted LRA 2010 proposal, and confirmation of the accepted proposal to: Julia Lopez-Robertson at LOPEZROB@mailbox.sc.edu.

Scholarships will be awarded to doctoral students or assistant professors from underrepresented ethnic, racial or linguistic backgrounds that show promise of scholarship in the literacy field. Preference will be given to scholars who are presenting their personal research.

Scholarship nominations must include a curriculum vita, the accepted proposal for the 2010 LRA Annual Meeting, and the confirmation of the accepted proposal. Due to time constraints, incomplete nomination packets will not be considered. If you have received the scholarship in the past, you are not eligible for this award.

Invitation to Attend the 2010 Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Events at the LRA

The events are open to all members of the LRA.

Brown Bag

Please attend our Brown Bag, on Thursday, December 2, 2010. This is an informal gathering and an opportunity for networking.

Committee Meeting

Please attend the Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee meeting at the LRA Annual Meeting. Our meeting will be held on Friday, Dec. 3, 2010 at 7:25 a.m. Recipients of the Ethnicity, Race and Multilingualism scholarships will also be formally recognized at our meeting.

📖 Mix-n-Mingle

Please join us on Friday evening, December 3, 2010 for a social gathering and time to get to know each other. Please check out the program for the specific location.

📖 Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee Research Session

Please join us for this Alternative Session: Issues in Writing and Using Latino Children's Literature: Developing a Research Agenda, 1:20-2:50 Wednesday, December 1 in Texas H.

In this session, sponsored by the Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee, the presenters will discuss major research that has been conducted in the areas of Latino literature and literacies and will then invite the audience to break into small groups to discuss and begin to develop an agenda of future research that will expand our knowledge base.

Please check the LRA program for other events sponsored by the Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee.

International Innovative Community Group (ICG)

Kristen H. Perry, Co-chair
University of Kentucky

Xiaoming Liu, Co-chair
Towson University

The LRA International Committee, one of LRA's Innovative Community Groups (ICGs), welcomes anyone who is interested in cross-cultural or international research to join the committee. Members from all countries, including the U.S., are encouraged to participate. The International Committee organizes special gatherings, helps international attendees defray the costs associated with attendance, and meets during the annual conference. Individuals who are interested in joining the committee are encouraged to contact Xiaoming Liu at xliu@towson.edu and/or to attend the committee's annual meeting at LRA.

One of this committee's important functions is to offer small grants to help international presenters defray the cost of travel to the conference. Eligibility is based on the following criteria. Applicants must:

- 📖 Have a presentation at the conference;
- 📖 Live outside of the U.S.;
- 📖 Submit an application to become a committee member (free membership);
- 📖 Submit an application for the grant.

Applications for committee membership and for the travel grants may be made via e-mail; there is no application form. In addition, application for membership and for travel grants may be made in the same e-mail. All applications should be submitted to Kristen Perry at kristen.perry@uky.edu or Xiaoming Liu at xliu@towson.edu by October 25, 2010. Applicants will be notified shortly after this date, following approval of the ICG's steering committee.

In addition to offering travel grants, the committee will hold three major events during the annual conference:

- 📖 A poster session of literacy research in international settings;
- 📖 An annual social gathering for breakfast; and
- 📖 The annual committee meeting.

Please consider joining the ICG and participating in our events during the conference. See you in Fort Worth!

Oscar S. Causey Award

Deborah Dillon, Chair
University of Minnesota

The Oscar S. Causey Award is given each year for outstanding contributions to reading research. Last year's recipient, Dr. Barbara Taylor, will present the 2010 Oscar S. Causey Address at this year's conference in Fort Worth, Texas. At the conference we will also announce the 2010 recipient of the Oscar S. Causey Award.

Please consider nominating a colleague for the Oscar S. Causey Award. Any LRA member may nominate an individual for this prestigious award. When assessing nominees, Causey Award committee members address five criteria:

- 📖 This individual has published substantial research in literacy.
- 📖 This individual has published significant research in literacy.
- 📖 This individual has published original research in literacy.
- 📖 This individual has generated new knowledge through literacy research.
- 📖 This individual is a recognized leader in the conduct and promotion of literacy research.

If you wish to nominate a candidate for the 2011 award, please e-mail a letter of nomination and a current and complete/full version of the candidate's vita. The letter of nomination should be detailed and address the candidate's qualifications using the criteria listed above. The vita should not be an abbreviated version or a compilation of newer activities. A full version of the vita is necessary because the award is based on the nominee's scholarship—in its entirety—over the career span. E-mail nomination materials by August 15, 2011 to the new chair of the Oscar S. Causey Award Committee.

Edward B. Fry Book Award

Melanie R. Kuhn, Chair
Boston University

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

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

Application Guidelines

Letters of nomination, along with a copy of the nominated book, should be sent to the committee chair before the deadline of May 15, 2011. Self-nominations are accepted, although committee members cannot nominate a book they have authored. A book may be re-nominated if it has been previously nominated but did not win the award. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Melanie R. Kuhn at melaniek@bu.edu.

Albert J. Kingston Award

Diane Corcoran Nielsen

Call for Nominations

Please nominate your hard-working LRA colleagues for the Albert J. Kingston Award. The purpose of the award is to honor an LRA member for distinguished contributions of service to the National Reading Conference. Those nominating an individual for the Kingston Award are asked to submit: (a) a copy of the nominee's current curriculum vita, and (b) a letter nominating the individual that briefly describes his/her service contributions made to the National Reading Conference. Nominees must have belonged to LRA for at least five years. Any LRA member may nominate deserving candidates for recognition of their work. Please send nominations or inquiries about the award to the Kingston Award Committee Chair, Diane Nielsen, at dnielsen@ku.edu. More detail on the award, including the history of the award, the review process, and a listing of past recipients is available on the website.