

# NEWSLETTER

Heidi Anne Mesmer, Editor  
Spring 2004

## President's Report

**Lea McGee**  
**University of Alabama**

Greetings! If you are like me, you are really missing the perfect, balmy weather we experienced at the 2003 Conference. Just like you I'm caught up in the usual beginning of the semester crush, but I had to take a moment to savor the memories of Scottsdale. The over 950 attendees (and over 400 teachers) enjoyed sunshine, mild temperatures, and great conversation about significant research. Thanks to all the members who worked so hard to make well-prepared and thoughtful presentations on carefully crafted research projects. Even more thanks to the Area Chairs and reviewers who worked so hard to insure that we were able to hear high quality research reports. We received 427 proposals and accepted 352, for a 79% acceptance rate. The thousands of hours of thought, reading, research, and writing that these proposals represent is astounding. It is no wonder that each year I return home from NRC churning with new ideas and uncertainties but with the resolve that I can make a difference in the literary lives of children and teachers.

### Completing Goals and Looking to the Future

The current NRC Board of Directors is moving forward on several fronts as well as attempting to complete work laid out by previous presidents and boards. We are continuing to upgrade the member services that we provide through our website, although we never seem to move as quickly as we would like. Last year we implemented a web-based submission process for ALL conference proposals which is currently being updated and extended (see Donald Leu's report). We also launched a new NRC listserv that is housed at NRC headquarters. The address of the official NRC list-serve is NRCLIST@LISTSERV.NRCONLINE.ORG. Members may be confused by the two listservs that seem to be operating simultaneously. Barbara Guzzetti is continuing to run the old listserv, although no longer officially connected with NRC.

#### **NRC CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

Proposals Must Be Submitted Electronically by Midnight  
EST March 1, 2004

Please use the link located at: <http://www.nrconline.org>

#### **National Reading Conference — 54th Annual Meeting**

San Antonio, Texas, December 1–4, 2004

Donald J. Leu, Conference Chair

Victoria Purcell-Gates, Assistant Conference Chair

Later this spring we will have a completely new look and several new functions on our [nrconline.org](http://nrconline.org) website—I hope this will be available before you receive a copy of this newsletter. Log on to [nrconline.org](http://nrconline.org) to check it out. This site will allow each committee to have its page for archive information. We are hoping these changes will increase the quality of communication among members and between members and the Board.

We are continuing to develop more workable vehicles and organizational structures that will allow NRC and its members to develop timely responses to professional and political issues as they arise. Last spring, the Board of Directors voted to launch a new publication venture for NRC called **Policy Briefs**. These are short papers (10 pages) aimed at intelligent consumers of research that present research-based positions including outlining pros and cons of timely issues. We have asked Peter Afflerbach to work with Deborah Dillon, Scott Paris, Elizabeth Moje, and Margery Lipson (outgoing Board members who initiated this project) to complete a Policy Brief on High Stakes Testing. This Brief should be ready for distribution by the end of spring and will be posted on the NRC website. Current board members oversee this activity and are seeking additional ideas for future Policy Briefs. They would welcome suggestions from NRC members.

NRC continues to publish on its website what have previously been called "White Papers." The Board voted to rename these publications **Literacy Research Reviews (LRRs)** to distinguish their purpose and content from the Policy Briefs. LRR's are longer papers (25 pages) with scholarly review of research aimed at opening new (or ignored) perspectives related to an important area of literacy practice or research. Patricia Alexander is currently completing the third LRR entitled "The Path to Competence: A Developmental Perspective on Reading." Again, this project should be completed and available on the website in late spring or early summer.

Most importantly, the Board is considering publishing the *Journal of Literacy Research* through Erlbaum Publishers rather than continuing to publish the journal ourselves. There was a lengthy discussion about the ramifications of this issue at both Board meetings at the 2003 conference. The Board is continuing to gather financial information and to consider ethical and scholarly implications before making a final decision.

### Presidential Initiatives

During my two years as Vice-President and President-Elect I have watched Lee Gunderson and Deborah Dillon struggle with

making the innumerable day-to-day decisions of running an organization like NRC. It is a challenge balancing a full-time job with extensive demands and at the same time trying to carve out a small space to make innovations and build visions for the future of NRC. They both were faced with helping a new management company learn about the fundamental purposes and structures of our complex organization. I am reaping the benefit of their hard work and patience by having a more knowledgeable management team that is capable of handling all of our needs. Therefore, I have three goals for my year as President. First, I intend to **strengthen the quality of research** that is submitted and accepted for presentation at NRC by posting on the website proposals of exemplary quality that were submitted and accepted for the 2003 Program. The Student Outstanding Research Award Committee will similarly work with me to post exemplary student research proposals and award-winning papers to strengthen the quality of student submissions. These should be posted to the website in February. If members have additional ideas about how NRC can increase the quality of research presented at future conferences, please e-mail me at [lmcgee@bamaed.ua.edu](mailto:lmcgee@bamaed.ua.edu).

Second, I intend to **enhance the work of NRC committees** by communicating more frequently with the committee chairs and by providing each committee with annual charges. Currently, our awards committees are working smoothly as are many other committees. However, I want to make sure that members understand that committee meetings at the NRC conference are open to all members, and that the Board invites their attendance and participation. I am already working on the Website committee page including listing years of service. Again, each committee will have its own page to post current activities and accomplishments. Thanks to all the members who responded to my invitation to nominate themselves for an NRC committee. The response demonstrated that many NRC members want to be active participants in the organization. It is often through the initiatives of committees, that NRC moves forward in achieving its purpose of supporting literacy researchers in every aspect of their professional work.

Finally, I want to help headquarters **write a Headquarters Procedures Manual** that details their internal support functions. While NRC has a Policies and Procedures Handbook and the officers have kept lists and files of activities, letters, and other helpful information, NRC headquarters has never had an accurate and detailed handbook outlining its activities. With the help of Annette Hess and Megan Kelley I will make sure that at the end of my term we have a well-documented procedures manual.

As always I welcome the sage advice of NRC members on these initiatives, as well as concerns. I wish you a productive and peaceful 2004.

## President-Elect's Report

**Donald J. Leu**  
**University of Connecticut**

Next year's conference will take place in **San Antonio from December 1-4, 2004**. Be certain to mark your calendars. I want to invite each of you to encourage your colleagues, especially

### Candidates for NRC's President Elect

Patricia Edwards  
*Michigan State University*

Diane Schallert  
*University of Texas/Austin*

### Candidates for the Board

Nell Duke  
*Michigan State University*

Collin Harrison  
*University of Nottingham*

Linda Labbo  
*University of Georgia*

Anne McGill-Franzen  
*University of Florida*

Michael Pressley  
*Michigan State University*

Patricia Schmidt  
*Lemoyne College*

Look for candidates' statements on the NRC website, [nrconline.org](http://nrconline.org) in early March. Elections will take place in April.

those who may not have attended NRC in the past, to submit a research proposal to the upcoming conference. I promise an exceptional experience for us all. The call for proposals is available at our website: [www.nrconline.org](http://www.nrconline.org)

This will be a conference that will challenge us to think in new ways about our own research and about what it means to become literate in tomorrow's world. I am hoping that each of us can bring our best ideas to help us all move forward to new spaces and new places in literacy research. Here are important dates related to the conference:

### Important Dates

- 📅 March 1, 2004 — Proposals for the 2004 conference program must be submitted electronically at [nrconline.org](http://nrconline.org) by midnight EST.
- 📅 June 30, 2004 — Notification of all proposal review decisions will be sent out via email, but only to the person who submitted the proposal electronically. This person must notify all other individuals.
- 📅 Sept. 24, 2004 — Applications for the Student Research Award must be received by the Chair of this committee.

The Program Area Chairs and I have been hard at work preparing for the review of proposals. This year, with the fine assistance of TEI, we have developed an online review process. We have also refined the online proposal submission process. Thus, the entire review process for NRC proposals will now take place online. Hopefully, this will save us both money and time. I am hoping that the online submission and review environment that has been created will also prove useful as we eventually move the review of the *NRC Yearbook* and the *Journal of Literacy Research* to an online procedure.

**Congratulations Award Winners****Albert J. Kingston Award**

Martha Ruddell  
*Sonoma State University*

**Distinguished Scholar Lifetime Achievement**

Marie Clay  
*University of Auckland*

**Early Career Achievement Award**

Nell Duke  
*Michigan State University*

**Edward Fry Book Award**

Rebecca Rogers  
*Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri*

Dennis Sumara  
*University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada.*

**Oscar Causey Award**

Robert Calfee  
*University of California, Los Angeles*

**Student Outstanding Research Award**

Katherine Ann Dougherty-Stahl  
*University of Georgia*

One item to note in relation to the proposal review process: We have redefined Area 9 back to its original title: Children's, Young Adult, and Adult Literature. This issue came up at our town meeting and it was an important suggestion. The labels we use to describe our work are important to all of us, but especially to those whose work we label. I wanted you to know that this is important to me, that I heard the concern, and that we have responded.

In this issue of the Newsletter, you will also notice a wonderfully talented set of individuals who have agreed to run for leadership positions in our organization. I want to publicly thank each one of them for agreeing to run. The future of our organization depends upon having talented individuals who are willing to place themselves in public positions like this. I greatly appreciate it and I know our entire membership does as well. This is one of the finest candidate pools that we have ever had. It guarantees that we will have exceptional leadership in our future.

Finally, I want to report on the final results from our Saturday Conference for Teachers and Educational Leaders in Phoenix. This year's Saturday conference surpassed our expectations. Over 400 Arizona educators attended. Our special Saturday sessions were filled to capacity, bringing important new ideas to the schools, teachers, and students of Arizona. The Saturday conference is quickly becoming an important vehicle for NRC to provide an important service contribution to the state where our conference is held each year. I would like to thank each of our members who graciously contributed to this important work: Julie Coiro, Pat Cunningham, Nell Duke, Jill Castek, Laurie Henry, Thomas Bean, Helen Harper, Mary Love, Julia Lopez-Robertson, Ruby Sanny, Mileidis Gort, Dana Cammack, Taffy Raphael, Susan Florio-Ruane, Ted Grace, Doug Kaufman, and Beth Schmar. It was an exceptional day!

**Past President's Report****Lee Gunderson****University of British Columbia**

Happy New Year! The 53rd Annual Conference in Scottsdale was by all reports a great success. Congratulations to Lea McGee, Annette Hess, Megan Kelly, all the Area Chairs, and the hundreds of presenters who made it such a wonderful experience.


I happily became Past President at the end of the Annual Business Meeting in Scottsdale. My major responsibility as Past President is to evaluate Headquarters. In the next month I will be developing a survey instrument to be placed on our web page. The survey will ask you to evaluate your interactions with Headquarters staff. It will review Headquarters's efforts to make services more responsive to the needs of the membership. If you have suggestions, areas or items to be included in the survey, please let me know at [lee.gunderson@ubc.ca](mailto:lee.gunderson@ubc.ca) by the end of March. Thank you

**The Debut of the "New" NRC Website****David Lund, Co-E-editor****Southern Utah University****Richard E. Ferdig, Co-E-Editor****University of Florida**


As many of you are aware, the NRC website has undergone a "facelift." For several years, the organization's website was managed by our very talented colleague, John at Oakland University. As technology has advanced, it became apparent that our net presence, as a professional organization, required much more time than John could manage. Just over a year ago, John graciously stepped down as the Webmaster/E-editor for the NRC, so Rick Ferdig and I (David Lund) were appointed as co-E-editors. As we worked with Don Leu and Mike McKenna (and the technology committee) a list of goals were developed; among them, moving the NRC website to headquarters, setting up websites for individual committees of the NRC, and changing the look of the site to look more like the sites of other organizations of reading professionals and still maintain the unique flavor of the National Reading Conference.

Last fall Catherine Henke, our Webmaster at headquarters, worked very hard to craft a new look with updated architecture that would reflect the appropriate image for NRC. She also made sure the new layout would have strong functionality and flexibility. In December, Matthew Jossart, headquarters' graphic artist, created a color poster of the new look, which was unveiled at the conference. From December until February, Executive Director Annette Hess worked very closely with the Technology Committee and the Executive Board to ensure we stayed on track and on time. Many volunteer leaders reviewed various test versions of this site and provided a wide range of critiques resulting in a well-rounded tool.

We are proud that this new look is now live at [www.nrconline.org](http://www.nrconline.org). From the sensible navigation buttons to the updated conference page, you should find it very easy to navigate.



**National Reading Conference**  
 Address: 7044 S. 13th St. Oak Creek, WI 53154  
 Tel: 414.768.8000  
 Email: help@nrconline.org



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**Welcome**

NRC is a professional organization for individuals who share an interest in research and the dissemination of information about literacy and literacy instruction. NRC sponsors a conference each year during the first week in December. The program consists of keynote addresses by distinguished speakers, symposia, paper sessions, research reviews of current trends and issues, and alternative format sessions. During the conference, NRC also confers the Oscar S. Causey Award for distinguished research, the Student Outstanding Research Award, and the Albert J. Kingston Award for outstanding service.

In addition to sponsoring an annual conference, NRC publishes a quarterly journal, the *Journal of Literacy Research* (JLR), and the NRC Yearbook, which contains selected papers from the previous year's conference.

**News**

NRC 2003 Conference Information

JLR Reviewers Call

NRC White Papers on Effective Literacy Instruction






Effective Beginning Reading Instruction, Michael Presley [Doc | PDF]

Effective Literacy Instruction for Adolescents, Donna E. Alvermann [Doc | PDF]

**Contact**

President: Lea M. McGee  
 Past-President: Dr. Lee Gunderson

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[ Information | Committees | Awards | Newsletter | JLR | NRC 2003 | Database | NRC List | Surveys | Member Information | Join Now | Committee Listing | Logon ]

Having problems with this website? Feel free to email us at help@nrconline.org.  
 This Web site is hosted by Technical Enterprises, the NRC Management Company

There are still elements of the site under development such as formal committee pages, updated committee contact information, and more research-oriented images. We hope you agree that this new site, along with the new logo that we adopted last fall, and combined with our plans for additional 2004 enhancements, undoubtedly strengthens the NRC image.

Kudos need to go to all involved with this project—for the work that has been done and for work that they will yet do, as the NRC becomes a net presence that is recognized by all who are concerned with literacy in all of its forms. Your comments and suggestions are welcome at llund@suu.edu.

Take time to look at the site. Take advantage of the services that are there. Tell your literacy colleagues about the site and how they might use it to enhance their own work in literacy.

## Committee Reports

### Committee Name Change: Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee

**Patricia Ruggiano Schmidt, Co-chair**  
**Lemoyne College**

**Shelley Hong Xu, Co-chair**  
**Texas Tech University**

During the last two years, members of NRC *Multicultural Issues Committee* have been working to change the committee's name. They believed that the name should reflect the committee's mission.

During the NRC Board Meeting on December 6, 2003, the new name was approved. The following is the rationale for the name change:

Over the years the definition of multiculturalism has broadened. As a result, the issues surrounding race, ethnicity, and multilingualism have been ignored or diluted and become items on a long list of multicultural issues related to literacy. Consequently, there appears to be a loss of understanding related to the power of ethnicity, race, and multilingualism as issues that compound the difficulties of one who has a physical disability or learning difference.

The mission of the *Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee* remains the same as was written for the *Multicultural Issues Committee*. Members of the committee will continue to support and promote scholars from differing races, ethnicities, and languages, encourage membership and leadership in NRC, and support research on literacy topics related to race, ethnicity, and multilingualism.

### Travel Awards Given to Stellar Scholars

The *Multicultural Issues Committee* (now known as the *Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee*) awarded three travel grants to NRC young scholars for the 2003 Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. The deserving recipients, Julia Johnson Connor, University of Illinois, Margaret Saucedo Curwen, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, and Gwendolyn Thompson McMillon, Oakland University, presented brief overviews of their research at the annual committee meeting.

### Ethics Committee

**Janet C. Richards, Chair**  
**University of South Florida**

The NRC Ethics Committee held its annual meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona. Our first order of business was to thank Nancy Knapp at the University of Georgia, who served admirably as chair of the Ethics Committee for the past three years. Nancy was always a proactive and enthusiastic leader.

As a committee, we look forward to accepting additional responsibilities. Therefore, we brainstormed ideas about a number of intriguing topics that include hosting a guest speaker at our annual meetings, presenting a session in which a panel discusses an ethical concern submitted by an NRC member, and compiling an ethics casebook that highlights ethical dilemmas confronted by NRC members. Our long-range goal is to publish the casebook.

We look forward to our next annual meeting in San Antonio, and we invite anyone who is interested in the committee's work to meet with us, and join our group.

### Publications Committee

**Diane Barone**  
**University of Nevada, Reno**

The following report provides an overview of the work of the Editors of the *NRC Yearbook* and the *Journal of Literacy Research*.



## NRC Yearbook

Submissions for the 53rd Yearbook were due February 2. We received about 70 manuscripts, which are now in the hands of the reviewers. Reviews are due on March 5, and we expect to make publication decisions by mid-April. This should keep us on schedule for an early November delivery date.

Although the quality of the manuscripts is high, the number is low relative to previous years. We encourage NRC presenters to consider submitting papers for the next yearbook, and we welcome suggestions that will help us make the Yearbook an even more attractive outlet for experienced and new scholars. Please send your suggestions to: nrcybk@teachnet.edb.utexas.edu or jo\_worthy@teachnet.edb.utexas.edu

## Journal of Literacy Research

The JLR team is pleased to report that journal production is on schedule. We thank the members of our Editorial Advisory Board, who have been diligent in providing fair, formative, and timely manuscript reviews. We are planning a new feature for Volume 36 of the journal that we are tentatively calling *Viewpoints*. We have invited exemplary NRC scholars (Oscar Causey Award winners) to write in-depth essays about their perceptions of the field or some aspect of literacy research, education, and policy. We feel it is important that distinguished voices in literacy have an opportunity to share their thoughtful insights into various issues that face our field. To date we have received very positive responses from our invitation to the Causey winners. We plan to feature two Viewpoint articles in each volume.

### Publication Data

VOLUME 35 - ISSUE THREE – FALL 2003 (mailed 12/03)

*Editorial: The Mysteries of the Peer Review Process*

*A National Survey of Spelling Instruction: Investigating Teachers' Beliefs and Practice*, Fresch

*A "Radical" Approach to Reading Development in Chinese: The Role of Semantic Radicals and Phonetic Radicals*, Ho, Ng, & Ng

*"It's a Program That Looks Great on Paper": The Challenge of America Reads*, Worthy, Prater, & Pennington

*Knowledge, Interest, Recall and Navigation: A Look at Hypertext Processing*, Lawless, Brown, Mills, & Mayall

### Book Reviews

*English L2 Reading: Getting to the Bottom*, Mohr

*Literacy Practices as Social Acts: Power, Status, and Cultural Norms in the Classroom*, Mraz

VOLUME 35- ISSUE FOUR – WINTER 2003 (at printer 1/04)

*Editorial: Mentoring and Literacy Researchers*

*The Influence Of Accelerated Reader On The Affective Literacy Orientations Of Intermediate Level Children*, Henk.

*Developing And Validating The Classroom Literacy Environmental Profile (CLEP): A Tool For Examining The 'Print Richness' Of Early Childhood Elementary Classrooms*, Wolfersberger and Reutzel

*Second Grade Is Important: Literacy Instruction And Learning Of Young Children In A High-Poverty School*, Barone.

*Thinking Like a Historian: College Students' Reading of Multiple Historical Documents*, Hynd and Holschuh.

*The Impact of a Structured Computer-Based Early Reading Program on Phonological Awareness in Kindergarten*, Cassidy and Smith.

### Book Reviews

### Manuscript Data

**Total Manuscripts Received: 235** (This number includes revised manuscripts that are sent for another blind peer review.)

- 📁 Year One (2001) – 59 new manuscripts received and 4 revised manuscripts received into tracking system
- 📁 Year Two (2002) – 62 new manuscripts received and 24 revised manuscripts received into tracking system
- 📁 Year Three (2003) – 60 new manuscripts received and 20 revised manuscripts received into tracking system
- 📁 Year Four (2004 to date) – 6 new manuscripts received
- 📁 To date, fourteen (14) manuscripts have been sent to reviewers electronically.
- 📁 Two Hundred Seventeen (217) manuscripts have finished the review process and received an editorial decision.
- 📁 Eight (8) manuscripts are awaiting editorial decision.
- 📁 Ten (10) manuscripts are currently in peer review process.

The Editors of both the Yearbook and the Journal have been busy and it is clear that they continue to recommend for publication quality research reports.

## AWARDS

### Early Career Achievement Award

**Janet Bloodgood, Co-chair**  
**Appalachian State University**

**Wendy C. Kasten, Co-chair**  
**Kent State University**

Congratulations to Dr. Nell Duke from Michigan State University, who is the recipient of the 2003 Early Career Achievement Award. Nell's work focuses on early literacy development of children living in urban poverty. Her research endeavors reflect interest in three separate but interrelated areas: comprehension, genre studies, and equity in literacy education. She has devoted considerable thought to research design and methodology as well. In the five short years since

her doctorate, she has produced numerous publications—journal articles, books and chapters; and has received awards from both IRA and NCTE. She obtained approximately two million dollars in grants and participated in two large field studies. Future graduate students and classroom teachers benefit from her support and insights.

**Members of the Early Career Achievement Award Committee encourage all NRC members to submit nominees for the 2004 award.** The Early Career Achievement Award was first presented in 1999. It is designed to honor new members of the NRC community who have been actively involved in research, teaching, and service and have demonstrated outstanding commitment and accomplishment in the field of literacy. Nominees must have seven or fewer years in the field from the date of their doctoral degree (or equivalent). In addition, they must have been 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 16, 2004** is the deadline for receipt of nominating letters.

Nominees are then requested to submit a current curriculum vita that includes affiliations, degrees, research honors and awards, publications, and editorial board service as well as a statement delineating their professional experiences and research agenda. An additional letter of support from the candidate's current institution (e.g., department chair, research/teaching colleague) is also required. These materials must be received no later than **Friday, May 7, 2004**. Please send all materials to one of the Early Career Achievement Award Committee Co-Chairs:

Wendy Kasten Kent State University 402 White Hall Kent, OH 44242-0001 wkasten@kent.edu	Janet W. Bloodgood LRE Dept., Appalachian State University P.O. Box 32085 Boone, NC 28608-2085 bloodgoodjw@appstate.edu
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The Early Career Achievement Award fills an important role as part of the National Reading Conference's effort to recognize and promote excellence. The committee and NRC appreciate your efforts to identify deserving nominees.

### **Oscar S. Causey Award**

**Mark W. Conley, Chair**  
**Michigan State University**

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. Robert Calfee received this prestigious award in 2003 at our annual conference. Congratulations go out to Dr. Calfee for this important recognition of his many significant contributions to our profession!

Mark Conley will chair the committee for the 2004 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 2003 Oscar S. Causey Award, please send a letter of nomination and the candidate's current vita, by September 15, 2003 to:

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

### **Edward B. Fry Book Award 2003**

**Janice Strop, Chair**  
**Cardinal Stritch University**

The Edward B. Fry Book Award was established in 1995 to recognize books written or edited by members of NRC that:

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

This year, the award was given to two books: *Critical Discourse Analysis of Family Literacy Practices: Power In and Out of Print* by Rebecca Rogers, of Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, and *Literature in School Still Matters: Imagination, Interpretation, Insight* by Dennis Sumara, of the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada.

The book by Rebecca Rogers focuses on discourse and power relations embedded in the case study of a family, specifically of the mother in that family, whose formal schooling ended after the eighth grade, and her 11-year-old daughter, who was identified as requiring special education services. For both mother and daughter, literacy is a construct defined by the institution of school.

The book by Dennis Sumara includes alternating chapters of exposition and literary performance. It is a work of scholarly art and artful scholarship that invites us to participate in the power of literature in simple and profound ways. The book has generous margins, a deliberate design decision and an invitation to write as we read, to create a commonplace book, a site for noting our ideas and, upon rereading, our evolving interpretation of what we read.

We offer sincere congratulations to Rebecca and Dennis, and extend an invitation for members to submit books for next year's Fry Award. Members may also self-nominate their own books.

To be considered for the award, books must have been published or edited by current members of NRC within the last 5 years. The books must also meet the criteria listed above.

Letters of nomination and a copy of the nominated book must be sent to Janice Strop, new chair of the committee, on or before **May 14**.