



National Reading Conference NEWSLETTER

Marla H. Mallette & Rachel A. Karchmer, Co-Editors
Fall 2002

NRC President's Report

Deborah Dillon
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN

Dear NRC Colleagues,

The year 2002 has been one of change for the National Reading Conference. As I noted in an email message sent to the membership in February 2002, the leadership of NRC selected a new management association to support NRC's growing needs and to provide improved services to individual members as well as the leadership of the organization. We are pleased to be working with Scott Sherer, president of Technical Enterprises, Inc. (TEI), of Oak Creek, WI (a suburb of Milwaukee). TEI is both a management firm and a technology company with a staff of 20 people. TEI currently manages five associations and is also the seventh largest Internet provider in Wisconsin. Individuals at TEI are very professional; they are also team players and will serve our organization well. Scott

Sherer, who founded the company 16 years ago, is an excellent leader and many of his current employees have been with him since TEI's inception. Ed Grochowski is the executive director for NRC. He has considerable experience organizing conferences and working with groups like ours. TEI also has a full-time editor, Amy Novotny, who is overseeing the copy editing of *JLR*, the *NRC Yearbook*, and the *NRC Newsletter*. Amy is an excellent editor and has worked on several high-quality publications for other organizations.

The move from our previous management firm in Chicago to the new organization in Oak Creek, WI, has not been easy. Our previous management association did not provide the new HQ staff with the quality of information we had hoped for related to membership records and financial transactions. Over the last seven months, considerable time and effort have been expended by NRC officers and the new management staff sorting through masses of boxes; seeking clarity on our financial status and bank records (thankfully, we had

an excellent shadow system created by Peter Dewitz so we have some sense of our money matters!); adjudicating past hotel bills and future conference contracts; and clarifying work with individuals who publish our journals and yearbook. These transitional tribulations co-occurred with the need to help the new NRC Wisconsin management staff learn about our organization and its inner workings, help us with the 2002 NRC Conference review process and program development, support the journal and yearbook editors as they seek to meet deadlines and create quality products, and respond to members' needs and concerns.

We were able to solve some problems that occurred under the purview of the previous management firm while others remain unresolved, even with the help of able legal counsel.

First, several conference hotels were booked in advance by the Chicago firm (2003, 2004, 2005) in the wrong areas of the country and during the wrong weeks in December. Fortunately, we were able to correct several hotel contracts — e.g., we will be meeting in Miami this year on December 4-7. We will meet in the western part of the country in 2003 (Scottsdale, AZ), and we have renegotiated a reasonable hotel contract at the Doubletree Hotel on the correct dates in December with lower room rates (thanks to Ed, our new executive director). In 2004, we will hold our conference in the central part of the United States. However, we will inherit a hotel contract of which we had no knowledge that places us in San Antonio at the same site where we held our 2001 conference — the Adams Mark. We sought to break this contract to enable us to have our new management association help us find a new and perhaps better hotel site, but we have been unsuccessful in all our attempts. In fact, we would lose several hundred thousand dollars if we attempted

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Our new address is:

National Reading Conference
7044 S. 13th Street
Oak Creek, WI 53154-1429
Phone: (414) 768-8000
Fax: (414) 768-8001
nrc@nrconline.org

Key personnel at the new HQ with NRC email addresses include:

NRC Executive Director/our primary contact at NRC HQ: Ed Grochowski, nrc@nrconline.org

Editor for NRC: Amy Novotny, editor@nrconline.org

Membership for NRC: Jenny Jozwiak, mbrship@nrconline.org

Financial Controller: Margaret Zizis, m.zizis@nrconline.org

President of TEI: Scott Sherer, sherer@nrconline.org

Chief Technology Officer: Roy Smith, nrc@nrconline.org

to break our contract. However, with Ed's help we have lowered the room rates, and we cancelled all commissions that had been arranged by our previous management firm with the Miami hotel and all other future hotels. Those actions will save our organization and members considerable money. We now have a policy where no contract will be finalized without the president's signature.

Second, despite being in solid shape financially, we sustained some losses last year due to over expenditures at the 2001 conference and unexpected costs associated with publications/services. *Approval of these expenditures was not sought from NRC officers and board members.* Only through Peter Dewitz's careful, regular review of financial records were these expenditures revealed, after the fact. Further, the management search and transition costs — particularly all the legal bills we have generated to solve problems — also cut into our reserves. We have sought to correct these problems, and we anticipate being in good financial shape in the future. We do need your help — please attend the Miami conference and renew your membership if you haven't done so already.

I share the aforementioned information with you because I want you to know that there will be some surprises and disappointments we will need to deal with related to our previous management firm and the transition. I will admit that the process of change has been painful and incredibly time-consuming, yet we have sought to keep a positive outlook and remind ourselves that with time we will sort out things. The move to our new NRC HQ has been a very positive step forward for our organization and individual members. I hope that we can count on your understanding, patience and support, despite your potential displeasure with particular events/facts that have transpired/arisen thus far. Please know that the members of new HQ staff are competent, seek to meet your needs in a timely manner, and are developing accurate records related to membership. However, their efforts are hampered in many ways because they have inherited systems that are incomplete and potentially riddled with errors. **We will need everyone's help to ensure that we rebuild many systems and ensure accu-**

racy related to our membership records. For example, if you did not receive a renewal letter in May or June 2002 or your copy of *JLR* — Volume 34, No. 1, call the new HQ or email Ed Grochowski so we can determine if your membership records are complete/accurate.

Let me now discuss the work we have attempted to move forward on, despite our transition ups and downs.

Progress on Goals

The leadership of NRC, responding to the needs of the organization, set four goals in December 2001 (outlined in the Spring 2002 *NRC Newsletter*). I want to update you on our progress.

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

Tasks:

- 📖 Present the revised bylaws to the membership for feedback. Revise the *Policies and Procedures Handbook* to clarify and update the charges of committees, how they function, membership, budget issues, and guidelines and timelines for activities. Each committee chair and board liaison will work on their respective section of the manual; drafts will be completed by March 15 and sent to the NRC secretary; drafts will be read and then discussed at the Spring NRC Board meeting in San Francisco; revised drafts will be prepared before the December 2002 board meeting and the membership will be presented with the revised *Policies and Procedures Handbook* for their input.

Progress: P. Mosenthal and J. Almasi are providing leadership for this effort. They worked with board members and committee chairs this spring on revisions to the *NRC Policies and Procedures Handbook* and the bylaws. The revised bylaws will be posted on the website in early fall; we encourage NRC members to read and respond to the revisions. The NRC

Executive Board will review members' comments when we meet at NRC HQ in early October.

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

Tasks:

- 📖 Develop the use of the website to enable substantive work to be completed electronically by committees and the membership. Create a website Task Force to examine how we can continue to improve our website and draw upon technology to do our work and communication better in NRC (Michael McKenna, chair of the Technology Committee, Don Leu, Peter Mosenthal, and Roy Smith of the new HQ staff will seek input from Barbara Guzzetti and John McEnerney).

Progress: Mike McKenna visited the new HQ and met with technology experts there. He will be seeking new ways for NRC to do our work and communicate using the best of technology and the talents of the new management firm.

- 📖 Use the newsletter, the website, "broadcast" membership e-mails, and conference sessions to keep the membership well informed about processes and decisions and seek input throughout the process.

Progress: We are seeking to create accurate membership information to enable members to receive blanket e-mails and mailings. The newsletter will be sent via paper and electronically. The NRC website has been, and will continue to be, updated by NRC members Mike McKenna and individuals at the new HQ. At the April 2002 board meeting, we voted to move the NRC listserv and the website to NRC HQ, link it with our Web site, and rely on NRC HQ staff to keep it running smoothly. The membership will be involved in all aspects of content and function of the listserv. The

Technology Committee will provide leadership for this initiative. We have alerted Barbara Guzzetti to this new endeavor and are soliciting her help.

☞ Provide information on how members can become more involved in the organization as committee members or on the board.

Progress: We have revised a form for members to use to nominate themselves or colleagues to run for the board or to serve on committees. Look for this form to be sent to you via e-mail in the early fall so that recommendations can be obtained and used by the executive board at our October strategic planning meeting. We will also encourage members to participate in the organization through broadcast e-mails and by signing up for particular committees via our website (look for an announcement about this soon).

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

Tasks:

☞ The president will work with the officers and board to develop a planning calendar of events/deadlines/goals or an “organizational history” for NRC. This calendar will facilitate a seamless flow of activities and expectations from one conference to the next and from one set of leaders to the next. This communication structure includes a renewed goal to support board members and committee chairs as they do their work, as they seek input from and inform the membership, create reports, and prepare to take action at board meetings.

Progress: We are working to accomplish this goal by developing electronic records of tasks/work completed (e.g., newsletter articles like this one) as well as notebooks with critical information that can be passed down from one officer to another. We are holding mentoring sessions with new offi-

cers and board members on the Tuesday prior to our conference. We are seeking to link board members with the work of particular committees and to have chairs work with co-chairs of committees to allow smooth transitions in leadership. Likewise, we seek to have smooth transitions and mentoring between the officers of the organization (e.g., in April 2002, the board approved the appointment of John Readence as the future treasurer of NRC; he will work closely with Peter Dewitz over the next few months to prepare for his term which begins after the December 2002 conference).

☞ NRC HQ will provide enhanced support for the work of the board and committee chairs as they communicate and work on projects with committee members, gain input on activities “in-progress,” and communicate between committee chairs about work to enable collaborative efforts.

Progress: This goal is less developed as our new management firm is currently concentrating on the conference program development and enhancing the membership database. Our goal is to do more work with committees via our website, committee listservs, and the posting and sharing of “in progress” committee reports.

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

Tasks:

☞ Establish relationships with individuals in education organizations and other literacy groups to share information and develop partnerships for future problem-solving work. Charge the president and vice president to develop ways to connect NRC with IRA and other organizations to enable us to continue to develop a role in policy decisions and advocacy activities. Barb Kapinus and Peter Winograd, as co-chairs of the Policy and Legislative

Committee, will be seeking ways to help us stay informed and also provide strategies for how to make a difference at the local, state, national, and international levels. Our white papers/research reports are also intended to allow NRC to have a voice in the political arena, and the Field Council, with Joyce Many as chair, is seeking ways to enhance communication among the membership, promote our organization, and provide members with strategies to impact state and national policies.

Progress: We have sought to connect with the leadership of other literacy organizations to share information and work together to present information to the public about literacy research. For example, NRC’s Vice President, Lea McGee, attended an IRA-sponsored session with political leaders to understand lobbying procedures and determine the role NRC could play in impacting policy. Second, we solicited the endorsement of various literacy organizations (e.g., IRA, CRA) for our NRC Research Reports (the Alvermann and Pressley papers commissioned last year), and we will seek to collaborate with these groups in the future on a variety of tasks. With Barb Kapinus’ help, we have also published the *Pressley NRC Research Report* through the National Education Association. Further, the International Reading Association’s *Reading Online* Editors have requested to reprint both reports on their website, allowing for excellent circulation of these important papers. Lastly, we have invited Peggy McCardle from NIH to interact with the NRC Board in December at our Tuesday pre-conference meeting. Our goal is to listen, share our research knowledge, and develop respectful working relationships. Additionally, with Lea McGee’s leadership, we have organized a one-day conference for teachers that will occur on Saturday at the 2002 NRC conference in Miami.

☞ Actively involve new, current, and former members of NRC within the organization.

Progress: New scholarships are now available to support the travel of underrepresented scholars to our NRC conference. We are also seeking to diversify committee

memberships and the leadership of the organization.

☞ Charge the Vice President, Lea McGee, and board member, Elizabeth Moje, to reconceptualize the 14 Program Areas we currently use to organize conference proposal submissions. This process is intended to update and clarify the conference review process and be more inclusive of literacy scholars' work, while simultaneously seeking high quality proposals.

Progress: This task is near completion (see Lea McGee's report in this newsletter).

☞ Charge program area chairs to seek proposals from scholars of color and

those who investigate diverse topics/groups of people who may not attend our conference.

Progress: Lee Gunderson and the area chairs have done an excellent job with this goal — you will see evidence of this in the contents of the 2002 conference program.

☞ Allocate NRC monies for competitive travel awards and scholarships to support greater diversity in presentation content (e.g., topics and methods), sponsored by the Diversity Committee, and more involvement of international scholars and scholars of color, sponsored by the International and Multicultural Committees, respectively. Monies have also been

allocated to support competitive graduate student travel awards for students who have papers accepted for the conference program.

Progress: The Multicultural, International, and Diversity Committees are offering scholarship monies to help defray the costs of attending the NRC annual conference for scholars from underrepresented groups (see announcement and guidelines in this newsletter).

Communication is key to each of these goals. Many of our members who spoke during the 2001 Town Meeting and Business Meetings offered comments about the need to solicit feedback from the membership and make conversations and decisions of the Board more explicit. The leadership of the organization has pledged to do so. We have/will continue to use newsletter articles like this one, blanket e-mails, and the NRC website to provide updated and ongoing information to the membership. We will seek ways to draw your attention to the website so it becomes a place where eventually we can conduct most of our business and communications related to the organization. We will need your help in using the website to find out what is going on in NRC; to access documents or contact information; to communicate with others, and engage in the work of the organization; and, to provide feedback about what is helpful or what could be improved at the site.

The leadership and many members of the National Reading Conference have been busy this spring. Admittedly, we have had our low moments, but as we look over the wonderful accomplishments of so many individuals, it is inspiring and indicates what has always been true for many years: The collaborative efforts of NRC members can achieve great things. Thank you for your work on behalf of NRC and I look forward to seeing you in Miami in December 2002!

NRC President-Elect's Report

Lee Gunderson
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC

The theme for the 52nd Annual National Reading Conference to take place in

Dear NRC Colleagues,

This past spring, we had the privilege to consider an excellent slate of individuals running for NRC vice president-elect and the NRC board. The list of colleagues included:

VP-Elect: Don Leu and Steve Stahl

Board of Directors: Mariam J. Dreher, Virginia J. Goatley, Robert T. Jimenez, Charles (Chuck) Kinzer, Lawrence R. Sipe, and Suzanne Wade.

We are pleased to announce that **Don Leu** will serve as our next vice president-elect.

New board members (serving two-year terms) include **Robert Jimenez, Chuck Kinzer,** and **Suzanne Wade.**

On behalf of the current board of NRC and the organization's membership, we extend our thanks to all of these distinguished scholars who offered their time, talent, and courage to volunteer as leaders of our organization.

The Nominations Committee is in the process of generating the slate for the 2002-2003 year. Please e-mail nominations (self or otherwise) to Ed Grochowski at NRC HQ: nrc@nrconline.org.

Please submit your nominations by October 1, 2002. It is the hope of the Nominations Committee to be able to introduce the 2002-2003 slate at the Business Meeting at the conference in December. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Sincerely,

Deborah R. Dillon, 2002 NRC President

Miami from December 4-7 is "Reflections on Literacy and Diversity." The number of sessions focusing on second language literacy, bilingual reading, multicultural education, literacy and diverse populations, and technology and diverse populations seems higher than usual. This is appropriate I believe because Miami was the birthplace in the early 1960s of the modern focus on bilingual reading instruction.

The task of organizing the conference has been made more complex by the transition from NRC's former management company to Technical Enterprises, Inc. in Oak Creek, WI, and the transition to on-line submissions. In this regard, the Area Chairs have been superb! They deserve medals.

Thanks go to Heriberto Godina and Carmen Maria Martinez-Roldan (University of Iowa), Patricia Schmidt (LeMoyne College), Jodi Holschuh (University of Georgia), Beth Berghoff and Mitzi Lewison (Indiana University), LeeAnn Sutherland and Elizabeth Moje (University of Michigan), Tom Bean and Lisa Stevens (University of Nevada-Las Vegas), William H. Rupley (Texas A&M University), William Dee Nichols (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University), Kelly Chandler-Olcott (Syracuse University), Pamela Ross and Marva Capelo (San Diego State University), Eurydice Bauer and Linda Harklau (University of Illinois), Anne McGill Franzen (University of Florida), Dennis Mike (Buffalo State), Brenda Shearer (University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh), and Jim Anderson (University of British Columbia) for their magnificent and unstinting contributions to the 2002 conference and to the good of NRC's membership. The Area Chairs have helped us maintain the very highest of standards for papers accepted for the 2002 NRC conference.

I am convinced you will find the conference to be most interesting and provocative. The

Plenary Speakers are outstanding, including NRC President, Deborah Dillon (University of Minnesota); the 2001 Oscar Causey Award recipient, Patricia Alexander (University of Maryland); John Willinsky (the University of British Columbia); Allan Luke (University of Queensland); and Kathy Au (University of Hawaii), Patricia Edwards (Michigan State University), and Dorothy Strickland (Rutgers University) who will present the annual review of the literature. Dr. Louise Rosenblatt will be awarded the Distinguished Educator Award and present a research session. There are a number of other exciting awards that will be given to NRC members.

Peggy McArdle will review guidelines and procedures for obtaining funding from NICHD. Anne Sweet will review OERI's new Program of Research on Reading Comprehension (PRRC) and discuss fund-

ing possibilities. There will also be panel discussions concerning policy related to assessment. All in all, the program is exciting because it represents a wide range of views and reflections on literacy and diversity.

You will find that the Hotel Inter-Continental Miami is a grand hotel overlooking Biscayne Bay. It is located next to the Bayside Marketplace, which contains 200 shops and restaurants. The meeting rooms are spacious, and the open areas are large and inviting. We have a movie theatre that will feature a daily noontime literacy-related movie.

Countless people have worked to make the 52nd annual NRC an outstanding professional research meeting. I am convinced that the conference will be exciting and meaningful. See you in Miami!



Multicultural Issues Committee

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

Diversity Committee

Laurie MacGillivray, Chair

International Committee

Karin Dahl, Chair

The Multicultural Issues, Diversity, and International Committees will present conference attendance awards to graduate students or assistant professors from underrepresented groups who show promise of scholarship in the literacy field. The awards will help defray the cost of attending the 2002 National Reading Conference. Candidates should send copies of their proposal acceptance letters, and their curriculum vitae to one of the following committee chairs by September 30, 2002: Patty Schmidt, Schmidt@lemoyne.edu, Shelley Hong Xu, Ibsxh@pop.ttu.edu, Laurie MacGillivray, macgill@usc.edu, or Karin Dahl, kldahl@magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu.

Call for Literacy Deaf or Hard of Hearing Educators

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

NRC Vice President-Elect's Report

Lea McGee
University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, AL

Plans are well underway for NRC's first annual "conference-within-a-conference" for Miami area local teachers and educators. This special Saturday afternoon event, *Research-Based Best Practices in Literacy Instruction 2002*, will highlight the instructional implications of research conducted by NRC members. Thanks to the NRC members who volunteered to help me with this event.

The board of directors has tentatively approved a plan to have all submissions for the 2003 conference be on-line. However, at this time, no definite decision has been made. I will be soliciting input from members who used on-line submission this year before making a recommendation to the executive board. If you can provide feedback about on-line submission of NRC proposals, please send me an e-mail at lmcgee@bamaed.ua.edu.

The board of directors accepted a proposal to change NRC's program submission areas. In a few weeks, the proposal will be placed on the website for member comments. Look for an e-mail to announce when this activity will begin. At that time, I will be seeking nominations for chairs and co-chairs for the new areas.

Finally, I am seeking suggestions for keynote speakers for the 2003 conference in Scottsdale, AZ. Please forward to me any names of professionals who you would like to hear at NRC.

Early Career Achievement Award Committee

Janet W. Bloodgood, Co-Chair
Wendy C. Kasten, Co-Chair

Members of the NRC Early Career Achievement Award Committee offer thanks to our colleagues who took time to write

nominating letters for candidates for the award. The committee members weighed these letters and other supporting documents carefully as we chose the winner to be announced at the December NRC meeting.

The NRC Early Career Achievement Award provides NRC members with an opportunity to identify and honor those who have actively contributed to literacy research and to NRC from the very beginning of their careers. The award is available to anyone who has been a member of NRC for at least three years and has established a research program that shows promise for making significant contributions to our knowledge of literacy and literacy education. NRC members may nominate candidates in the spring by sending a letter that describes the nominee's research, publication record, and contributions to NRC to either of the committee co-chairs, Wendy Kasten, Kent State University (402 White Hall, Kent, OH 44242) or Janet Bloodgood, Appalachian State University (LRE Dept., P.O. Box 32085, Boone, NC 28608).

Student Research Award

Josephine Peyton Young, Chair

The NRC Student Award Committee is spending the fall reviewing the conference papers submitted by the 2002 Student Outstanding Research Award candidates. The papers from this cadre of new researchers represent a cross-section of topics and research methods, and the field is very competitive. Whereas most of the awards given at NRC are presented to those who have made considerable contributions to the field in a variety of ways, the Student Outstanding Research Award is presented to colleagues at the outset of their careers and may indeed impact their future paths of progress.

The review process is rigorous for this prestigious award. During the first round of reviews, committee members receive a maximum of half the papers submitted. The reviews for these papers are guided by criteria for: (1) significance, (2) rationale, (3)

methodological or theoretical soundness, (4) presentation of results or concepts, (5) implications, and (6) quality of writing. The papers are given an overall rating and rank-ordered. The top papers are then reviewed, rated, and ranked by all of the committee members and a winner is selected. The chair will notify the winner(s), Student Award Committee, headquarters, and the conference chair by November 10 of the recipient(s) and top two finalists. The winner will be announced at the conference in a General Session and will receive a \$500 honorarium.

Previous winners include:

- 1985 Peter Afflerbach
- 1986 Deborah Wells Rowe
- 1987 Maribeth Cassidy Schmitt
- 1988 Sally Hague
- 1989 Joyce Many
- 1990 Douglas Hartman and Joyce Holt Jennings
- 1991 Sarah J. McCarthy and J. Michael Parker
- 1992 Debra Myer
- 1993 Janice Almasi
- 1994 Janet Bloodgood and Ann Watts Pailliotet
- 1995 Jane West
- 1996 Kathryn Davinroy
- 1997 Susan J. Dymock and Lawrence S. Sipe
- 1998 Josephine Peyton Young
- 1999 Patrick Manyak and Emily Rodgers
- 2000 Rebecca Rogers
- 2001 Nancy A. Place

National Reading Conference Distinguished Scholar Award for Lifetime Contribution to Literacy Research, Theory, and Practice

James Gavelek, Chair

The selection committee for the NRC Distinguished Scholar Award is currently accepting nominations for our 2003 conference. This award is given to a distinguished scholar for a lifetime contribution, which has had a significant impact on the field of literacy theory, research, and practice. It

International Committee - Karin L. Dahl

The International Committee has awarded three travel grants to support international scholars attending the December meeting. It also is currently completing its website where postings of committee activities will be available

represents our acknowledgement of an outstanding individual who has not been actively involved in the National Reading Conference in committee, editorial work, or presentations, but whose lifetime work, has had a major influence on literacy theory, research, and practice of the NRC membership. The first recipient was Ann Brown in 2001.

Guidelines for selecting an award recipient include: (a) the person should be a distinguished scholar who has made a lifetime contribution which has had a significant impact on the field of literacy theory, research and practice, whether directly by working on some aspect of literacy itself, or in a related field; and (b) the scholar is not, or has not been, an active participant in NRC (e.g., a regular presenter, committee member or on editorial boards, etc.). If a person could qualify to be nominated for the Oscar Causey Award, he/she would not qualify to be nominated for the NRC Distinguished Scholar Award. The scholar may belong to the organization, as long as the scholar's involvement has been primarily the receipt of the journals and/or the yearbook.

Those wishing to nominate a person for this award for the 2003 NRC meeting should complete a nomination form (downloadable on NRC Online at www.nrconline.org) by March 1, 2003, and send it to:

James Gavelek
College of Education
1044 W. Harrison (ECSW 1412)
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, IL 60607
gavelek@uic.edu
(312) 996-5791 (office)
(312) 996-8134 (fax)

Publications Committee

Lesley Mandel Morrow, Chair

The *Journal of Literacy Research* editors, Wayne Linek, Nancy Padak, Betty Sturtevant, and Tim Rasinski are well into their editorship. Some highlights about their recent activities include:

- ☞ They completed the transition from the University of Georgia editorial team to their own.
- ☞ At the end of April, the team had received 83 manuscripts. On average,

it takes about 15 weeks for an editorial decision from the time a manuscript is received. Current acceptance rate is about 7%.

- ☞ Volume 34 #1 of the *JRL* is complete and in the mail, and Volume 34 #2 is just about ready to go to the printer. Volume 34 #2, the first with papers from the current editors' tenure, will contain manuscript versions of the two white papers that NRC commissioned (Pressley and Alvermann), as well as papers about the social construction of spelling in Hebrew and literary anthropology.
- ☞ The editors will be re-issuing a Call for Reviewers, which will be sent electronically to all NRC members and posted on NRC Online at www.nrconline.org.
- ☞ The session for authors held at the last NRC conference in San Antonio was well received; therefore, it will be repeated at this year's annual meeting in Miami.

The editors continue to encourage all members to submit manuscripts about their research for review and possible publication in the *Journal of Literacy Research*.

The *NRC Yearbook* editors, Jim Hoffman, Diane Schallert, Colleen Fairbanks, Jo Worthy, and Beth Maloch, received 78 manuscripts from individuals who presented at the San Antonio conference last December.

- ☞ The editors have accepted 26 for publication and two papers are still pending.
- ☞ Manuscripts were received from Jim Gee, Concha Delgado-Gaitan, Michael Pressley, and Jim Hoffman for their general sessions and invited presentations. In addition, Peter Mosenthal's Presidential Address and the Student Award winner, Nancy Places, will also be published in the *Yearbook*.
- ☞ The editing process for the *Yearbook* should be complete by the end of May and then go into production shortly thereafter so that the *Yearbook* can be in the hands of the membership before the next annual meeting in December.

In consultation with Lee Gunderson, program chair and president elect of NRC, we have selected the topic for this year's annual literature review of research to be Literacy

and Diversity. We have selected three speakers to discuss this issue. First will be Kathy Au who will speak about "Multicultural Concerns and Literacy." Next, Pat Edwards will talk about "Family Literacy and Diversity." Finally, Dorothy Strickland will address "Interventions for At Risk Diverse Readers." These presentations will be published in the 2003 *Yearbook*.

The Publications Committee is exploring the following issues: (a) making literacy policy dealt with by the federal government available to the NRC membership, and (b) finding an electronic database for the journal. Ed Grochowski, our new executive director, is researching this last item.

New Award for Adult Literacy Study

Victoria Purcell-Gates, Chair

An anonymous donation has made it possible for NRC to offer an award for research into adult literacy issues. The purpose of the award is to honor the memory of J. Michael Parker and his interest in adult literacy research and to encourage research into adult literacy. The award is called the J. Michael Parker Award and will help to pay NRC Annual Meeting Expenses up to \$300. It is available to doctoral students or untenured professors.

Those who wish to be considered for the award should indicate in the appropriate box on the conference proposal form that they are a doctoral student/untenured professor with a paper on adult literacy. These proposals, if accepted, will then be forwarded to the chair of the committee, Victoria Purcell-Gates, Michigan State University. Other members of the committee are Joanne Kilgour Dowdy, Kent State University, and Trika Smith-Burke, New York University.

The committee will apply the following criteria for selection: (a) research is judged as capable of making a significant contribution to theory and/or practice of adult literacy learning and instruction; (b) methodology is appropriate to the research question and of sufficient rigor; (c) implications of the research are of a scope needed to impact the field; and (d) author is a doctoral student or an untenured professor at the time of submission.

52ND ANNUAL NATIONAL READING CONFERENCE

DECEMBER 4-7, 2002

MIAMI, FLORIDA

C O N F E R E N C E R E G I S T R A T I O N

CATEGORY	ADVANCE Nov. 15, 2002	ON-SITE	DAILY W [] Th [] F [] S []	AMOUNT
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			\$5.00	
Credit Card Processing Fee			\$5.00	
Please make hotel reservations with the Hotel Inter-Continental Miami - 305-577-1000			Total	

Payment Information

Check Visa MasterCard American Express

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email _____ Affiliation _____

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

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