



NEWSLETTER

Heidi Anne Mesmer, Editor
Fall 2005

President

Donald J. Leu
University of Connecticut

The Changing Landscapes of Literacy

The foliage of fall is one of many changes that come annually to the landscape of Alewife Cove. Summer is gone. It is now time to pack up the fishing gear, bring in the boat and kayaks, cobble together a supply of dry wood for the winter, and enjoy a small glass of New England “Blackout” cider in front of the fireplace.

The landscape is also changing in our schools. In some parts of the world, it is a time for schools to celebrate the exciting potential of new beginnings, despite the challenges they face with unfunded federal mandates. In other parts of the world, it is a time for schools to celebrate the successes that have been achieved. So, whether you find yourself getting ready for winter, beginning a new school year, or wrapping up the current one, the air is filled with the challenge of change.

Change, of course, also defines our lives as literacy researchers. We change the world through the research that we conduct, the scholars and teachers that we prepare, and the students whose lives we shape.

Today, however, our research worlds are changing in even more fundamental ways as the touchstones of our work—book, paper, and print technologies—are being transformed by new and more powerful information and communication technologies (ICTs), such as the Internet. One way to view these technologies is in terms of their potential for teaching traditional literacies (e.g., *Starfall* at <http://www.starfall.com/>). A broader view understands that the essential nature of literacy, itself, is changing, as the Internet and other ICTs require new literacies to comprehend, communicate, and learn (e.g., *Wikipedia* at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page). The landscapes of literacy are changing in fundamental ways all around us, as new ICTs create new potentials for important new literacy practices.

As much as these new technologies empower us with their potential, they also divide us with their demands. Those who are skilled in the use of these new literacies, and have access to the Internet, are doubly advantaged in a googlized world of networked information and communication. Those who have not yet acquired

these new literacies, nor have access to them, confront an important set of challenges to full participation in our world. We must bring the power of our finest research skills to confront these challenges if we seek to ensure that all students are prepared for the changing landscapes of literacy.

Whether you study the new literacies of the Internet and other ICTs or any of the other important issues that challenge us in our research, one of the wonderful aspects of NRC is that it provides an opportunity to encounter the changes that are taking place in literacy. As scholars, change is what we seek and what we do: we embrace change; we celebrate it; and we study it. Each year, we come to NRC, the largest research organization devoted solely to literacy research, knowing that there will be new ways of looking at our own work and new challenges for us to consider.

This year, you will also see an important change in one of our publications. *The Journal of Literacy Research* is now being published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, one of our most important academic publishers. The NRC Board of Directors is excited about this change. We believe it will increase the impact of your work as well as produce improvements in the publication process.

There are also important changes taking place soon in our editorial teams. We have had an exceptionally large number of very impressive applications for the new editorship of the *National Reading Conference Yearbook*. The search committee will have its hands full making a final recommendation to the Board. Our current editors (Colleen Fairbanks, Jo Worthy, Beth Maloch, Jim Hoffman, and Diane Schallert) have set a very high standard for our new editors to match. We hope to take advantage of the wonderful expertise and leadership of our current editorial team by having a year of overlap between the editorships. This will permit the new team to shadow the current team and benefit from their knowledge and skill. Diane Barone, our Publications Chair, will announce the new Yearbook editorial team at the upcoming conference.

We have also begun a search for the editorship of the *Journal of Literacy Research*. The current editors (Wayne Linek, Nancy Padak, Tim Rasinski, and Elizabeth Sturtevant) have navigated the challenging waters of change with exceptional skill, bringing our journal to its new publication home with Erlbaum. Applications for the new editorship will be accepted through January 15, 2006. A link pointing to more information about this search and application procedures is posted at the main page of our NRC website

(<http://www.nrconline.org/>). If this is an appropriate time in your career, we encourage you to consider applying for this prestigious editorship.

While these are only a small set of the changes we have experienced recently, you can see that the landscape is also changing in our organization. Another change will take place shortly—I will become Past President and my wonderful colleague and friend, Vicki Purcell-Gates, will take over as your President. As I write my final Presidential column, I want to thank each of you for your support with the many challenges that I have faced in this position. You have all taught me important lessons about how collaboration and common commitment may solve any problem, no matter how challenging. As colleagues, all of you have been far more thoughtful, considerate, and generous of your time than any person deserves. Thank you!

Whether you are getting your home ready for a new season, beginning a new school year, closing the school year, or even considering the challenge of changes to your NRC paper, the cusp of this moment means that we all turn our thoughts to the annual gathering of the international literacy research community that we call the National Reading Conference. It is a time to gather with friends to exchange our latest research, intensely debate our differences, help new colleagues on their journeys, and, at the end, return home with new ideas to challenge us all in the upcoming year. Miami awaits! I look forward to seeing you there and thanking each of you for your important contributions to literacy research, to NRC, and to my own understanding of both literacy and life.

President-Elect, 2005 Program Chair

Victoria Purcell-Gates
University of British Columbia

As Program Chair for the 2005 Conference in Miami, I have been totally focused on putting together the program. As I write this, the program book is going to press. The program has been ‘up’ on the website for a few weeks so that everyone can have an advanced, on-line look at the offerings. Don’t forget to go to the website to register and to call the hotel to make your reservations now! As Program Chair, I have worked to bring together top literacy researchers working from different methodologies and theoretical frames to help us think through innovative approaches to researching and reducing the achievement gap between children and adults who live in poverty and those who enjoy the fruits of economic and social power. This achievement gap between the Haves and the Have Nots is world-wide and has always existed, and my hope is that, by bringing together researchers across the methodological and theoretical continua, we literacy researchers can begin to make inroads into resolving this social injustice.

To this end, we will reap the benefits of listening to the following plenary speakers: Brian Street, Kings College/London, “Literacies Across Cultural Contexts: Implications for Pedagogy and Curriculum”; Charles Perfetti, University of Pittsburgh, “How the Mind Meets the Brain in Literacy: New Perspectives from Reading Science”; and Ernest Morrell, UCLA, “Critical Action Research: A Review of the Literature.”

Vital Issues this year will center on this topic each evening. I will start each Vital Issues evening off with a focusing question that is intended to start a brainstorming session linked to the day’s presentations and centered on possibilities for multi-methodological research designs, questions, methods, samples, and so on that speak to this challenge of socio-culturally-based disparities in literacy achievement. These will be excellent sessions to attend for opportunities to connect with other researchers in planning, what I hope will become, exciting and cutting edge future research agendas. With a start time of 9:30 p.m., you should find it possible to enjoy a great dinner and attend Vital Issues. We will have a cash bar available until 10:30 at which time we will adjourn to the lobby bar to continue discussions.

The Invited Program represents invited speakers and topics that will help us focus on how to address, through research, achievement disparities that are based not in individual differences but in socio-cultural factors. These are listed below:

- 📖 Area 1 Invited Symposium: “Preparing Literacy Teachers to Teach All Students: Studies of New Practices
- 📖 Area 2 Invited Symposium: “Literacy Coaching”
- 📖 Area 4 Invited Symposium: Educational Policy: “Implications for Teacher Education and Literacy”
- 📖 Area 6 Invited Symposium: “Problematizing Adolescent Multiliteracies”
- 📖 Area 8 Invited Symposium: “Understanding the Variation in Reading Performance Among English Language Learners”
- 📖 Area 9 Invited Symposium: “Reader Response and Critical Stances: Issues of Race, Class, Gender, & Access”
- 📖 Area 10 Invited Symposium: “Gender Issues in Post-Typographic Texts and Talk: Past, Present, & Future”
- 📖 Program Chair Invited Session: “Federal Funding Opportunities Through IES” with Elizabeth Albro, U.S. Department of Education
- 📖 Program Chair Invited Symposium: “Writing for Teachers: Points from the Publishers”
- 📖 Program Chair Invited Symposium: “Latina Scholars Working Within and Across Paradigms in Biliteracy and Bilingual Education”
- 📖 Distinguished Scholar Recipient Address: Courtney Cazden, Harvard University, “Reading Comprehension in Classroom Discourse”
- 📖 Technology Committee Invited Symposium: “Reading Laboratory: How Hypertext Opens the Black Box of Reading”

Don Leu’s Presidential Address, “New Literacies, Reading Research, and the Challenges of Change: A Deictic Perspective of Our Research,” and my Oscar Causey Address, “What Does Culture Have to Do With It?” add to the rainbow of topics and research methodologies.

Finally, the Research Methodology Series, organized for graduate students but open for all, returns this year with a focus on research design. Researchers representing the range of research design will talk through their decision making as they planned for and conducted specific research projects, all of which have been peer reviewed and published.

NRC is an international organization of researchers that represents the range of methodologies and epistemologies—all focused on literacy learning and instruction. This very special quality of NRC will be highlighted and drawn upon at the 2005 Annual Meeting in Miami. I hope to see you there!

Vice-President

Patricia A. Edwards
Michigan State University

Since last Spring, I have been focusing most of my effort on organizing what has become known as the Teacher's Conference for the 2005 NRC Conference in Miami. Kristen Perry, from Michigan State University, has joined me as Co-Chair, and together we have worked diligently to put together an exciting and informative Saturday afternoon for local Miami teachers. This will be the fourth year of this "conference within a conference" and we are hoping to match the previous three in the degree of enthusiasm with which it is received by teachers.

The Teacher Conference takes place on the last day, Saturday, of the annual conference. Teachers from the area in which the NRC Conference is held are invited to register for a day of research and practice presentations. They may attend the research presentations scheduled for Saturday morning. Following this, and after lunch, a research-into-practice keynote address is presented, after which the attendees will select among 4 sessions in each of two time blocks, prepared for them by NRC researchers. Those who have attended in the past have expressed a great deal of enthusiasm and appreciation for this opportunity to hear top literacy researchers discuss the ways in which their research is relevant to classroom practice.

The Teacher Conference program this year promises to provide Miami teachers with a wide array of topics and issues of interest. We wish to express our deepest appreciation to the NRC researchers who agreed to add one more presentation to their responsibilities for the conference and to develop presentations that are focused specifically to teachers.

The afternoon conference begins that Janette Klingner (University of Colorado) giving the Keynote, "Why Are So Many Minority Students in Special Education? Understanding Race and Disability in School." Sessions presenters will include: Susan Neuman (University of Michigan), Loukia Sarroub (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Cindy West (Lincoln Public Schools), Kathy Au (University of Hawaii), Taffy Raphael (University of Illinois at Chicago), Patricia Ruggiano Schmidt (Le Moyne College), Mileidis Gort (University of Connecticut), Jill Castek (University of Connecticut), Susan Lenski (Portland State University), Eugenia Mora-Flores (University of Southern California), Carmen Martinez-Roldan (Arizona State University), and Carmen Medina (University of British Columbia).

We also wish to thank the following NRC researchers/graduate students, from Michigan State University, who have agreed to stay over one more night to help with the Teacher Conference: Kristen Perry (Conference Co-Chair and Session Chair), Annie Moses (Session Chair), Alison K. Billman (Session Chair), Shenglan

Zhang (Session Chair), David Gallagher (Session Chair), Annah Molosiaw (Session Chair), Angie Tanis (Session Chair), Mary Tomczyk and Katherine Hilden (Session Chair).

Publications Report

Diane Barone, Chair
University of Nevada-Reno

There has never been a busier time with NRC publications. JLR is now working with Erlbaum and their schedule has been quite busy with this change. The Yearbook will also begin a publishing relationship with Erlbaum. Yearbook Editors have their issue ready so that NRC members will receive it prior to this year's conference. Hooray! Finally, we are in the process of recruiting new editors for both JLR and the Yearbook.

Journal of Literacy Research

The JLR Editors (Nancy Padak, Wayne Linek, Tim Rasinski, Betty Sturtevant) have been working doubly hard these past few months, working simultaneously on Volumes 37 and 38 of the journal. Volume 38 #1 will be the first issue published by Lawrence Erlbaum. This "double duty" work has resulted in a heavy load for many JLR reviewers as well. The Editors thank reviewers for their assistance during this extremely busy period.

New reviewers for 2006 and 2007 (Vols. 38 and 39) were selected in late September. The announcement went out through a call for reviewers sent to all members via email from headquarters as well as a web posting. Returning reviewers from Volume 37 were sent a letter regarding their continuation on the Board. If you are not sure if your name is on the reviewer list for 2006 and 2007, please email jl原因@tamuc.edu. If you are not on the review board but would like to be, please email Betty Sturtevant at esturtev@gmu.edu. We are especially in need of additional reviewers with expertise in critical theory and discourse analysis.

The annual Editorial Advisory Board meeting at the NRC meeting will be from 7:30a.m.-8:30a.m. on Friday morning in the Sevilla Room. The entire review board (new and returning) is encouraged to attend!

The NRC Yearbook

Editorial team: Beth Maloch, Jim Hoffman, Diane Schallert, Colleen Fairbanks, and Jo Worthy

The 54th NRC Yearbook, representing the 2004 NRC Conference, is scheduled to be mailed to the membership on November 10. NRC members should receive their Yearbook prior to the NRC 2005 conference. For the 2005 Yearbook, we were pleased to receive several more submissions than in the past few years. In total, we received 95 manuscripts and accepted 25, yielding a 26% acceptance rate. Joining these 25 peer-reviewed manuscripts in the Yearbook are the plenary and special session addresses from Lea McGee, Michele Knobel and Colin Lankshear, Annemarie Palincsar & Bridget Dalton, Robert Calfee, and Ilana Snyder. As in past years, the Yearbook includes a conference summary written by Don Leu, conference chair, and a listing of all presentations at the 2004 conference.

We are already looking forward to the 2005 Miami conference. The Call for Manuscripts has been posted to the NRC website and will also be handed out at the 2005 conference in Miami. We invite presenters to submit papers.

Search For Editors

NRC is seeking new Editors for both JLR and the Yearbook. There will be a one year overlap of Editors for both publications. Information for members who would like to become Editors is available at the NRC website. Important dates are as follows:

Yearbook: Applications to Diane Barone
(barone@unr.nevada.edu) by September 30, 2005.
Decision expected at NRC meeting in Miami.

JLR: Applications to Diane Barone
(barone@unr.nevada.edu) by January 15, 2006.
Decision expected at NRC meeting at IRA.

Field Council

Rachel Karchmer Klein
University of Delaware

The NRC Field Council will host a luncheon for new NRC members at the annual conference in Miami on Wednesday November 30th. Field Council representatives and NRC board members will be there to welcome first time attendees and graduate students. Please sign up for the Newcomers' Luncheon when registering for the conference. We look forward to seeing you there!

Oscar S. Causey Award

David Moore, Chair
Arizona State University

The Oscar S. Causey Award is given each year for outstanding contributions to reading research. As last year's recipient, Victoria Purcell-Gates will present the 2005 Causey Address. The topic of her presentation is *What Does Culture Have to Do With It?* Victoria also will name this year's recipient of the Oscar S. Causey Award.

Any NRC member may nominate people for the Oscar S. Causey 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 2006 award, please email a letter of nomination and the candidate's current vita by August 15, 2006 to David W. Moore (David.Moore@ASU.Edu).

Ethnicity, Race & Multilingualism Committee

Doris Walker-Dalhouse, Co-chair
Minnesota State University Moorhead

Gwendolyn Thompson McMillon, Co-chair
Oakland University

The committee would like to thank Jennifer Turner for writing the proposal and organizing the 2004 symposium "Crossing Over to Canaan." We extend our gratitude to all individuals who participated, especially Donna Alvermann, Kathy Au, Patricia Edwards, Jane Hansen, and Robert Rueda, and for those individuals who attended its annual committee meeting. We encourage your continued support and involvement in the work of the committee. As a follow-up to our 2004 symposium on tenure, the committee would like to recommend the following books for reading and discussion within and outside of the NRC community. These references include:

Mabokela, R. O. & Green, A.L. (Eds.) (2001). *Sisters of the academy: Emergent Black women scholars in higher education*. Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing, LLC.

Li, G. & Beckett, G. (Eds.) (in press). "Strangers" of the academy: *Asian female scholars in higher education*. Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing, LLC.

Individuals interested in being involved in the work of the committee should express their interest in an e-mail to either of the committee chairs, Doris Walker-Dalhouse (walkerd@mnstate.edu) or Gwendolyn Thompson McMillon (mcmillon@oakland.edu).

Edward Fry Book Award Committee

Janice Strop, Chair
Cardinal Stritch University

We are pleased to report that the committee is hard at work reviewing and ranking this year's nominees. We have a large number of titles this year (26), so the committee is reviewing them in a two-tier approach. Many committee members have commented that there are many winners in this year's choices!

Edward Fry Book Award 2005 Committee Members

Marilyn Chapman, University of British Columbia
Kathleen Collins, San Diego State University
Thomas Crumpler, Illinois State University
Susan Florio-Ruane, Michigan State University
Gay Ivey, James Madison University
Michael Kamil, Stanford University
Wendy Kasten, Kent State University
Cynthia Lewis, University of Minnesota
Beth Maloch, University of Texas at Austin
Rebecca Rogers, Washington University in St. Louis
Diane Schallert, University of Texas at Austin
Dennis Sumara, University of Alberta

You will be able to view all of the nominated titles at the NRC Annual Conference in December, 2005. Please consider sending other nominations that meet the Edward Fry Book Award criteria for eligibility in 2006 to Janice Strop.

Student Outstanding Research Award

Rebecca Rogers, Chair

The NRC Student Outstanding Research Award is awarded each year to an outstanding student conference paper that exemplifies excellent scholarship efforts. The deadline for paper submissions was September 23, 2005. The award will be announced at the annual National Reading Conference in December, 2005. A version of the winning paper is published in the NRC Yearbook. For more information on the award or to see list of past award winners, go to the NRC website and click on "awards".

International Committee

Sam Miller

University of North Carolina, Greensboro

The International Committee is soliciting requests for travel assistance from international members for this year's conference. We decided at the last meeting to decrease the number of awards from four to three so that applicants will be able to receive more assistance. Sam Miller, Adnan Salhi, Mary Alice Barksdale, and Nancy Pine will review applications. Please send your request to Sam Miller at sdmille2@uncg.edu. The application should include a copy of your proposal and a brief statement requesting funds. We encourage all international committee members, who attend next year's annual meeting, to attend presentations offered by other committee members. Additionally, we will meet for breakfast on the first day of the conference and plan to go to dinner together on Thursday evening. A notice regarding these events will be posted on the announcement board during the conference.