



NEWSLETTER

Jacqueline Lynch, Editor
Fall 2007

President's Report

Patricia A. Edwards
Michigan State University

I bring you greetings from the NRC Executive Members. We all hope and trust you had time to relax during the summer. In no time, we will be arriving in Austin for an awesome 2007 conference organized by our President-Elect—Norman A. Stahl.

In the past few months, we have lost two of our beloved members—James Flood and Suzanne Wade. Their participation and involvement in NRC will be sorely missed.

The NRC Executive Board has tackled several issues for the membership over the last few months. First, we conducted an online conversation on the issue of whether or not to change the name of our organization. Some of our members believe that our name is beginning to seem somewhat distant from the true nature of our research community today. They noted that we are international in our membership, not national; we report research on a range of literacy issues, not simply reading issues; and we are much more than simply a one-week conference, which our name currently suggests. In response to this feedback from the members, the Executive Board invited six members to join an Ad Hoc NRC Name Change Committee (William H. Teale, Donald J. Richgels, Ellen McIntyre, Melanie Kuhn, Donna Alvermann, Leigh A. Hall) to continue discussions on this most important issue. Vice President Kathleen A. Hinchman will chair the Name Change Committee. Additional information will be shared at the Town Meeting. Second, Lee Gunderson accepted the task of chairing an Ad Hoc Committee to revise the By-Laws and Policy and Procedures Handbook. Third, the Executive Board approved a policy brief developed by the Policy and Legislative Committee.

I congratulate Diane H. Tracey (Secretary) and Susan K. L'Allier (Treasurer) for the wonderful job they are doing in service to our organization. I am happy to announce that **David Reinking** was elected **Vice President** and **Dana L. Grisham, Kris D. Gutierrez,** and **Rebecca Rogers** were elected as Board Members. Congratulations! We extend our most sincere appreciation to all of the individuals who consented to stand for election. We truly appreciate your dedication to NRC.

New Officers and Board Members

David Reinking.....Vice-President
Dana L. Grisham..... Board Member
Kris D. Gutierrez..... Board Member
Rebecca Rogers..... Board Member

At the end of the Saturday business meeting, I will become Past President and my wonderful colleague and friend, Norman A. Stahl, will take over as your President. As I write my final Presidential column, I want to thank each of you for your support. As colleagues, all of you have been far more thoughtful, considerate, and generous of your time than any person deserves. Thank you!

Now, Austin awaits you! I look forward to seeing you there and to thanking each of you for your important contributions to literacy research, to NRC, and to my own understanding of both literacy and life.

Have an enjoyable fall semester!

President-Elect's Report

Norman A. Stahl
Northern Illinois University

In a Word—Austin

Like ever so many college administrators, I come home from the normal 10–12-hour day drained of energy and any degree of cognitive power. That means there are nights the tube comes on, and I, too, am forced to choose between really bad reality television or game shows that promise the opportunity for some sales associate from Target to win more money than what's found in my state's retirement system. Well, the choice is easy. Until they have a version of "Survivor: The Professoriate," where a community college English teacher mud wrestles a Harvard Nobel Laureate for a day's worth of hardtack, I'm going with the game shows. Of course, it always seems that once the game show gets past the \$10,000 question, I'm out of the loop.

Hence, I was so pleased when FOX brought us "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?" Finally, we had a show with questions that even a department chair might be able to answer. In my mind I said, "Hey I taught elementary school. I can do this. It will be a no brainer." Yeah, right! I knew I was not smarter than a fifth grader when there was a first grade English question that asked the contestant to find the articles in a simple sentence. From the comfort of my recliner I yelled out, "Dude,

it's a trick question. Nowhere in that sentence is there an appropriately formatted APA reference." To my surprise they were looking for *a*, *an*, and *the*. I had forgotten one of the definitions of article.

That experience made me understand that all of us can use a refresher vocabulary lesson now and then (admittedly there are a few of us who are downright remedial). So here we have the unofficial NRC annual meeting vocabulary word of the day. The first word on the list is *registration*. I'll use it in a sentence "Did you complete your registration for the 57th Annual NRC to be held in Austin, Texas from November 28th to December 1st yet?" If there is not enough context in our example to understand the word registration, remedial help is out there, but you'll need to go get your Visa or MasterCard. Ready? Now go to the NRC conference site (<http://www.nrconline.org/conference/conf07.html>), and click on the target word registration. Walk through the scripted lesson, and you will never forget the word registration. The learning experience is really so much richer with the effective use of technology.

Are you ready for our second word of the day? It's *reservation*. This is really a very good word, as we will get to use it in two different ways. That means we will have two sentences to master. First, "Have you made your airline reservation?" It's easy to get to Austin, Texas from just about anywhere in the world. Still, you need to make your airline reservation early so that you do not get a bad fare (bad fare, that's our review word from last year, when you waited to the last minute to make your airline reservation to go to the annual meeting in Los Angeles).

Our second example of the word reservation is a little more complicated. "Did you make your hotel reservation yet?" If you have done so at the Hyatt Regency Austin or the Austin Embassy Suites, you fully understand our target word. If not, you certainly do not know the word reservation in this context. Furthermore, you may be sleeping in the tent city we are setting up under the Congress Avenue Bridge. Please watch the NRC LISTSERV for the names of the overflow hotels we will post as we get closer to the conference.

The next word we need to understand is *dues*. Some folks have trouble with this word, as it involves concepts from arithmetic as well as the manipulation of a pen and a checkbook at the same time. Here are our sentences rich with context: "Have you paid your dues this year? Smart NRC members like to pay their dues along with their conference registration because the cost of the conference will likely be cheaper." It's a good word, as NRC members have been supporting our wonderful organization and coming to the conference since 1952. We will honor our founding fathers as we present the Oscar S. Causey Award and Albert J. Kingston Award once again this year.

Our last word for this lesson is *session*. At our conference we will have many types of sessions. Let's look at some of the many NRC uses of the word session now:

1. **Plenary Session #1** will be delivered by David C. Berliner, Regents' Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Arizona State University. The topic of his

presentation is "How High-Stakes Testing Inevitably Corrupts Our Indicators and Our Educators."

2. **Plenary Session #2** will be delivered by Glynda Hull, Professor of Language and Literacy, Society and Culture, from the University of California. The topic of this address is "Mobile Texts and Migrant Audiences: Rethinking Literacy in a New Media Age."
3. **The Presidential Address** will feature President Patricia A. Edwards of Michigan State University. During this session President Edwards will deliver an address entitled "The Education of African American Students: Voicing the Debates, Controversies, and Solutions."
4. **The Oscar S. Causey Address** features Michael L. Kamil of Stanford University, who was presented the Oscar S. Causey Award in 2006. Professor Kamil will focus on "How to Get Recreational Reading to Increase Reading Achievement" during this session.
5. The **NRC Research Award Session** will be delivered by Douglas K. Hartman of the University of Connecticut. The title of the presentation will be "One Hundred Years of Reading Research—1908-2008: From Edmund B. Huey to the Present." (There is homework for this session. Please read *The Psychology and Pedagogy of Reading*.)
6. There will be a Pre-conference meeting in which many of the authors from the next volume of the *Handbook of Reading Research* will deliver sessions on the contents and contexts of their respective chapters.

Finally, there will be ever so many other sessions at our conference. Across the week we will have sessions put together by your Area Chairs, paper sessions, roundtable sessions, alternative format sessions, and symposia (that's a big word for sessions). I bet you'll be doing a session! There will be so many opportunities to learn about the very best in research, theory, and practice from the past year.

So, in closing, from this lesson we have encountered the words *registration*, *reservation*, *dues*, and *sessions*. These are good words that should be part of your word-hoard. Do not forget, there will be a test on these words at 10:47 p.m. each evening during Vital Issues at the Branchwater Lounge in the Hyatt Regency. (For those of you who are old surfers, 10:47 p.m. translates to "Dude, I'm on my fifth beer Dude.") Of course, during Vital Issues, strictly in the spirit of literacy research, we will expand your linguistic horizons by teaching you several new words such as *margarita*, *Cuba libre*, and *mojito*.

It is quite clear that the guardians of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) would never ever accept our little lesson as being built on scientific research. Certainly this lesson should not be a model to follow for presentation or publication if you are on the tenure track. Still, it will hopefully get you on track to coming to Austin for the 57th Annual Meeting of the National Reading Conference. You'll have a great time! Trust your Uncle Norm...Dude (or Dudette).

Vice President's Report

Kathleen A. Hinchman
Syracuse University

What a beautiful fall we're having at my home in upstate New York! The leaves in the Adirondack Mountains are at peak right now—breathtaking, actually.

Even so, I had to tear myself away. At this very moment, I am sequestered in a windowless room in Milwaukee for our fall NRC Executive Board Meeting. Lest it sound dire, the discussion is collegial, enlightening, invigorating, and personally and professionally rewarding. Do consider similarly getting involved in NRC's leadership, through our review teams, innovative community groups, or committees, or by allowing yourself to be nominated for office.

My job also recently took me on visits to several lovely sites for our 2009 conference. The task is for the sturdy: perquisites abound, including nice hotel rooms, wonderful dinners, educational community tours, great seats at a Diamondbacks/Dodgers game, and a glorious sunrise hot air balloon ride alongside the Sandia Mountains.

Roughly 1,100 people now attend our conference annually. As a result, we are having difficulty finding potential host sites that are within our size and room rate range. Do attend the Business Meeting at this year's conference and let us know if you come across someplace that seems to fit our needs, and we will solicit a bid. As a reminder, we like to be in the south, in a city to which it is fairly easy to travel, have access to enough meeting space for our sessions, and have a hotel room rate that is reasonable for graduate students and assistant professors. Quaintness and availability of extracurricular activities are, of course, also welcome.

Of those cities that submitted bids, we selected Albuquerque, New Mexico for 2009. Our 2009 Conference Chair, David Reinking, and Executive Director, Nancy Short, will work with the Tourism Bureau, the Albuquerque Convention Center, and two hotels, the Hyatt and the Doubletree. We are initiating an experiment with this selection: this type of venue is new for us. If it works, it opens up a whole new set of cities for our annual meeting.

Why did we choose Albuquerque? Contrary to the rumors, it was not selected because I can sneak out the weekend before the conference for skiing—although I might just do that. Instead, note that Albuquerque is delightful year round. It is almost always sunny and 55-60 degrees in early December, and the city offers many indoor and outdoor adventures. We have been able to negotiate registration staff and concierge service during the day, and bus rides for one evening in Old Town, with its 200- and 300-year-old pueblos. Even better, the hotel rooms will be \$139 per night at both hotels, which are located across the street from the convention center. The airport is a 10-minute ride.

I also had the chance to apprentice with the venerable Norman A. Stahl in planning this year's conference in Austin. As usual, our Area Chairs and reviewers did an outstanding job. The sessions look engag-

ing and informative. I look forward to seeing everyone there, and to hearing your ideas for next year's conference.

Early Career Achievement Award Committee

Mark Dressman, Chair
University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign

NRC EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now being requested for the NRC Early Career Achievement Award for 2008. The Early Career Achievement Award is designed to recognize the newer members of the NRC community who have been actively involved in research, teaching, and service for approximately 3 to 7 years and who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and accomplishment.

Nominees for the NRC Early Career Achievement Award can be of any rank. However, nominees must: (1) be members of NRC (for at least three years, but not necessarily consecutively); (2) possess a terminal doctoral degree; and (3) have worked in the field for seven years or less from the conferral date of their degree to the posted deadline for this competition—that is, to have received their degree no earlier than mid-April of 2001.

Application for the Award is through nomination. 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 to NRC. The preferred format for this letter is electronic. Please send your nominating letter by e-mail to the Chair, Mark Dressman, at mdressma@uiuc.edu or, if this is not possible, by regular mail at the address in the signature below. The deadline for nomination for this year's competition is March 31, 2008.

Nominees for the Award will be contacted by the Chair and asked to submit: (1) a current curriculum vita, including affiliations, degrees, research honors and awards, publications, and service on editorial boards of research journals; (2) a statement delineating professional growth and research agenda; and (3) a letter of support from the candidate's current institution (e.g., teaching/research colleague, department chair). Members of the Committee will review all nominee materials and rank each candidate.

For further details regarding the selection process and regulations for the Award, please consult the NRC Policies and Procedures Handbook at <https://www.nrconline.org/information/2006PolicyandProcedures.pdf> or e-mail me directly at mdressma@uiuc.edu.

Thanks very much.

Mark Dressman
311 Education Building, MC 708
University of Illinois
1310 S. Sixth St.
Champaign, IL 61821

Ethics Innovative Community Group (ICG)

Cynthia B. Leung, Co-chair
University of South Florida St. Petersburg

Karen M. Feathers, Co-chair
Wayne State University

The Ethics ICG now has a LISTSERV. If you would like to be a member of the Ethics ICG and join the LISTSERV or if you are currently a member and would like to update your email address, please email Christopher Roper (NRC Headquarters) at c.roper@nrconline.org. The address of the discussion list is NRC_Ethics_ICG@nrconline.org.

Karen M. Feathers is chairing a session for the Ethics ICG at NRC 2007 in Austin. The session, titled "To Act or Not to Act: Ethical Behavior in the Highly Charged NCLB Culture," will be held on Friday, November 30 from 1:15 to 2:45 PM in Foothills I. In the highly charged culture of NCLB, many NRC members have been faced with dilemmas related to ethical behavior. The purpose of this alternative session is to provide a venue for participants to identify and discuss these ethical issues, share actions taken by various NRC members, and brainstorm other possible actions. There will be a panel discussion of ethical issues panel members have faced as literacy researchers, followed by small group discussions with participants led by panel members.

Panel members are:

Richard L. Allington, University of Tennessee at Knoxville
Kathy Champeau, Muskego-Norway School District, Waukesha, WI
Mark Conley, Michigan State University
Dorsey Hammond, Salisbury University
Peter Johnston, State University of New York at Albany

Please plan to attend this special session.

Victoria Purcell-Gates, Past President of NRC and acting for the NRC Board, has appointed five members to the Ethics Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee members are as follows:

Sheryl Dasinger, Valdosta State University
Pamela J. Dunston, Clemson University
Barbara J. Guzzetti, Arizona State University
Lois K. Haid, Barry University
Kay Stahl, New York University

The Ethics ICG will also be holding its business meeting at the 2007 NRC conference. The meeting will take place on Thursday, November 29, 2007 from 12:15 to 1:00 PM in Big Bend East. Come to the business meeting and share your ideas. Everyone is welcome.

Ethnicity, Race and Multilingualism Innovative Community Group (ICG)

Jennifer Danridge Turner, Co-chair
University of Maryland, College Park

Karla Möller, Co-chair
University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign

Ethnicity, Race and Multilingualism Committee Scholarship

In the interest of assisting NRC in becoming a more diverse organization, the Ethnicity, Race and Multilingualism Committee attempts to support and promote scholars from diverse ethnicity, racial, and language backgrounds. Scholars whose proposals are accepted for presentation at the annual conference can apply for monetary awards to help defray the costs of attending NRC. This year, the Committee will award several scholarships of \$300 each. Nominations should reach the Committee no later than October 26, 2007. Self-nominations are welcomed.

Email nominations with the scholar's curriculum vitae and accepted NRC 2007 proposal to:

Jennifer D. Turner at jdturner@umd.edu.

Scholarship Criteria

Scholarships will be awarded to doctoral students or assistant professors from under-represented ethnic, racial or linguistic backgrounds that show promise of scholarship in the literacy field. Preference will be given to scholars who are presenting their personal research. Scholarship nominations must include a curriculum vita and the accepted proposal for the 2007 NRC Annual Meeting. Due to time constraints, incomplete nomination packets will not be considered.

Invitation to Attend the 2007 Ethnicity, Race and Multilingualism Committee Meeting at NRC

We welcome everyone to the Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee meeting at the NRC 2007 Conference. Our meeting will be held on Thursday, November 29th at 7:25 a.m. At this meeting, we will discuss current and future initiatives for the Committee. Recipients of the Ethnicity, Race and Multilingualism scholarships will also be formally recognized at our meeting.

Field Council

Rachel Karchmer-Klein, Chair
University of Delaware

The NRC Field Council will host a luncheon for new NRC members at the annual conference in Austin on Wednesday, November 28th from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM in the Texas 1 room. 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!

International Innovative Community Group (ICG)

Sam Miller, Co-chair
University of North Carolina-Greensboro

Jiening Ruan, Co-chair
University of Oklahoma

The NRC International Committee is one of NRC's Innovative Community Groups (ICGs). We welcome anyone who is interested in cross-cultural or international research to attend its functions and to get placed on its membership list. Members from all countries, including the U.S., are encouraged to participate.

The International ICG also has funds to help international members pay for their travel to the conference. Preference is given to those members who are presenting papers. If you would like to apply for this assistance, please email Sam Miller (sdmille2@uncg.edu). You will need to apply before November 15th.

The committee will hold four major events during the annual conference:

- (1) a research symposium on Wednesday, November 28th from 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m., Padre Island;
- (2) the annual committee breakfast on Thursday, November 29th from 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. at the atrium of the Embassy Suites Hotel;
- (3) the committee meeting on Thursday, November 29th from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Big Bend D; and
- (4) a policy symposium on Friday, November 30th from 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m., Hill Country D.

Please consider joining the committee and participating in the four events during the conference. See you in Austin!

Oscar S. Causey Award Committee

David W. 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, Michael L. Kamil will present the 2007 Oscar S. Causey Address at this year's conference in Austin. The title of his presentation is "How to Get Recreational Reading to Increase Reading Achievement." Michael also will name the 2007 recipient of the Oscar S. Causey Award.

Any NRC member may enter a nominee 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 2008 award, please email a letter of nomination and the candidate's current vita by August 15, 2008 to Deborah Dillon (dillon@umn.edu).

Publications Committee

Shelley Hong Xu, Chair
California State University-Long Beach

The Editors of *JLR* and *NRC Yearbook* have been working diligently at reviewing and adjudicating submitted manuscripts, and at meeting publication schedules. They deserve a big thank-you from NRC members. Please express your appreciation for their hard, excellent work with the NRC publications when you see the Editors at the 2007 NRC annual meeting in Austin.

JLR Update

During the first nine months of their editorship, the *JLR* Editors (Douglas K. Hartman, Sally M. Reis, Mary Anne Doyle, Douglas K. Kaufman, Michael D. Coyne, Wendy J. Glenn, and Mileidis Gort) have rendered dispositions on 103 manuscripts, with 45 manuscripts in various stages of the review process (for a total of 148 manuscripts). The Editors have accepted nine manuscripts, which they are preparing for delivery to Taylor & Francis. These manuscripts will comprise Volume 40, Numbers 1 and 2. They also have two essay book reviews in preparation for Volume 40. The first review is on August and Shanahan's "Developing Literacy in Second-Language Learners: Report of the National Literacy Panel on Language-Minority Children and Youth." The second review examines the state of national reports related to adolescent literacy. The Editors have agreements with three translators to write abstracts for *JLR* articles in Chinese, Spanish, and French. Currently, there are 193 NRC members serving on the journal's Editorial Review Board. The Editors will host a breakfast at the NRC meeting in Austin, TX for the *JLR* Editorial Review Board on Friday, Nov. 30 from 7:25-8:25 a.m. in Hill Country D. All members of the Editorial Review Board are strongly encouraged to attend. The Editors will also have a "Writing for *JLR*" session at the NRC meeting in Austin, TX on Friday, Nov. 30 from 12-1 p.m. in Hill Country A.

NRC Yearbook Update

The *Yearbook* Editors (the lead Editors: Deborah Wells Rowe and Robert T. Jiménez; the collaborating Editors: Donald Compton, David Dickinson, Youb Kim, Kevin Leander, and Victoria Risko) reviewed almost 90 different manuscripts written by 222 authors, 24 of which have been selected to be included in the *56th Yearbook*. This *56th Yearbook* reflects a diverse range of works presented at the 2006 annual meeting, such as, preparing teachers for diversity, supporting

literacy learning experience of struggling students, preparing students to become fully literate in multiple literacies, and organizing and planning literacy instruction. As the Editors wrote in the Preface to the *Yearbook*, "For us, better thinking, better research designs, and better scholarship in general are the necessary ingredients for moving the field forward. We offer the 2007 *56th NRC Yearbook* as one contribution to that end." In addition to the 24 peer-reviewed pieces, the *Yearbook* also includes plenary and special session addresses from Victoria Purcell-Gates, P. David Pearson, Annemarie Sullivan Palincsar, and Antony T. Smith. The *Yearbook* concludes with an Introduction to the 2006 Program, written by Patricia A. Edwards, the Program Chair, and the 2006 Program with a list of all presentations at the 2006 annual meeting. The NRC members will receive the *56th Yearbook* prior to the Austin annual meeting. Hooray! Finally, the Editors wish to extend their thanks to 120 reviewers of the *56th Yearbook* for their thoughtful and helpful feedback on the submitted manuscripts.

NRC Publications Committee

The NRC Publications Committee consists of the following members: Kelly Chandler-Olcott, Julie Coiro, Douglas K. Hartman, Nancy Padak, and Kimberly Wolbers. We meet at each annual meeting. Please contact one of us if you have ideas or suggestions related to the NRC publications, and we will bring them to our meeting for consideration. The email addresses of the Publications Committee members are listed on the NRC website under Publications Committee.

Technology Committee

Mariam Jean Dreher
University of Maryland, College Park

The Technology Committee and the members of the Technology Innovative Community Group (ICG) have been working to identify technology-relevant speakers for future NRC meetings. We recently forwarded names for consideration for the 2008 meeting. However, we are still seeking ideas and would welcome your thoughts. If you have suggestions for researchers with different perspectives than we may normally get on issues related to technology but who may not normally attend NRC, please let me know via email at mjdreher@umd.edu.

We have also established a LISTSERV for discussing technology committee issues. This list is open to all interested members. At present, approximately 20 people are part of this LISTSERV. If you would like to be added to the list, please send me an email at the address listed above.

All interested members are welcome to attend the Technology Committee meeting in Austin on Thursday, November 29th from 12-1 p.m. in the Big Bend C room. See you there!