

NEWSLETTER

Jacqueline Lynch, Editor
Fall 2009

President's Report

Kathleen Hinchman
Syracuse University

It is fall in Upstate New York, and the smell of apples and falling leaves fills the air. These signs are my annual reminder that it's time to clear my calendar to finish drafting my National Reading Conference, now Literacy Research Association, papers. It's good that such reminders are in the air because the start of the fall semester always somehow comes as such a surprise to me, accompanied as it is by Specialized Professional Associations (SPA) reports, readjusted school-university collaborations, staffing changes, job searches, grant work, and revisions of syllabi and class plans. This year I didn't really need a reminder about my Literacy Research Association (LRA) obligations, though I confess that signs of fall are intensifying my focus in new ways. I look forward to the end of this fall semester, when the preceding obligations will fade and I'll get a chance to see my friends at the Albuquerque Convention Center in early December.

My year as President has been humbling, just as Past President Norm Stahl warned me it would be. Everyone I have spoken with—and I mean everyone—has offered help. This includes folks who've been my heroes since before I was in graduate school, new friends never before met, and individuals whose work I've admired from afar. Especially inspiring have been the doctoral students and assistant professors, relatively new members of the profession, who offer service in nascent recognition of the personal and professional nourishment to be derived by engaging with our group. Please, all, keep your dues current and volunteer when opportunities arise so that you are eligible for appointment or election to the work that makes this organization so special.

I extend my thanks to all of you who've made this year so inspiring for me, beginning with our standing committees, Innovative Community Groups (ICGs), and newsletter and e-editors, whose many activities you will note throughout this newsletter. The name change should be fully rolled out by next year's conference thanks to the hard work of Christopher Roper, our Executive Director, the Ad Hoc Name Change Implementation Committee [Lee Gunderson, Laurie Henry, David Lund, Ellen McIntyre, Heidi Mesmer, Thomas Wolsey, Patricia Anders (Committee Chair), and Janice Almasi (Board Liaison)], and the Ad Hoc Logo Design Committee [Thomas Wolsey, Doris Walker-Dalhouse, Laurie Henry (Committee Chair), and Marjorie Siegel (Board Liaison)].

Also, the Ad Hoc Committee on Open Access to Online Research [Richard Beach, Trika Smith-Burke, Peter Johnston, Debbie East, Jamie Caldwell, and David Reinking (Committee Chair)] continues to monitor the rapidly evolving issues associated with online access to literacy scholarship for us, and the Ad Hoc Financial Oversight Committee [Susan L'Allier (Treasurer), Janice Almasi (Board Liaison), and Don Leu (Committee Chair)] is studying the advisability of organizing a permanent administrative committee to monitor our finances in collaboration with the Treasurer.

I need to send special thanks to the Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee, chaired by Jennifer Turner, for its work in gaining approval from our Board of Directors for the Scholars of Color Transitioning into Academic Research Institutions (STAR) Mentoring Program. This initiative will be central to our organization's success in upcoming years.

I do hope you can join me at this fall's conference in New Mexico. From Wednesday morning to Saturday lunch, David Reinking and Patricia Anders have put together an outstanding program of scholarly presentations, thought-provoking discussions, and a unique menu of extra-curricular activities. I especially hope to see you at the President's Reception on Wednesday evening so that I can thank you for your support during the past year.

President-Elect's Report

David Reinking
Clemson University

What is New About the Conference This Year?


I hope you are all looking forward to the annual conference, which, by the time you receive this newsletter, will be soon upon us. This year will be NRC's first visit to Albuquerque, a city that has extended a particularly warm welcome to NRC. I encourage you to attend the entire conference, which will increase your opportunities to enjoy Albuquerque and the Southwest's rich cultural tradition, experience its charm, and sample some of its inviting options for entertainment. Toward that end, I encourage you to go to the conference Web site for more information. Note particularly the tempting options described there for those who can stay over Saturday night after the conference (perhaps made more affordable by a cheaper airfare).



But, our main focus is on the stimulating and professional enriching events of the conference itself. With that in mind and as this year's conference chair, I will take this opportunity to share some of the new


features of this year's conference that are all grounded in members' feedback and input from NRC's Board of Directors.


New Emphases and Structural Changes


Explicit emphasis on the conference theme (*Literacy*


Research Past, Present, and Future: Multiple Paths to a Better World). For example, those who submitted proposals for papers or sessions were encouraged to connect their topics to the theme. Titles of papers and sessions that connect explicitly to the conference theme are highlighted in the program with a small icon of a globe .


 **Area chair awards.** Each team of area chairs (of the 12 topical areas to which proposals were submitted) managing the review of proposals selected a paper or symposium that was particularly important and that received uniformly supportive reviews in their area. The papers and symposia receiving one of these Area Chair Awards are identified in the program with this .

 **The conference venue.** Not only is this the first year the annual conference has been held in Albuquerque, it is the first year it is being held in a convention center with two conference hotels. That arrangement opens up the possibility of many new conference venues in the future, including cities that are attractive, less expensive, and more accommodating of our needs, but that do not have a single hotel large enough for our group.


 **Suggested readings for the invited plenary sessions.** Readings will be distributed electronically prior to the conference to familiarize attendees with the perspectives of the two invited plenary speakers: Gloria Ladson-Billings, University of Wisconsin, and Charles Payne, University of Chicago.

 **All paper sessions will have discussants.** After proposals for papers are accepted each year, area chairs create paper sessions by grouping papers in threes around a common theme. This year, in addition, they recommended a discussant for each paper session. Thus, authors presenting at paper sessions will also be expected this year to send papers to their session's discussant three weeks before the conference. The time in paper sessions has been apportioned to accommodate three papers and reaction from a discussant.


 **Fewer area chair sessions.** In previous years, the chairs of each of the 12 topical areas to which proposals are submitted were invited to sponsor a session of interest to their area. A small amount of funding was budgeted to facilitate each of these sessions. Beginning this year, even-numbered areas may do so in even years and odd-numbered areas in odd years, consequently with a doubling of the available funding for each year. This change is motivated in part by efforts to limit the number of sessions that do not go through the standard peer-review process, which will accommodate the steady increase in proposal submissions (a record of 739 this year). So, if your interests are centered in an even-numbered area, your area will not be represented with a special session this year, but maybe next year.


 **Papers for all presentations.** In their acceptance letters, presenters were reminded of their obligation to make available to attendees a paper or, at minimum, a 750 word précis reporting


the substance of their presentation. Attendees should expect presenters to distribute a hard copy or to provide explicit information about where to obtain a digital copy of their papers. Papers can be distributed as hard copy and/or in digital form, preferably posted on the NRC Web site. This stipulation may not apply to all alternative sessions.


 **Expanded role of session chairs.** Session chairs will collect and submit a session report including whether presenters made papers available, and whether discussants received papers in advance. Attendees who have feedback about a session should offer it to session chairs either in person or by filling out a form provided for that purpose in each meeting room.


New Events and Activities

 **The annual town meeting.** Based on feedback from members responding to a posting on the NRC listserv, the Town Meeting will be continued, but it will be more structured with an introduction explaining its background and purpose, in part to accommodate newer members and voices.

 **Luncheon with distinguished scholars.** Members are invited to register in advance to have a small-group discussion at a Saturday luncheon with one of nine distinguished scholars. We hope that this may become an annual event with a new group of scholars in each of subsequent years. See the conference section of the NRC Web site for more information.

 **Saturday debate.** The plenary session on Saturday has traditionally been a presentation by an NRC scholar who reviews an area of research. This year two teams of senior NRC scholars will debate a resolution pertaining to the role of research in providing explicit guidance for practitioners and policy makers. The audience will vote on aspects of the debate using electronic devices.

 **STAR brown bag luncheon.** With approval of the Board of Directors, NRC is supporting financially, a major systematic mentoring program for scholars of color proposed and coordinated by the Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingual Committee. The name of that program is Scholars of Color Transitioning into Academic Research Institutions (STAR) Mentoring Program. One of the components of that program is a brown bag luncheon to initiate informal discussions about issues facing graduate students and junior faculty of color. All attendees are invited to attend this event on Thursday. This luncheon is also intended to be an opportunity for graduate students to network and to discuss issues of common interest.

 **Free Internet communication.** The Albuquerque Convention Center public areas have free wireless access to the Internet. The NRC Cyber Café will also be available as usual. Because of this broader access, daily NRC emails will be sent to members with announcements and updates.

Past-President's Report

Norman Stahl, Past President (2008-2009)
Northern Illinois University

Transitions

As I grow older I find transitions and rites of passage to be ever so interesting events in people's lives. There are certainly transitions of a developmental nature that we all go through. Indeed, there are scholars who believe that the stages are at least somewhat predetermined. And, it's true that while there were numerous times I have wondered if I ever crossed over into maturity (and more than a few of you may have wondered the same thing), I now totally believe in stage theory.

Recently my institution's President announced to my wife and the new Superintendent of Schools that I was grumpy. Brilliant, but grumpy. Yep, I skipped right from immaturity to being a grumpy old man. You know it must be true; have you ever known a university President to be wrong about anything?

At first when I heard that such was said, I was taken aback just a little bit. Then I came to realize our President was simply a great judge of character. He is correct. I have crossed over to the grumpy old man stage of life. In fact, I'm thinking about buying one of those metal detectors in the Radio Shack catalog so I can go looking for the quarters you dropped at the last Black-Eyed Peas concert.

So if we have stages of development in life, do we have stages that we go through as we progress in our professional lives? Truth is that we do. Our time in the professoriate is replete with transition points, and thank God for that process. Don't you simply pity the person who peaked as a graduate assistant? I mean, mowing your lead professor's lawn should not be the high point of a career in pedagogy ... not that I would ever know anything about such.

So it's true. We live with the various steps and stages within the professoriate much like the Boy Scout who earns merit badges to reach higher ranks along the way to becoming an Eagle Scout. In a sense, the only difference is that Boy Scouts have to wear those strangely cut shorts that show off one's boney knees and skinny white legs, something we never have to see at an NRC meeting, ... although there was that one time in the hot tub at the Don Cesar The point is that much like the young man who is on the track to becoming an Eagle Scout, we in the professoriate seem to need to reach new transition points. We need the reification that comes with moving beyond the graduate assistantship and the student/candidate stage to being an assistant professor. And then, almost as soon as one achieves that stage, we are on the wild, if not terrifying upward trail, to tenure and promotion and to the rank of associate professor. For some individuals this post tenure plateau holds its own rewards. There is little reason to climb forward to the summit for the rank of professor, if not into the stratosphere as a Regents Uber Professor of Almost Everything.

The long journey is a lonely one. We always thank our spouse/partner for his/her support or understanding on the dedication page of our first book, but the truth is the individual really doesn't have a clue as to

what is going on. We are lucky if the individual simply understands that the professoriate is like a drug and each transition point is a new high. Successful marriages/partnerships are dependent upon spouses/partners joining Professors Obnoxious so as to develop coping strategies. My wife simply rolls her eyes and asks, "What do they put in the water out on campus?" Truth is, I don't know, but we are of a different breed.

Within our institutions there are generally procedures and policies designed to serve as a road map in moving through the steps and stages of the professoriate, and hopefully there are faculty colleagues to help us through each transition point. Still, as Anthony Petrosky said to me when I was a new doctoral student (he was a wise second-year assistant professor), "Grasshopper, in the years ahead you will have many friends in the professoriate from all over the country, yet there will be few at the institution where you work."

Tony was right. There is virtually nowhere a professor can go in the nation where there is not a colleague, if not a friend. So where do we make these contacts? Where do we find those individuals who are there for us at the various stages of our careers? The answer is simple. It is through our professional organizations. (Sorry new literacies people, the answer is NOT Twitter, and it never will be.)

Our professional organizations (and there are more than a few in the literacy world) provide us a safe harbor where camaraderie can be found. It is at our professional conferences, such as the NRC annual meeting (both face-to-face and virtual), where ideas for new theories and research get scrawled down on the back of a paper napkin after hours of spirited and even heated debate. It is where we learn that our personal idea of what might be cutting edge is not always everybody else's idea of the cutting edge. It is where each individual meets members of an academic generation who too are going through the same transitions at the same time with the same successes, and yes, they have same degrees of angst.

While one would not call a group of assistant professors from across the country one's posse (I certainly hope not), there is something really special about such peer groups. In a sense these might be the underlying foundation of the professoriate. It is these units of the invisible college that truly lead to both academic scholarship and personal/professional fulfillment. Further, they are there for you in each stage of your career.

In the years ahead these groups may evolve from the depths of the techno world. Still, in 2009, and I certainly hope throughout the rest of my career, the academic home for each of us is a professional organization, and there is truly no better professional organization than NRC. Such being true (and I would never lie to you), you each have a responsibility ... an important responsibility.

Years ago when I made Eagle Scout, after my mother pinned the medal on my chest and whispered in my ear that I should probably not wear shorts that showed off by boney knees, the scoutmaster said something I will never forget. He stated that if something has given much to you in your life, you have the onus of giving back twice as much to that entity in the years ahead so that others might receive

the same benefits. Now in my own transition, as my time in a senior leadership role of our NRC comes to an end, such is the charge I give to each of you. Your NRC has done much for you over the years and will do even more in the years to come. You must pledge to give twice as much back to NRC as it has given or will give to you. Step forward when tapped on the shoulder. Mentor a new NRC colleague. Do the little things like paying your dues in a timely manner.

NRC does what it does for so many because of the people who make up the membership ... in other words the successes of NRC are because of generations of scholars who have cared about the next generation. NRC will be there for you as you go through each stage of your career, but you have to be there for NRC now and in the years to come.

Vice-President's Report

Patricia Anders
University of Arizona

Jacksonville, Here We Come!

Jacksonville, Florida, has submitted a very exciting and competitive bid to hold our 2011 NRC/LRA meeting. Robert Jiménez, Chris Roper and I visited Jacksonville and are all very excited that this is the perfect venue for our conference.

In addition to Jacksonville, other sites were considered. These included Atlanta, Miami, and Orlando. Chris, our Executive Director, solicited proposals from throughout the Southeast. President-Elect David Reinking and others visited Atlanta with Chris and Vice-President Elect Robert Jiménez and I (as Vice President) visited Florida. All the sites were appropriate, but the Hyatt in Jacksonville was the most competitive.

Here are some details about this enticing area:

The Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront is located in the heart of downtown Jacksonville and is situated next to the Jacksonville Landing, which is a retail/restaurant complex with several night clubs. The hotel also is located along the Jacksonville Riverwalk that runs parallel to the historic and busy St. Johns River. Ferries run continuously on the river, providing access to several terrific restaurants and areas of interest.

Vice-President Elect Robert Jiménez and I were particularly impressed with Jacksonville's history. The Timucua (indigenous inhabitants, numbering about 150,000 at their peak) lived near present day Jacksonville, when Ponce de Leon "discovered" Northeast Florida in 1513. The area was held by Spaniards and the French with nearby St. Augustine settled by the Spanish in 1702. Ultimately, in 1740, the English battled the Spanish for the area in a battle known as the "War of Jenkins' Ear."

Today, Jacksonville is a vibrant beautiful city. In addition to a huge network of urban parkland, the extraordinarily fine athletic facilities and the beautiful bridges over the St. Johns River makes it an inviting site for NRC/LRA.

One final point, we were also impressed by the Mayor's commitment to literacy. He visited us for breakfast while we were there and told us about his program for promoting the literacy development of children and youth.

All in all, we recommend the 2011 conference to you. Oh yes, did we mention that they met all our concessions (for example, free internet access in our rooms and plenty of perfect meeting space), all at \$119 per room. Amazing! See you in Jacksonville in 2011.

Ethics Innovative Community Group (ICG)

Karen Feathers, Co-chair
Wayne State University

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

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

Members of the Ethics ICG have put together an alternative session for NRC 2009 titled "Ethical Issues in Conducting Literacy Research in School and Out-of-School Settings." Cynthia Leung, co-chair of the ICG, will chair the session on Wednesday, Dec. 2 from 1:15-2:45 p.m. in the Cochiti Room. This session is designed for NRC members who would like to explore ethical issues related to the varied settings and for participants of literacy research, whether studying classroom learning, home literacy, literacy in university settings, or new literacies in community settings. While basic ethical guidelines apply to all literacy research, each of these naturalistic settings can pose particular ethical issues or dilemmas for the researcher.

Eight panelists will begin the discussion by briefly describing ethical issues encountered in different research settings.

Panelists are:

Carole Rhodes, Queens College, City University of New York
 Nancy Knapp, University of Georgia
 Barbara Guzzetti, Arizona State University
 Cynthia Leung, University of South Florida St. Petersburg
 Mona Matthews, Georgia State University
 Barbara Laster, Towson University
 Janet Richards, University of South Florida
 Kelly Cartwright, Christopher Newport University

Session participants will then break into four discussion groups. Each group will be facilitated by two panel members and will focus on ethical issues related to conducting research in one of four areas: 1) with students and teachers in school settings; 2) with children, teens, and families in out-of-school settings (homes and community venues); 3) with children and young adults in university instructional settings (lab

schools, child development centers, reading clinics, etc); and 4) with university students in university and school settings. Groups will discuss issues brought up by the panelists and other group members.

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

The Ethics ICG committee meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 3 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Taos Room. At the meeting we will elect a new chair or co-chairs of the Ethics ICG. If you would like to nominate someone, including yourself, for the position, please email Cynthia Leung at cleung@mail.usf.edu. Also, at the meeting, members of the Ethics ICG will plan an alternative session for NRC/LRA 2010 on ethics related to literacy research. All NRC members are welcome to attend the meeting.

Ethnicity, Race and Multilingualism Committee

Jennifer D. Turner, Chair
University of Maryland, College Park

Congratulations to the Inaugural Cohort of the STAR Mentoring Program!

I would like to congratulate the inaugural cohort of the STAR Mentoring Program. We are so excited to have such a fine group of new and experienced scholars launching this program. The inaugural cohort is comprised of four new scholars and their mentors:

Grace Enriquez (Lesley University): Grace's interests in literacy research involve the intersection of literacy education and identity, with related interest in the area of critical literacy. She is curious about how the diverse subjectivities, funds of knowledge, and lived experiences that students' bring to the classroom impact literacy learning. She will be mentored by **María Fránquiz**, Associate Professor in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Texas at Austin.

Ying Guo (The Ohio State University): Ying's research focuses on emergent literacy skills, including specific areas as intervention, curriculum and assessment, teacher development and expertise in literacy instruction, and children's development of language and literacy skills. It includes a diversity of children, such as children with primary language impairment (LI), English language learners, and children who speak English as a first language and do not have LI. She will be mentored by **Lee Gunderson**, Professor of Language and Literacy at the University of British Columbia.

Marcelle Haddix (Syracuse University): Marcelle's research centers on two strands. The first involves a qualitative inquiry into effective practices for teaching academic writing to African American adolescent males. The second strand involves young Black mothers and their adolescent daughters in a community literacy project that centers on reading and writing about literature written by and about African American women. She will be mentored by **Mark Conley**, Profes-

sor of Instruction, Curriculum, and Leadership at the University of Memphis.

Jeannette Mancilla-Martinez (University of Illinois at Chicago): Jeannette's research focuses on language and literacy development among 'at-risk' populations, including language minority learners, immigrant children, and children who struggle with reading in urban settings across different developmental periods. She will be mentored by **Eliane Rubinstein-Ávila**, Associate Professor in Language, Reading, and Culture at Arizona State University.

The STAR Fellows and their mentors will be participating in a Pre-Conference Retreat on Dec. 1, 2009. Please look for additional updates about the STAR Mentoring program in future NRC/LRA newsletters.

Ethnicity, Race and Multilingualism Committee Scholarship Competition 2009

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. Nominations should reach the Committee no later than Oct. 26, 2009. Self-nominations are welcomed. Email nominations with the scholar's curriculum vita, accepted NRC 2009 proposal, and confirmation of the accepted proposal to: Jennifer D. Turner at jdturner@umd.edu.

Scholarship Criteria

Scholarships will be awarded to doctoral students or assistant professors from underrepresented ethnic, racial or linguistic backgrounds that show promise of scholarship in the literacy field. Preference will be given to scholars who are presenting their personal research. Scholarship nominations must include a curriculum vita, the accepted proposal for the 2009 NRC Annual Meeting, and the confirmation of the accepted proposal. Due to time constraints, incomplete nomination packets will not be considered. If you have received the scholarship in the past two years, you are not eligible for this award.

Invitation to Attend the 2009 Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee Meeting at NRC

Please attend the Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee meeting at the NRC 2009 Conference. Our meeting will be held on Friday, Dec. 4 at 7:25 a.m. in the Tesuque room. Recipients of the Ethnicity, Race and Multilingualism scholarships will also be formally recognized at our meeting.

International Innovative Community Group (ICG)

Kristen Perry, Co-chair
University of Kentucky

Jiening Ruan, Co-chair
University of Oklahoma

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

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

Applicants must:

- 📖 have a presentation at the conference;
- 📖 live outside of the U.S.A.;
- 📖 submit an application to become a committee member (free membership); and
- 📖 submit an application for the grant.

Applications for committee membership and for the travel grants may be made via email; there is no application form. In addition, application for membership and for travel grants may be made in the same email. All applications should be submitted to Jiening Ruan at jruan@ou.edu or Kristen Perry at kristen.perry@uky.edu by Oct. 25, 2009. Applicants will be notified shortly after this date, following approval of the ICG's steering committee.

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

1. a research symposium of international research in literacy, to be held on Wednesday, Dec. 2 from 8:30-10 a.m. in the Tesuque room;
2. an annual social gathering for breakfast on Thursday, Dec. 3 at the Hyatt Regency; and
3. the annual committee meeting on Thursday, Dec. 3 during lunch (noon-1 p.m.) in the Laguna room.

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

Oscar Causey Award Committee

Deborah Dillon, Chair
University of Minnesota

The Oscar S. Causey Award is given each year for outstanding contributions to reading research. The 2008 recipient of the Oscar S. Causey Award, announced at last year's conference, is Dr. Taffy Raphael from the University of Illinois, Chicago. She will present her address at this year's conference. I hope you will join us to hear Taffy's presentation and to also find out the 2009 Causey Award recipient.

Here is the information about the presentation on Thursday, Dec. 3 from 10:15-11:45 a.m. in Ballrooms A & B:

- Oscar S. Causey Address: Patricia Anders, University of Arizona
- Oscar S. Causey Award Introduction: Deborah R. Dillon, University of Minnesota
- Oscar S. Causey Award Presentation for the 2009 Awardee: Taffy E. Raphael, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Introduction of the Speaker: Diane Barone, University of Nevada, Reno
- 2009 Oscar S. Causey Address - "Defying Gravity: Whole School Literacy Reform in Urban Schools": Taffy E. Raphael, University of Illinois at Chicago

Our committee will be meeting at NRC and working throughout the year to determine the 2010 Oscar Causey Award winner. Please consider nominating a colleague. Any NRC member may nominate an individual for this prestigious award. When assessing nominees, Causey Award committee members address five criteria:

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

If you wish to nominate a candidate for the 2010 award, please email: (1) a letter of nomination, and (2) a current and complete/full version of the candidate's vita. The letter of nomination should be detailed and address the candidate's qualifications using the criteria listed above. The vita should not be an abbreviated version or a compilation of newer activities. A full version of the vita is necessary because the award is based on the nominee's scholarship—in its entirety—over the career span.

The deadline for nominations for the 2010 Causey Award is Aug. 15, 2010, but the committee urges you to prepare the materials before summer when faculty members may not be on campus to secure the materials you need for the nomination. Please email all materials to: Deborah R. Dillon at dillon@umn.edu.

Publications Committee

Shelley Xu, Chair
California State University, Long Beach

JLR

We would like to welcome the new *JLR* Editors, Nell K. Duke and Laura Apol, as well as new Co-Lead Editor, Susan Florio-Ruane.

Several new changes are in the works for *JLR*:

📖 transition to a web-based submission and review process (pending discussion and approval by the NRC Board), and

📖 addition of article abstracts in Arabic, Japanese, and German.

Nearly 30 new manuscripts have been submitted to *JLR* since June 2009. Issue 41(4) will include two essay book reviews and one research report. Issue 42(1) will include four research reports on Reading First.

In Albuquerque, NRC and *JLR* are hosting an event on Friday, Dec. 4. In the morning, at 7:25 a.m., there is a breakfast meeting for the *JLR* Editorial Review Board in the Picuris room. At lunchtime the *Yearbook* and *JLR* editorial teams will conduct a session on "Writing for NRC Publications" from noon-1:00 p.m. in the Mesilla room.

Yearbook

Update from the NRC *Yearbook* Editors (Kevin Leander and Deborah Rowe for the Vanderbilt Editorial Team):

We are pleased to announce the forthcoming 58th *Yearbook of the National Reading Conference* (soon to be Literacy Research Association), which we anticipate will be available and distributed by the annual meeting in early December. This year, 103 manuscripts were submitted to the *Yearbook*. Following thorough review by the editorial team at Vanderbilt University and 119 members of our Editorial Review Board, 21 manuscripts were selected for publication, which will be accompanied by manuscripts from major awards and addresses. Published papers traverse a rich terrain of themes, including "Early Literacies," "Teaching Literacies," "Digital Literacies," "Research Literacies," "Diverse Literacies," and "Multimodal Literacies."

A Friendly Reminder:

Applications for NRC *Yearbook* Lead Editor(s) are due to Publications Committee Chair, Shelley Xu (hxu@csulb.edu), no later than Oct. 20, 2009.

Technology Committee

Mariam Jean Dreher, Chair
University of Maryland, College Park

All interested NRC members are welcome to attend the Technology Committee meeting in Albuquerque on Thursday, Dec. 3 from noon-1 p.m. in the Acoma room.

David Lund, who will be taking over as Technology Committee chair after the annual meeting, will be there too so that our committee makes a smooth transition. Please attend and make your technology concerns known.

The Technology Committee is happy to report that at its May 2009 meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously approved a motion to post conference plenary addresses on the NRC Web site no later than Jan. 31 after each conference. Shortly after the board approved this request, the 2008 plenary addresses were posted. Currently, plenary addresses from the 2005 through 2008 are available on the Web site.

At the Board's request, the Technology Committee formulated a policy this summer for the e-editors (i.e., function, term limits, selection, etc.), and forwarded our recommendations to the Board. The Board recognized that the role of e-editors has evolved over the years. Hence, the need for our recommendations on policy.

Currently, one of our big concerns is to modify the NRC Web site to reflect our new name once the change is official. Mark Condon, one of our e-editors, has done a thorough job of evaluating our current Web site. Headquarters and the Executive Committee have this evaluation, and Mark's suggestions should do much to make the Web site friendlier. Once our name change is in effect, other changes can be made.

Committee chairs should note that Mark's report covered only main pages of the Web site. We encourage committee chairs to look at their respective portions of the Web site to make sure all information is current and that all links are functional.