

## NRC President's Report

**Peter Mosenthal**  
Syracuse University  
Syracuse, NY

Dear NRC Colleagues,

In recently perusing the *New Yorker* magazine, I came across yet another version of the "lost in the desert" cartoon. The cartoon shows a horizon with a blistering sun. Footprints extend from the horizon, across the scorching sand, to the man on his knees looking up at a sign. His face, drenched with sweat, looks upward in anticipation of hope and salvation. The sign has an arrow pointing down at the man. Above the arrow are the words, "You are here."

I'm not sure why this cartoon has appeared in so many forms in so many magazines over the years. Perhaps it belies the human universal principle that we can't simply live in the "here and now" and have full understanding of ourselves. Rather, as deictic creatures, we always need to understand our "here and now" in reference to some other "there and then."

Indeed, it would be a simple life if our "here and now" and "there and then" were just constants in our life. The fact, however, is that, at any point in time, one or the other (or both) is in flux. Satchel Paige, in his quiet wisdom, noted this when he observed, "I don't know how old I am because the goat ate the Bible that had my birth certificate in it. The goat lived to be twenty-seven." And then again, George Burns shrewdly observed, "If you live to the age of a hundred, you have it made because very few people die past the age of a hundred."

Just as the "here and now" and the "there and then" constantly change for individuals, they also change for

organizations. Unfortunately, NRC is not immune from this. Change over its past 50 plus years has been the rule rather than the exception: The organization has gone from a regional to a national to an international enterprise; its research emphasis has shifted from reading to literacy to multiple literacies; its program categories have moved from print to technology to multimedia; its membership has diversified in terms of race, gender, and ethnicity; its scope has broadened from preschool to adult; it celebrates the distinguished while encouraging the new; it acknowledges not just the research of university professors but the research of all who endeavor to enhance people's lives through improved literacy practices; it has gone from focusing on one second of reading to reading and writing life autobiographies; it has moved from focusing research on college psychology students to investigating literacy of readers and writers from all cultural corners of the world; programatically, it has greatly expanded its repertoire of paper formats and submission categories; and it has placed heavier and heavier demands on its Executive Board, its Committees, and its organizational headquarters.

In short, the "here and now" of NRC doesn't remain "here and now" for very long; it is constantly being transformed into a myriad of "there and then's" which, just as they are starting to stabilize into a "here and now," they then go permutating off into some other "there and then." It's not so different from a by-stander in a marathon race who is carrying the sign, "You are here." The by-stander begins by pointing the sign at the runner and then the gun goes off. The poor by-stander has to run the entire race with the runner to keep the sign pointed at her. Not until the race is finished is the by-stander able to relax finally for a moment, pointing

his "you-are-here sign" at the marathon runner (who then gets in her car and drives off!). Indeed, it takes a great deal of energy to keep the "here and now's" abreast of the "there and then's." (This claim, however, has been partially refuted by Joel Hildebrand who has argued [based on rather limited data]: "Very few people do anything creative after the age of thirty-five. The reason is that very few people do anything creative before the age of thirty-five." Then again, Lily Tomlin supports this claim with the observation, "No matter how cynical you get, it is impossible to keep up.")

To deal with the ever-changing nature of the "here and now's" and "there and then's," societies and organizations have always tried to establish "codes of conduct." There was Hammurabi who had his code; Moses had his commandments; Hippocrates had his oath; King John of England had his Magna Carta; and Americans have their Constitution. Then again, NRC has its By-Laws and Policy and Procedures Handbook. Unfortunately, at this point, just as Hammurabi's Code is outdated, so are NRC By-Laws. Perhaps a good metaphor for our By-Laws is that they are a fragmented disk: The disk is so badly fragmented that it is difficult to add new information. This, in turn, impedes the operation of the organization as it attempts to cope with the "here and now" and plan for the "there and then."

In sum, the purpose of the By-Laws is to define the mission of the organization, the administrative structure of the organization, and the general conditions by which the administrative structure is required to dispatch its duties. While this should be the case, the By-Laws currently contain huge fragmentations that focus on Award and Standing Committees and their procedures that are not truly

part of NRC core administrative structure. The core operating information needs to be culled and the information for Committee operations needs to be significantly updated (as the nature of many of these Committees changes) and moved to the Policy and Procedures Handbook that accompanies the By-Laws. Placed here, annual updates to the organization's operating procedures could easily be made and accommodated. On the other hand, in the words of Tyrone Milford, "Let By-Laws lie."

As this Newsletter goes to press, the NRC Board will have received revisions of the By-Laws (which will also be posted on the NRC website). These revisions do not change the core description of NRC's mission, its administrative structure, or the operating procedures of its administrative structure. They do, however, make these points much clearer by organizing them with their respective headings. Fragmented descriptions of Award Committees and Standing Committees have been taken out and placed in the Policy and Procedures Handbook, which is currently being updated to reflect sanctioned changes in many of these Committees' operating procedures (but have never been formally recorded).

While the changes to the By-Laws are essentially organizational, they are extensive. Given the need to move these changes forward, the NRC Board, along with Committee Chairs, are asking you, as voting members of NRC, to give the Board permission to vote on these changes and bring them to fruition in a timely fashion. Currently, as is stated in the By-Laws, such changes can only be brought about by a vote from the

NRC membership. It is not the intent of the Board or the Committee Chairs to pre-empt the organization from collectively deciding on critical issues (The By-Laws will not be changed in any way that would deny By-Law changes to be made by the general body of the organization). However, the Board and Committee Chairs acknowledge the need to have the option built into the By-Laws that, under extreme measures (such as the current need for substantial revision of the By-Laws), that they can make critical and timely decisions based on consultation with the general voting membership of the organization.

Unlike the person lost in the desert in the *New Yorker* cartoon, NRC is economically and intellectually vital. However, many of the critical points of its organizational structure and procedures are not comprehensible as they remain poorly articulated or are scattered within and between the By-Laws and Policies and Procedures Handbook. While economics and intellect will certainly guide NRC in progressing from the "here and now" to the "there and then," the organization needs some significant tuning in terms of its own organizational specification. By allowing the NRC Board to make By-Law changes, you enable NRC to get back to its full operating speed.

In closing, I'm reminded of Lord Falkland's comment that "When it is not necessary to make a decision, it is necessary not to make a decision." In contrast, at this point in NRC's history, now is a time for decision. It is time to re-establish NRC's operating system so its new programs can run more effectively. I appreciate whatever support you can give to making this decision a wise one.

I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio. Until then, best wishes for an enjoyable fall semester.

Peter Mosenthal  
NRC President

## **NRC President-Elect's Report: NRC 2001 Conference Program Review**

**Deborah Dillon  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, MN**

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Greetings everyone! As I write to you (June 18, 2001) I am surrounded by moving boxes filled with books, teaching files, research data, clothes, pots and pans, children's toys—you name it—as I prepare to move from Purdue University to my new academic home, the University of Minnesota. At the same time Lee Gunderson, Judi Burnison and Crissy Coit (at NRC Headquarters), and I have been busy finalizing the conference program. Letters notifying individuals as to whether their papers were accepted or rejected will be sent out this week and the conference program is set to go to the printers early next week.

With the outstanding work of 14 Area Chairs and assistants, we have adjudicated a huge number of quality proposals submitted for the 2001 conference. At this time I want to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the following individuals: Kerry Hoffman and Michele Pittard at Purdue University, Heriberto Godina and Carmen Maria Martinez-Roldan at the University of Iowa, Patricia Schmidt at LeMoyne College, Jodi Patrick Holschuh at the University of Georgia, Beth Berghoff and Mitzi Lewison at Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis and Indiana University respectively, Elizabeth Moje and LeeAnn Sutherland at the University of Michigan, Tom Bean and Lisa Stevens at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Willam Rupley at Texas

## **NRC Listserv**

Anyone wishing to join NRC email should contact Barbara Guzzetti at: [guzzetti@asu.edu](mailto:guzzetti@asu.edu)

A&M University, William Dee Nichols at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, Kelly Chandler-Olcott at Syracuse University, Pamela Ross and Marva Cappello at San Diego State University, Eurydice Bouchereau Bauer and Linda Harkins at the University of Illinois and the University of Georgia respectively, Anne McGill-Franzen and Zhihui Fang at the University of Florida, Dennis Mike and John McEaney at Buffalo State College and Oakland University respectively, and Brenda Shearer at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. These individuals have worked extremely hard to ensure that we will have papers and presentations of the highest quality at the 2001 NRC Conference.

We have also secured outstanding plenary speakers and reconceptualized committee meetings and other important events for the conference. Now we need your help in publicizing the conference, inviting colleagues to join us in San Antonio, completing your registration and hotel arrangements, and preparing interesting presentations so that our conversations with each other are substantive and enjoyable. What follows is important information for you related to our conference.

**Important Dates.** The conference will be held in **San Antonio, Texas, December 5-8, 2001**. Events will begin with the NRC Board meeting Tuesday, December 4th. Study group and research sessions will start Wednesday morning, December 5th and end at noon on Saturday the 8th; the NRC Board will meet Saturday afternoon. If you have not received a conference registration form, please go to the NRC Website (<http://nrc.oakland.edu>), **complete the form, and return it to NRC Headquarters as soon as possible to receive the best rate for the conference.** Share the registration form with your colleagues.

**The Site.** The 2001 conference site is the Adams Mark Hotel on the Riverwalk, 111 Pecan Street, East, San Antonio, Texas. If you have not already called to reserve a room,

**please make hotel reservations ASAP, directly with The Adams Mark Hotel on the Riverwalk** (phone #: 210.354.2800; fax # 210.354.2700). State that you are with the NRC conference for the best rates.

The hotel is beautiful and a perfect setting for our conference in terms of space and location.

The hotel is only 10 minutes from the airport and is located on the Riverwalk in downtown San Antonio. This means that not only will you be able to attend lots of interesting meetings, but you can also enjoy many cultural and historical sites nearby such as The Alamo, the El Mercado/Market Square, the Majestic Theatre, the Children's Museum, the Riverwalk Mall, and many shops and restaurants that line the river itself. You may walk or take a rivotaxi (available right outside the back entrance of our hotel). Also of interest are Sea World and Six Flags Fiesta Texas (only minutes away from the hotel). The hotel has a fitness club with sauna and Jacuzzi, an outdoor heated pool with a large sundeck, and three restaurants and lounges (a large area in the lobby where folks can see and meet up with colleagues).

**Highlights of the Conference.** We guarantee a stimulating program for the 2001 conference. I urge you to plan your travel so that you arrive Tuesday evening, December 4th, and depart Saturday, December 8th (late afternoon or evening) or Sunday morning the 9th. I suggest this because we have **outstanding Plenary Speakers** who will be presenting across the entire four days of the conference. These speakers include Peter Mosenthal, President of NRC; Michael Pressley, 2000 NRC Oscar Causey Award recipient; James Gee, Professor at the University of Wisconsin,



Madison; Concha Delgado Gaitan, writer from El Cerrito, California; and James Hoffman, University of Texas, Austin, who has been asked to present the annual NRC Research Address. Of course, the heart of our conference includes the insightful and compelling scholarly work that colleagues bring to share with one another.

**A new feature for this year's conference.** The NRC Board and personnel at NRC HQ have arranged for a T1 phone line in each presentation room to enable access to the Internet for your conference paper presentations. Presenters will need to bring the appropriate laptop computer and LCD projector equipment (people who bring equipment often share it with colleagues). We are hoping that this investment will allow us to continue to move towards state-of-the-art presentations in terms of technology.

We will also have legislative and research center panels; opportunities for you to hear about and discuss state, national, and international literacy issues; and committee meetings and a luncheon for the *JLR* Review Board and a breakfast for members of the *Yearbook* Review Board. We have also planned several social events where we can enjoy our surroundings and each other's company. For example, we will have a special reception following Peter Mosenthal's Presidential Address on Wednesday evening. This event will be held at the Southwest Arts and Craft Center. This unique 5-acre site is listed on the National Historic Register and used to serve as an Ursuline Academy (young women's school) and Convent. The Center, set on the banks of the San Antonio River, is a five-minute walk from our hotel and has a wonderful garden, limestone patio, and a gazebo, which will be perfect for a reception for all NRC members. We also have a reception on-site at the hotel following the Thursday Plenary Address and our Town Meeting. At this gathering, NRC members will have the opportunity to congratulate NRC award recipients, enjoy the books/materials display, and talk with publishers who are attending our meeting.

**Don't miss a special raffle on Saturday December 8th at the Research Review Session.** You could win a free hotel room (week-end) at the Intercontinental Hotel in Miami. You must be present to win!

**The Conference Program Book (electronic and hard copy).** Visit the NRC Website (<http://nrc.oakland.edu>) for updated information regarding the conference. An electronic version of the 2001 NRC Program will be placed on the NRC Website as soon as is possible this summer—at about the same time the printed version of the program goes to press. This will allow conference attendees to see when they are slotted to present and note sessions they would like to attend. This advanced information should help conference attendees make travel plans and arrange their conference schedules.

A new procedure for the 2001 program has been adopted by the NRC Board, based on input from the Technology Committee, our webmaster, and others dedicated to moving us forward in the use of technology to save expenses and trees. This new procedure is as follows: **We will not be sending a hard copy of the program to conference attendees prior to the conference.** Instead, conference attendees will pick up copies of the program at the registration desk when they arrive at the conference. We are instituting this new process to see if it helps individuals who forget their programs at home (over 50% of our attendees at this year's conference did not have their program upon arrival at Scottsdale). In addition, we hope to continue to lower the costs associated with the program (mailing) while still providing the professional document many view as an important artifact of the conference. For those members who really insist on having the professional hard copy of the program prior to the conference, we respectfully will request that you pay the cost of postage. If you forget to bring your program to the conference, then you will need to pay a replacement cost. We urge you not to

be tempted to download and print off the entire program from the website—this defeats the purpose of our mission to save a few forests.

Instead, consider noting the sessions you'd like to attend and then mark those and others when you pick up your program on-site at the conference in San Antonio.

#### **Your Current Email Address.**

Please go to the NRC Website (<http://nrc.oakland.edu>) and submit your current email address so that we have accurate information about you in our files. Specifically, this information ensures that we can send you important electronic notices about the conference and program. Please contact John McEneaney ([mceneane@oakland.edu](mailto:mceneane@oakland.edu)) if you have any questions about submitting this information.

In summary, Lee Gunderson and I have worked to build on the outstanding efforts of past NRC Program Chairs in preparing the 2001 NRC Conference. We are pleased with the quality and diversity of offerings at the conference and the broad range of colleagues presenting papers. We urge you to attend NRC and we look forward to seeing you in San Antonio.

### **A Message from the Vice President-Elect**

**Lee Gunderson  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, BC**

It was suggested last year that NRC arrange a place for job interviews during the conference. Deborah Dillon has designated an interview room and has asked me to coordinate times for the San Antonio conference. I will be organizing an on-site sign-up system to schedule interviews. Interview times will be made on a first-come first-served system. Please contact me at [lee.gunderson@ubc.ca](mailto:lee.gunderson@ubc.ca), 604-822-5235, or FAX 604-822-3154, if you wish more information.

Thank you!

### **NRC Management Search Committee Report**

**Taffy Raphael, Past President and Committee Co-Chair**

**Peter Dewitz, Treasurer and Committee Co-Chair**

The committee met at NRC and in April at IRA to draft a Call for Proposals and lay out a timeline. We met with our lawyer to go over the call and our schedule in February. The timeline for the application and review process is as follows:

- May 25th: Cover Page and Call for Proposals distribution, with letter of intent to apply from interested parties due back to us by June 9th.
- June 10th: Send out packets of NRC materials to relevant potential applicants, including copies of *Journal of Literacy Research*, *NRC Yearbook*, Conference Program, Newsletter, and NRC Website information.
- July 30th: Initial Proposals (8 copies) due.
- August 30th: Conference Call to determine short list or final 3 participants (Full committee).
- Sept. 15th: If necessary, from short list, select final 3 from pool and set up site visits.

#### **Search Committee Contact Information:**

Taffy Raphael, NRC Past President and Co-Chair: [raphael@oakland.edu](mailto:raphael@oakland.edu)  
Peter Dewitz, NRC Treasurer and Co-Chair: [pdewitz@cstone.net](mailto:pdewitz@cstone.net)  
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Jim Hoffman, Member-at-Large: [Jim\\_Hoffman@teachnet.edb.utexas.edu](mailto:Jim_Hoffman@teachnet.edb.utexas.edu)  
Donald Leu, NRC Board Member: [djleu@uconn.edu](mailto:djleu@uconn.edu)  
Peter Mosenthal, NRC President: [PETERMOSE@aol.com](mailto:PETERMOSE@aol.com)  
Trika Smith-Burke, Member-at-Large: [ms4@is2.nyu.edu](mailto:ms4@is2.nyu.edu)

# Celebrating NRC 2000 Award Winners

## Oscar S. Causey Award

The Oscar S. Causey Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to reading research, was presented at NRC 2000 to **Michael Pressley**. Dr. Pressley is Professor and Chair for Catholic Education at Notre Dame. He is best known for his many studies of comprehension and metacognition. He is interested not only in psychological processes, but also teaching strategies. He examines these for learners of all ages, from the very young to college age. His work on the effectiveness of transactional strategies instruction is respected both for the quality of the content-specific instructional programs and the rigor of their assessment. His recent studies of early reading methods have set high standards, both methodologically, in using of a variety of research approaches, and conceptually, in recognizing the complexities of instruction.

Always meticulous in his research and highly regarded for his outstanding mentorship, Michael Pressley is a leader who has made sustained and prolific contributions over the past twenty-five years and, as such, is extremely deserving of this award.

## Albert J. Kingston Award

The Albert J. Kingston Award is given each year for outstanding contributions of service to NRC over an extended period of time. The NRC 2000 award winner was **Lee Gunderson**. Dr. Gunderson is Professor and Head of the Language and Literacy Education Department



at the University of British Columbia where he teaches courses and conducts research in first- and second-language reading acquisition. He has been a member of NRC since 1977 and has attended the conference nearly every year since then. He was a founding member of the NRC Field Council in 1981 and served as secretary of NRC from 1991 to 2000. Dr. Gunderson's distinguished service record makes him a most deserving recipient of this award.

## Early Career Achievement Award

This award recognizes members who have made significant contributions to knowledge in the field of literacy and literacy education early in their research careers. The award was presented at NRC 2000 to **Elizabeth Birr Moje**, Associate Professor of Educational Studies at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Moje's research includes the study of literacy as a tool for learning in academic disciplines and, more recently, research on the unsanctioned literacy and other social practices of "marginalized" adolescents in and out of school. She has published a number of research articles. In several field's premier journals as well as two books. Her research projects have been or are currently funded by the National Academy of Education, the Spencer Foundation, the National Science Foundation, and the William T. Grant Foundation.

## Student Research Award

The winner of the 2000 Student Outstanding Research Award was **Rebecca Rogers** from Washington University in St. Louis. Her sponsor-



ing faculty member was Peter Johnston from the University at Albany (SUNY). Her paper entitled "Ethnographic Intentions: Multi-Vocal Representations of Literate Subjectivities" was presented at the conference and will be published in the *NRC Yearbook*.

The finalists (and their sponsoring faculty members) were:

- Gwynne Ellen Ash, University of Delaware (James F. Baumann, University of Georgia)
- Melanie R. Kuhn, Rutgers University (Steven Stahl, University of Georgia)
- Patrick Manyak, University of Southern California (Robert Rueda, University of Southern California)
- Brenda Joiner Overturf, Ghens Academy, Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville, KY (Ellen McIntyre, University of Louisville)
- Sue E. Stadler, Evergreen School District in Vancouver, WA (Maribeth Schmitt, Purdue University)

## Edward Fry Book Award

The Edward Fry Book Award is given to current members of the National Reading Conference for books authored or edited about literacy research and practice. The criteria for the selection include (a) advancing knowledge about literacy; (b) displaying inquiry into literacy; and (c) showing responsible intellectual risk taking. The NRC 2000 award was presented to **Sarah Warshaver Freedman, Elizabeth Radin Simons, Julie Shallhope Kalnin, and Alex Casarena**, for their book, *Inside City Schools: Investigating Literacy in Multicultural Classrooms*.



## Student Research Award

**Maribeth Schmitt, Co-Chair**  
**Josephine Peyton Young, Co-Chair**

The NRC Student Award Committee is spending the fall reviewing the conference papers submitted by the 2001 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. The winner will be announced at the conference in a General Session and will receive a \$500 honorarium.

The committee is comprised of: Patricia Alexander, Diane Allen, Camille Blachowicz, Valerie Chapman, Ray Reutzel, Emily Rodgers, Rebecca Rogers, Patrick Manyak, David O'Brien, Lawrence Sipe, Gregory Brooks, Heather Thomas, Ruth Wharton-McDonald and Maribeth Schmitt and Josephine Young (Co-Chairs).

The work of the committee is both valuable and important. 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.

## Oscar S. Causey Award

**Donald J. Leu, Chair**

We invite our membership to nominate worthy recipients for the 2001 Oscar S. Causey Award. Dr. Oscar S. Causey was the founder of the National Reading Conference and served many years as Chair of the Executive Committee. The award is given each year for outstanding contributions to reading research.

All nominees for the 2001 Oscar S. Causey Award will remain in the candidate pool for a total of three years. If you are uncertain as to whether or not a potential candidate is already in

the pool, please send a message of inquiry to Don Leu ([djleu@uconn.edu](mailto:djleu@uconn.edu)). If you wish to nominate a candidate for the 2001 Oscar S. Causey Award, please send a letter of nomination and a copy of the candidate's current vita, by September 15, 2001, to:

Donald J. Leu  
 University of Connecticut  
 249 Glenbrook Road  
 Storrs, CT 06269-2033  
 Phone: 860. 486.0168  
 Fax: 860.486.0210  
 Email: [djleu@uconn.edu](mailto:djleu@uconn.edu)

## Publications Committee

**Lesley Mandel Morrow, Chair**

The new editors of the *NRC Yearbook* and *Journal of Literacy Research* have organized their editorial advisory boards and are working full speed ahead. According to the editors of the *Yearbook*, Jim Hoffman, Diane Schallert, Colleen Fairbanks, Jo Worthy, and Beth Maloch, the *Yearbook* will be published at least a month prior to the start of the conference in San Antonio. Ninety-five manuscripts were submitted for consideration and review. All manuscripts were reviewed by at least three members of the editorial advisory team. The reviews and processing of manuscripts was managed electronically. All accepted edited manuscripts were sent to the printer by May 31st.

*Journal of Literacy Research*

The new editors of *JLR*, Tim Rasinski, Nancy Padak, Wayne Linek, and Elizabeth Sturtevant have organized and designed a management plan of operations for the journal. Their goals for the journal are as follows:

- To maintain the high level of research and scholarship from a variety of research paradigms that have been a defining characteristic of *JLR*.
- To provide greater accessibility to the journal to more scholars through the "Research Briefs."

These are condensed presentations of quality research on unusual topics or using unusual methodologies that may not otherwise be accepted for publication.

- To explore ways to allow graduate students and other emerging scholars to take greater part in the article review process through a mentor review process.
- To take advantage of technology in creating more web-based connections and features to *JLR*.

The editors have developed a session for potential writers that will be featured at the annual conference. Editors from other major research journals in literacy have been invited to participate. In addition John McEaney has agreed to serve as web editor for the *JLR* Website thus consolidating the web activities and operations for NRC and its journal. The editors hope to use the website as a tool to enhance the journal and the readership's interaction with it.

The editors began accepting manuscripts on March 1, 2001, and have received numerous submissions. They are confident that they will be able to produce a journal that will maintain the high standards and prestige of *JLR* and the National Reading Conference.

## Multicultural Issues Committee Charges and Scholarship

**Patty Ruggiano Schmidt, Co-Chair**  
**Hong (Shelley) Xu, Co-Chair**

Since Scottsdale, Arizona, the Multicultural Issues Committee has developed and begun to implement a list of charges which include a search for scholarship candidates from underrepresented diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. We hope that NRC members will read the list and assist us in our work. Please email Patty Schmidt at [Schmidt@mail.lemoyne.edu](mailto:Schmidt@mail.lemoyne.edu) or Shelley Xu at [Shelley.Xu@ttu.edu](mailto:Shelley.Xu@ttu.edu)

### **Multicultural Issues Committee Charges**

- 1) Assist members of NRC to develop their awareness, understanding, and appreciation of members from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds through the NRC Newsletter, special mailings, NRC program sessions, speakers, and conference receptions.
- 2) Assist NRC members from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds in the production and dissemination of their research through NRC scholarships and volunteer member mentors.
- 3) Encourage NRC membership, service, and leadership of scholars from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds through individual and board members' personal contacts as well as NRC mailings.
- 4) Encourage members from ethnic and cultural backgrounds to self-nominate directly to the NRC Board for NRC scholarships, service, and leadership roles.
- 5) Set up a listserv for the Multicultural Issues Committee to facilitate communication throughout the year so that our charges may be successfully implemented with the full knowledge and participation of committee members.

### **Multicultural Issues Committee Scholarship**

In the interest of assisting NRC in becoming a more diverse organization, the Multicultural Issues Committee is attempting to promote the membership of scholars from underrepresented ethnic and cultural minority backgrounds. The scholars will be presented with monetary awards that would help defray the costs of attending NRC. Nominations should reach the committee no later than September 30, 2001; self-nominations will be welcomed. Email nominations, with the scholar's curriculum vita and accepted proposal to Patty Schmidt at [Schmidt@mail.lemoyne.edu](mailto:Schmidt@mail.lemoyne.edu) or Shelley Xu at [shelley.xu@ttu.edu](mailto:shelley.xu@ttu.edu).

### **Scholarship Criteria**

The Multicultural Issues Committee scholarship shall be awarded to a graduate student or assistant professor from an underrepresented ethnic

or cultural background who shows promise of scholarship in the literacy field. He or she should have received a letter of acceptance for his or her proposal presentation at the forthcoming National Reading Conference. Scholarship nominations should include a curriculum vita and the accepted proposal.

### **National Reading Conference Distinguished Scholar Award For Lifetime Contribution To Literacy Research, Theory, and Practice**

#### **Trika Smith-Burke, Chair**

The NRC Board has created a new award, the NRC Distinguished Scholar Award for Lifetime Contribution to Literacy Research, Theory, and Practice. This award will be given to a distinguished scholar for a lifetime contribution which has had a significant impact on the field of literacy research, theory, and practice. We wish to acknowledge an outstanding individual who has not been actively involved in the National Reading Conference in committee, editorial work, or presentations, but whose lifetime work, nevertheless, has had a major influence on literacy research, theory, and practice of the NRC membership. The award need not be given every year. A committee has been established with criteria and procedures for nomination and selection of an award recipient.

Nominations for this award may come from members of the Committee and/or from a group of ten or more. NRC members who present a written nomination signed by the ten members to the Committee Chair with a description of the significance of the scholar's contribution and the impact this scholar has had on the field. The group must select a spokesperson who will work closely with the Committee Chair and Committee, presenting the candidate to the Committee during the selection phase of the award process.

Any spokesperson for a group wishing to nominate someone for this award should contact Trika Smith-Burke, Chair of the Committee for the Distinguished Scholar Award at [ms4@is2.nyu.edu](mailto:ms4@is2.nyu.edu) or at 141 Wooster Street Apt. 8B, New York, NY 10012 to obtain forms and the details of the nomination and selection process. The deadline for filing nominations is February 15, 2002.

### **Ethics Committee**

#### **Nancy F. Knapp, Chair**

Like several other Committees, the Ethics Committee is looking at some significant restructuring to become more inclusive and more active within the whole NRC community. Below are some ideas about potential roles and activities for a restructured Ethics group. If you want to support, oppose, expand, or revise any of these ideas, or you have other ideas to propose, we want to hear from you.

#### **Potential Roles of an Ethics Group in NRC**

- A. Mediation/adjudication of disputes or infractions of the NRC Ethics statement

Currently, the main function of the Ethics committee is to mediate disputes relating to authorship, ownership of data, and other issues arising under the NRC Ethics Statement. Although it is rarely needed, it seems important to continue to have such an objective forum available to preserve the rights of all participants in the research process. This function could be handled by a rotating standing committee selected from within the Ethics group or by ad hoc committees appointed from the Ethics group to handle each disputed case as it arises.

- B. Active facilitation of open discussion and debate around ethical issues related to literacy research and discussion.

As the NRC Ethics Statement says, we need to consider carefully the ethical implications of the positions we take and the "products" we put out as scholars of literacy. As a community of scholars, NRC offers us the opportunity to seek opinions and counsel on our own actions from our colleagues, and to bring up our concerns with the actions of others, both scholars and policy makers. To facilitate such community discussions, a restructured Ethics groups could:

1. sponsor their own e-newsletter or listserv discussion group;
2. schedule a preconference meeting, study group or Birds of a Feather session around specific ethical issues;
3. develop and sponsor a regular invited session presenting and discussing a question related to a specific ethical issue at the annual meeting;
4. maintain/strengthen contact with the ethical arms of organizations with related purposes (e.g., IRA, NCTE, AERA); and,
5. at least once yearly, survey the NRC membership regarding ethical issues they'd like to see addressed.

### **Proposal of ethical issues for official action by NRC.**

Sometimes the membership of NRC, as a body, needs to consider taking a proactive stance on ethical issues within our organization, the field of literacy or educational research, and especially the wider public and political arena. The careful and thoughtful formulation, approval, publication and explanation of such stances is one of the important ways we fulfill our organizational purpose of advocating "research-informed improvements in education." An Ethics group within NRC could be responsible for developing proposals for such action, or forwarding such proposals from individual members or other groups (such as NCTE) to the Board, accompanied by an open and reasoned investigation of the factors involved.

Your feedback, suggestions, additions, critiques, and ideas are important in this restructuring. We would also like nominations for specific ethical issues you would like to see discussed or addressed in the future, so please Email your responses to [Nknapp@coe.uga.edu](mailto:Nknapp@coe.uga.edu). Thanks!

## **Journal of Literacy Research**

### **Call for Manuscripts**

The new editors of the Journal of Literacy Research invite submissions for possible publication in the journal. Reports on original literacy research, reviews of research, conceptual analyses, and essays from all theoretical perspectives and research paradigms that affect literacy are encouraged.

In addition to papers of lengths normally found in past issues of JLR, the new editors will also consider more concise papers on research of a limited scope or nature. The new editors hope to encourage and support new ideas and approaches to literacy scholarship that may provide tentative inroads into innovative content or methods through "Research Briefs." Potential authors are encouraged to examine previous issues of JLR for

topics and style of presentation. Papers submitted for publication should conform to the fourth edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. Submissions should include a cover letter and six copies of the manuscript with all references to the authors deleted, except for the title page. The title page should include name, address, phone number, fax, and e-mail address of the first (or contact) author. Authors should also include two self-addressed stamped envelopes for acknowledgement of receipt of the article and for return of manuscript reviews. Submissions should be made to:

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Journal of Literacy Research**  
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Questions about manuscript preparation can be directed to any editor of JLR:

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**Next Issue** Send articles and announcements for the Spring, 2002 NRC newsletter via e-mail to:

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