

**Assembly for Advisors of Student Publications/Journalism
Education Association (AASP/JEA)**

This assembly, which includes all members of the Journalism Education Association (JEA), serves advisers of student media, such as newspapers, yearbooks, literary magazines, radio, and video, by supporting free and responsible scholastic journalism; by providing resources and educational opportunities; by promoting professionalism; by encouraging and rewarding student excellence and teacher achievement; and by fostering an atmosphere which encompasses diversity yet builds unity. To help advisers with these purposes, the assembly will provide a newsletter, programs at NCTE conventions, and other helpful items from the Journalism Education Bookstore at JEA member prices. JEA members receive subscriptions to C-Jet, JEA Newswire, and the Student Press Law Center Report. Read more about JEA on their homepage at <http://www.jea.org/>

No report submitted.

Jack Kennedy, Chair

Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning (AEPL)

The purposes of this [assembly](#) are to explore expanded perspectives on learning and their implications for and applications to English and language arts education; to encourage the development of research and classroom practices that focus on expanded conceptions of learning; to encourage articles, publications, and other communications on the subject; to present programs and projects on this subject; to provide an open forum for theorists, researchers, and practitioners to exchange ideas on the subject; and to integrate the efforts of those in various disciplines who have a common interest in the subject. Sample topics of interest are aesthetics, creativity, holistic learning, humanistic and transpersonal psychology, imagery, intuition, Jungian psychology, kinesthetic knowledge, learning styles, meditation, Rogerian theory, and visualization.

Our 2008 summer conference was held at Mount Madonna Center in California in late May of 2008, on the topic of "Reclaiming the Wisdom Tradition for Education. Despite fires in the Santa Cruz mountains, the conference was well-attended (with over 80 participants), and generally a success in terms of feedback from participants and in our net revenues. Keynote speakers included Gabrielle Rico, Robert Inchausti, Jack Miller, and Matthew Fox.

During the time of the NCTE convention in San Antonio in November of 2008, we held a meeting of our Executive Committee, as well as a SIG titled "Zen and Art of English-Teacher Maintenance" involving work with meditative practice led by Irene Papoulis, and a long session (from 11 a.m. to 3) titled "Response and Responsibility: Helping Students See Reading as a Form of Relationship."

At CCCC in San Francisco in March of 2009, we held a day-long workshop titled "Teaching for Change," featuring Peter Elbow as a keynote speaker, and also conducted another meeting of the Executive Committee. This involved planning for the 2009 summer conference, as well as discussions of our vision for the future of AEPL and future leadership of the organization.

Our annual summer conference was held in late July 2009 in Estes Park, CO, on the theme of "The Believing Game as a Model for Thinking" with Peter Elbow as keynote speaker. This conference was quite successful as well.

Under the excellent editorship of Kris Fleckenstein and Linda Callendrillo, the winter of 2008-09 once again saw the publication of our award-winning *Journal of the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning*, on the theme "Feeling Our Way: Teaching, Writing, and Reading with Belief." The journal was selected once again as an NCTE featured publication. It was our fourteenth annual edition of the journal. Peter Elbow is serving as editor for the fifteenth edition of *JAEPL*, scheduled to appear in the winter of 2009-10.

Our website, www.aepl.org, which has recently been updated, is soon to include an online *AEPL Newsletter*, which will feature interviews with past and present members and participants in AEPL events.

Our Nominating Committee has been busy preparing a slate of candidates for the next election of officers, to take place in the fall of 2009. At our Executive Committee meeting at NCTE in Philadelphia in November new officers will be welcomed and installed.

Stan Scott and Irene Papoulis, Co-Chairs

Assembly for National Board Certified Teachers (ANBCT)

The purpose of the assembly is to promote National Board Certification as a hallmark of effective, professional English language arts instruction; to harness the resources and expertise inherent in a group of National Board Certified Teachers to benefit students, teachers, and schools; to assist and mentor educators in achieving certification from the [National Board for Professional Teaching Standards \(NBPTS\)](#); to share information about Certification renewal requirements and ongoing changes in the National Board Certification process; to provide a forum for National Board Certified Teachers and those committed to standards set by the NBPTS; to organize and/or contribute to professional development opportunities, reinforcing the core propositions and standards established by the NBPTS; to celebrate the achievements of National Board Certified Teachers to the National Council of Teachers of English and the field of English language arts education.

What major actions or projects have been completed by your group since July 1, 2008?

1. Hosted reception/ special interest group meeting for all National Board certified Teachers, candidates, and others at the NCTE National Convention in San Antonio (Nov 2008), in conjunction with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.
2. Presented two concurrent sessions on best classroom practices and the National Board certification process in San Antonio. Both sessions had 40+ attendees.
3. Elected new officers.

What projects, initiatives, or studies are "in progress" at this time?

1. Planning reception/celebration for National Board Certified Teachers at the Philadelphia NCTE convention in November 2009 in conjunction with NBPTS.
2. Presenting a session on best classroom practices as well as one on the National Board certification process, in Philadelphia.
3. Beginning a process for establishment of a database of "Best Practices" workshops and presentations: past and/or future presentations by ANBCT members.
4. Collaboration with several NBPTS state representatives to recruit teachers for certification.
5. Member dialogue and participation in the NCTE "Ning" website to comment on Certification: processes, benefits, collaborations.

Strategic Governance: Over the past few years, the NCTE Executive Committee has established outcomes and priorities relating to these key topics in our field: Multimodal Literacy and Technology, Research and Teaching, English Language Learners, Professional Development, Closing the Achievement Gap, Reading Research, 21st Century Literacies, Meeting the Needs of Audiences Currently Unserved/Underserved by NCTE, Attracting, Supporting, and Advancing Early Career Educators, and International Involvement, "Global English", and NCTE. Does your group have research findings or suggestions to contribute that are relevant to on-going work on these strategic governance topics?

There are numerous research findings available from NBPTS regarding the effectiveness of National Board Certified Teachers and improved student results ("Results" is defined in a variety of ways, based on the actual research.) These findings can be accessed at <http://www.nbpts.org>. In addition, NBCTs in NCTE are EXCELLENT resources for NCTE to possibly use in the building of professional development, best classroom practices, etc.

Gurupreet Khalsa, Chair

Assembly for Research (NCTEAR)

The purposes of this assembly are to promote inquiry into literacy practices and to consider continually what it means to engage in that inquiry; to provide opportunities for researchers in different sites and from different perspectives to come together to learn from one another; to encourage greater participation in research by teachers from all levels of schooling; to promote the growth of research and researchers through the forum provided by the Assembly for Research; to support the development of early-career researchers through assembly activities; and to provide a democratic body that strives to incorporate research activities into the broader goals and practices of NCTE. Customarily, the Assembly for Research sponsors a mid-winter conference, as well as a one-day NCTE post-convention workshop in November. Members receive a newsletter.

NCTEAR publishes a newsletter twice a year which features information about the work of the assembly, its members as well as introducing new features that promote research and scholarship. We invite the larger NCTE community to join the Assembly for Research in our continual efforts to broaden our membership as well as the work that is currently being done.

What major actions or projects have been completed by your group since July 1, 2008?

The Assembly for Research held its annual conference on February 13-15 on the UCLA campus. The conference theme was, "Literacy, learning, culture, and life in schools: Research and designs for change". Keynote speakers included: Barbara Rogoff, Mike Rose, Luis Moll, Arnetha Ball, Carol Lee, and Dale Allender (Director of NCTE West). Every year, the annual conference provides an opportunity for researchers, teachers, and students to come together to present and discuss groundbreaking research in literacy and learning. This year's conference was no exception. Over 200 attendees participated in keynote presentations, roundtable discussions, and a social reception in order to share emerging ideas for how to shape literacy instruction and conceptualize literacy in and for the 21st Century.

What projects, initiatives, or "studies" are in progress at this time?

We are currently planning our 2010 annual conference to be held February 19-21 in Pittsburgh, PA. The upcoming conference theme, "Methodology matters: Moving literacy research forward," promises to address many of NCTE's current priorities including 21st Century literacies, Assessment, Multimodal literacy and technology, and Research and teaching.

We hope to produce another edited volume as a result of the conference as we have in 2000 (Vgotskian perspectives on literacy research) and 2007 (Literacy research for political action and social change).

Amanda Godley, sj Miller, Amanda Thein, Co-Chairs

Assembly for the Teaching of English Grammar (ATEG)

The purposes of this assembly are to improve the teaching of grammar at all levels, from elementary school through college; to promote communication and cooperation among teachers, researchers, administrators, and others interested in the teaching of grammar; to provide an open forum in which advocates of all grammar theories, representing the broad spectrum of views of grammar and its teaching, can interact. For information, visit the ATEG Web page at <http://www.ateg.org/>.

ATEG is pleased to report another productive year. We held our annual conference on July 9-10 at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland. This year's conference theme was "Yes We Can! (Teach Grammar)." Sixteen enlightening presentations gave us many ideas about how grammar can be integrated seamlessly into the language arts in ways that are compatible with natural language acquisition, as opposed to rigid worksheets.

Our listserv remains a forum for robust discussions about grammar and language.

At the NCTE conference in San Antonio, we heard an inspiring presentation by Michael Dees of St. Louis about how grammar instruction can and should flow into writer's craft lessons that draw from literature.

Amy Benjamin, Chair

Assembly of State Coordinators of English Language Arts (ASCELA)

The purposes of this assembly are to promote the sharing of resources and information among all individuals who have an affiliation or interest related to English language arts state departments of education; to present programs of interest to this group; to form liaisons with organizations and individuals within and outside NCTE who share the interests of this assembly; and to promote the precepts of the profession. Members receive a newsletter and are invited to join an e-mail list, ASCELA@lists.ncte.org. Visit the ASCELA Web page at <http://www.ascela.org/>

No report submitted.

Emilie Amundson, Chair

Assembly on Computers in English (ACE)

The purposes of this assembly are to promote communication and cooperation among all individuals who have a special interest in computers and the English language arts; to present programs and special projects on this subject; to promote an increase in the number of articles and publications devoted to it; to encourage the responsible development of computer software in the language arts; and to integrate the efforts of those with an interest in this subject. Members receive a newsletter four times a year.

What major actions or projects have been completed by your group since July 1, 2008?

The NCTE Assembly for Computers in English (ACE) used extensively the ACE website launched last year to advertise the Annual NCTE Conference ACE workshop offerings, to showcase the work of the committee, and to promote new memberships – <http://aceworkshop.org>. A special issue of ACE pre-conference newsletter and a Photo gallery from the past workshop were added as new features to serve these goals. Visitors to the site are welcomed to meet our consultants, join the listserv, and become ACE members. Through hands-on activities, group discussions, and one-on-one instruction, participants in the ACE 2008 workshop were introduced to social networking applications such as blogs, wikis, jings, podcasts, RSS aggregators, virtual environments, and more. Special focus was on helping participants to think through the shifts in pedagogy that new technologies have brought about, so that they can prepare their students for the technological changes taking place in our society. The workshop was heavily attended and very well received.

What projects, initiatives, or studies are “in progress” at this time?

Building ACE membership in 2009 continues to be a main concern for the committee. As we plan for the 2009 Annual Convention, increasing membership is very much on our minds.

Ewa McGrail, Chair

Assembly on American Literature (AAL)

This assembly promotes communication and cooperation among people who have a special interest in the field of American literature; presents programs and special projects on this subject; encourages the development of research, experimentation, and investigation into effective teaching and scholarship; promotes writing of articles and publications devoted to it; and integrates the efforts of those with an interest in the subject. The assembly does not promote only the "canon" of American literature, but encourages teachers to explore and utilize the rich and diverse cultures within American literature in their classrooms.

Members participate in AAL sponsored sessions and receive the AAL publication Notes on American Literature (NAL) which includes peer reviewed articles of members' research on American authors and the teaching of American literature.

In 2008 NCTE Assembly on American Literature partnered with school district NCTE affiliate in San Antonio for the planning of 2008 Special Interest Group Forum on "Place Based Literature." This partnership was very helpful in inviting Naomi Shihab Nye as a guest author to the AAL forum. Additionally, supportive affiliate members participated in this session as new AAL members. In addition to Naomi Shihab Nye, Gene Young gave a keynote address on the forum topic, and Bruce Penniman shared a lesson plan on place-based literature. The presentations were interspersed with questions and comments from the audience. As customary, AAL business meeting was combined with the forum and suggestions for a topic for 2009 convention were also solicited during this session.

Another AAL sponsored session at 2008 convention was "Cultural Difference and Understanding Media and Mediating Literacy of Diversity" which focused on the diversity represented in the works of William Carlos Williams and Richard Wright. Fallout of this session was partnership among AAL members and colleagues to celebrate 2009 National African American Read-In.

Joe Milner, Co-chair AAL, in collaboration with CEE leaders organized a genre session "Engaging American Poet(s)." The session featured Bob Probst, Carol Pope, Sheridan Blau, and Betsy Kahn, who offered framework statements about teaching poetry. This theoretical front piece was followed by extensive discussion of three or four poems of eight of America's great poets including Frost, Dickinson, Hughes, and Giovanni.

AAL's Executive Committee experienced a vacuum when Jason Miller, our dedicated treasurer for the last three years, resigned from his AAL position in order to meet the publisher's deadlines for his book in Spring 2008. Juliet Emmanuel, a long term member of AAL, volunteered to serve as AAL's new treasurer in August 2008; however, in January 2009, Juliet had to close the AAL account when the bank levied a monthly fee on our account. This turn of events resulted in a search for a new treasurer and a new bank. We now have a new treasurer, Kya Reaves-Ellis, who came on board in March 2009. She re-activated the AAL membership roster, showing new members who have joined AAL this year.

In 2008 AAL publication *Notes on American Literature (NAL)* transformed from a newsletter to a modest sized refereed journal and obtained a Library of Congress ISSN 1947-9484. A contract was also signed with EBSCOhost, making the publication available online on *Literary Reference Center*. After publishing two issues of the journal, the Advisory Board has decided to convert the semiannual publication into an annual publication. This shift will help us increase the size of the journal; it will also allow more time for the peer review process, revisions, and smooth management of production and dissemination. Articles are currently under review for the 2010 issue, and several contributors of the previous issues are now

serving as members of the editorial board. The theme for the next issue is based on Carol Jago's NCTE White Paper "Why Teach Literature?"

In Spring 2009, the AAL proposals for the 2009 NCTE annual convention were accepted, and several new members joined to participate in AAL-sponsored sessions in Philadelphia. Some new members have expressed interest in joining the executive committee to support AAL activities in the upcoming year. AAL is glad to report that NCTE College Section now provides a link to the AAL website.

Mabel Khawaja, Chair

Assembly on Literature and Culture of Appalachia (ALCA)

The purpose of ALCA is to promote communication and cooperation among all individuals who have a special interest in teaching and studying Appalachian literature and culture. The assembly presents programs and special projects on this subject; encourages the development of research, experimentation, and investigation of effective teaching and scholarship in Appalachian literature and culture; promotes the writing of articles and publications devoted to Appalachian literature and culture; and integrates the efforts of those with an interest in the subject. Members receive a journal.

At the 2008 NCTE Annual Convention in San Antonio, ALCA sponsored two programs – one during the concurrent sessions and a follow-up in the Special Interest Group time slot. The featured speaker was Sharyn McCrumb, Appalachian author of multiple best-selling novels, including *St. Dale* and *Once around the Track*, both books focusing on and utilizing the enormous popularity of NASCAR across the United States. In the first session McCrumb's topic was "Revising the Canterbury Tales for the 21st Century Classroom through a NASCAR Setting." The SIG session follow-up was entitled "'Keepers of the Legends' – Author Sharyn McCrumb: Using Fiction to Teach History and Heritage to Students." In both presentations the author offered amusing anecdotes about her research and her frequent visits to high schools, as well as specific ways to use her books in the classroom.

As is usual for ALCA, a summer dinner meeting was held in Radford in June, 2009, in conjunction with the annual Highland Summer Conference. Attendees heard reports from officers about the status of the Assembly during a short business session. Following dinner, ALCA members attended a reading by author Donald Seacrest at Radford University.

In 2009 for the Philadelphia NCTE Convention, ALCA will be sponsoring once again a concurrent session and a Special Interest Group Session focusing on one Appalachian author, Adriana Trigiani. Trigiani will be presented to the group via video. While she currently lives in New York and often uses the city as a setting for her novels, she began her blossoming career as a novelist with four novels set in Big Stone Gap, Virginia, the small mountain town where Trigiani herself grew up. Presenters will explore the Italian-American connections in her work and will discuss especially the immigrant experience of Italians into Appalachia. Trigiani, who had originally planned to attend the NCTE Convention on behalf of ALCA, has had to reschedule because of filming of her first movie based on her first novel, *Big Stone Gap*. Trigiani is the author of the screenplay and the producer of the film. Ashley Judd stars as the protagonist, Ave Maria Mulligan MacChesney, and Roseanne Cash is the music director.

Grace Toney Edwards, Chair

Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of NCTE (ALAN)

The purposes of this assembly are to promote communication and cooperation among all individuals who have a special interest in adolescent literature; to present programs and conferences on this subject; to promote and increase the number of articles and publications devoted to it; and to integrate the efforts of all those with an interest in this literature. Members receive three issues annually of The ALAN Review, a journal emphasizing new books, research, and methods of teaching adolescent literature.

ALAN had an active year in 2008. After initiating the site, out-going president David Macinnis Gill turned it over to Dr. Matt Skillen, Assistant Professor and Director of English Education at Elizabethtown College, PA. Appointed following an interview process conducted by the Executive Committee, Matt continues to expand the possibilities offered by our Web presence at www.alan-ya.org to reach teachers, media specialists, professors, authors, and researchers who are especially interested in young adult literature.

ALAN also congratulated Dr. James Blasingame and Ms. Lori Goodson on an exceptional five years as co-editors of *The ALAN Review*, and announced, following interviews that concluded the selection process, new co-editors of the journal. Dr. Steven Bickmore, Louisiana State University, Dr. Jacqueline Bach, Louisiana State University, and Dr. Melanie Hundley, Vanderbilt University, collaborated with Jim and Lori during the spring and summer 2009, and published the first issue of *The ALAN Review* under their editorship in the fall, 2009.

In 2008, members of an ALAN sub-committee led by Dr. Wendy Glenn, University of Connecticut, were selected, and charged with work that they would perform during the coming months, including developing specific criteria to choose books for considering, reviewing, ranking, and selecting as the inaugural recipient of a new, important national book award. The award, which will be given exclusively by ALAN, and will be complemented by a \$5000 prize to the author of the book named as the award recipient, is the Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award. Its benefactor requires that it be given to a work of fiction for young people, published first in the United States. One of the criteria that led to much discussion among the award committee members was the stipulation that the books considered had to portray "a positive approach to life". Book finalists for the first Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award, which will be announced and celebrated during a reception following day one of the ALAN Workshop on November 23, 2009, in Philadelphia, are these:

- *After Tupac and D Foster*, by Jacqueline Woodson (Putnam)
- *Graceling*, by Kristin Cashore (Harcourt)
- *The Graveyard Book*, by Neil Gaiman (HarperCollins)
- *Me, The Missing, and the Dead*, by Jenny Valentine (HarperCollins)
- *My Most Excellent Year: A Novel of Love, Mary Poppins, and Fenway Park*, by Steve Kluger (Dial)

The primary events that invited participation from ALAN members, in addition to reading the three volumes of the journal that were issued, were the ALAN Workshop, which was held November 24-25, 2008, in San Antonio, Texas. President David Macinnis Gill led the way; the keynote address was delivered beautifully by author, librarian, and ALAN advocate Teri Lesesne. The ALAN Breakfast, which preceded the workshop by a couple of days, and that a record crowd attended, was topped off by a delicious speech by captivating author Sharon Creech. Laurie Halse Anderson was recognized at the Breakfast as the recipient of the 2008 ALAN Award, and Jeanne McDermott, of Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, was named the recipient of the Hipple Service Award, 2008.

Membership chair Dr. Joan Kaywell continues to remind members of the need to recruit among our colleagues, and highlights the success of state representatives by rewarding them with ALAN pins at the Workshop and Breakfast.

Pamela Sissi Carroll, Chair

Assembly on Media Arts (AMA)

The purposes of this assembly are to promote communication and cooperation among all individuals who have a special interest in media in the English language arts; to present programs and special projects on this subject; to encourage the development of research, experimentation, and investigation in the judicious uses of media in the teaching of English; to promote the extensive writing of articles and publications devoted to it; and to integrate the efforts of those with an interest in this subject. AMA also sponsors a sharing session at each fall convention. AMA's blog (<http://ncte-ama.blogspot.com/>), maintained by [Frank Baker](#), supports the work of the assembly and provides information and resources to teachers.

No report submitted.

Scott Sullivan, Chair

Children's Literature Assembly (CLA)

*This assembly provides a forum for interested people with all points of view and levels of experience in the field of children's literature. The Children's Literature Assembly undertakes programs and projects of special concern to professionals interested in children's literature. CLA promotes the field of children's literature, disseminates scholarship, and advocates for children's literature in the classroom. The assembly offers multiple sessions at the [NCTE Annual Convention](#), including a one-day children's literature workshop, a breakfast featuring a children's author or illustrator, a session introducing the results of a search for the year's Notable Children's Books in the Language Arts, and a Master Class focusing on the teaching of children's literature. Published twice per year, *The Journal of Children's Literature* is our refereed journal, presenting critical discussions of trends and issues in children's books, reports and reviews of research, interviews with authors and illustrators, and practitioner pieces related to teaching with children's books. The assembly's website is: <http://www.childrensliteratureassembly.org>.*

What major actions or projects have been completed by your group since July 1, 2008?

1. Presented the 2008 Notable Children's Books in the Language Arts booklist at both the 2008 NCTE Convention and the 2009 conference of the International Reading Association;
2. Published two issues of *The Journal of Children's Literature*;
3. Sponsored a full-day Workshop focused on collaborating families of children's book creators at the 2008 NCTE conference in San Antonio;
4. Sponsored a breakfast at the 2008 NCTE conference featuring award-winning author/illustrator Lois Ehlert; and
5. Sponsored a Master Class exploring the issues of reading, evaluating, and sharing nonfiction in productive ways at the 2008 NCTE Annual Convention.
6. Met three times across the year (2008-2009), including in a retreat in San Antonio to put plans from the April, 2008, retreat in Columbus, Ohio into action.

What projects, initiatives, or studies are "in progress" at this time?

1. Planning for four sessions at 2009 NCTE Convention (i.e., the Notable Books in the Language Arts session, a breakfast session with Jerry Pinkney and Marilyn Nelson as presenters, a one-day workshop inspecting biography and writers of biographies for children, and a Master Class that discusses and explores multimodal children's literature);
2. Continuing to publish *The Journal of Children's Literature* and beginning the search for new editors. The journal is currently co-edited by Cyndi Giorgis and April Bedford;
3. Initiating a new research award designed to support a scholar investigating children's books in classrooms. The first award will be presented in 2009;
4. Planning a silent auction of original artwork created by children's book illustrators. Previewed on the CLA website, the auction winners will be announced during the Fall, 2009, CLA-sponsored breakfast at NCTE;
5. Renewing and redesigning the CLA website, currently managed by Quinn White. The web address is: <http://www.childrensliteratureassembly.org>;
6. Revising and updating the assembly's Bylaws and Policy Manual;
7. Conducting recruitment of new members and invitations for more active participation through ad hoc committees;
8. Planning for presenting the Notables Books more widely across state meetings through volunteers organized into a Notables Outreach Committee;
9. Working for more online ways of conferring, collaborating, developing, and recording the history of the organization; and

10. Surveying our membership to find areas of satisfaction and areas for needed growth and change.
11. Silent auction of original artwork created by children's book illustrators to be held during September-November on the CLA website.

In addition to sponsorship of several successful sessions featuring children's authors at the 2008 Annual Convention in San Antonio, the Children's Literature Assembly (CLA) continues to publish *The Journal of Children's Literature*, to steer the selection of Notable Books in the Language Arts, and to pursue our own professional development through the preparation of the Master Class (at NCTE). Our website is being reconstructed to serve the teaching of children's literature, and the group is revising and clarifying its governance documents.

For the first time, we opened a competition for a small grant to support research/inquiry with children's literature in classrooms.

Nancy L. Roser, Chair

Early Childhood Education Assembly (ECEA)

This [assembly](#) supports teachers of young children with a strong emphasis on promoting thoughtful practices that enhance the teaching and learning of young children within and across diverse communities.

The ECEA was imagined and proposed by NCTE constituents interested in early childhood issues, to carve out spaces to engage in discussions about critical teaching practices we believe support diverse learners. With a board of directors that includes key early childhood researchers such as Ann Haas Dyson, Celia Genishi, and Susi Long, we have over the past months discussed possibilities for growing the assembly.

The ECE Assembly of NCTE works to support and integrate the efforts of NCTE constituents concerned with language and literacy issues in Early Childhood Education. Our hope is; to encouraging field-based research and theorized practice in the teaching of Early Childhood Education across cultural and linguistic contexts; to work to enhance teaching and learning in Early Childhood Education within and across diverse communities; to sponsor professional development opportunities for those interested in language and literacies in Early Childhood Education; to provide opportunities for early childhood educators and researchers to learn from and support one another; to promote the articulation of thoughtful early childhood literacy practices; to promote collaboration across professional organizations that focus on the education of young children; to support new teachers in early childhood education; and to encourage and sponsor the publication of articles, books, and reports focused on early childhood topics and issues.

This Assembly is especially important due to the pervasive mandates to implement practices that are antithetical to what we embrace as supportive of young children's literacy learning. Teachers of very young children are asked to teach-to-the-test in ways that take away opportunities for holistic, thoughtful, play-oriented practices that allow children to construct knowledge through contextualized and purposeful experiences. We know that teachers and teacher educators need support. We are especially interested in supporting early childhood teachers and teacher educators with a strong emphasis on promoting thoughtful practices that enhance the teaching and learning of young children within and across diverse communities.

To begin this work, at the NCTE annual convention in Philadelphia, there will be many opportunities to attend sessions focused on ECE issues and topics including a Day of Early Childhood Education, with opening Keynote speakers Sonia Nieto and Mary Cowhey. We also are having a Workshop to be held on Monday after the convention.

Through the workshop we will examine ways to revitalize reading instruction with our youngest readers across diverse cultural contexts. Participants will learn strategies for use with children in preschools, kindergartens, and primary grades as they choose from a range of exciting areas of focus for their day of learning. Workshop consultants and/or session leaders include Anne Haas Dyson, Celia Genishi, Julia López-Robertson, Gloria Boutte, George Johnson, Maria Paula Ghiso, Vivian Vasquez, Mariana Souto-Manning, Susi Long, Dinah Volk.

For more information on how to participate in the ECE Assembly please visit our website at [www.
http://eceaassembly.blogspot.com/](http://eceaassembly.blogspot.com/). On our website you will also find links to follow us on Twitter or friend us on Facebook.

We look forward to working with NCTE constituents interested in early childhood education and we thank the NCTE Executive Committee and especially the ESSC for their support throughout the process of becoming an assembly.

Vivian Vasquez, Chair

English as a Second Language Assembly (ESLA)

The purpose of this assembly is to encourage interchange among teachers of English at all levels on issues in bilingual education and English as a second language.

No report submitted.

Beth Samuelson, Chair

Gay Straight Educators' Alliance (GSEA)

The purpose of this assembly is to provide a forum for ongoing and sustained discussion among all individuals who share a professional commitment to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans (LGBT) students, teachers, issues, and academic materials as they pertain to the teaching of English at all levels of instruction. The assembly is committed to the inclusion of LGBT issues and texts in English studies and English language arts classrooms, fostering research and scholarship, addressing heterosexism and homophobia in academic and school settings, supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans students and teachers, and broadening cultural diversity through more inclusive understandings of difference. The Assembly disseminates information to its members and sponsors sessions at the [NCTE Annual Convention](#) each year. Between conventions, members communicate through our email listserv and [our website](#). Members also receive a newsletter.

The Gay Straight Educators Alliance enjoyed a busy and productive year during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009. Our membership has expanded; our member-based listserv has grown; and our website, which advertises our existence, disseminates information, and helps to expand membership, has been entirely redesigned. The website now contains 3 annotated bibliographies: one for LGBTQ teens and their allies, one featuring LGBTQ young adult literature, and one listing resources for pedagogy and parenting. Our table in the exhibition hall of the 2008 annual convention attracted a great deal of traffic and many requests for information. Also at the annual convention, GSEA officers, along with the chair of the LGBT Advisory Committee, met with NCTE President Kylene Beers to begin a formal dialogue about LGBT issues.

Our greatest accomplishment of the year, though, was the March 2009 issue of the *English Journal*, which was entirely devoted to the theme of sexual orientation and gender expression. This issue, edited by GSEA members Paula Ressler and Becca Chase, helped to expand awareness of LGBT issues among council members and other *EJ* readers.

Plans for the coming year include building on our successes. In 2007, NCTE passed a resolution calling for increased awareness of LGBT issues among classroom teachers. At the 2009 NCTE Convention, a session will be devoted to exploring ways of implementing this resolution. Conversation continues among GSEA members about ways of attracting LGBT authors and speakers to future conventions, and our members continue to work for the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender expression in programs being developed to address bullying. Along with the LGBT Advisory Committee, GSEA has been reaching out to other groups which share our goals, such as the Safe Schools Coalition, Equality Forum, and the Women in Literature and Life Assembly of NCTE, to bring additional literature to our information table at the annual convention and to make our presence there more effective.

Michael Weinberg, Chair

International Writing Centers Association (IWCA)

*This [assembly](#) fosters communication among writing centers at universities, two-year colleges, public schools, and those interested in writing center theories and applications, and provides a forum for their concerns. IWCA annually presents two scholarship awards to recognize books and articles that make significant contributions to writing centers. Every three years the assembly presents an Outstanding Service Award. In addition to its conference held every 18 months, the assembly sponsors grants to graduate students whose research focuses on writing centers, to researchers for investigations into writing center issues, as well as to its 10 regional organizations to sponsor conferences. The assembly publishes *The Writing Center Journal* and *The Writing Lab Newsletter* (subscriptions required), *IWCA Update* (included with general membership), and books via the IWCA Press.*

No report submitted.

Clint Gardner, Chair

Women in Literacy & Life Assembly (WILLA)

The purpose of this [assembly](#) is to improve the teaching of English language arts by focusing attention on gender-related issues in literacy teaching and learning, including the status and the image of women and girls, men and boys; to advise the profession at large on issues relating to the role and images of women; and to foster the exchange of ideas and perspectives among people interested in gender issues relating to English. Members receive the newsletter *Crosscurrents* twice a year and the journal *WILLA* annually.

What major actions or projects have been completed by your group since July 1, 2008?

- Sponsored Folweni High School Project fund drive, which collected over \$1,500 to help buy a blackboard and build a second floor onto the school located in Durban, South Africa.
- Published *Crosscurrents*, WILLA's newsletter, Spring 2009.
- Awarded the Inglis Award: Dr. Suzanne Miller, 2008 recipient.
- Hosted two outstanding speakers, Mary Thompson and Jennifer Ryan at our SIG session at the 2008 National Council of English Teachers Convention in San Antonio.
- Met in Little Rock Arkansas for the summer Executive meeting, working to update our list for gender-balanced Young Adult Literature curriculums and reviewing articles to insure the continued quality of our WILLA journal.
- Publish 2009 WILLA journal in its new online format.

What projects, initiatives, or studies are "in progress" at this time?

- Publishing the *WILLA Journal*
- Wrap-up of the Folweni High School Project fund drive
- Revision of "Guidelines for a Gender-Balanced Curriculum in English Grades 7-12 2000," Judith Hayn, Pamela Hartman, Lisa Hazlette, Sue Schroeder
- Planning of our SIG session at the 2009 National Council of English Teachers Convention in Philadelphia
- Planning of the 2010 summer Executive meeting in Buffalo, NY

Strategic Governance: Over the past few years, the NCTE Executive Committee has established outcomes and priorities relating to these key topics in our field: Multimodal Literacy and Technology, Research and Teaching, English Language Learners, Professional Development, Closing the Achievement Gap, Reading Research, 21st Century Literacies, Meeting the Needs of Audiences Currently Unserved/Underserved by NCTE, Attracting, Supporting, and Advancing Early Career Educators, and International Involvement, "Global English", and NCTE. Does your group have research findings or suggestions to contribute that are relevant to on-going work on these strategic governance topics?

The annotated bibliography listed above as "Cultivating Gender Equity: Guidelines for a Gender-Balanced Curriculum in English Language Arts Pre-K to Grade 6;" Revised 2007 and the 2008 revision of "Guidelines for a Gender-Balanced Curriculum in English Grades 7-12 2000" are resources that need wider dissemination in the area of adolescent literacy and research and teaching.

Pamela Hartman, Chair