

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 most recent summer conference was held during the most recent 2010-2011 fiscal year, and was located at the YMCA of the Rockies Conference Center in Estes Park, Colorado. The 2011 AEPL Conference, [Literacy for Love and Wisdom: Being the Book and Being the Change](#) was inspired by the book of the same name by Jeff Wilhelm and Bruce Novak.

Our journal *JAEPL* continues to thrive under our new co-editors Joonna Trapp and Bradley Peters. And we continue to review of our bylaws and means of doing business as an assembly, our monthly meetings via Skype have been helpful in planning our conferences and responding to issues of the assembly. Our 2012 conference will be on the theme of Mindfulness and also be at the YMCA conference center in Estes Park, and our 2013 conference is planned for Sudbury, Ontario.

Laurence Musgrove, Chair

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.

ANBCT held its annual meeting at the NCTE Conference in Orlando in November of 2010. Participants discussed certification renewal procedures and elected new leadership. Membership application materials were revised and web information on the NCTE site was updated. Goals for the assembly over the next two years include identifying ways to better promote its mission within NCTE and assist NBCTs as they become involved in the process of certification renewal in greater numbers than ever before.

Terry Filippo, 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.

The University of Wisconsin Madison hosted the 2011 annual Midwinter Conference February 18-22, 2011 in Madison, WI. There over 200 attendees at the conference including organizers and keynotes. The theme for the conference was “Time and Space in Literacy Research: Revisiting Context.” Our keynote speakers did a remarkable job sharing their insights about the affordances and challenges of various literacy research methodologies, including memoir, oral history, classroom discourse analysis, policy research and teacher/faculty collaborations. Keynote speakers included:

Barbara Comber – Queensland University of Technology
sj Miller – Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Gloria Ladson Billings – University of Wisconsin Madison
Norma Gonzalez – University of Arizona
Juan Guerra – University of Washington, Seattle
Mollie Blackburn – Ohio State University
Johnny Saldaña - Arizona State University
Kate Pahl – University of Sheffield
Kevin Leander – Vanderbilt University
Glynda Hull – Berkeley & New York University

Building on the 2011 theme of time and space in literacy research, the 2012 NCTEAR Conference theme focuses on the peril(s) and promise(s) of place. Whether the Black Belt in Alabama, the pueblos of the Southwest, rural Appalachia, or urban contexts, each of us lives, works, and teaches in a location with distinct challenges—yet these places also hold innumerable possibilities for action, growth, and change in literacy research and practice(s). The 2012 conference theme seeks to address current practical, theoretical, and methodological issues related to “place” in literacy research.

A permanent website has been established for NCTEAR at <http://nctear.org>.

The 2012 conference will be chaired by Lisa Scherff at the University of Alabama. She will be consulting with the current co-chairs in early October. Executive Officers of the Assembly including future co-chairs will be meeting in Orlando and the National NCTEAR conference.

Catherine Compton-Lilly, Chair

Assembly for State Coordinators of English Language Arts (ASCELA)

The purposes of this assembly are to promote resource and information sharing among all individuals who have an affiliation or interest related to English language arts with state departments of education; to form liaisons with organizations and individuals within and outside the Nation Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) who share the interests of ASCELA; and to promote the quality of instruction in English at all levels. ASCELA holds its annual meeting prior to the NCTE annual convention. Because of limited travel for state coordinators, ASCELA members agreed to change the annual meeting from two days to one.

The 2010 annual meeting was held on November 18 in Orlando. Members shared state reports on policy initiatives. Discussion centered on the Common Core State Standards implementation, Response to Intervention, 21st Century Skills, Striving Readers, and college and career readiness. Kent Williamson, Executive Director of NCTE, met with members to provide updates on NCTE's policies and literacy advocacy. Sue Gendron representing Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium updated members on the timeline and assessment work via conference call.

Membership voted to amend ASCELA's constitution to ask for nominations for officers prior to the November meeting. ASCELA also recognized that the current ASCELA web site is outdated. Because of the limited funding for SEA travel, the constitution was amended to permit voting via e-mail. A new slate of officers will be presented to members prior to the 2011 annual meeting.

The following officers were elected:

President – Tracy Robertson, Virginia
President Elect – Juley Harper, Delaware
Secretary – Tricia Parker, Nebraska
Treasurer – Renee Boss, Kentucky
Webmaster – Patsy Dunton, Maine
Past President – Emilie Amundson, Wisconsin

ASCELA members actively share via e-mail sharing and discussions. Future work will center on sharing common core and college-career readiness resources and networking.

Tracy Robertson, Chair

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.

During the past year, ATEG has maintained an active listserv, exchanging all kinds of views and questions about the teaching of grammar. We held our 22nd annual conference at Prince George County Community College in Largo, Maryland. This year's theme, Learning Grammar in the Spirit of Play, drew 45 participants and a full slate of exciting presentations. The highlight of the conference was a trip to the Rare Book Room of the Library of Congress to view historical grammar book treasures. Our ATEG Journal has been revived and is being distributed to members via postal mail.

We are in the process of updating our membership list and attracting more members. Our website continues to be an excellent resource for teachers at all levels.

Amy Benjamin, 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.

As customary, 2010 AAL annual business meeting was combined with the AAL forum in Orlando, Florida. Additionally, AAL sponsored two other sessions that drew sizeable audiences. At the annual business meeting, several new Executive Committee members were announced whose positions are essential to the expanding role of the Assembly. An AAL spokesperson was featured in the Centennial Film released at the 2010 NCTE convention.

In Orlando, Joe Milner (AAL co-chair) opened the AAL sponsored session on ENGAGING NON-FICTION TEXTS and passed the floor to keynote speakers: Sheridan Blau, Elizabeth Kahn, and Bob Probst. Then interactive discussions were led by AAL members and invited guests at heavily crowded roundtables. Similarly, another session on TEACHING AND LEARNING FROM GREAT AMERICAN POETS began with AAL members' keynote remarks followed by interactive discussion at roundtables. The highlight of this session was AAL's guest author, Pat Mora, who also made the opening remarks and participated in interactive discussion.

The AAL forum for 2010 was entitled TEACHERS AND STUDENTS BRINGING THE AMERICAN CANON TO LIFE THROUGH CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS AND AUTHENTIC PERSONAL WRITING. In his opening remarks, Bruce Penniman (past AAL chair) emphasized that it is important to go beyond the traditional literary analysis in literature classes – not just to develop students' creative potential, but also to improve their understanding of literature. The session included panel presentations by new AAL members: Tracey Hughes, Leigh Van Horn, and Carol Bedard. David Curtis, AAL's editorial advisor, concluded the session by emphasizing the practical, academic, and moral value of studying literature. His remarks were published in the 2011 issue of *Notes on American Literature*.

AAL members received an electronic version of the most recent issue of *Notes on American Literature* because AAL is adhering to the "Go Green" policy for the distribution of its peer reviewed journal. Print copies may be purchased by request and will be available at the annual convention for contributors and interested members.

AAL's Executive Committee continues to enjoy the support of several dedicated members who perform multiple roles in support of the Assembly throughout the year. Currently, the AAL chair, Mabel Khawaja, is also serving as the treasurer and editor. Since the AAL co-chair --Joe Milner--is teaching a course in London, England, for the 2011 fall semester, he will be unable to attend the business meeting in Chicago; Joan Mitchell (AAL Program Coordinator) will serve as his designated representative for the centennial convention. Although the search for leadership positions has been ongoing for several years without success, the transition process is likely to begin soon.

AAL envisions continuing momentum for growth and success in the coming year, and AAL members are looking forward to three AAL sponsored sessions as presenters and participants at the 2011 NCTE centennial convention in Chicago.

Mabel Kahawaja, 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.

What major actions or projects have been completed by your group since July 1, 2010?

The NCTE Assembly for Computers in English (ACE) offered a workshop during the 2010 Annual Convention in Orlando. The workshop introduced the participants to social networking applications such as blogs, wikis, podcasts, and RSS aggregators. 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 well attended and very well received.

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

ACE members are planning the workshop for the 2011 Annual Conference to be held in Chicago. The assembly will seek a free Internet-based application/portal for establishing a community and with the current and future members. Building ACE membership in 2011 and attracting workshop consultants continues to be an area of interest for the committee as well.

Ewa McGrail, Chair

Gail Desler, Treasurer

Assembly on the 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 copy of its journal, ALCA-Lines, published annually and featuring a blend of creative and scholarly writing.

In 2010, ALCA highlighted cultural influences on Appalachian folk literature in two sessions that it sponsored at NCTE's 100th Annual Fall Convention in Orlando, Florida. The first session, open to all participants, showcased how a language arts teacher incorporated an original collection of Appalachian child lore, entitled *Mountain Mother Goose*, to enhance literacy in the classroom. Dr. Judy P. Byers of Fairmont State University, West Virginia, introduced Susan Long, from Union Elementary School, in Buckhannon, West Virginia, who presented her project that Dr. Byers had directed. The child lore collection is part of the folklore estate of Ruth Ann Musick, archived in the Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center at Fairmont State. The second session, which was also ALCA's Special Interest Group Meeting, continued to feature the West Virginia verbal lore and folktales from the Ruth Ann Musick Archives. It was entitled "*Mountain Mother Goose*, the Musical, with Composer, Alice Moerk." Dr. Moerk, Professor Emeritus from Fairmont State, who has worked extensively with musical adaptations of folklore for the classroom, discussed the origins of her three-scene musical version of the *Mountain Mother Goose* collection. She also showed video clips of student performers who will stage the composition for its premier in 2012 and explained her themes in the work. She noted that the *Mountain Mother Goose* is her "symphony to childhood, the music that rings in our hearts throughout our lives."

On June 7, 2011, ALCA held its annual summer dinner meeting in Radford, Virginia in conjunction with Radford University's Highland Summer Appalachian Literature Conference. Approximately 25 people attended. After dinner the membership heard a reading by Appalachian writer Ralph Berrier, Jr.

At the 2011 NCTE Fall Convention in Chicago, ALCA will continue its emphasis on folk literature by featuring nationally acclaimed Appalachian storyteller Anndrena Belcher at its Special Interest Group Meeting. ALCA will also partner with NCTE's "The Swapping Ground: An Evening of Storytelling" to again salute Anndrena Belcher.

Judy P. Byers, Chair

Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of NCTE (ALAN)

The [Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of NCTE](#) is an independent assembly of NCTE. Founded in November 1973, ALAN is comprised of educators, authors, librarians, publishers, teacher-educators and their students, and others interested in young adult literature. ALAN holds its annual meetings during the NCTE Annual Convention in November and also publishes three issues yearly of *The ALAN Review*. Almost from its inception, ALAN has given the ALAN Award to honor those who have made outstanding contributions to the field; recipients include publishers, authors, librarians, scholars, editors, and servants to the organization. In 2000, ALAN created the Hipple Award in honor of longtime Executive Secretary Ted Hipple; recipients demonstrate dedicated service to the organization.

What major actions or projects have been completed by your group since July 1, 2010?

ALAN Workshop

The 2010 ALAN Workshop was held on November 22-23 at the Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Florida. Carlos Eire delivered the keynote address, Gary Paulsen served as the ALAN Breakfast speaker, Chris Crowe was the Hipple Award recipient, and Jack Gantos received the ALAN Award. Other featured authors included Rachel Cohn, Sarah Mlynowski, Jewell Parker Rhodes, Han Nolan, Ellen Hopkins, Kristin Cashore, and James Lecesne. Sixteen breakout sessions featured educators, scholars, librarians, and authors and offered participants literary analyses, insights into the craft of writing, and suggestions regarding how to use young adult literature in the classroom setting.

Executive Director

The search for a new ALAN Executive Director was successful. After an application review and interview process, Teri Lesesne (Sam Houston State University) was selected by committee. Outgoing Director, Gary Salver (Youngstown State University), was honored for his service at a reception held during the ALAN Workshop.

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

ALAN Workshop

The 2011 ALAN Workshop will be hosted at the Chicago Hilton from November 20-22 and will continue the tradition of celebrating the very best of young adult literature. M.T. Anderson will deliver the keynote address, and Jacqueline Woodson will serve as the ALAN Breakfast speaker. Other featured authors include: Angela Johnson, Walter Dean Myers, John Green, Matt de la Peña, Sarah Weeks, Rita Williams-Garcia, Sarah Dessen, Lauren Myracle, Kazu Kibuishi, Maureen Johnson, Abby McDonald, Laurie Halse Anderson, Chris Crutcher, Sharon Draper, Kenneth Oppel, Jennifer Donnelly, Neal Schusterman, Coe Booth, Simone Elkeles, Sara Zarr, Jay Asher, Carolyn Mackler, James Dashner, Megan McCafferty, Veronica Roth, and David Levithan.

Public Relations Committee

Ensuring our organization’s adaptation to life in a technology-oriented world, we have created an Ad Hoc Public Relations Committee designed to increase ALAN’s presence on several social networks. Check out our Facebook and Twitter pages at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Assembly-on-Literature-for-Adolescents-ALAN/187671031252280> and <http://twitter.com/#!/ALANorg>.

Presidents Advisory Council (PAC)

The recent creation of the ALAN Presidents Advisory Council (PAC) intimates our organization’s deference to and recognition of leaders who offer expertise and institutional memory. Committee members, Virginia Monseau (Chair), Jim Blasingame, cj Bott, Michael Cart, Lois Stover, and Connie Zitlow, invited all former ALAN Presidents to participate in the PAC, to provide support and guidance to the ALAN President and Board in decisions important to the organization. Twenty-two members whose terms as ALAN President date back to 1974 (M. Jerry Weiss) agreed to serve. The first charge of the PAC is to help support the creation of a policy manual that describes the general operating procedures of our organization, including items relative to elections, the make-up and roles of standing committees, etc.

Constitution Review

To ensure both continuity and necessary change, a committee has been convened to review the ALAN Constitution. The group is in the process of generating a list of constitutional items that are outdated,

unnecessary, and in need of revision, as well as identifying new items for potential inclusion. This list will be brought to the Board for review and discussion. Proposed changes will then be decided upon by a vote of the full membership.

Nilsen-Donelson Award

Indicative of their long-standing commitment to the organization, Drs. Alleen and Don Nilsen have generously donated \$10,000 to ALAN for the establishment of a Nilsen-Donelson Award. The award will honor Alleen Nilsen and Ken Donelson for their work as the original editors of *The ALAN Review* and be given at the 2011 Workshop to the authors of the best article published in the journal each year.

Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award (AEWA)

Reflecting ALAN's increasing presence in the larger field of young adult literature, the Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award will continue into its fourth year. Established in 2008 to honor the wishes of young adult author, Amelia Elizabeth Walden, the award allows for the sum of \$5,000 to be presented annually to the author of a young adult title selected by the ALAN Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award Committee as demonstrating a positive approach to life, widespread teen appeal, and literary merit. The 2011 award winner (Francisco X. Stork) and finalists (Kristen Chandler, Matt de la Peña, Matthew Quick, and Jordan Sonnenblick) will be honored at the AEWA reception on Monday evening of the 2011 ALAN Workshop.

Mission Statement

To capture the core values of our organization, an Ad Hoc committee was created to draft a mission statement for ALAN. Committee members included: Virginia Monseau, Past President, 1993; Lois Stover, Past President, 1997; Connie Zitlow, Past President, 1999 and Committee Chair; Michael Cart, Past President, 2003; James Blasingame, Past President, 2009; and cj Bott, President Elect, 2011. The efforts of this esteemed group resulted in the statement below:

The Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the National Council of Teachers of English:

- **Defines** young adult literature as works in a wide variety of genres and forms, including multi-media formats, with topics relevant to the interests and needs of young people in middle and high school.
- **Promotes** the inclusion of young adult literature as a bridge to other curricular works and as a stand-alone curricular selection in both the English language arts program and across the curriculum.
- **Supports** educators and librarians in their use of the literature, **advocates** the right to read the literature, and **defends** freedom of choice for independent reading, inclusion in classrooms, presence in library collections, and in book clubs.
- **Provides** opportunities for teachers, librarians, teacher educators, and others involved in the use of young adult literature to enhance their practice and **teaches** the educational community and general public about the value of this literature.
- **Celebrates** the ever-changing nature of the field and welcomes artistic innovation, experimentation, and risk-taking by authors, publishers, and others involved in the creation of young adult literature.
- **Evaluates** young adult literature on its individual merits and in the context of larger bodies of literature as appropriate and **engages** in ongoing rethinking of the literary canon.
- **Cooperates** with other organizations that advocate similar goals and objectives.

Wendy J. Glenn, President

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.

Actions or projects completed since July 1, 2010

1. Presented the Notable Children's Books in the Language Arts booklist at the 2010 NCTE Convention in Chicago.
2. Published two issues of *The Journal of Children's Literature*.
3. Sponsored a full-day Workshop focused on literacy in the arts during the 2010 NCTE conference, including Bryan Collier, Doreen Rappaport, David Diaz, Hester Bass, and Andrea Davis Pinkney.
4. Sponsored a breakfast at the 2010 NCTE conference featuring award-winning author/illustrator David Wiesner.
5. Sponsored a Master Class on picture book design, featuring David Wiesner and Thomas Phinney at the 2010 NCTE Annual Convention.
6. Conducted a successful auction of illustrator-donated art and prints to fund a children's literature research award.
7. Transferred the editorship of the *Journal of Children's Literature* from Cyndi Giorgis and April Bedford to Miriam Martinez, Jonda McNair, and Sharon O'Neal, who will serve a three-year editorship.
8. Redesigned the organization's website and transferred to new host. The web address is: <http://www.childrensliteratureassembly.org>.
9. Created a group Facebook page.
10. Began housing the Bonnie Campbell Hill National Literacy Scholarship and assisted Ms. Hill with the creation and advertising of the award.
11. Began sending a liaison to the Elementary Section Steering Committee and assisted with reviewing conference proposals.
12. Created Endowment Fund by-laws and established rotating terms for committee members.
13. Partnered with EBSCO to help disseminate the *Journal of Children's Literature*.
14. Met as an Executive Board two times during the year (2010-2011).

Projects, initiatives, or studies "in progress" at this time

1. Planning for four sessions at 2011 NCTE Convention: a) the Notable Books in the Language Arts session; b) a breakfast session with Joyce Sidman as presenter; c) a one-day workshop exploring cultural authenticity in children's literature, featuring Nikki Grimes, Julia Kuo, Eric Velasquez, Jenny Han, Kathy Short, and Saba Vlach; and d) a Master Class featuring Joyce Sidman and Pat Mora addressing reading, writing, and responding to poetry.
2. Continuing to publish *The Journal of Children's Literature* and increase its exposure.
3. Awarding a competitively-selected research grant designed to support a scholar investigating children's books in classrooms. The first award will be presented in 2011-2011.
4. Selecting the first Bonnie Campbell Hill Scholarship recipients.
5. 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 2011, CLA-sponsored breakfast at NCTE.
6. Conducting recruitment of new members and invitations for more active participation through ad hoc committees.
7. Working for more online ways of conferring, collaborating, developing, and recording the history of the organization.
8. Promoting the study of children's literature as scholarship and the importance of children's literature courses in teacher education programs.

Lettie K. Albright, Chair

Early Childhood Education Assembly (ECEA)

The [Early Childhood Education 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.

ECEA 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.

ECEA is now in its second year as an assembly of NCTE and our membership is slowly growing. To help with bringing new members to ECEA and therefore NCTE, we request that all NCTE texts, whether print based or electronic, include the term 'pre-K' when talking about NCTE membership such as in ads for the annual convention.

The ECEA cannot express enough how much we appreciate the support of **Frank Chiki** and the ESSC, who have continued to support our efforts as an assembly. In particular the ESSC has continued to create opportunities for ECEA representation during program planning. We hope to be able to continue this work in the future. We believe this joint planning allows for a seamless program of strong presentations that focus on the needs of participants interested in early childhood and elementary literacy.

The ECEA has maintained the production of a newsletter and is now in the process of producing the inaugural ECEA Yearbook, which draws from papers presented at the Early Childhood Day at the annual convention in 2010.

Most recently, ECEA was represented at the Save Our Schools March and National Call to Action held in Washington DC and at American University from July 28-31. Several ECEA members assisted with onsite coordination during the conference portion of the event. Members also joined the march to the White House on July 30.

For more information on how to participate in the ECE Assembly please visit our website at <http://eceassembly.blogspot.com/>. On our website you will also find links to follow us on Twitter or friend us on Facebook.

Vivian Vasquez, 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.

Projects from the Past Year:

- Sessions at the 2010 Annual Convention

LGBT Strand sessions, including our annual business meeting, were held during every day and in almost nearly every time slot in the 2010 Annual Convention. New officers were elected at the business meeting: John Pruitt (john.pruitt@uwc.edu), Chair; Caitlin Ryan (ryanca@ecu.edu), Associate Chair; Laura Renzi (lrenzi@wcupa.edu), Secretary; and Lisa Hazlett (lhazlett@usd.edu) for Membership/Treasurer.

- Partnership with the Lambda Literary Foundation

The GSEA has been invited to join the [Lambda Literary Foundation](#) on a collaborative project. Tony Valenzuela, the Foundation's executive director, has worked with John Pruitt, GSEA's chair, to create a program of gay and lesbian author outreach to schools across the country. Specifically, the project will begin bringing LGBT authors of young adult literature to schools, either physically or digitally via Skype or other conferencing software. Conversations with GSEA members expanded the outreach to classrooms of pre-service teachers in addition to K-12 educators. Initial invitations produced a list of 34 schools interested in this opportunity. John met with Tony and Judith Markowitz, a board member who lives in Chicago, at the Lambda Literary Awards in May. John and Judith are also collaborating on a presentation about the project at the 2011 Annual Convention in order to explain the project and attract even more attention.

Current/Ongoing Projects:

- Increased Visibility/Accessibility at the Annual Conventions

Caitlin Ryan, GSEA Associate Chair, is working with GSEA members to draft a letter requesting that gender-neutral bathroom space be made available at the 2011 and future Annual Conventions to ensure the safety and comfort of all attendees, including those who may identify as transgender. A similar effort by the Queer Studies SIG of the American Educational Research Association has provided a good model for working with meetings staff to satisfy this request.

In addition, efforts are underway by Joseph Rodriguez to revamp our booth in the Exhibit Hall to be more interactive and educative for those who stop by. We are working on giving out LGBT-themed door/booth prizes and reading lists. We are also trying to set up a book display, which we hope will be supplemented by Chicago's independent and LGBT-friendly bookstore Women and Children First. The booth will continue to be a space for us to invite more members to join and to advertise our LGBT Strand sessions, our business meeting, and our social.

- New Partnerships

Jacqueline Woodson, an out lesbian author of young adult literature with LGBT characters, is speaking at the ALAN breakfast in Chicago. We are interested in working with people in the Rainbow strand to establish a joint Rainbow and LGBT strand session with her and/or focused on her books. Joseph Rodriguez is going to establish next steps in exploring this partnership. Future sessions with LGBT authors of color could provide additional avenues of collaboration.

The GSEA also wants to continue to push for the inclusion of LGBT-related issues in programs that educate English/Language Arts teachers, particularly given the ways that NCATE and other accrediting bodies have moved to reduce this focus in recent years. The GSEA looks forward to working with the NCTE Executive Committee, WILLA, the Social Justice Coalition, and other bodies who may be interested in addressing NCATE directly and/or in educating NCTE members about the push towards silencing LGBT issues in teacher education.

- New Communications Platforms

The GSEA has begun to use the NCTE Ning. In addition, John Pruitt, GSEA Chair, has been considering ways to expand our presence outside of the Ning. He is presently developing a site for membership outreach, communications, and resource sharing currently housed at <https://sites.google.com/site/gaystraighteducatorsalliance>.

The scope of the GSEA is broad in both membership and mission, bringing together people from all types and sizes of schools, serving their diverse needs and interests. We are proud to be NCTE's home for the LGBT community and allies, committed to serving the educational and information needs of English and English Education teachers from early childhood through university levels. We hope to keep NCTE informed about institutional, academic, and national issues affecting the LGBT and ally members of its constituency.

Caitlin L. Ryan, Associate Chair

International Writing Centers Association (IWCA)

The [International Writing Centers Association](#) (IWCA), an NCTE Assembly, was founded in 1983 to foster communication among writing centers and to provide a forum for concerns. Comprising directors and staffs of writing centers at universities, two-year colleges, and public schools, the IWCA has approximately 800 member institutions and is governed by an Executive Board that includes officers and representatives from twelve regional affiliate associations and two publications, *Writing Lab Newsletter* and *Writing Center Journal*.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2010-11

Conferences and Institute

- NCTE—Conducted back-to-back program sessions and a SIG featuring presentations on starting and sustaining writing centers in secondary contexts.
- CCCC—Hosted third annual IWCA Collaborative @ Cs, a one-day independent conference planned yearly for the day before the Cs conference.
- Summer Institute—Implemented the 8th annual one-week professional development institute for new writing center directors.
- IWCA/NCPTW Conference—Combined with the National Conference of Peer Tutors of Writing, the IWCA attracted 950 participants to its November 2010 conference in Baltimore.

Awards

- Gave two awards for best scholarship—Best Article, Best Book/Major Work.
- Awarded approximately \$3500 in research grants.
- Awarded travel scholarships for underrepresented professionals to attend conferences.
- Awarded the IWCA Muriel Harris Outstanding Service Award.

Executive Board Initiatives

Executive Board meetings or Committee/Task Force meetings were held monthly throughout the academic year. The following task force initiatives are nearing completion or will transition to standing committees:

- Professional Development—recruited an IWCA Web Content Developer to author professional development materials available on demand to members.
- Research Network Forum—established ongoing research mentoring forum.
- Regional Leaders Network—established a network of regional leaders charged and equipped to offer professional development in geographically accessible micro-regions.
- Mentor Matching—Proposal adopted for a mentoring program; next step: implementation.
- Consultant-Evaluators—Studied the feasibility of establishing teams of consultant evaluators for writing center site visits.
- Standing Committees established for responding to the interests of special constituencies: Two-Year College Committee; Graduate Student Administrators Committee; K- 12 Committee.

GOALS, 2011-2012

- Conferences and Institutes—In coordination with COWLCC, the IWCA will pilot a one-day gathering in advance of NCTE; based on the IWCA Collaborative @ Cs model.
- Awards—Augment research grant awards through generous contribution from *Writing Center Journal*.
- Smoothly transition to new officers at close of NCTE: Roberta Kjesrud, Past President; Nathalie Singh-Corcoran, President; Kevin Dvorak, Vice President; Neal Lerner, Treasurer; Kerri Jordan, Secretary.

Roberta D. Kjesrud, President

Women in Literacy and 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* and the journal *WILLA* annually.*

Between June 1, 2010 and June 1, 2011, WILLA published a Spring 2011 edition of the newsletter *Crosscurrents*, awarded the Inglis Award to Anne Ruggles Gere, and hosted a SIG presentation of pre-service teachers' voices and reflections to depict gender stereotypes, sexuality, and popular culture by Dr. Meg Callahan and Spoken Arts Poet Reenah Golden in Orlando at the Annual Meeting of NCTE. In addition, Dr. Candice Moench and Kattie Hogan shared findings from a critical investigation of "the inner lives of urban GLBT girls who used out-of-school literacies to negotiate poly-phonic identities." Members of WILLA met in Buffalo for Summer Meeting, June 24-27, to begin to update an NCTE policy brief on gender-balanced secondary curriculum within a new literacies framework and to invite teachers from a graduate program at the University of Buffalo to present findings from a gender-focused inquiry conducted in secondary English classes. Local teacher educators, a district superintendent, and a university teacher education program director attended the presentation along with others. The draft of the updated policy brief has been forwarded to NCTE for review and a bibliography is currently being finalized. The 2009 volume of the journal *WILLA* was published in spring 2010 in its new online format. The deadline for submission of manuscripts for the 2010 edition was August 15th and it is anticipated that the journal will be released before the annual meeting in Chicago in November. PayPal has been installed for members to renew memberships online and everyone will be encouraged to use it to pay dues when the call goes out to be sure to attend WILLA events at the Annual Meeting in Chicago.

At the WILLA business meeting held in Orlando members of the Executive Board discussed the possibility of selling subscriptions to *WILLA* to libraries to raise funds that would permit WILLA to continue to support vulnerable students and women, graduate students' attendance of annual meetings of NCTE and a return to printed versions of *WILLA*. Mini-conferences with a focus on gender-balanced curriculum in areas of the nation where WILLA has a strong local presence were also discussed as sources of revenue and vitality for the national organization; students and teachers who attend a mini-conference in Buffalo or Muncie, for instance, would not have to travel a great distance to participate.

NCTE is to be commended for the increasing number of presentations on gender issues found in the program at the Annual Meeting in Orlando; teachers seem to want *both* practical ways to promote gender equity during critical investigations of literature and written constructions of gender *as well as* a theoretical framework.

Susan Schroeder, Chair