

## **Achievement Awards in Writing Advisory Committee**

**Charge:** The NCTE [Achievement Awards in Writing](#) program makes use of an advisory committee and state coordinators.

**Achievement Awards Advisory Committee:** To advise staff on the nature, policies, and procedures regarding the NCTE Achievement Awards, including the following issues: development of a specific plan for involving more public schools in the awards, especially those with large non-white populations; revision of the structure of the award to mitigate the negative effects of competition on student identity and learning; consideration and development of diversified awards: that recognize development of English Language Learners in writing in their first language as well as English composition; that recognize remarkable improvement or growth in writing; that recognize multi-modal composition (digital or non-digital); and that recognize remarkable risk-taking with the process of writing, instead of the exclusive focus on the final draft; and consideration of revising the Achievement Awards procedure, to eliminate the test-like, single-draft, timed essay as part of the award criteria, since recent developments in high-stakes assessment already privilege those who write quickly; and to consider and make recommendations for ways that your work might interface with NCTE's [National Day on Writing](#).

**State Coordinators:** To advise the NCTE staff liaison on any changes that should be made in the Achievement Awards program; review judging procedures; recommend judges; recommend ways of publicizing the program; investigate ways of aiding the winners; and give suggestions for the impromptu theme topic.

No report submitted.

*Susan Reese, Chair*

## **Committee Against Racism and Bias in the Teaching of English**

**Charge:** *To investigate and make recommendations to counteract racism and racial bias in teaching materials, methods, and programs for English and language arts; to develop guidelines for Teacher Quality for Educators who Teach Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Students, with careful documentation from the research base for your recommendations, based upon the NCTE 2004 policy document concerning Teacher Quality; to recommend to the [NCTE Executive Committee](#) guidelines for or considerations related to professional development of inservice and preservice teachers regarding teaching linguistically and culturally diverse students, with the assistance of appropriate scholars and experts, as well as careful documentation from the research base for your recommendations; to create principles for assessment for linguistically and culturally diverse students, with the assistance of appropriate scholars and experts and careful documentation from the research base for your recommendations, based upon the 2004 NCTE framing statements on assessment; to participate in developing NCTE as the professional home for conversations about English Language Learners in English-dominant classrooms; and to identify the research base for your recommendations, and to recommend research on matters for which you can discern no research base.*

No report submitted.

*Michael Guevara, Chair*

## Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues in Academic Studies Advisory Committee

**Charge:** To develop plans for making the [NCTE Annual Convention](#) a safe and welcoming place for lesbians and gay men to be out and at ease in their identities; to initiate, sustain, and provide a space for a conversation about the relevance of gendered, sexual and affectional identities to reading and writing lives, to teaching lives, and to the well-being of students; to promote inquiry into issues of sexuality and identity in the teaching of literacy and literature, to encourage proposals for presentation of such inquiry through public meetings such as the annual convention, and to support individuals in the production of publishable written reports of such inquiry; to move away from post-hoc preparation of sessions toward a program that is selected completely from sessions proposed by the deadline through the regular process; and to select excellent proposals for inclusion in the LGBT strand for annual convention.

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

Dr. John Pruitt (University of Wisconsin-Rock County) has completed two LGBT projects since July 2008. Thanks to a Diversity Research Grant provided by the American Library Association, his article "Gay Men's Book Clubs vs. Wisconsin's Public Libraries: Political Perceptions in the Absence of Dialogue" is forthcoming in *Library Quarterly*. A second article, "Accommodating the Diversity Needs of Straight, White Male College Students (You Must Be Joking!)" is currently under consideration for *Currents in Teaching and Learning*.

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

Dr. John Pruitt (University of Wisconsin-Rock County) is currently writing a content analysis of the Lambda Book Report since the publication's inception. This project will hopefully lead to a book on the evolution of LGBT literacy movements through the present.

We are currently working on a document about language. We are also collecting bibliographic material for our literature table at the convention and informally discussing possibilities for professional development on LGBT issues for the NCTE membership.

Paula Ressler and Becca Chase co-edited the March 2009 issue of *English Journal* on Sexual Orientation and Gender Variance. Extra copies of the issue are available for \$6.00 for NCTE members.

We are continuing to work on updating our website with bibliographic and other links that will be of benefit to educators. We hope to update the website with materials from the special edition of EJ on sexual orientation and gender variance.

We continue to work on LGBT committee members serving in an advisory capacity to NCTE publications, to ensure that LGBT perspectives are included in NCTE publications and websites, such as ReadWriteThink.

**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, 21<sup>st</sup> 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?

We will be discussing the latest research in the field at our annual meeting. See last year's Annual Report for research findings and suggestions.

The Advisory Committee will need to address how we should divide the task of collecting the latest research.

*Joseph Dial, Chair*

## **NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children Selection Committee**

**Charge:** *To recommend on a regular basis every two years a living American poet to the NCTE Executive Committee for the [NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children](#) in recognition of his or her aggregate work; to sustain the collection of poetry books of award winners, past and future, in the [University of Minnesota, Kerlan Collection](#); to recognize and foster excellence in children's poetry by encouraging its publication; and to explore ways to acquaint teachers and children with poetry through such means as publications, programs, and displays.*

No report submitted.

*Ralph Fletcher, Chair*

## **NCTE/TESOL Committee**

**Charge:** *To encourage interchange among teachers of the English language arts at all levels on issues of bilin-gual education and English as a second language; to promote interaction among the affiliates of TESOL and NCTE and among appropriate teachers in local school districts; to inform administrators and other support personnel of important issues of ESL; to propose programs for the conventions of TESOL, NCTE, and other appropriate organizations; to encourage publication of articles on mutual concerns; to work cooperatively in encouraging licensure and certification for teachers specializing in bilingual education and English as a second language.*

No report submitted.

*Jim Stack, Chair*

## **Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction in Children's Literature Committee**

**Charge:** To select the recipient of the annual [Orbis Pictus Award](#) for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children and up to five honor books; to propose a session on nonfiction books for children and plan a session featuring the award winning author at NCTE's [Annual Convention](#); and to promote the use of nonfiction children's books in the classroom.

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

Since July 2008 the committee has announced the winner, honor, and recommended books of the 2008 collection of books in the article of reviews for *Language Arts* and at the national conference in 2008, during which the committee acknowledged a number of authors and illustrators during the children's literature luncheon. Tonya Bolden, John Fleischman, and Ann Bausam were honored. Later the authors participated in a round table of author discussion about writing and illustrating books for young readers. The committee's selection of the 2008 collection was intensive and challenging because of the number of excellent and varied books published for young readers. Features and content are diverse and sometimes controversial; new forms such as the memoir and first-person biography, as well as superb photographs and design continue to renew, expand and invigorate the genre. The concerns about sources and documentation in books for the youngest readers continues to be part of committee discussions, as does the inclusion of poetry or multi-media supplements, genres which are not eligible for the Orbis Pictus award.

The books presented at the 2008 conference, whose authors were honored, are as follows:

#### Winner of the 2008 Orbis Pictus Award

- Tonya Bolden. *MLK: The Journey of a King*. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

#### Honor Books for 2008

- Nic Bishop. *Nic Bishop Spiders*. Scholastic Nonfiction,
- Ann Bausam. *Muckrakers: How Ida Tarbell, Upton Sinclair, and Lincoln Steffens Helped Expose Scandal, Inspire Reform, and Invent Investigative Journalism*. National Geographic.
- John Fleischman. *Black and White Airmen: Their True History*. Houghton Mifflin.
- Marilyn Singer. *Venom*. Darby Creek Press.
- George Sullivan. *Helen Keller: Her Life in Pictures*. Scholastic Press.

#### Recommended Books for 2008

- Loree Griffin Burns. *Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion*. Houghton Mifflin.
- Steve Jenkins. *Living Color*. Houghton Mifflin.
- Sheila Keenan. *Animals in the House: A History of Pets and People*, Scholastic Press.
- Katherine Kirkpatrick. *The Snow Baby: The Arctic childhood of Admiral Robert E. Peary's Daring Daughter*. Holiday House.
- Cris Peterson. *Clarabelle: Making Milk and So Much More*. Boyds Mills Press.
- Bob Raczka. *3-D ABC A Sculptural Alphabet*. Millbrook Press.
- Peter Sis. *The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux

The 2009 committee selected the winning, honor, and recommended books and submitted a review article to *Language Arts*. The completion of voting for the 2009 award occurred at the end of 2008 and the beginning of 2009. The 2009 collection will be presented at the November conference in Philadelphia.

The following books have been selected for the 2009 collection:

Winner of the 2009 Orbis Pictus Award

- *Amelia Earhart: The Legend of the Lost Aviator* by Shelley Tanaka (Abrams Books for Young Readers)

Honor Books for 2009

- *George Washington Carver* by Tonya Bolden (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
- *The Lincolns: A Scrapbook Look at Abraham and Mary* by Candace Fleming (Schwartz & Wade Books)
- *Washington at Valley Forge* by Russell Freedman (Holiday House)
- *We are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball* by Kadir Nelson (Hyperion Books for Children)
- *When the Wolves Returned: Restoring Nature's Balance in Yellowstone* by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent, illustrated by Dan and Cassie Hartman (Walker Books for Young Readers).

Recommended Books for 2009

- *A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams* by Jen Bryant (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers)
- *A Boy Named Beckoning: The True Story of Dr. Carlos Montezuma, Native American Hero* by Gina Capaldi (Carolrhoda Books)
- *The Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West* by Sid Fleischman (Greenwillow Books)
- *Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Through the Gates and Beyond* by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan (Roaring Brook Press)
- *Ice Bears* by Brenda Z. Guiberson (Henry Holt & Co.);
- *Sisters and Brothers: Sibling Relationships in the Animal World* by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page (Houghton Mifflin Books for Children)
- *In Defiance of Hitler: The Secret Mission of Varian Fry* by Carla Killough McClafferty (Farrar Straus and Giroux)
- *Lincoln through the Lens: How Photography Revealed and Shaped an Extraordinary Life* by Martin W. Sandler (Walker Books for Young Readers)

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

At the November, 2008, conference, during the committee meeting, members continued their discussion of parts of the bylaws that needed attention, some aspects more technical, such as the timing of the announcement of the award at the conference, which, under the existing by-laws is at the spring conference. Certain parts of the by-laws are obsolete. Other parts of the by-laws, such as the list of books that are eligible for the award, has raised questions among members. The updating of the by-laws is an ongoing project. We anticipate that at the 2009 meeting in Philadelphia, the committee will finalize the revisions and present the by-laws to the NCTE Executive Committee.

The period since June 2008 saw the annual change in the committee. Two members, Carol Avery and Terrell Young rotated off of the committee; they are no longer involved in book selection, but they will be part of the presentation of the 2009 books at the annual convention. Two new members joined the committee, Jan Kristo and Barbara Chatton. Continuing members of the committee are Mingshui Cai, Jeffrey Kaplan, Diana Porter, and Fran Wilson. The members are reviewing books published in 2009 in consideration for the 2010 award selection. The members of the committee reflect a range of professional experience, regional representation, gender and diversity, and expertise with children's

nonfiction literature. At the time of this report the committee will host three authors during the author presentation at the fall conference in Philadelphia.

As part of our charge to promote the use of non-fiction children's books in the classroom, committee members have taken it upon themselves to publicize the Orbis Pictus Award through presentations at local, state, and national conferences throughout the year. Presentations have been made at regional IRA conferences, meetings of NCTE state affiliates, librarians' conferences, and local district meetings. These presentations have been well received, and plans are underway to continue this effort during 2009-2010.

**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, 21<sup>st</sup> 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?

While presenting at conferences, members of the committee have discovered that teachers and librarians are hungry for professional development that speaks directly to classroom delivery of content. The integration of non-fiction into literacy programs at any grade level continues to be a challenge and an issue, especially as high stakes testing increases focus on interpretation of text and graphics based on non-fiction selections. Educators who work within the constraints of mandated programs want to supplement their texts. The Orbis Pictus Award Committee can provide ideas for selection of books, themes to consider in connecting them, and enhanced instruction in sharing books to help young readers become more astute in their reading of the genre. Teachers need the affirmation to supplement their programs with current literature, and they need more information and ideas about sharing the books with young readers.

*As a new committee chair, I am grateful for the leadership and support provided by the outgoing chair, Sandip Wilson, and the NCTE staff members, Debbie Zagorski and Linda Walters, who provided encouragement, information, and patience as I settled into this position. This annual report follows the model provided by the 2008 annual report; many passages are taken from that report, written by Sandip Wilson.*

*Kim Ford, Chair*

**Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary  
Magazines Advisory Committee**

**Charge:** *To advise the NCTE staff liaison on any changes that should be made in the Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines; to review judging criteria; to develop and review criteria for selecting Highest Award winners; and to select Highest Award winners.*

*For more information on the Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines Program for all senior high, junior high and middle schools, [click here](#).*

No report submitted.

*Charles Gould, Chair*

## Promising Young Writers Advisory Committee

**Charge:** The NCTE [Promising Young Writers](#) program makes use of an advisory committee and state coordinators. Their charges are as follows:

**Promising Young Writers Committee:** To advise staff on the nature, policies, and procedures regarding the NCTE Promising Young Writer Awards, including the following issues: to develop a specific plan for involving more public schools in the awards, especially those with large non-white populations.

To prepare a written set of recommendations for the Executive Committee regarding the following: revision of the structure of the award to mitigate the negative effects of competition on student identity and learning; consideration and development of diversified awards: that recognize development of English Language Learners in writing in their first language as well as English composition; that recognize remarkable improvement or growth in writing; that recognize multi-modal composition (digital or non-digital); and that recognize remarkable risk-taking with the process of writing, instead of the exclusive focus on the final draft.

To consider and make recommendations for ways that the work might interface with NCTE's [National Day on Writing](#).

**State Coordinators:** To advise the NCTE staff liaison on any changes that should be made in the Promising Young Writers program; to review judging procedures; to recommend judges; to recommend ways to publicize the program; to coordinate judging of papers within the state; to help disseminate information about the winners; and to suggest topics for the impromptu theme.

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

1. We received word in August 2008 that the NCTE Executive Committee approved changes we had recommended during the previous year: (1) changing the timed-writing prompt to a theme-driven piece of writing that is untimed, and (2) moving the deadline for submission from mid-January to the second week of February.
2. Leah Zuidema was named Chair for the 2009-2011 term.
3. Members/guests in attendance at the NCTE meeting November 22, 2008 include Sarah Woodard, Shannon Collins, Kilian McCurrie, Bobby Purcell, Carol Blauvelt, and Kia Jane Richmond (outgoing chair).

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

1. We have recommended an electronic submissions process for entries and are hopeful that it will be in place for the 2010 contest.
2. We recommend that the NCTE web site reorganize to have one site for "NCTE Writing Awards" so that both PYW (8<sup>th</sup> grade) and Achievement award (11<sup>th</sup> grade) - winners/participants would be listed there.
3. We recommend that PYW and Achievement Awards jointly create [NCTE Writing Awards Gallery](#) to post writing from PYW (8<sup>th</sup> grade) and Achievement Awards (11<sup>th</sup> grade), making sure to post samples only from those who have given permission to publish.

**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, 21<sup>st</sup> 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?

*Leah Zuidema, Chair*

## Public Language Awards Committee

**Charge:** To select the recipients of the annual [George Orwell Award for Distinguished Contribution to Honesty and Clarity in Public Language](#) and [The Doublespeak Award](#). The NCTE Orwell Award, established in 1975, recognizes writers who have made outstanding contributions to the critical analysis of public discourse. The NCTE Doublespeak Award, established in 1974, is an ironic tribute to public speakers who have perpetuated language that is grossly deceptive, evasive, euphemistic, confusing, or self-centered.

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

Selected Charlie Savage, author of *Takeover: The Return of the Imperial Presidency and the Subversion of American Democracy* for the 2008 Orwell Award, and the 2008 Doublespeak Award winner is the term “aspirational goal”.

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

We are currently accepting nominations for the 2009 Orwell and Doublespeak Awards.

**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, 21<sup>st</sup> 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?

*Dennis Baron, Chair*

## Technical and Scientific Communications Committee

*In today's rapidly changing world, there is a growing need for technical and scientific writers who can communicate clearly and succinctly to professionals and lay persons. Unfortunately, teaching at all levels has not kept up with this need, concentrating instead on the traditional forms of creative and informational writing. NCTE should be leading the movement to increase teachers' interest and skill in teaching technical and scientific writing.*

**Charge:** *To play a prominent role in increasing our professional community's awareness and skill in teaching technical and scientific communication by*

- *holding an open committee meeting and presenting awards at the [NCTE Annual Convention](#),*
- *recommending experts in the field who could author NCTE publications, develop online courses or digital learning experiences, and/or speak at the annual convention, and*
- *suggesting opportunities to collaborate with other professional or scholarly organizations on the generation or dissemination of information about technical and scientific communication to teachers of all disciplines.*

[Technical and Scientific Communication Awards](#) (Sponsored by the Technical and Scientific Communication Committee)

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

1. In keeping with the committee's new mandate to enhance the presence of technical and scientific communication at the NCTE annual convention, the committee scheduled its meeting at the convention as "open" to all attendees.
2. The committee collaborated on three proposals for the '09 NCTE convention in an effort to reach out to constituents in secondary education and teacher education. One of the proposals targeted how the technical and scientific communication community could contribute to the National Day on Writing.
3. The committee will present a roundtable at the '09 annual meeting entitled "Technical Communication and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Literacies: A Roundtable for the Secondary English Education Community." The session represents collaboration across four universities involving teachers of technical communication and teachers of English education.
4. The committee carried out the selection process for the NCTE Awards in Technical and Scientific Communication, involving six different awards for articles and books.

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

1. The committee is pursuing collaboration with the Association of Teachers of Technical Communication to spearhead greater participation of ATTW members at the NCTE convention, and thus enhance outreach to secondary education and English education teachers. The collaboration should result in at least two proposals for sessions each year at the NCTE convention.
2. The committee will be pursuing publishing opportunities with the *English Journal*. Specifically, the committee will be proposing (to the editor) a column (2-4 times per year) in the journal devoted to technical and scientific communication, addressing the relevance of the area to secondary education and teacher training programs, with ideas for helping teachers envision a broader writing curriculum.

3. The committee will also be pursuing a proposal for a special issue of *The Technical Writing Teacher* devoted to spearheading initiatives that bridge technical/professional communication, secondary education, and teacher training.
4. The committee will continue to oversee the NCTE Awards in Technical and Scientific Communication.

**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, 21<sup>st</sup> 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?

*Charlotte Thralls, Chair*