

Elementary Section Steering Committee

The [Elementary Section Steering Committee](#) is responsible for the governance of NCTE's Elementary Section.

Continuing/ Expanding ESSC vision and action as elementary leaders

Organizational Efforts: The ESSC continues to increase organizational activity throughout the year using a sub-committee structure and additional conference call meetings. The committee structure involves new members "apprenticing" to a current committee member so that there is always an experienced facilitator for ESSC work. We have expanded beyond simply conference planning in our efforts on behalf of elementary members and regularly discuss and address elementary language arts issues through conference calls, website, listserves and in face-to-face meetings. Commitment of ESSC members includes continuing the full day Thursday conference meeting and use of the Connected Community. Following successful use of Elluminate for on-line meetings, the ESSC will continue to use this tool to meet between Conventions. Meeting time is devoted to discussing conference planning, NCTE initiatives, government relations, and core standards and other issues.

Advocacy Updates: Jeff Williams discussed the work of the Governance Relations Subcommittee work and conducted briefings regarding Advocacy Day. Members were informed of the process that the EC sub-committee goes through in order to create and/or update a legislative platform and how the platform is used. Jeff Williams solicited input from members of the ESSC while he chaired the Governance Subcommittee and continues to seek the input of the Elementary Section at large.

Common Core Standards: Jeff Williams updated the group on the Common Core Standards and NCTE's response. These conversations helped members remain informed so that they could address the speculation that has surrounded the Core Standards. As additional information becomes available, Jeff will continue to update members.

Website/ Inbox: The ESSC continues to work on maintaining its on-line presence. Each ESSC member volunteered to make contributions to the Inbox in assigned months. Divvying up such work has helped the ESSC remain active in this communication link. Members also answered questions that arose through the Connected Community.

Early Childhood Education Assembly (ECEA)

In its second year as an assembly the ECEA membership has continued to grow. The Assembly has maintained the production of a newsletter and is now in the process of publishing its first 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.

The ECE Assembly maintains a website at <http://eceassembly.blogspot.com/> and a presence on Twitter and Facebook.

Outstanding Educator Award

The committee selected Dr. Kathy Short as Outstanding Language Arts Educator for 2011. This nomination was approved at the April EC meeting. Dr. Short is a long time member and NCTE contributor, former classroom teacher, and current educator at the University of Arizona. She has authored a wide range of articles and texts that have promoted and enhanced language arts instruction. Barbara Lehman coordinated this selection process.

Graves Award

The Donald Graves Award Committee, Danling Fu, Frank Chiki, Carmen Tisdale, and Latosha Rowley, decided the Graves Award would not be granted in 2011 because there were too few applicants to ensure a true comparison of best practices and criteria as set for the Graves Award. This move is provided for within the Graves Award guidelines and applicants are usually carried over into the next year.

Language Arts

The ESSC welcomes the new editors of Language Arts, from Georgia State in Atlanta: Peggy Albers, Caitlin McMunn Cooley, Amy Seely Flint, Teri Holbrook, and Laura May.

The ESSC wishes to thank the outgoing editorial team for all of its hard work and dedication during their tenure in producing Language Arts: Patricia Enciso, Laurie Katz, Barbara Z. Kiefer, Detra Price-Dennis, and Melissa Wilson, as well as editorial assistant Denise Davila.

School Talk

This year saw the retirement of School Talk with its July Issue. It will be replaced with an electronic newsletter in collaboration with the National Center for Literacy Education (NCLE), the Ball Foundation and NCTE.

2010 Convention Planning

The ESSC received a wide range of high quality proposals for the 2011 convention in Chicago. In addition to ESSC Chair, Frank Chiki, and Assistant Chair, Jeff Williams, Mariana Souto-Manning also participated in the planning process as a representative of the ECEA, continuing the partnership between the ECEA and ESSC. The pool of early childhood proposals was quite rich and diverse as were the overall proposals for the ESSC. The convention planners worked closely with Whole Language Umbrella and other sections and groups. A special focus was placed on classroom teachers and school based presenters. The ESSC continued its tradition of organizing a roundtable session for elementary teachers.

Books for Children Luncheon

The 2011 Books for Children Luncheon speaker will be Pam Muñoz Ryan. The Books for Children committee for 2011 included Sandra Wilde and Nora Gonzales.

The 2009 Books for Children luncheon speaker, Carole Boston Weatherford, provided an inspiring journey through how life events can influence us in our writing, and over 20 additional authors were table hosts. Barbara Lehman led the ESSC in organizing the event, and all participants received books and other materials. The Children's Literature Assembly (CLA) assists in hosting the luncheon and provides escorts for the children's authors in attendance.

ESSC Membership/ Elections

ESSC Assistant Chair: The ESSC elected Elisa Waingort as Assistant Chair for a two-year term beginning in November, 2011 and ending in November, 2013. Elisa has served as the Liaison with WLU 2010–11.

The ESSC would like to extend its gratitude and appreciation to Jeff Williams for his tenure as Assistant Chair. He took on a great deal of responsibility including EC Chair of the Governance Relations subcommittee, which drafts the NCTE educational platform and helps plan the annual Day of Advocacy.

ESSC Committees and Duties – 2010

Graves Award Committee (Danling Fu, Frank Chiki, Latosha Rowley, Carmen Tisdale)

School Talk (Andrea Garcia, Sandra Wilde, Elisa Waingort)

Elementary Issues and Advocacy (Jeff Williams)

Outstanding Educator Nominations (Frank Chiki)

Conference:

Luncheon (Sandra Wilde/Nora Gonzales)

Section Get Together (Frank Chiki, Jeff Williams)

Roundtable (Frank Chiki, Jeff Williams)

Liaison with ECEA (Andrea Garcia)

Liaison with CLA (Sandra Wilde)

Liaison with WLU (Elisa Waingort)

Liaison with Research Committee (Danling Fu)

Frank Chiki, Chair

Middle Level Section Steering Committee

The [Middle Level Section Steering Committee](#) is responsible for the governance of NCTE's Middle Level Section.

We are looking forward to an exciting year with two new, outstanding, and distinguished colleagues added to our committee and some engaging committee-sponsored sessions at the Fall Annual Convention.

New Committee Members

Susan Houser (Thurgood Marshall Middle School, St. Petersburg, FL) and Sara Kajder, (Virginia Tech U., Blacksburg) were elected to membership on the committee last June. And Connie Nagel (Pleasant Valley Junior High School, LeClaire, IA) was elected to a two-year term as Middle Level Representative-at-Large.

2011 Convention Planning:

Middle Level Section Get-together Session

We have three distinguished speakers for our Get-together session this year: Mike Roberts (an eighth grade teacher at Rowland Hall Middle School, Salt Lake City, UT), Don Gallo (editor of several award-winning Young Adult anthologies), and James Dashner (author of "The Maze Runner," among other novels) will be talking about the importance of adolescent literature in the middle level classrooms.

Middle Level Mosaic Workshop

Heidi Huckabee, one of our steering committee members, has organized this year's Mosaic session to include three keynote speakers: Janet Allen, Sanibel, FL; Gordon Korman, Scholastic author; and Teri Lesesne, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX. The session will include interactive round-table discussions about literacy practices.

Middle Level Section Luncheon

Billy Collins, one of the country's most distinguished and popular poets will speak at our luncheon.

"Voices from the Middle" Journal

In consultation with the incoming editors of the "Voices" journal – Douglas Fisher, Nancy Frey, and Diane Lapp – we will retain a Middle Level Section column in the journal, re-titled "News and Notes from the Middle Level Section." Various members of the steering committee have volunteered to contribute essays for the column for each of the journal's issues during the next year.

Middle Level Section Awards

The Richard W. Halle Award honors a middle level educator who has consistently worked to improve the quality of middle school education and middle school educators especially in the English language arts. This year's recipient is Teri Lesesne, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX. Teri has engaged in extensive work with adolescent readers and enjoys a national reputation as an expert in Young Adult literature.

The Edwin A. Hoey Award recognizes exceptional English Language Arts teachers of grades 5-8 who have demonstrated excellence in teaching English Language Arts and inspired a spirit of inquiry and a love of learning in their students. Susan Houser is the recipient of the 2011 NCTE Hoey Award. Susan has been a teacher for more than 20 years and is currently a 7th grade Language Arts teacher at Thurgood Marshall Middle School in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Connected Community Website

Our committee is working to make itself visible and accessible on the new "Connected Community" website. We have created a gathering place for middle level educators – a forum or section titled "Middle Level Teaching

Community” -- and are working to attract our colleagues to the site and encourage them to become active participants in the various conversations there.

Jeffrey N. Golub, Chair

Secondary Section Steering Committee

The [Secondary Section Steering Committee](#) is responsible for the governance of NCTE's Secondary Section.

SSSC Membership Status

Elections: The following new members joined us for our Orlando meetings in 2010: Anna J. Small Roseboro (Liaison to CEL), Jocelyn Chadwick, and Katie Green. Jeanette Toomer, new Rep-at Large, serves as an ex-officio member. Kay Haas and Karen Mitcham assumed their new roles as chair and associate chair, respectively. Stephen Heller, from Adlai Stevenson High School in Illinois, was recently elected to the SSSC. Also, Katie Greene was elected to the associate chair position, and thus to the EC, replacing Karen Mitcham. Stephen and Katie will begin their new terms in November 2012.

Resignations and New Appointments: During the fall of 2010, the following SSSC members resigned: Jim Burke, Pam Schoen, and Tamara Van Wyhe. Based on previous election results, Chris Goering and Nancy Perez were to the committee. Pam's position was filled through recent elections.

Outgoing Members: Wanda Porter, SSSC chair; Jennifer Ochoa, Secondary Rep-at-Large; and Mary Ellen Dakin were honored at the Secondary Section Luncheon for their service to the SSSC.

SSSC Priorities and Focus Areas for 2011

Based on convention engagement and our own professional experiences, SSSC members established the following goals for 2011:

- Submit a 2011 convention session on action research
- Appoint a SS blogger as an ex-officio member to the SSSC
- Participate in the SS Blog by blogging and responding to other SS bloggers
- Participate in the NCTE Connected Community by initiating and continuing discussion within the SSSC Community as well as other communities throughout the network
- Encourage and be involved in teacher/student advocacy by contacting legislators concerning pertinent educational issues and policy-making
- Encourage involvement in the National Gallery of Writing

The SSSC also created a list of topics to serve as guides as we communicate in various NCTE venues, organize convention programs, and reach out to members and prospective members. A sampling include the following:

- Implementation of Common Core Standards
- Assessments
- Teacher evaluation
- Mentoring new teachers
- Implementation of technology and social networking
- Differentiated instruction
- Response to Intervention

Research Forum Participation

New member Chris Goering was appointed to serve as the SSSC liaison to the NCTE Research Forum. Amy Magnafichi-Lucas will be facilitating a round table on action research at the Chicago convention.

Orlando Convention Events

Get-Together: Karen Mitcham chaired the event. Amy Magnafichi led a successful multi-modal activity connecting to the conference theme. Lois Duncan, young adult author, was the speaker. The event was well attended and well received.

High School Matters: Kay Haas chaired the event. The mini-keynote presenters were Carol Jago, Jim Burke, and members of The Orlando Shakespeare Theater. Participants engaged in discussion during two rounds of 25 roundtable choices.

Secondary Section Luncheon: Firoozeh Dumas, author of *Funny in Farsi*, was the luncheon speaker. Although the attendance was smaller than usual, the speaker was well received.

Highlighted Programs: Coordinated by SSSC member Michael LoMonico, a series of five program sessions on teaching Shakespeare were well attended.

Upcoming Chicago Convention Events

Get-Together: Karen Mitcham and Katie Greene will co-chair this event. Our speaker will be young adult author Chris Crutcher.

High School Matters: Kay Haas will chair the event. The mini-keynote presenters will be Carol Jago, Kelly Gallagher, and members of The Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Participants will engage in discussion during two rounds of 25 roundtable choices.

Secondary Section Luncheon: James Patterson and Anthony Horowitz will be our speakers; plus, the session will be streamed to broaden the audience beyond the luncheon participants.

Highlighted Programs: For the second year, coordinated by SSSC member Michael LoMonico, a series of five program sessions on teaching Shakespeare will be presented over the course of the three days of the convention. Also, in order to encourage high school voices to be heard and to stay in touch with Secondary Section needs, members of the SSSC, led by Kay Haas, Jeanette Toomer, and Janet Atkins will be facilitating a session inviting high school attendees to share their current realities. Small groups will provide opportunities for teachers to discuss specific topics and issues, which, in turn, will guide the SSSC in their work during the following year.

Awards

High School Teachers of Excellence for 2010: Amy Magnafichi-Lucas chaired this award, which was presented to 19 high school teachers nominated by their state affiliates. Several of the awardees were present and recognized at the Secondary Section Luncheon in Orlando. The SSSC hopes to encourage more affiliates to nominate teachers for this award in the future.

The Paul and Kate Farmer Award for 2010: The committee was chaired by former SSSC chairperson Diane Waff with awards presented to the following *English Journal* authors: Sue C. Biondo-Hench for "Shakespeare Troupe: An Adventure in Words, Fluid Text and Comedy" and to Mary Kendrick for "Using Student Collaboration to Foster Progressive Discourse." Two honorable mentions went to Maja Wilson for "Rethinking a Writing Teacher's Expertise: Following Students Under the Kitchen Table" and to Alan E. Miller for "Teaching Machiavelli, or How I Learned to Love *The Prince*." Recipients were recognized at the Secondary Section Luncheon. For 2011, Keith Younker, former SSSC associate chair, will chair this award committee, including Katie Greene, Karen Mitcham, and Jocelyn Chadwick.

The SSSC has presented a motion, which was passed by the Executive Committee, that funding for the Farmer Award be set at a specific amount of \$100 per recipient, rather than dependent upon the interest received from the account, with the specified amount being given until the funds are depleted.

The Hopkins Award: The 2010 committee was chaired by Kia Richmond with the award given to Nicole Sieben and Laraine Wallowitz for "Watch What You Teach: A First-Year Teacher Refuses to Play It Safe." The two honorable mentions went to Bruce A. Goebel for "Comic Relief: Engaging Students through Humor Writing" and to Susan Martens-Baker for "Fantasy Island Meets the Real World: Using Online Discussion Forums in Collaborative Learning." Recipients were recognized at the Secondary Section Luncheon.

English Journal

Recruited by editor Ken Linblom, members of the SSSC have written the following "From the Secondary Section" columns in each of the 2010-2011 fiscal year *English Journals*: In July 2010, Mary Ellen Dakin wrote "Literature, Logic, and Language"; in September 2010, Wanda Porter wrote "Turning on the Light"; in November, Keith Younker wrote "Learning about Disability"; in March 2011, Kay Haas wrote "Inspiring an Aesthetic Appreciation of Language," and in May 2011, Amy Magnafichi-Lucas wrote "Using the 'Smallest Parts' to Build a National

Community of Professionalism.” For the next rotation, there will be two “From the Secondary Section” columns in each journal.

Ken announced the following new themes for 2011-2012 journals:

- July 2011 – Ethics in the English Classroom
- September 2011 – The NCTE Centennial Celebration: Reading the Past, Writing the Future (Leila Christenbury, Guest Editor)
- November 2011 – Students Reading and Writing for Their Own Purposes
- January 2012 – *English Journal* at 100: Celebrating a Century of Publication
- March 2012 – The Community in the Classroom
- May 2012 – General Interest
- July 2012 – The Problem of Bullying (Nancy Mack, Guest Editor)
- September 2012 – Character and Characters

With Ken Linbloom’s term ending July 2013, a search committee composed of Kay Haas; Jeannette Toomer; Louann Reid, former *English Journal* editor; and Kurt Austin, Senior Developer for Publications for NCTE, will work through a timeframe in the hopes of naming a new editor by February 2012. The committee will interview prospective candidates during the convention in Chicago.

SSSC Communication

Secondary Section Blog: Secondary Section bloggers Tara Seale and Dan Bruno reported to the SSSC in Orlando. They have taken turns blogging twice monthly. Based on their suggestions, additional bloggers, including members of the SSSC, have been recruited to blog throughout 2011. Blog topics from 2010-2011 have included the following: technology in the classroom, common core standards, lesson plans on Shakespeare, visual literacy, grading, teaching revision strategies, working with English language learners, and National Board requirements. The Secondary Section Blog has moved to the NCTE Connected Community but with more limited success.

Secondary Section Website: Joe Geocaris, teacher at Stephenson High School in Illinois, has accepted the appointment to serve as the Secondary Section web publisher and has begun working with Felisa Mann and others to update and maintain the website.

Connected Community: Two communities, Secondary Section Steering Committee Community and Secondary Level Community, have been set up to provide opportunities for SSSC members to have online conversations and to promote conversations among Secondary Section members.

Kay Park Haas, Chair

College Section Steering Committee

The [College Section Steering Committee](#) is responsible for the governance of the College Section.

The College Section Steering Committee (CSSC) operates on specific topics that enhance the governance of the College Section. In November, the committee began discussions on pertinent issues and continued those discussions at our spring meeting during the CCCC Spring Conference. Since our last annual report, the committee has taken the following actions:

College Celebration Speaker: Gail Hawisher, Professor of English, University of Illinois

College Section Panels for 2011 NCTE Convention: We completed selection of roughly 50 panels for the NCTE Convention.

Incoming Chair and Assistant Chair: Patricia Dunn was elected to a two-year term as chair of the Committee. Beth Brunk Chavez was elected to a one-year term as assistant chair.

Incoming and Outgoing Members: Newly elected members of the Committee are Bruce Horner, University of Louisville, Kentucky; LuMing Mao, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; and R. Joseph Rodriguez, University of Texas at Austin. Members who will leave the Committee in November include Damian Baca, University of Arizona; Mike Palmquist, Colorado State University; and Katrina Powell, Virginia Tech.

College English Editor Search

In November 2010, the search committee for a new editor of College English interviewed three finalists at the annual convention. Members of the search committee included Mike Palmquist (chair), Linda Ferreira-Buckley, Patricia Dunn, and Jeanne Gunner. The search committee recommended that Kelly Ritter, University of North Carolina Greensboro, be offered the position. The CSSC approved the recommendation and forwarded it to the Executive Committee, which gave its final approval at its February 2011 meeting in New Orleans.

Status and Working Conditions of Contingent Faculty

At its February 2010 meeting, the NCTE Executive Committee approved the policy statement and related action items forwarded by the CSSC. The statement was developed by the College Section Working Group on the Status and Working Conditions of Contingent Faculty and subsequently approved by the CSSC. The statement is available on the NCTE Web site at http://www.ncte.org/positions/statements/contingent_faculty.

Related actions approved by the Executive Committee include (1) the creation of Web-based resources addressing the issue of the status and working conditions of contingent faculty; (2) development of a Web-accessible database containing institutional profiles relevant to this issue, including percentages of courses taught by graduate students and faculty in contingent and tenure-line positions, availability of long-term appointments outside tenure-lines, and the role of contingent faculty in program governance; (3) establishment of partnerships with other organizations working to address this issue; and (4) the creation and publication (on its Web pages) of annual reports on this issue by the College Section Steering Committee.

Sue Doe, Colorado State University, who served on the Working Group, has agreed to serve as initial director of development of the contingent faculty database and Web pages. She has also agreed to serve, with Brad Hammer, as NCTE representative to the Coalition on the Academic Workforce (CAW). Doe and Hammer will serve three-year terms. CAW is a group that focuses on adjunct and contingent faculty issues. In addition to NCTE, the Modern Language Association (MLA) and American Association of University Professors (AAUP) have been leading forces in this coalition.

In March 2011, a special issue of *College English*, co-edited by Mike Palmquist and Sue Doe, addressed the status and working conditions of contingent faculty. The NCTE Statement appeared in the special issue. *Teaching English in the Two-Year College* also plans to publish the statement.

2012 MLA Conference: Margaret Price has organized a panel for MLA entitled, "Is 'Access' the New 'Diversity'?: Rethinking Access across the Profession." The speakers are Kathleen Blake Yancey, Melanie Yergeau, and Annette Harris Powell. Margaret Price will serve as chair and respondent.

Discussion Group on "Dangerous Students"

At its November 2010 meeting, the committee endorsed the formation of a discussion group about so-called "dangerous" students. The discussion group, which would be supported through the NCTE Connected Community, could consider the characteristics and needs of these students and explore how faculty might be trained to respond to various situations. The committee considered whether the discussion group might become a working group charged with providing access to and, if appropriate, developing NCTE materials on the issue.

Richard Ohmann Award Committee

Beth Brunk Chavez, University of Texas El Paso, chair the committee with the following membership:

- Chitralkha Duttagupta
Utah Valley University
- Patricia Dunn
Stony Brook University
- Susan Jarratt (2010 Ohmann Award Winner)
University of California, Irvine

The committee selected Nancy Welch, Professor of English at the University of Vermont, as the 2011 winner. She will receive the award at the College Celebration at the November 2011 NCTE Convention.

College Celebration Speaker

The committee recommended that Gail Hawisher be asked to be the College Celebration Speaker for November 2011. Dr. Hawisher accepted the invitation. The committee also recommended a change in time to 7:00 PM.

Motion on NCTE Book Publishing: The Committee passed a motion calling for NCTE's return to "a vigorous publication schedule for scholarly books." The rationale that accompanied the motion stated:

We were deeply concerned to learn of NCTE's decision to stop accepting unsolicited proposals for its books series. Given that NCTE is one of the leading publishers of scholarly books addressing literacy education from K-20, this lack of publication will have a negative impact on scholarly activity within language arts, reading studies, and rhetoric and composition. Moreover, as the economy improves and members of the organization begin once again to purchase books, the organization would be well served to have new books available.

We understand the economic forces that have led NCTE to make its recent decision to stop accepting unsolicited proposals for scholarly books; however, we believe this decision disproportionately affects members of our section (many college and university tenure and promotion policies require a published book). As a result, we ask the NCTE reconsider its decision and explore strategies to ensure ongoing publication of scholarly books that represent the diverse interests of its membership. We believe that NCTE should embrace the opportunity to be seen as an innovator in scholarly publishing. We therefore respectfully request that the Executive Committee consider strategies to support the publication of scholarly books, such as the formation of a committee to explore strategies for cost-effective means of making the scholarly work of our members available to internal and external audiences, including the adoption of alternative models of publishing such as those pursued by organizations such as the WAC Clearinghouse and Computers and Composition Digital Press. We urge the Executive Committee to take steps that will ensure that NCTE remains at the forefront of knowledge dissemination and access in the areas of language arts, reading studies, and rhetoric and composition.

The Executive Committee addressed this issue as part of the Trends Subcommittee discussions at its July 2011 meeting. No action was taken on the motion itself, but the discussion indicated an awareness of the tensions between viewing publishing as an important effort to advance dissemination of scholarship within the discipline, particularly at the college level, and the need to ensure fiscally responsible policies.

Motion on NCTE Constituent Group Input on Legislative Policy Committee: The Committee passed a motion requesting NCTE EC to consider putting into place “a comprehensive process for soliciting input on its Educational Policy Platform from its section, affiliates, assemblies, and conferences.” The rationale that accompanied the motion stated:

The NCTE EC Subcommittee on Government Relations currently benefits from feedback from members (solicited at large), members of its Washington office, and NCTE leadership. We believe it would be useful as well to solicit feedback in a systematic manner from its section steering committees, affiliates, assemblies, and conferences. This process could begin at the summer executive committee meeting and continue through the November NCTE conference. Feedback could be compiled and supplied to members of the subcommittee prior to its January meeting.

This motion was taken up by the Government Relations Subcommittee of the NCTE Executive Committee at both its April meeting in Washington, D.C., and its July meeting in Urbana. The Committee adopted the recommendations found in the motion and has developed a process for soliciting feedback from NCTE section, affiliates, assemblies, and conferences as well as from members at large (particularly those who have taken on leadership roles in the past several years).

Mike Palmquist, Chair