



# SCIRA

## Suburban Council of the International Reading Association

### Fall Newsletter 2012

### Suburban Council of the International Reading Association

#### *President's Message*

Kathy Miller  
Pages 1-2

#### *Announcements*

Pages 3-4

#### *Fall Conference*

Monday, October 29, 2012

Featuring

#### **Junko Yokota**

Information and  
Registration

Questions--contact  
Chris Seidman at  
[cks@attglobal.net](mailto:cks@attglobal.net) or  
847-501-5362

Pages 5-6

#### **NCE**

#### **1 Hour Graduate Credit National-Louis University**

Information and  
Registration

Questions--contact  
Claudia Katz at  
[ckatz17755@aol.com](mailto:ckatz17755@aol.com) or  
847-236-1164

Page 7



### *Note from the President*

By Kathy Miller  
Co-President of SCIRA

Dear SCIRA members,

SCIRA welcomes this new school year and all that it will offer children, parents, and educators. It is a time of renewed hope and enthusiasm for all. We, as educators, have the impetus of the Common Core Standards moving us to review our curriculum, analyze our instruction and make countless instructional decisions throughout our day. These judgments require examination, comparison, knowledge and understanding.

Those of us working on the SCIRA Board are teachers and are subject to these same demands. We understand that we need information and experience to support these important decisions. We have worked this last school to provide presentations with informed speakers offering research and practice to nourish the thought and action encouraged by the Common Core Standards. During the Teacher Renewal Seminar in June 2012, Linda Hoyt spoke of a classroom environment of speaking and listening that is "floating learning on a sea of talk" (James Britten). Comprehension was in the spotlight as Linda Hoyt masterfully guided the audience through literacy lessons, modeling teacher behavior and sharing numerous practical suggestions. The two-day seminar fostered an understanding of teaching with the need for student speaking and listening about complex ideas and text.

Our goal during this School year is to investigate digital literacy with eBooks and apps during our Fall and Winter presentations. The burgeoning availability of eBooks and apps requires educators' knowledge and valuable judgment. So save the date! On Monday, October 29, Junko Yokota, Professor Emeritus from National Louis University and founder of the Center for Teaching Through Children's Books, will present on *Literacy in the Digital Age*. What should we consider when using a digital format? How are we to make an informed decision for our students and for ourselves? This presentation will boost your critical perspective when selecting and using materials for your lessons.

We continue our examination of digital Literacy February 23, 2013, with Kristen Ziemke, Golden Apple Fellow and National Board Certified primary teacher in Chicago. Kristen is currently writing a book on comprehension lessons using technology. This presentation, *Got iPads – Now What?* promises to increase your knowledge of apps and provide information on how to use apps thoughtfully with your lessons. You may have missed Kristen's presentation at the IRA convention in Chicago in May, 2012; you will have an opportunity to see her in February.

**SCIRA Board  
2012-13**

**Co-Presidents**

Kathy Miller  
Laura Polkoff

**President Elect**

Debbie Shefren

**Vice President**

Sarah Weisberg

**Secretary**

Kristina Utley

**Registrar**

Brittany Plath  
Pam Kaufman  
Chris Seidman

**Treasurer**

Debbie Shefren

**Membership**

Kathleen McNeela  
Patricia Patrick

**Hospitality**

Debbie Gurvitz

**Vendor Contact**

Ellen Finnegan

**Grants Coordinators**

Kristin Kaczmarek  
Natalie Biancalana

**Honor Council**

Claudia Katz

**Communications**

Rian Davis  
Sophie Degener  
Sarah Weisberg

**Members at Large**

Sheleen DeLockery  
Meghan Sweet

**NLU Liason**

Sophie Degener

**Past Presidents**

Claudia Katz  
Laura Beltchenko  
Jan Rashid

Finally, for our summer seminar, June 27 and 28, 2013, SCIRA will host respected educator and author, Doug Fisher. Dr. Fisher, a professor of Language and Literacy at San Diego State, has published numerous educational articles and books. His most recent collaboration is *Text Complexity: Raising Rigor in Teaching*, published in 2012. His workshops and presentations target areas of comprehension and close reading that are essential for a thorough understanding of text. You will enjoy his dynamic presentation style and benefit from the knowledge you will gain.

This year promises to challenge you to scrutinize your methods and deepen your knowledge of comprehension instruction. The seminars will sharpen your judgment with critical knowledge necessary to satisfy and exceed the expectations of the Common Core. We are confident that you will appreciate these outstanding presentations; we invite you to be the judge.

Kathy Miller  
Co-President of SCIRA



Linda Hoyt leads conference-goers through a sentence-building activity that promotes comprehension, participation, and fun!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Linda Hoyt Does Not Disappoint!

On Thursday and Friday, June 21&22, 2012, the Suburban Council of the International Reading Association (SCIRA) and the Teachers Renewal Seminar of National-Louis University held its Spring Conference at the North Shore Holiday Inn in Skokie, Illinois. The keynote speaker at the conference was **Linda Hoyt**, an extraordinary presenter, who speaks from experience about practices that really work. Her talk was very stimulating, sparking deeper reflection on the part of the participants.

Ms. Hoyt believes that the Common Core Standards provide affirmations about what to concentrate on in teaching. She promotes a balance between fiction and nonfiction and increasing the amount of powerful talk among learners. Participants mentioned that her Alphabox strategy can be used as a valuable note-taking method in conjunction with the Interactive Journal, List Poems and other methodology. The collection of rich words and phrases from Alphabox also supports writing. Linda addressed other major writing problems such as clarity, spelling, punctuation, grammar, conciseness, and accuracy.

More than two hundred participants attended. Twenty-nine participants took an additional one credit hour course from National-Louis University taught by instructors, Ruth Quiroa and Claudia Katz.

An all-star panel moderated by **Laura Beltchenko**, SCIRA Past President and Asst. Superintendent in Wauconda, consisted of Common Core Experts: **Jan Rashid**, SCIRA Past President and Asst. Superintendent in Des Plaines School District 62, **Mary Sue Smith**, Glenview District 34, and **Linda Hoyt**. The lively panel discussion concluded the second day of the conference.



Conference attendees also enjoyed our wonderful vendors: **Grace Education**, providing name tags for the fifth year, **Super Kids Reading** and the **Rowland Reading Foundation**, **PS Associates**, **National Geographic**, **Zaner Bloser**, **American Reading** and **Half Price Books**.

Presenter Linda Hoyt shared some of her many publications with conference participants. If you are interested in following up on some of the ideas she shared, try *Mastering the Mechanics* (which incorporates grammar skills in real writing) and *Crafting Nonfiction* (which includes practical and effective lessons for teaching informational writing).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## *ILLINOIS READS*

**Illinois Reading Council News:** Under the auspices of the Illinois Reading Council, ILLINOIS READS will be a yearly state-wide project to promote reading for *all* Illinois citizens. Beginning with read aloud books for babies, 6 books will be selected for each additional age band through adult readers.

A variety of topics and themes will be chosen for each age band. The work of Illinois authors will be especially highlighted.

Promotion of the first Illinois Reads will begin March 13, 2013. The launch of this project will occur during the Illinois Reading Council Legislative Reception, to be held at the Old State Capitol in Springfield from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Tammy Potts is the IRC contact person for this project.

Members of IRC are currently working to generate ideas for the introduction of selected books into classrooms, public health facilities, public and school libraries and book stores. A web site will allow adults and students (above age 13) to post book reviews, book trailers, art work, and discussions.

We are working with the Illinois State Library and hope to have State Librarian, Jesse White as our Honorary Chair. Lt. Governor Simon has been invited to introduce the project at its kick-off event at the Old State Capitol. First Lady Michelle Obama is being invited to present at this gathering as our first Illinois Book Ambassador. In addition, we are asking President Obama to announce via video the IRC Obama Library Award winner, which he has graciously funded since 2005.

**If you would like to keep learning,  
save the dates for more SCIRA Conferences!**

**February 23, 2013**

**Kristin Ziemke**

Build on your new technology understandings and learn how to incorporate technology in to your comprehension instruction. Kristin got rave reviews at IRA and spoke to packed rooms – come find out what she has to offer!

**June 26 & 27, 2013**

**Dr. Doug Fisher**

Dr. Fisher is highly regarded as a knowledgeable and engaging speaker, and he will address several topics of interest to all of us. School districts wishing to make this conference a part of their staff development plans are encouraged to register early to take advantage of the early-bird price and the discount for large groups.

**Be one of the first: For registration information contact Claudia Katz at [ckatz17755@aol.com](mailto:ckatz17755@aol.com).**



**JUNKO YOKOTA**  
**LITERACY IN THE**  
**DIGITAL AGE**  
 What Works Well and  
 Where: Considering Features  
 of Books for Children in Print,  
 Ebooks and Apps

SCIRA FALL CONFERENCE  
 Registration Form  
 Monday, October 29, 2012  
 4pm – 8pm

Location:  
 Wilmette Junior High School  
 620 Locust Rd.  
 Wilmette, IL 60091

Junko Yokota is a Professor Emeritus of Reading and Language for National College of Education, National Louis University (Chicago) and founder of the Center for Teaching through Children’s Books. She was an elementary classroom teacher and school librarian for the first ten years of her career. Her current work focuses on digital literature for children, multicultural and international literature, and literacy instruction through quality literature. Her publications include five editions of a coauthored college textbook, *Children’s Books in Children’s Hands*, two children’s literature review columns, numerous journal articles as well as chapters in edited books. She is past president of USBBY, the U.S. national section of the International Board on Books for Young People, served on the Caldecott and Newbery Committees, chaired the Batchelder Committee, and was a two term jurist for the IBBY Hans Christian Andersen Award. Junko received the Virginia Hamilton Award for Contribution to Multicultural Literature, Reading the World Award, and is an active participant in the international literature community.

Her talk will include the following topics:

- Characteristics and effective uses of different story formats
- What matters in terms of children’s comprehension and reader response?
- What kinds of stories are suited to be digitized and what might be best left on paper?
- What is the impact of design and reader support features on child motivation and experience

One Form for EACH INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION. Please print or type. Form may be reproduced.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred E-mail (for confirmation and information) \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone \_\_\_\_\_ School Name \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

\$40.00 Fee  SCIRA Member

\$80.00 Fee  Non-SCIRA Member (this includes one year membership as you must join to attend)

\$25.00 Fee  Student, Paraprofessional & Associate

Method of Payment  Check payable to SCIRA enclosed.  Purchase Order-Please attach

Return this form with payment to Chris Seidman, 639 Sheridan Rd., Winnetka, IL.60093, [cks@attglobal.net](mailto:cks@attglobal.net)

Teachers working toward **CPDUs** and **CEUs** should be assured that the materials presented in this conference will address the needs of students with disabilities, including adapting and modifying the general curriculum related to the Illinois Learning Standards and serving such students in the least restrictive environment. This conference will count for **4 CPDUs**.

**Conference overview**

**4:00-5:00 MEET AND MUNCH AND VISIT VENDORS**

**5:00-5:15 SHORT INTRODUCTION BY SCIRA PRESIDENTS**

**5:15-6:30 PRESENTATION BY Junko Yokota**

**6:30-6:45 BRIEF BREAK-VISIT VENDORS**

**6:45-7:30 CONTINUE PRESENTATION AND ANSWER QUESTIONS**

**8:00-10:00 INITIAL COURSE MEETING**

**ONE HOUR OF GRADUATE CREDIT FROM NATIONAL-LOUIS UNIVERSITY IS AVAILABLE.**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT LITERACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE -Saturday November 10, 2012 on the NLU North Shore Campus.**

**\_\_\_\_\_ One hour of University credit for an additional \$360 (available from National-Louis University) you must pay for University credit with a separate credit card or check. You may also sign-up for the course at the conference.**

**To Register for the SCIRA CONFERENCE and One hour of University Credit**

**1. COMPLETE THE SCIRA REGISTRATION form (above), attach a check payable to SCIRA for \$40. Non-members can use this option without paying an additional fee and will not receive membership.**

**2. Complete NLU registration (on following page) with payment of \$360.00**

**3. Mail both documents , SCIRA REGISTRATION with conference fee \$40 (check or PO made out to SCIRA), & NLU Registration \$360.00 (Check or Credit Card made out to National-Louis University) to**

**Claudia Katz, 1329 Oxford Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015**

**Questions or information about the course? Call Claudia at 847-236-1164 [ckatz17755@aol.com](mailto:ckatz17755@aol.com)**

**Why should you visit <http://scirascholars.blogspot?>**

- You should visit to download the registration forms for the Conferences.
- You should visit to learn more about Kristin Ziemke who will present at SCIRA's Winter Conference on February 23, 2013!

**<http://scirascholars.blogspot.com/>**

**Students using financial aid for tuition must register for the class no later than September 15, 2012.**

**DO NOT MAIL GRADUATE REGISTRATION directly to NLU**

**MAIL COMPLETED GRADUATE REGISTRATION FORM with \$360.00 CHECK OR**

**CREDIT CARD FORM payable to NLU AND \$40 TRS/SCIRA REGISTRATION TO:**

**CLAUDIA KATZ, 1329 OXFORD RD, DEERFIELD, IL 60015**

**NATIONAL-LOUIS UNIVERSITY GRADUATE REGISTRATION FORM**

SOCIAL SECURITY NO. \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: LAST \_\_\_\_\_ - FIRST/MIDDLE \_\_\_\_\_

MAIDEN (IF APPLIES) \_\_\_\_\_ / Check if new name or address since last graduation

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SPRING 2011\_

BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SEX: / M / F

ETHNIC BACKGROUND (CHECK ONE)

1 / American Indian or Alaskan Native 2 / Black Non-Hispanic 3 / Asian or Pacific Islander 4 / Hispanic 5 / White Non-Hispanic

IF YOU HAVE A FELLOWSHIP OR A DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP, PLEASE CHECK:

/ Fellowship / Doctoral Scholarship

/ ADMITTED TO GRADUATE PROGRAM: Program \_\_\_\_\_ Advisor \_\_\_\_\_ / NOT ADMITTED /

I am  a new NCE/NLU student  I am a returning NCE/NLU student

In the Collage of Education, a maximum limit of nine semester hours of NCE/NLU credit taken as a special student prior to formal admission many apply toward a Master's Degree, Educational Specialist Degree or Certificate of Advanced Study.

**ALL INFORMATION MUST BE COMPLETED OR FORM WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU**

CRN	COURSE NUMBER	COURSE REGISTRATION Course Title	SEM HOURS	For outreach Course, list site
	RLR595tba	RLR 595tba Special Topics in Reading: Literacy in the Digital Age	1	

**NOTE: Payment must be submitted at time of registration. CONFIRMATION OF REGISTRATION WILL BE SENT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**CREDIT CARD CHARGE FORM**

STUDENT'S SOCIAL SECURITY NO. \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT'S NAME (*print*) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize National-Louis University to charge my Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express account in the amount of \$\_\_360.00\_\_\_\_, which represents tuition.

CHECK ONE: / VISA / MASTERCARD / DISCOVER / AMEX Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ -

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ CARDHOLDER'S NAME (*print*) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cardholder's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**SCIRA**  
**P.O. Box 396**  
**Northbrook, Il 60065**

**SCIRA**  
Suburban  
Council  
International  
Reading  
Association

**Literacy in the Digital Age**  
**What Works Well and Where: Considering Features of**  
**Books for Children in Print, Ebooks and Apps**

**SCIRA Fall Conference**  
(Suburban Council International Reading Association)

***October 29, 2012***

Location: Wilmette Junior High School, 620 Locust Rd., Wilmette, IL 60091

***Featuring***

**Junko Yokota**

<http://scirascholars.blogspot.com/>

**Please visit our blog for updates and forms!!**

Please visit the *Illinois Reading Council* website for valuable information on upcoming SCIRA conferences. Additional registration forms may be downloaded there as well. Please visit <http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/>