

SCIRA

Suburban Council of the International Reading Association

Fall Newsletter 2013

Suburban
Council of the
International
Reading
Association

President's Message

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Sarah Weisberg
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SCIRA

Fall Conference

Thursday
October 23, 2013
Featuring

Sunday Cummins

Information and
Registration
Questions--contact
Brittany Plath at
bjplath87@gmail.com or
847-207-4914
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NCE

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

Information and
Registration
Questions—contact
Claudia Katz at
ckatz17755@aol.com or
847-236-1164
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Note from the Presidents

By Debbie Shefren & Sarah Weisberg
Co-Presidents of SCIRA

Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself. John Dewey

Welcome to our first newsletter! We are excited to represent you as the co-presidents of SCIRA. We hope to serve you well in the next two years.

Just to tell you a little bit about us...

Debbie Shefren—

I've been a teacher for over 35 years. I'm a reading specialist and currently working as an adjunct faculty member for National Louis University. I am also a Literacy Consultant and do training and staff development with teachers at various school districts.

Sarah Weisberg—

I have just started my 10th year as a teacher. I have taught in both inner city urban, and in suburban settings, working with children of a wide variety of ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. I am currently a First Grade classroom teacher and loving every minute of it! I began my career in middle school special education. I have a reading specialist degree from Louis University and am currently working on my ELL degree from Northern Illinois University. Working with SCIRA is a passion of mine, because as we share expertise, all of our children and classrooms benefit.

We've had a wonderful beginning to our year with SCIRA's Summer Conference. We had 363 people attend! Doug Fisher was amazing and inspiring. He began our theme for this year: The Common Core and Close Reading.

Some of Doug Fisher's key points were:

- We must stretch young children's listening comprehension with more complex text.
- Simply assigning hard books will not ensure that students will learn at high levels.

**SCIRA Board
2013-14**

Co-Presidents

Debbie Shefren
Sarah Weisberg

Co-Presidents Elect

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Kristina Utley

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Laura Polkoff
Laura Beltchenko
Jan Rashid

- Close Reading is ONE thing we do a couple times a week. It's guided instruction.
- Ask children, "What are you learning today?" not "What are you doing?"
- Reading volume matters so students need to read more at home in order to read more words.
- Close Reading is slowing down and going deep.
- Don't pre-teach vocabulary—give students time to figure out new words.
- Questions drive Close Reading
- Teach students to annotate text—annotation is a note of any form made while reading text.
- We must have collaborative conversations.
- We need to figure out the complexity factors of books.

Doug Fisher gave us so much to think about and plan to use in our classrooms.

Book Discussion Group

We've decided to do something new! We're going to have a book discussion group to talk about our speaker's book a couple of weeks after his/her presentation. Several people expressed the desire to read and discuss our speakers' books. This year we've arranged just that. See our attached flyers for more information!

Fall Conference

To continue our theme on the Common Core Standards and Close Reading we have the wonderful **Sunday Cummins** coming to speak to us on October 23, 2013. Dr. Cummins is a literacy consultant, author, and researcher with a focus on reading and writing informational texts. See attached flyer for more information. SCIRA will then hold a Book Discussion Group to discuss her book, *Close Reading of Informational Text*, on Monday, Nov. 4th at 4:30-5:30 at the Skokie Public Library.

Winter Conference

We're very pleased to announce that we have **Dr. Timothy Shanahan** coming to speak to us on January 31, 2014. He will continue to speak on our theme. Dr. Shanahan has authored or edited more than 150 publications including the books, *Developing Literacy in Second-Language Learners*, *Teachers Thinking—Teachers Knowing*, *Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Literacy, Reading and Writing Together*, and *Understanding Research in Reading and Writing*. Tim Shanahan's research emphasizes reading-writing relationships, reading assessment, and improving reading achievement, and he is frequently quoted in media outlets such as the New York Times, Washington Post, and Newsweek, and has appeared on Bloomberg News and the O'Reilly Factor. SCIRA will hold a Book Discussion group to discuss his latest book. Details will be announced.

Summer Conference

Our summer conference next year will be in two parts. Part 1 will be an exciting conclusion to this year's theme with our amazing speaker: **Dr. Ellin Oliver Keene**. She will be discussing the Common Core Standards, comprehension and fiction.

Part two, on the second day, will feature **Dan Feigelson**. Dan Feigelson will be introducing our theme for the 2014-15 school year: Writing and the Common Core Standards. Dan is one of the original members of Lucy Calkins' Teachers College Writing Project. Dan is the author of, *Practical Punctuation*.

In all the books I've read about written language, Dan's is the first to explore the mind's ear.... He has actually changed the way I read as well as write. How lucky we are to (finally) have an intellectually engaging exploration of what we have too long considered drudgery.... When you consider Dan's approach, you'll wonder how you ever taught another way.

—Ellin Oliver Keene

Coauthor of *Mosaic of Thought*, Second Edition, and author of *To Understand*

Looking forward to learning together with you this year!
Sarah & Debbie



Changing of the Guard!

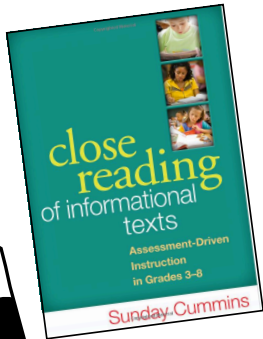
Incoming presidents Sarah Weisberg and Debbie Shefren (left) join outgoing presidents Laura Polkoff and Kathy Miller (right) in thanking Doug Fisher (center) for an excellent Summer Conference.

Announcements



SCIRA BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Join us for a discussion of Sunday Cummins' book Close Reading of Informational Texts.



Monday, November 4th
4:30 to 5:30 pm
Skokie Public Library
5215 Oakton St, Skokie, IL 60077

Please RSVP to Debbie Shefren at
dshefren@gmail.com

Coming Soon – SCIRA Goes High Tech!

This year SCIRA will be building its online presence with:

A new website
A Twitter feed
A Facebook page
& more online registration

We are very excited about this new adventure, and we look forward to having a place where our members can go for all the information they need. Our website will feature dates and information about all our conferences as well as helpful links to our speakers' websites, our blog, and online registration. We appreciate your patience as we roll out these initiatives – as with all technology, we know there will be some bumps in the road.

Please visit our new website:

scira.weebly.com

For the fall conference, we will continue to take online registrations at our previous site:

www.scirascholars.com

SCIRA FALL CONFERENCE
Wednesday, October 23, 2013
4pm – 8pm

Sunday Cummins

Teaching for Close Reading

Contemplating transformative instruction with nonfiction texts and examining student written responses to nonfiction

Shabonee School 1000 Pfingsten Rd Northbrook, IL 60062

Sunday Cummins is a literacy consultant and a facilitator on the New Schools Project for the Erikson Institute. She has a Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and a Master of Arts degree from Teachers College, Columbia University in Curriculum and Instruction. She taught at National Louis University from 2007-2012 in the Reading Program and she worked in public schools for ten years prior to that as a middle school and third grade classroom teacher and as a literacy coach.

Her book, *Close Reading of Informational Text: Assessment-Driven Instruction in Grades 3-8*, published by Guilford Press is available on Amazon.com.

She continues to teach and learn alongside educators and students as a literacy consultant, author, and researcher with a focus on reading and writing informational texts. She shares her work on the power of teaching with nonfiction texts to transform students' thinking by presenting at state, national, and international conferences. She has published articles in *The Reading Teacher*, *Book Links*, *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy Talking Points*.

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

\$85.00 Fee Non-SCIRA Member (includes one year SCIRA and IRC membership)

\$25.00 Fee Student, Paraprofessional & Associate

Method of Payment : Check payable to SCIRA enclosed.

Purchase Order # _____ **Please attach.**

We cannot accept purchase orders from Chicago Public Schools

Online. To use a credit card, go to **SCIRASCHOLARS.com**

Return this form with payment to **Brittany Plath, 810 Highland Place, Highland Park, IL 60035**

Questions? Contact Brittany at bjplath87@gmail.com or 847-207-4914

[We welcome At-the-Door participants. Ten dollars will be added to your entrance fee.](#)

[No electronic payments will be accepted on site.](#)

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**.

To pay with a credit card, follow this process:

- Go to www.scirascholars.com
- Click on **FORM**
- Scroll down and type in the Contact Information
- Please Click **Submit** before you choose your payment type
- The program will send you back to the Home page. Don't worry.
- Click on **FORM** and go directly to payment type. (I received your information when you hit Submit before.)
- Now Choose a payment choice by clicking **Buy Now**
- This will take you to the PayPal screen
- Choose **A way to pay**
- Select **PayPal** or **Don't have a PayPal account**
- Choose the Credit or Debit card option (Do not choose "Bill me later")
- Fill out the credit form.
- Click **Continue** (If it doesn't go to the next screen, look for an error message at the top of the screen.)
- Hit **PayNow** once.
- Click Print Receipt. Print your receipt and bring it to the conference.
- Registrants will receive confirmation by e-mail.

Fall 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 Sunday Cummins

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

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

8:00-10:00 INITIAL COURSE MEETING

Helpful Tips for Parking at Shabonee School

If the front lot at Shabonee is full, please use the directions below to park in the back of Shabonee:

Turn right onto Pflingsten Road and continue south.
Turn right onto Cherry Lane at traffic signal.
Continue to the second street and turn right onto White Mountain Drive.
Turn right onto Moon Hill Drive which then turns into Shabonee Trail.

Approaching Shabonee School turn *right* and park *behind* Shabonee School. Use Entrance C for entry into the building.

OR

Approaching Shabonee School turn *left* and park along Shabonee Trail. Use Entrance P for entry into the building.

To take the one-hour course, contact Claudia Katz at 847-236-1164 or ckatz17755@aol.com

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 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 _____

Fall 2012 X

BIRTHDATE: _____ SEX: / M / F

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
	RLL595tba	RLL 595tba Special Topics in Literacy: Teaching for Close Reading	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 of the
International
Reading
Association

Teaching for Close Reading

SCIRA Fall Conference

(Suburban Council of the International Reading Association)

October 23, 2013

Shabonee School

1000 Pfingston Road, Northbrook, IL 60062

Featuring

Sunday Cummins

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

Watch for our blog to be linked up to our new website this year!

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/>