



# SCIRA

Suburban Council of the International Reading Association

**SCIRA Board  
2014-15  
Fall Newsletter  
2014**

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Sarah Gaines

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## *Note from the Presidents*

By Debbie Shefren & Sarah Weisberg  
Co-Presidents of SCIRA

“It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.” Albert Einstein 1940

Welcome back! As we reflect on our wonderful summer conference, we are excited that we had 250 people attend and learn from Ellin Oliver Keene and Dan Feigelson. Ellin Keene taught us that real understanding happens when...

- We teach a few concepts
- Of great import
- In real depth
- Over a long period of time
- And give children an opportunity to apply these concepts in a wide variety of texts and contexts

Dan Feigelson told us about the importance of teaching the writer not the writing. He said that conventions are a craft tool. Conventions are there to serve the meaning of the piece. He also taught us about conferences which are the heart of the writer’s workshop. He said we should ask, “How’s it going?” and be sure to listen to students before we talk.

Our focus for the upcoming school year will be on writing. We have some amazing speakers coming!

Fall Conference 9/29/14 - Ralph Fletcher

Winter Conference 1/27/15 - Troy Hicks

Summer Conference 6/18/15 & 6/19/15 – Lester Laminack & Kelly Gallagher

Make sure to check our SCIRA website at [scira.weebly.com](http://scira.weebly.com) often for updates on the upcoming conferences! See you there!

Sarah & Debbie

## *Announcements*

Looking for a vibrant professional learning community? There are still spaces left in The Reading Leadership Institute for this academic year!

This year we are going to be focusing on the topic of **T**eaching for **D**isciplin**L**iteracy. **O**ur dates for the **2014-2015** school year will be:

- **F**riday, **N**ovember **7, 2014**- **D**r. **D**oug **B**uehl- **L**aying the **G**roundwork for **D**isciplin**L**iteracy
- **F**riday, **J**anuary **23, 2015**- **D**r. **G**ina **C**ervetti- **D**eveloping **S**cientific **L**iteracy
- **F**riday, **A**pril **17, 2015**- **S**ocial **S**tudies, **T**BA

Meetings are held at **NLU's Northshore Campus** (across from **Old Orchard**) from **12-3** with lunch out at **11:30** for fellowship and networking. The yearly membership **\$375** for the sessions, lunch and handouts (**No** single session registration).

The institute is directed by **Professors Donna Ogle, Camille Blachowicz, Debbie Gurvitz and Sophie Degener**. **Members** include literacy leaders from **Suburbs** and city.

For more information and/or registration materials, contact **Debbie Gurvitz** at [djgurvitz@msn.com](mailto:djgurvitz@msn.com).

Interested in applying for a **SCIRA** literacy grant?  
**SCIRA grants have the same guidelines, but we have an all new application process!**

SCIRA grants will now be submitted via our new online form. Log on to <http://scira.weebly.com/scira-grants.html> to view and fill out the online application. Our updated grant brochure with more detailed information is also available there. We have also added a sample grant exemplar to the site for applicants to view.

As in previous years, the following guidelines still apply:

- Grants are available to help teachers further the literacy goals they have for their students and can be funded up to \$500.
- You must be a SCIRA member to apply.
- Individual or group proposals are accepted.
- The deadline for grant applications is **March 15, 2015**.
- If you have questions, email Natalie Biancalana, SCIRA grants coordinator, at [dreamcatcher\\_15@yahoo.com](mailto:dreamcatcher_15@yahoo.com). Please use SCIRA Grant as the subject line.

SCIRA FALL CONFERENCE  
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2014  
4 pm-8 pm

# Ralph Fletcher

*Writing and the Common Core*

Lions Park Elementary School  
300 E. Council Trail  
Mount Prospect, IL

Ralph Fletcher has been a mentor to teachers and young writers everywhere. Ralph's latest Heinemann books continue this tradition. [What a Writer Needs, Second Edition](#) mentors teachers and writers in the elements and craft of writing. [Mentor Author, Mentor Texts](#) brings inspiration to teachers and students by sharing Ralph's own writing across numerous genres plus writer's notes that reveal his thinking.

Ralph frequently works with young writers in schools, and speaks at education conferences in the U.S. and abroad, helping teachers find wiser ways of teaching writing. Ralph is the beloved author of many bestselling teacher professional books including [Writing Workshop: The Essential Guide](#); [Craft Lessons](#); and [Breathing In, Breathing Out](#) as well as the author of *firsthand* classroom materials such as [Teaching the Qualities of Writing](#) and [Lessons for the Writer's Notebook](#). Students know Ralph as the award-winning author of more than 20 books for children and young adults, including *Fig Pudding*, *Twilight Comes Twice*, *The Writer's Notebook*, and *Marshfield Dreams: When I Was a Kid*.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**AT THE DOOR  
REGISTRATION**

\$45.00 Fee     \_\_\_ SCIRA Member

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

**\$10 ADDITIONAL**

\$25.00 Fee     \_\_\_ Student, Paraprofessional & Associate

\$55.00 Member  
\$95.00 Non member  
\$35.00 Student

Method of Payment:     \_\_\_ Check payable to SCIRA enclosed

\_\_\_ Purchase Order # \_\_\_\_\_ **Please Attach**

\_\_\_ **Online** To use a credit card go to [www.scira.weebly.com](http://www.scira.weebly.com)

**Return this form with payment to Brittany Plath, 810 Highland Place, Highland Park, IL. 60035** Questions? Contact Brittany at [Bplath109@gmail.com](mailto:Bplath109@gmail.com) or 847-207-4914.

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 CPDU's**.

# RECEIVE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COURSE CREDIT

Attend the SCIRA Fall Conference:

Ralph Fletcher - "Writing and the Common Core"

September 29, 2014

Lions Park Elementary School, 300 E. Council Trail, Mount Prospect, IL

Students interested in one hour of graduate course credit may attend the SCIRA Fall Conference in Mount Prospect, September 29, 2014 and complete the requirements of this course.

The purpose of this course is to generate, design, and develop creative teaching ideas as students apply what they learn during the conference to their specific teaching situations. This course will also enhance the conference experience.

## Course Location:

The SCIRA Fall Conference will be held at Lions Park Elementary School, Mount Prospect, Illinois. Course session will be held at NLU's Wheeling campus.

## Course Calendar & Requirements:

1. **Register separately for the SCIRA Summer Conference** by going to: <http://scira.weebly.com/registration.html> . Please note that there is a separate fee to register for the conference.
2. **Register for the Graduate Course** by completing the course registration form.
  - **Email** completed registration form including credit card payment section before or during the conference to Mary Hoch at [mary.hoch.edu](mailto:mary.hoch.edu) **OR**
  - **Mail** completed registration form with tuition payment of **\$360**, check payable to National Louis University or completed credit card payment section to: **Mary Hoch, Reading Center Director, National Louis University, 850 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL 60532 OR**
  - **At the Door** return completed registration form including payment to Laura Beltchenko.
3. **Attend** SCIRA Conference, Monday, September 29, 4-8 PM and workshop session directly after the conference, 8-10 PM at the conference site.
4. **Attend** the workshop session, at NLU's Wheeling campus, Saturday, October 11, 2014, from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.
5. **Read** and summarize assigned course articles.
6. **Maintain** a reflective journal during the conference.
7. **Develop** a thematic unit of study supported by the Common Core State Standards.
8. **Complete** any other assignments given by instructor.

## November 8, 2014

- All assignments due via email to Laura Beltchenko.
- Materials must be received as an electronic document.

**Questions?** Contact Mary Hoch at [mary.hoch@nl.edu](mailto:mary.hoch@nl.edu) or 630-874-4533.

## NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY GRADUATE REGISTRATION FORM

**Mail** completed graduate registration form with **\$360 check** payable to National Louis University or completed credit card payment section to Mary Hoch, Reading Center Director, National Louis University, 850 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL 60532

**OR**

**Email** completed registration form including credit card payment section to Mary Hoch at [mary.hoch@nl.edu](mailto:mary.hoch@nl.edu).

**OR**

**At the Door** return completed registration form including payment to Laura Beltchenko.

**ALL INFORMATION MUST BE COMPLETED OR FORM WILL BE RETURNED.**

NLU ID# or SOCIAL SECURITY # \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

ETHNIC BACKGROUND (CHECK ONE)

1. American Indian or Alaskan \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Asian or Pacific Islander \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Black Hispanic \_\_\_\_\_  
4. White Hispanic \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Black Non-Hispanic \_\_\_\_\_ 6. White Non-Hispanic \_\_\_\_\_

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

/Fellowship \_\_\_\_\_ /Doctoral Scholarship \_\_\_\_\_

ADMITTED TO GRADUATE PROGRAM: Program \_\_\_\_\_ Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

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

CRN	COURSE NUMBER	COURSE REGISTRATION Course Title	SEM HOURS
	RLR595BU	Special Topics in Reading: Literacy, Writing and the Common Core	1

X FALL 2014 \_\_\_\_\_ /WINTER \_\_\_\_\_ /SPRING \_\_\_\_\_ /SUMMER \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Tuition payment must be submitted at time of course registration.**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY D.P. _____
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Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### CREDIT CARD CHARGE AUTHORIZATION FORM

STUDENT'S NLU ID# or SOCIAL SECURITY # \_\_\_\_\_

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

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*) \_\_\_\_\_

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

CARDHOLDER'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

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

**SCIRA**  
Suburban  
Council of the  
International  
Reading  
Association

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

**Writing and the Common Core**

***Ralph Fletcher***

**September 29, 2014**  
**Lions Park Elementary School, 300 E. Council Trail,**  
**Mount Prospect, IL**

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/>