

# CAR QUARTERLY

*Center for the Advancement of Reading (CAR)  
The California State University*

## **Greetings from the Chancellor's Office**

Beverly Young, Assistant Vice Chancellor,  
Academic Affairs

Best wishes for a productive year! As noted in the CSU's recently adopted strategic plan, *Access to Excellence*, the faculty in the 23 universities that comprise the California State University are the system's most important asset. You are key in providing the quality education that our students enjoy. Thank you for your work on behalf of students and the community. Your efforts impact the future of California and the nation.

If you have not yet read the CSU's strategic plan, I encourage you to do so. It may be found at [www.calstate.edu/accesstoexcellence/](http://www.calstate.edu/accesstoexcellence/).

I hope you take advantage of the activities that the Center for Advancement of Reading has organized. Take time to meet with your colleagues from other campuses. Join with state policymakers to discuss important issues in the preparation of teachers for teaching reading, one of the most crucial gifts we can give our youth. Share your own work with others.

Again, you have my very best wishes for a wonderful year.

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Greetings from the Chancellor's Office                 | 1 |
| News from the CAR Directors                            | 1 |
| CSU Fall 2008 Reading Conference                       | 2 |
| <i>Preparing Teachers to Teach Reading Effectively</i> | 3 |
| Faculty Publications                                   | 3 |
| What's New with RICA?                                  | 4 |
| Standards 7A and 7B Updated                            | 4 |
| Looking Ahead  | 5 |
| Contacting the Center                                  | 5 |
| Faculty Council of Representatives                     | 6 |
| Advisory Board   | 6 |
| Mission Statement                                      | 6 |

## **News from the CAR Directors**

Nancy Brynelson ([nbrynelson@calstate.edu](mailto:nbrynelson@calstate.edu))  
Hallie Yopp Slowik ([hyopp@fullerton.edu](mailto:hyopp@fullerton.edu))

Welcome to the new academic year! The Center for the Advancement of Reading (CAR) is delighted to be sponsoring its 7<sup>th</sup> annual Reading Conference. Please read elsewhere in this newsletter for details. Unfortunately, due to a limited budget and the economic crisis, the conference is not funded this year to the extent that it has been in the past. We hope this will not keep participants away as the conference has proven to be a powerful forum for bringing CSU reading faculty and our public school partners together to discuss

policy, legislation, research, and practice that affect our programs and our communities.

Please check the CAR Web site ([www.calstate.edu/CAR](http://www.calstate.edu/CAR)), which has recently been updated. Readers will find links to CAR events, professional resources, and more. We welcome your suggestions.

This year sees several changes on the CAR Council of Faculty Representatives and the Advisory Board. We bid a fond farewell to **Cathleen Rafferty** (Humboldt State University), **Jim Richmond** (CSU Chico), and **Karen DeVoogd** (CalStateTEACH). We will miss their expertise and many contributions over the years. New Council Representatives include **Deborah Summers** (CSU Chico), **Ruth Yopp-Edwards** (CSU Fullerton), **Jayne McGuire** (Humboldt State University), and **Jean Krsak** (CalStateTEACH). Welcome!

New to the Advisory Board are **Irene Nares-Guzicki** (CSU Monterey Bay) and **Lisa Hutton** (CSU Dominguez Hills). They, along with continuing members **Valerie Helgren-Lempesis** (CSU East Bay), **Barbara Moss** (San Diego State University), **Patricia Irvine** (San Francisco State University), and **Lisbeth Ceaser** (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo), represent CSU reading faculty on an advisory board that includes representatives from the Association of California School Administrators, California Department of Education, California School Boards Association, California Reading Association, California State PTA, and the Curriculum and Instruction Steering Committee of the

California County Superintendents. Congratulations!

## CSU Fall 2008 Reading Conference

The CSU Center for the Advancement of Reading sponsors a reading conference each fall. This year the 7th annual conference will be held in San Diego, at the same site as the Leadership Summit of the Association School Administrators (ACSA). This provides reading faculty with a unique opportunity to attend both events. ACSA has graciously offered reading faculty who are attending the CAR conference on November 7 to also attend sessions sponsored by ACSA on that date at no cost. In turn, CAR has invited participants of ACSA's Leadership Summit to attend the CAR general session and small group sessions. This collaborative venture was suggested by one of CAR's Advisory Board members, **Linda Wisher**.

Keynoting this year's CSU Reading Conference is Dr. **Maryanne Wolf**. Dr. Wolf is a professor of child development at Tufts University and director of the Center for Reading and Language Research. She is the author of *Proust and the Squid: The Story and Science of the Reading Brain*. Dr. Wolf's address promises to be fascinating.

Other presenters at the Reading Conference include Dr. **Douglas Fisher**, San Diego State University and former CAR Co-Director, who with Dr. **Nancy Frey**, also

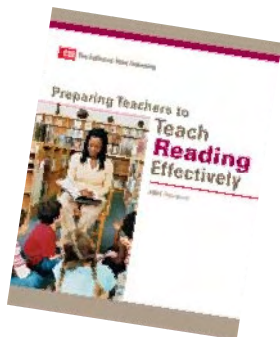


of San Diego State University, will discuss literacy leadership. Ms. **Nancy Brynelson** will provide updates from the state on a number of policies that impact the work of teacher education faculty. Joining her are Ms. **Teri Clark**, Commission on Teacher Credentialing, and Dr. **Thomas Adams**, California Department of Education. Dr. **Shira Lubliner**, CSU East Bay, will present research-based strategies for teaching vocabulary, and Drs. **Zulmara Cline**, CSU Chancellor's office, and **Kim Flachmann**, CSU Bakersfield, will discuss the CSU's Early Assessment Program and the Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum.

Faculty wishing to attend should speak with their CAR representative immediately. Representatives are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

### *Preparing Teachers to Teach Reading Effectively*

In 2002, representatives from CSU reading faculty collaborated under the direction of professors **MaryEllen Vogt**, **Gail Tompkins**, and **Hallie Yopp Slowik** to author a document that articulated how teachers are prepared by CSU teacher preparation programs to teach reading to children and adolescents. The document was shared with stakeholders throughout California. Legislators, school administrators, board members, and interested community members were provided copies.



Last year, members of the CAR Faculty Council revisited and updated the document. Distribution has begun. Any reading faculty who have not yet seen the updated document should contact their CAR Faculty Council Representative. A list of representatives is provided on page 6 of this newsletter.

### **Faculty Publications**

Reading faculty in the CSU not only teach classes and engage in campus, state, national, and international service, they also make scholarly contributions to the field through their publications. A few recently published books and refereed articles by CSU reading faculty are listed here.

Donoghue, M. (2008). *Language arts: Integrating skills for classroom teaching*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Fisher, D., & Frey, N. (2008). *Better learning through structured teaching: A framework for the gradual release of responsibility*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.

Fisher, D., & Frey, N. (2008). What does it take to create skilled readers? Facilitating the transfer and application of literacy strategies. *Voices from the Middle*, 15(4), 16-22.

Lubliner, S., & Scott, J. (2008). *Nourishing vocabulary: A well-balanced diet for word learning*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin.

Short, D., Vogt, M., Echevarria, J. (2008). *The SIOP model for administrators*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Street, C., Fletcher, J., Merrill, M., Katz, M., & Cline, Z. (2008). The Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum (ERWC): Preparing all students for college and career. *The California Reader*, 42(1), 34-41.

Please send CAR Co-Director Hallie Yopp Slowik (hyopp@fullerton.edu) the full citation of any recent publications by CSU reading faculty. They will appear in an upcoming newsletter.

## What's New with RICA?

In November 2007, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) approved the first major revision to the content specifications of the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) in the history of the exam. First approved in 1997, the content specifications were long overdue for review. The 2007 publication of the *Reading/Language Arts Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve* was further impetus for a review of the specifications.

In the revised content specifications, the structure was expanded to include five domains: 1) planning, organizing, and managing reading instruction based on ongoing assessment; 2) word analysis; 3) fluency; 4) vocabulary, academic language, and background knowledge; and 5) comprehension. In addition, the CTC established the following weighting for each of the domains: 1 = 10%; 2 = 33%; 3 = 13%; 4 = 20%; and 5 = 23%.

The RICA Design Team, a group of educators comprised of teachers, professors, and administrators, will begin meeting in November 2008 with the contractor identified by the CTC to develop

the revised exam based on the new specifications. CAR Co-Director, **Nancy Brynelson**, is a member of the Design Team.

The first administration of the revised exam is anticipated in August 2009. This academic year, then, will be a transitional year. While most Multiple Subject and Education Specialist credential candidates completing their preparation in 2008-2009 will take the current RICA exam, it is possible that some candidates will take the new exam. The challenge will be to determine which set or sets of content specifications to consider in preparing our candidates during this academic year.

The draft specifications are available at <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2007-11/2007-11-3D.pdf>. The final specifications and a chart comparing the current and 2007 specifications are posted on the CAR Web site under Professional Resources for California.

## Standards 7A and 7B Updated

In April 2008 the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) approved revised teacher preparation standards for reading-language arts. Standards 7A and 7B were revised in response to the changes in the RICA content specifications and the 2007 publication of the *Reading/Language Arts Framework*. Some changes are the result of revisions to the larger system of accreditation in California. For example, you may notice that the revised standards no longer contain the "Program Elements" that the previous version of Standards 7A and 7B contained. The revised standards have now been incorporated into the document, *Standards of Quality and*

*Effectiveness for Teacher Preparation Programs for Preliminary Multiple and Single Subject Teaching Credentials*, available at the following Web site: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/standards/AdoptedPreparationStandards.pdf>. Standard 7A: Multiple Subject Reading, Writing, and Related Language Instruction in English can be found on pages 52-54, and Standard 7B: Single Subject Reading, Writing and Related Language Instruction in English can be found on pages 55-56. Program Standard 8B(d): Pedagogical Preparation for Subject-Specific Content Instruction by Single Subject Candidates in English was also revised; it can be found on pages 60-61.

What does all this mean for reading/literacy faculty? Do campuses need to rewrite their program descriptions immediately? No. In January 2009, all approved Multiple Subject, Single Subject, and Education Specialist programs will be required to submit a short (2-3 page) plan that describes any changes to courses being made as a result of the revised standards. As part of the 2009-2010 and the 2010-2011 accreditation activities (Biennial Reports, Program Assessment and Site Visits), however, programs will be required to provide updated responses to Program Standards 7A, 7B, and 8B(d) during their regularly scheduled accreditation activities.

## Looking Ahead

Among the topics in the next *CAR Quarterly* are the following:

- Changes in the Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential and Reading Certificate
- The 2008 Reading/Language Arts-English-Language Development (RLA/ELD) instructional materials adoption
- RIAP funding for 2008-2009
- Developments in STAR Program

### Contacting the Center

Center for the Advancement of Reading  
(916) 278-4176  
[www.calstate.edu/CAR](http://www.calstate.edu/CAR)

Nancy Brynelson, Co-Director  
[nbrynelson@calstate.edu](mailto:nbrynelson@calstate.edu)  
(916) 278-4581

Hallie Yopp Slowik, Co-Director  
[hyopp@fullerton.edu](mailto:hyopp@fullerton.edu)  
(714) 278-3900

## Faculty Council of Representatives

CSU Bakersfield: *Barbara Bartholomew*  
CSU Channel Islands: *Manuel Correia*  
CSU Chico: *Deborah Summers*  
CSU Dominguez Hills: *Lisa Hutton*  
CSU East Bay: *Valerie Helgren-Lempesis*  
CSU Fresno: *Imelda Basurto*  
CSU Fullerton: *Ruth Yopp-Edwards*  
Humboldt State U.: *Jayne McGuire*  
CSU Long Beach: *Jessica Zacher*  
CSU Los Angeles: *Joan Fingon*  
CSU Monterey Bay: *Irene Nares-Guzicki*  
CSU Northridge: *Kathleen Rowlands*  
Cal Poly Pomona: *Jodene Kersten*  
CSU Sacramento: *Marcy Merrill*  
CSU San Bernardino: *Ina Katz*  
San Diego State U.: *Barbara Moss*  
San Francisco State U.: *Patricia Irvine*  
San Jose State U.: *Marina Aminy*  
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo: *Lisbeth Ceaser*  
CSU San Marcos: *Patricia Stall*  
Sonoma State U.: *MaryAnn Nickel*  
CSU Stanislaus: *Susan Neufeld*  
CalStateTEACH: *Jean Krsak*

## Advisory Board

Association of California School Administrators: *Linda Wisher*  
California Department of Education: *Anthony Monreal*  
California Reading Association: *Rosemary Rankin*  
California School Boards Association: *Holly Jacobson*  
California State PTA: *Barbara Ledterman*  
Curriculum and Instruction Steering Committee, California County Superintendents: *Joyce Wright*  
CSU Dominguez Hills: *Lisa Hutton*  
CSU East Bay: *Valerie Helgren-Lempesis*  
CSU Monterey Bay: *Irene Nares-Guzicki*  
San Diego State University: *Barbara Moss*  
San Francisco State University: *Patricia Irvine*  
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo: *Lisbeth Ceaser*

## Mission Statement

The CSU Center for the Advancement of Reading, dedicated to excellence in literacy instruction, promotes the preparation of effective teachers and reading specialists in the California State University by:

- Facilitating faculty communication and research;
- Disseminating research and policy information;
- Fostering connections among the CSU literacy faculty, P-12 partners, and public education stakeholders; and
- Serving as a forum for the interchange of public and academic interests.

The Center is committed to ensuring that California's children and adolescents will be capable readers and writers; as such, they will have the greatest chance of becoming successful and productive citizens in today's changing world.