

# The Lectern

The El Paso Reading Council of the International Reading Association  
August 2004

## President's Message

Welcome back and greetings to all of our El Paso Reading Council members, all one thousand plus!

It is an honor and a great privilege to serve as your council president for the 2004-2005 school year. I am looking forward to a productive year. The Executive Board of the El Paso Reading Council has been hard at work this summer planning a year with incredible opportunities for professional growth and development for all of our council members. The members of this council are the true stars and make this the very best and brightest council- not to mention the biggest - in the entire state. I thank each and every one of you for your continued support and dedication to our council.

This year's theme is "A Reading Round Up!" a western theme that has strong roots in our west Texas city. As professionals, our council members are constantly "rounding up" the very best initiatives and resources to help our students to succeed through reading. So saddle up "partners" for a productive year as we "round up" the very best our council has to offer!

This summer members of the EPRC Executive Board attended the TSRA Leadership Training in Fort Worth, Texas. Ms. Tara Henderson Forrest, the TSRA 2003-2004 President, together with the TSRA executive board provided the opportunity for council leaders to come together to learn and grow as we develop our councils. This year our targeted audience is secondary teachers, student memberships and librarians. The El Paso Reading council is dedicated to rounding up all of the targeted groups and providing growth opportunities that will enhance the reading instruction for all of our "little buckaroos."

Our 2004-2005 Executive Board is comprised of dedicated professionals from all of our surrounding districts who are committed to the success of our council members. I feel honored and blessed to be working with a group of this caliber who volunteer their time selflessly.

I invite you to read and enjoy our first issue of The Lectern, and prepare to join in the fun of the Reading Roundup 2004-2005. Good luck to you in this coming school year, and I look forward to seeing all of you soon!

Sincerely,

Denise J. Sowers, President

## Update Your Data

If you have recently moved, changed your name, school, or phone number take a few minutes to update the information with us at EPRC. Log on to [www.elpasoreading.us](http://www.elpasoreading.us) and update your membership information. We need all members to log on to the website to sign in for future information as it becomes available.

## "Rounding Up" Reservations

Submitted by Sylvia Carrillo and Kristen Navarro

We would like to thank all of the El Paso Reading Council members for welcoming us as your new Reservations Committee. The upcoming dinner in September will be our first dinner as reservations officers. We look forward to meeting and serving you.

Your patience, promptness, and understanding will be truly appreciated when dealing with reservations.

Many efforts have been made to facilitate the reservations and membership process. We are heading towards an e-mail based system, however, we understand that some schools will need to fax reservations, our fax number is 757-8073 and to

e-mail reservations use reservations@elpasoreading.us.

Also remember that reservations are to be placed by the building representative only.

All reservations, including additions and deletions, must be received 7 days prior to the dinner date. Once again, thank you for your warm welcome and we look forward to a successful year.

Dinner tickets are \$26.00 this year.

Dinner Date: September 23, 2004

Deadline for Reservation: September 16, 2004

Hotel/Occasion: Marriott-Bosses' Night

Dinner Date: November 11, 2004

Deadline for Reservation: November 4, 2004

Hotel/Occasion: Hilton-Leaders' Night

Dinner Date: January 27, 2005

Deadline for Reservation: January 20, 2005

Hotel/Occasion: Hilton-Librarians' Night

Dinner Date: April 14, 2005

Deadline for Reservation: April 7, 2005 Hotel/Occasion: Hilton-Teachers' Night (Tentative)

**“A Reading Round Up!”**

# September Dinner Meeting

## Bosses' Night

Submitted by Norma De La Rosa

### MENU

Iced Tea with lemon wedges

Assorted Rolls

Classic Caesar Salad

Lemon Chicken

Fresh Vegetable Medley

Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Coconut Breeze Cake

Coffee or Tea

EPRC Dinner Meeting

Sept. 23, 2004 at the Marriott

Social Hour 5:30 pm

Dinner at 6:30 pm

Tickets are \$26.00 for EPRC members

\$50.00 for nonmembers

**Deadline for reservations is Sept. 16, 2004**

*Please note: no reservations accepted after deadline because of arrangements with hotel. Make reservations early as there is a 600 person capacity.*

HEIDI HAYES JACOBS, president of Curriculum Designers, Inc., has served as an education consultant to thousands of schools nationally and internationally. She works with schools and districts, K-12, on issues and practices pertaining to: curriculum reform, instructional strategies to encourage critical thinking, and strategic planning.

Her books, *Interdisciplinary Curriculum: Design and Implementation and Mapping the Big Picture: Integrating Curriculum and Assessment K-12* have been best sellers. Both books are published by ASCD. Numerous articles have appeared in professional journals.

Dr. Jacobs has served as an adjunct associate professor on the Department of Curriculum and Teaching at Teachers College, Columbia University, NYC, since 1981 and continues to teach there every summer.

Her consultations are wide ranging having worked organizations like: the College Board, NBC Sunday Today Show, Children's Television Workshop, CBS National Sunrise Semester, ASCD, IBM EduQuest, The Discovery Channel, Tapestry Productions, The Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, New York City Ballet Education Department at Lincoln Center, the Peace Corps., the National School Conference Institute, the Disney Company, Prentice-Hall Publishing, the Near East School Association based in Athens, Greece, International Baccalaureate, the European Council of International Schools, and state education departments.

Interviews and features have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Educational Leadership*, *Child Magazine*, Sunburst Communications video on Successful Middle Schools, and National Public Radio "**Talk of the Nation**" Broadcast. Dr. Jacobs has published curriculum materials with Prentice Hall, Milton-Bradley, the Electric Company, and Bowmar Publishing.

Video Journal of Education features a series on her work, in addition, two other video series developed by ASCD focus on Dr. Jacobs' curriculum models.

PBS features three of her on-line professional development courses for teachers.

Her doctoral work was completed at Columbia University's Teachers College in 1981 where she studied under a national Graduate Leadership Fellowship from the United States Office of Education. Her master's degree is from UMASS at Amherst and her undergraduate studies were at the University of Utah in her hometown of Salt Lake City.

The fundamental backbone of her experience comes from her years as a teacher of high school, junior high school, and elementary children in Utah, Massachusetts, and New York.

She is married with two children and lives in Westchester County, New York.

**We would like to thank Pearson Learning and local representative Laura MacDonald along with TSRA Gifted & Talented Council for co-sponsoring our September dinner meeting.**

## **Studies/Research**

Submitted by Maria Descamps

### The Fluent Comprehender

Fluency is defined as the effortless automatic ability to read words in isolation (orthographic reading) and connected texts. As of 2000, with the release of The National Reading Panel findings and the rigorous mandates of the No Child Left Behind Act, as well as other recent scholarly reviews of scientific research (Chard, Vaughn, & Tyler, 2002; Kuhn & Stahl, 2000; Rasinski & Hoffman, 2003), reading fluency seems to be the topic that reading teachers are wanting more information about. However as we address the area of fluency and creating a fluent reader, it is

also important to look at comprehension. It is not uncommon for teachers to have students in upper elementary classrooms that are fluent readers, yet they are not fluent comprehenders. The two are very different.

The fluent reader can read words automatically, the fluent comprehender reads the words and accesses the meaning of text. Reading is the construction of meaning. Comprehension is not the product of reading; it is the process, (Fountas and Pinnell, 1996). Emphasis on reading fluency and comprehension are essential components that must exist to produce a reader. Data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Literacy Collaborative 2000 Research Report (Williams, Scharer, & Pinnell 2000), Rasinski (2000), and Blevins (2000) all reveal a connection between fluent reading and comprehending text. While all four studies also show that fluency is not the only factor affecting comprehension, they provide evidence that a complex relationship exists between the two.

Reading fluency has three fundamental layers that support the process of comprehension. The first layer of this foundation process is *accuracy in word decoding*. Readers need to be able to sound out words in a text with minimal errors. The second layer refers to *automatic processing*. Readers must be able to expend as little mental effort as possible in the decoding aspect of reading so they can use their finite cognitive resources for meaning making (LaBerge & Samuels, 1974). The final layer to this process is what linguist call *prosodic reading* (Shreiber, 1980, 1991; Shreiber & Read, 1980). In this process the readers must phrase the text syntactically and semantically into appropriate units.

Students who are successful readers are able to process and comprehend the text by incorporating all three layers of fluency. As the student becomes more able to develop control over surface level reading, they will be able to focus more on the deeper meaning embedded in the text, and become fluent comprehenders which is the goal of all classroom teachers.

Teachers and school leaders must take a closer look at the growing body of scientific research that points to reading fluency as being an important factor in student reading success, and find ways to ensure that it is part of any comprehensive and effective reading curriculum. Professional development models need to focus on the area of reading fluency, so that it can provide tools for continuous assessment of the progress and monitoring of student achievement.

## Bits & Bytes

Submitted by Dee Cramer

The July/August issue of Reading Online, accessed through IRA's website at [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org), has two excellent articles for professional reading. They are *Highlights from Reading Research 2004* by John T. Guthrie, Neil K. Duke, Linda Valli, and Marilyn Chambliss and *Authors as Writing Mentors* by Denise Johnson.

### Membership

Submitted by Jana Rivera

As we begin a new school year I would like to welcome back all returning campus representatives. I am Jana Rivera and will be serving as the new membership director for EPRC. Many changes are happening within EPRC making this the time to be a building rep. Our "Afternoon Delights" will be held on August 23, and hopefully will be a great success. I hope everyone enjoys it. We appreciate all the hard work our campus reps do and as an added thank you we will be having a

special “meet the author” just for you. We have planned an autograph party with author Rick Riordan that will include prizes, awards, an author study, and much more.

Communication is important in any organization and at EPRC we realize our campus reps are key in this factor. To help with this, a page on our new website has been designed specifically for our campus reps. I encourage all campus reps to go to the web page and sign on with your preferred e-mail address.

Many of our schools do not have a building representative at this time. If you see that your school does not have a representative and are interested in becoming one, please contact me at [jrivera@elpasoreading.us](mailto:jrivera@elpasoreading.us). It is membership’s goal to retain our current members as well as recruit new members including librarians, secondary content area teachers, preservice teachers, and those that have not renewed their membership.

Volunteers are always needed to help EPRC run smoothly. If you are interested in volunteering or need additional information you can contact me at [jriver@elpasoreading.us](mailto:jriver@elpasoreading.us) or our executive secretary, Paul Haupt at [phaupt@elpasoreading.us](mailto:phaupt@elpasoreading.us).

### **Decorations**

Submitted by Carol Leonard & Lisa Medina

The Decorations and Hospitality Ambassadors report that the Reading Round Up decorations are "under construction." As a friendly reminder to all EPRC members, please remember that the table decorations must be used for all dinner meetings throughout the year. If you would like to have one to add to your reading/western decor, please attend the April dinner meeting. At the conclusion of this meeting, the decorations will be given out to anyone interested. Thank you!

### **IRA Convention in San Antonio**

Submitted by Dee Cramer

What: IRA 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention:

Celebrating 50 Years of Literacy Leadership

When: May 1-5, 2005, San Antonio, Texas

Where: Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center

Marriott Rivercenter Hotel (co-headquarters)

Marriott Riverwalk Hotel (co-headquarters)

Hilton, Palacio del Rio Hotel, Westin Riverwalk Hotel

Why: Four General Sessions

Wide Variety of Presentations on Hot Topics in Literacy

1000 + Exhibitors

Clock Hours for Professional Development

Networking Opportunities with Professional Colleagues

Welcoming Gala – Adventures in Books!

Special Meal Functions and Speakers

Rosemary Wells, Meg Cabot, Kate DiCamillo,

Jack Pikulski

Special Features: E-planner on IRA's Web site, [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org)

IRA Convention Marketplace

How: Registration Fees

IRA Member, Advance, Full Convention \$225

Non-Member, Advance, Full Convention \$300

Student, Advance, Full Convention \$115

IRA Member, On-Site Convention \$325

Non-Member, On-Site Convention \$400

IRA Member, One-Day Convention \$160

Non-Member, One-Day Convention \$200

Special Teacher Professional Development

and Parent Day (Thursday, May 5) \$125

Contact Dee Cramer, IRA Local Arrangements Chair [deewcramer@aol.com](mailto:deewcramer@aol.com)

915.747.8765 (work) 915.581.5575 (home) 915.526.7001 (cell)

### **Workshops**

Submitted by Paul Haupt

Thursday, September 23, 2004: Heidi Hayes Jacobs

“Curriculum Mapping at the Next Level”

Targeted Audience: Administrators & Lead Teachers

Co-Hosted with TSRA Gifted & Talented Council and Professional Development Associates

Location: Ysleta ISD, Ysleta Room

Thursday, October 14, 2004: Dee Cramer & Frankie Dungan

“Strategic Literacy: Thinking Strategies for Intermediate Teachers”

Targeted Audience: Administrators & Lead Teachers (4-8 Grade)

Co-Hosted with TSRA Gifted & Talented Council and Professional Development Associates

Location: Ysleta ISD, Ysleta Room

Monday, October 25, 2004: Dee Cramer & Gloria Hoyos

“Writer’s Workshop--They Just Don’t Get It”

Co-Hosted with TSRA Gifted & Talented Council and Professional Development Associates

Location: Ysleta ISD, Ysleta Room

For more information on registration contact our executive secretary, Paul Haupt at [phaupt@elpasoreading.us](mailto:phaupt@elpasoreading.us).

#### **2004-2005 EPRC Board & Committees**

President Denise Sowers

President Elect Norma De La Rosa

Vice President Mary E. B. Vargas

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Treasurer & Executive Secretary Paul Haupt

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TRSA Vice President Patricia Ann Carrington

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IRA 2005 San Antonio Convention LAC Dee Cramer

Studies & Research Maria Descamps

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Communications Editor & Webmaster Debbie McClain

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Membership Director Jana Rivera

Council Awards Committee Phyllis Sully

Dinner Ticket Distribution Rose Mary Telles

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**P. O. Box 372010**

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**“A Reading Round Up!”**

**We're on the Web**

**[www.elpasoreading.us](http://www.elpasoreading.us)**

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