

In This Issue:

Board Briefs

President's Column 1, 3
IRA State Coordinator 2-3

IRC Activities

Join IRC on facebook 6
Preservice Pizza Party 6
Static Stick Decal Contest 6
2011 IRC Conference 7
IRC Literacy Support Grants . . . 10
ABC's of Illinois 10
IRC Intellectual Freedom 11
2011 Prairie State Award 16

Forms

IRC Conference
Registration 8
Housing 9
ICARE for Reading Award . . . 12

Features

Illinois Authors' Corner 4-5
ILLC Newsletters 6
Authors to Visit Schools 6
Children's Choice Award 10
Guatemalan Project 13
Meet an IRC Researcher 13
Cool Studies 14-15
ILLC's 37th Annual Young
Authors Conference 15

This past summer the Executive Board of the Illinois Reading Council had the distinct honor of attending the International Reading Association's Leadership Training in Dallas, Texas. This training was unique in that state council officers from all over the nation were in attendance, not just those from our Great Lakes Region. The three-day training was packed full of informative sessions, networking time, and officer training. Your Executive Board members were extremely tired, but we came back with new ideas for furthering the cause of literacy in our state. One of the greatest benefits, as most of you could guess, was that we had time to work and plan together, and we definitely did that well into the night every night.



**IRC
President
Susan Cisna**

Not too surprisingly, we found that the Illinois Reading Council is by far one of the leading state councils in the nation. One of our greatest assets is our office staff! There are very few states that even have a central office, let alone such a wonderful staff to help us when we need assistance or an executive director to guide us and provide stability from year to year. Much of our success is due to the dedication of our superb office staff. In addition, we have remarkable state committee chairs and committee members who work on the many diverse literacy projects that IRC supports. Many of the state officers we met were amazed at the number of committees that the Illinois Reading Council supports—26 in all this year. Many states also do not have such strong local councils providing support to teachers all over the state, and absolutely no other state gives over \$60,000 in literacy support grants back to the teachers in the state for literacy projects!

“Thinking Outside the Box” seemed to be a common theme while in Dallas. Little did they know that Illinois was already “thinking outside the box.” Very few states could boast a conference to even come close to competing with ours. Most states organize a conference with only a few featured speakers, not nearly the amount that Illinois has every year. Our own Cindy Wilson is working diligently making all of the plans and preparations for our 2011 conference. Don't forget to register!!!! You won't want to miss what promises to be one of the best IRC Conferences ever!

Finally, one of the most valuable lessons that the Executive Board learned at our Leadership was to recognize and appreciate the diversity that our members

Continued on page 3

Literacy



OUTSIDE THE BOX!

**Registration and
Housing for the
2011 IRC Conference
is available now!**



IRA
State Coordinator
Roberta Sejnost

Thornton Wilder said “Seek the lofty by reading, hearing and seeing great work at some moment every day.” Where better than through the programs offered by IRC’s local councils can we do just that? We are deep into fall.

The regimen of school has been settled, and the weariness of winter now begins to slowly creep in. It is the perfect time to seek out those lofty moments Wilder talks about. Remember, while you all have terrific programs set for your own local councils, you are always welcome to visit other councils to hear their great ideas and share their lofty moments. To help you do that, I have included a synopsis of some of the wonderful programs you can choose from below and you can also check the IRC website at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org, for more information. In addition, have you thought about sharing your council’s great work by applying for **IRC’s Council of Excellence** and **IRA’s Honor Council** awards? The due date of March 1st will be here before you know it so to support your council’s application for these awards, a **Council of Excellence** and **Honor Council informational workshop** will be held after the **November 20th IRC Board of Directors meeting**. Councils are encouraged to bring their paperwork, artifacts and questions and begin the application process for these two prestigious awards early. A follow-up workshop will be held after the January Board meeting.

“Our councils do fantastic things because you are there pulling together to create wonderful things for literacy.”

Council Activities

North-Northwest (Region 1)

Northwestern Illinois Reading Council kicks off the Christmas season with *Read with Santa* in a variety of locations. On December 4th at 10:00 a.m. they will be at Mt. Carroll Public Library, 208 N. Main, Mt. Carroll, at Savanna Public Library, 326 Third Street, Savanna and at the Stockton Public Library, 140 W. Benton, Stockton. Then, on December 8th, they will host *Read with Mrs. Claus* at 4:00 p.m. at the York Township Library, Thomson, and on the 9th, *Read with Santa* will take place at 6:00 p.m. at the Pearl City Library, 221 South Main Street, Pearl City. The

literary merriment continues on December 11th when Santa will read at 10:00 a.m. at the Elizabeth Township Library, 210 Myrtle Street, Elizabeth; on December 12th at 10:00 at the Freeport Public Library, 100 E. Douglas, Freeport, and on December 18th at 10:30 at the Warren Township Public Library, 210 Burnett Avenue, Warren. Bravo to this council for taking on so many literacy opportunities for kids during the busy holiday season!

Chicago (Region 3)

Want to see how other councils encourage membership growth? If so, join **Chicago Area Reading Association (CARA)** at its *Membership Social Event* at 5:00 at the Midway Marriott, 6520 South Cicero Avenue, Chicago on November 18th. Then, December 6th finds **West Suburban Reading Council** hosting *Read Alouds and Christmas Educational Gift Giving Suggestions* at 9:00 a.m. at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake Street, Oak Park. And, if the winter winds are chilling you, warm up with **Prairie Area Reading Council’s Wine Tasting and Book Talk** with Anderson’s Bookshop on January 27th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Lisle Hilton, 3003 Corporate West Drive, Lisle.

West Central (Region 4)

Fall for **MID-State Reading Council** begins with a FIESTA on November 4th as the council hosts a *Fall Festival of Literacy* at 5:00 at Northpoint Elementary School, 2602 E. College, Bloomington. Then, Santa makes his appearance at **Illinois Valley Reading Council’s Leave a Cookie for Santa!** on November 10th at 5:00 p.m. at Dunlap Library, 302 S. 1st Street, Dunlap. Interested in learning more about Asperger Syndrome? Then travel to Monmouth College on November 15th at 6:00 p.m. to hear **Western Illinois Reading Council’s** program *Piecing Together a New Normal* held at the Huff Recreation Center, Lower Level. Next, as our IRC Conference approaches, **Illinois Valley Reading Council** will feature *Thinking Outside the Box!* on January 11th at 6:00 at Alpha Park Library, 3527 S. Airport Road, Bartonville. Finally, if you need to refurbish your library or your classroom library why not head for the middle of the state on January 27th or 28th for **Central Illinois Reading Council’s Scholastic 1/2 Price Book Sale** held at the Capital Area Career Center, 2201 Toronto Road, Springfield. And, if you can help out, CIRC is looking for volunteers to work for \$10 an hour in books! Contact circ@illinoisreadingcouncil.org.

Continued on page 3

North Central (Region 5)

November 3rd finds **South Suburban Reading Council** partnering with Saint Xavier University to host a Share Fair beginning at 5:00 at St. Xavier's Orland Park Campus, 18230 Orland Parkway, Orland Park. Then, join **Two Rivers Reading Council** on November 12th at 6:00 p.m. as they host a Kids Night Owl Beat at Exploration Station, 1095 W. Perry Drive, Bourbonnais. And, as the fall leaves swirl, snuggle up with **Starved Rock Reading Council** on November 13th at the Book Mouse, 820 La Salle St, Ottawa, Illinois. December 3rd finds **Two Rivers Reading Council** participating in the Festival of Trees Gala at the Kankakee County Historical Society, 801 S. 8th Avenue, Kankakee while December 7th finds **South Suburban Reading Council** busy again hosting Ellin Keene's *To Understand: Exploring New Horizons in Comprehension Teaching and Learning* presentation at 5:00 p.m. at Dinolfo's Banquets, 9425 W. 191st Street, Mokena. As Christmas approaches, **Will County Reading Council** will host *Santa Reads* on December 15th at the Joliet Library, 3395 Black Road, Joliet.

East Central (Region 6)

On November 6th at 9:00 a.m. **Illini** and **Vermillion Valley Reading Councils** join forces to host the *Daily 5 in the Classroom: Adapting the Work of the 2 Sisters* at Holy Cross Parish Center, 405 W. Clark. Next, **Macon County Reading Council** will host *Intellectual Freedom and Challenged Books* at 4:15 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1360 W. Main Street, Decatur on November 9th. If you enjoy storytelling, don't miss seeing Michael Lockett for free sponsored by **East Central-EIU Reading Council** at 6:00 p.m. at Eastern Illinois University, 600 Lincoln Avenue, Charleston on December 2nd. Does technology engage you or worry you? If so, **Illini Reading Council** provides *Books and Technology for the Reluctant Reader* at 6:30 p.m. at the Champaign Public Library, 200 W. Green Street, Champaign on January 31st.

Southeast (Region 8)

Did you know that *Newspapers Are Not Just For Current Events*? To learn all about it join **South Eastern Reading Council** as Boomer Crotty shares his expertise on November 18th at 5:30 p.m. at the Olney Library, 400 W. Main, Olney. Cost is \$10 for non-members. Then join **South Eastern** again on January 10th to learn about IRC Grant Writing in a workshop and conference Preview Pizza Party at 5:30 at the Olney Library. Finally, ISAT is coming right up so visit **Southern Illinois Reading Council** and Pat Braun as she shares *Writing Extended Response for Math and Reading* at 6:00 p.m. at the Carterville Public Library, 117 South Division Street, Carterville on January 19th.

All Over the State (Region 9)

And, for everyone across the state, don't miss **Secondary Reading League's 34th Day of Reading** on November 5th-6th, featuring Neal Shusterman and Judith Irvin at the Holiday Inn Select Hotel, 185th & Harlem Avenue, Tinley Park.

Important Deadlines

- November 1st:** Hall of Fame Award
Certificate of Recognition
Barack Obama Library Award
Legislator of the Year Award
Parents and Reading Award
Illinois Reading Educator of the Year
Adult and Family Literacy Award
- November 15th:** IRA Exemplary Reading Program Award
- November 30th:** CIRC Grant for CIRC members.
- December 1st:** Council Program Speakers Grant
- December 17th:** Original manuscripts *About the Beautiful Communities of Illinois: An ACB Book Created for Illinois Students by Illinois Students*, sponsored by ICARE
- January 1st:** Gene Cramer ICARE for Reading Award
- January 15th:** Static Stick Decal Contest

Our councils do fantastic things because you are all there pulling together to create wonderful things for literacy. You create the lofty and great work we read about, hear and see. IRC thanks you.

Bobbie Sejnost

President's Message continued from page 1

have and bring to our councils. We are truly fortunate here in Illinois to have members from such different backgrounds having so many unique and exciting ideas for promoting literacy in our state. It is honestly exciting to be a part of an organization composed of teachers, administrators, librarians, professors, media specialists, literacy coaches, and retired teachers (to only name a few) who connect with the students in Illinois to teach reading and promote literacy. The main strength of the Illinois Reading Council is, in all honesty, the thousands of members who believe in advancing literacy in Illinois, and I was delighted to represent such a magnificent organization at the International Reading Association's Leadership Training.

Keep those literacy beacons shining!

Susan

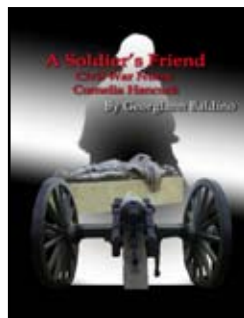


Welcome to the "Illinois Authors' Corner," showcasing new releases from our fabulous Illinois Authors and IRC members. If you'd like to include your new release, please visit the IRC website to find out how to submit information.

A Soldier's Friend, Civil War Nurse
Cornelia Hancock

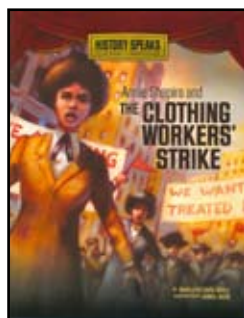
Written by Georgiann Baldino
Pearl Editions LLC June 2010
Category: Biography Grades: Middle and up

Cornelia Hancock did not meet the government's requirements for Civil War nurses, and yet she served on the front lines for nearly two years. Georgiann Baldino's biography celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in a unique way. Cornelia's adventures would make a remarkable legend, except in her case the heart-rending stories are true.



Annie Shapiro and the Clothing Workers Strike
Written by Marlene Targ Brill www.marlenetargbrill.com
Illustrated by Jamel Akib

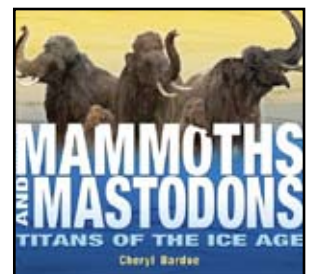
Lerner October 2010
Category: Historical Fiction Grades: 2-5
One hundred years ago a brave 17-year-old Chicago girl led 40,000 sweatshop workers on a strike that changed the way the men's clothing industry treated its employees. Annie Shapiro's stand against an unfair pay cut resulted in better employee treatment and wages and formation of a giant national union that exists today as Workers United. This true historical fiction story, complete with Reader's Theater script, describes Annie's journey from recent Russian immigrant helping to support her family to courageous leader.



Mammoths and Mastodons: Titans of the Ice Age

Written by Cheryl Bardoe www.cherylbardoe.com
Abrams Books for Young Readers March 2010
Category: Nonfiction Grades: 4-7

This Junior Library Guild Selection begins with the recent discovery of a 40,000-year-old, fully-frozen baby mammoth. As scientists explore the latest theories about how these colossal creatures fit into their Ice Age landscape, readers witness the scientific process at work and discover how learning about these animals could help us keep modern elephants from suffering the same fate of extinction. *The Washington Post* writes: "Although the animals are long extinct, Bardoe makes clear their relevance." Visit the author's website for educator guides with activities aligned to Illinois standards for science and language arts.



Go-Go Gorillas

Written by Julia Durango www.juliadurango.com
Illustrated by Eleanor Taylor
Simon & Schuster April 2010
Category: Picture Book Ages: 4-8

As they did in *Cha-Cha Chimps* (2006), Durango and Taylor present a bouncy book that will keep little ones counting. In the Great Gorilla Villa, King Big Daddy has news. So he sends a messenger to gather up the other gorillas, and they come in buses and in jalopies, on pogo sticks and in hot-air balloons. The watercolor art, with pictures big enough for groups, has the same sprightly spirit as the text. Forgoing the usual "one . . . two . . ." this goes with first, second, and so on, giving kids a new way to express numbers." – Ilene Cooper, *Booklist*



February 2011 IRC Communicator and Illinois Authors' Corner deadline for submissions is December 1, 2010!

Continued on page 5

First Rain

Written by Charlotte Herman www.charlotteherman.com
 Illustrated by Kathryn Mitter
 Albert Whitman & Co. March 2010
 Category: Picture Book Ages: 6-9

“When Abby and her parents depart for their new home in Israel, the rain mirrors the girl’s sadness in leaving her beloved grandmother. They keep in touch through phone calls, emails, and letters. Mitter’s acrylic illustrations also portray a scene at the Western Wall and the diversity of the Israeli population. Besides being a realistic look at another culture, this well-written book is heartwarming and reassuring.” *School Library Journal*



Heroes Were Made on 9/11

Written by Cindy L. Rodriguez www.CindJoyBooks.com
 Illustrated by Joyce L. Elliott
 Publish America June 2010
 Category: Childrens’ Book Grades: K-5

A bright blue sky across the nation, people arriving at jobs, devastating news, terrorist attack on American soil! Eyes glued to television sets as the horrible moments of September 11th, 2001, in New York City unwind. Still the trouble wasn’t done. News coverage showed yet another plane going down in a rural area in Pennsylvania. Reports of last minute cellular phone calls to family members give us only a glimpse of what truly happened. Wasn’t it enough to see the destruction of New York? There was even more trouble to be had? Yet in the midst of a difficult moment in American history, hope and the reminder of the power of unity help us look on to a better future. Come celebrate the American spirit of cooperation and determination as you read this beautifully depicted account of the Shanksville September 11 incident.



Seven Hungry Babies

Written by Candace Fleming www.candacefleming.com
 Illustrated by Eugene Yelchin
 Atheneum March 2010
 Category: Picture Book Ages: 4-8

The Fabled Fifth Graders of Aesop Elementary School

Written by Candace Fleming www.candacefleming.com
 Schwartz & Wade August 2010
 Category: Middle Grade Novel Grades: 4-8

Clever Jack Takes The Cake

Written by Candace Fleming www.candacefleming.com
 Illustrated by G. Brian Karas
 Schwartz & Wade August 2010
 Category: Picture Book Ages: 4-8

Paradise Lost

Written by Steven L. Layne www.stevelayne.com
 Pelican Publishing Co. January 2011
 Category: Teen/Young Adult Grades: 5-12

When former wallflower Chase Maxfield returns to school as a hunky high schooler, he temporarily siphons attention away from golden boy Troy Barrett. Troy’s brother Jack is oddly unsettled by Chase’s miraculous transformation and befriends him. But as he enters the Barretts’ inner circle, it becomes clear that there’s more to Chase’s evolution than he’s willing to tell. Jack’s uneasiness mounts as several sightings of his father’s dangerous alter ego are reported, and though a dead man can’t live, Mr. Eden seems to be reaching from beyond the grave with a singular agenda—destroying Jack Barrett from the inside out! **Northern ILLINOIS teachers seeking information about *Paradise Lost* “Release Parties” at area booksellers, contact Steve at www.stevelayne.com this fall!**



Queen of Secrets

Written by Jenny Meyerhoff www.jennymeyerhoff.com
 Farrar, Straus and Giroux June 2010
 Category: Young Adult Ages: 12 and up

This year, Essie Green’s life is going to be different. She’s made the cheerleading squad and caught the eye of the captain of the football team. However, she didn’t expect her estranged cousin to make the team as well. Micah is instantly branded freak for praying during games, and Essie doesn’t want anything to do with him. As the team’s teasing of Micah shifts into hazing, Essie is forced to make a choice between the boy she might love and the cousin she barely knows.



ILLC Newsletters

By Ruth Stevig, ILLC Membership Chair

The Illinois Language and Literacy Council (ILLC) newsletter is no longer being mailed, but can be found on the IRC website. Simply go to www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org and click on ILLC under Local Councils. The newsletters are listed there. If you have any questions you can contact Ruth Stevig at stevig@sbcglobal.net. Thank you.

Join IRC on **facebook** today!

Visit the IRC Website at
www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org
for a direct link to our page!

Some of the award-winning authors, prominent literacy leaders, and dynamic speakers being featured at the annual IRC Conference may be available to visit your schools in March 2011, including:

Marion Blumenthal Lazan
Cathy Puett Miller
Sara Pennypacker
David Schwartz

To inquire, please email the IRC Office at irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org and include your contact information as your request will be forwarded so arrangements can be made directly with the author/speaker.

Preservice Teachers' Pizza Party at 2011 IRC Conference

By Carol Owles, IRC Student Membership Chair

Plans are being made for the Preservice Teachers' Pizza Party on Friday evening of our annual Conference. This past March we had over 135 attendees at the party! At Leadership in July, our industrious committee brainstormed some new ideas to make this annual event even more fun and worthwhile for our newest teaching professionals. As in past years, we ask our local Council members to donate door prizes for a favorite part of the party—each attendee getting to choose a book or materials for his/her new classroom. We hope your Council will consider this request and bring your classroom gifts to our November or January Board Meetings, the IRC office, or the registration table at the IRC Conference in March. Check our IRC website for more information on the kinds of materials that are needed. Thank you, in advance, for your help and support!!

Just a friendly reminder!
Entries for the

Static Stick Decal Contest

are due January 15, 2011

Illinois students in grades 4, 5, and 6 are invited to create a design that encourages children to read. The official entry form and rules are available at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org.

Mission

The mission of the Illinois Reading Council is to provide support and leadership to educators as they promote and teach lifelong literacy.



Illinois Reading Council
1210 Fort Jesse Road, Suite B2
Normal, IL 61761
Phone: 888-454-1341
Fax: 309-454-3512

E-Mail: irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org
Website: www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org

2011 IRC Conference

By Cindy Wilson, 2011 IRC Conference Chair

The 2011 IRC Conference lives up to its theme of *Literacy Outside the Box* with its authors, literacy professionals, and sessions presented by classroom teachers like yourselves. Attendees will have the opportunity to see connections between literacy and clogging, music, art, magic, and technology, just to name a few. There are professionals coming from several different states AND South Africa and Saudi Arabia. And of course, there is **Barry Lane's energetic Literacy Cabaret** to look forward to: bring your boas, tiara, top hats, and desire to have fun!

In addition to the traditional fabulous strands (ICARE, ITA, SRL, etc.) we are adding a few new strands for 2011. The **Career Strand** will offer sessions on mentoring/induction, Professional Learning Communities, and pursuing new educational opportunities, including a session for preservice or underemployed teachers on maximizing the job search process and a session for those teachers who may be considering pursuing a position in higher education. The **Librarian Strand** will include sessions that are geared specifically toward librarians' needs and interests. Finally, if you are following the conference blog (literacyoutsidethebox@blogspot.com), you already know that we will have SMART Boards at the 2011 conference! There will be a special **SMART Board Strand**, offering several sessions on how to use these wonders of technology in your classrooms; teachers will also have time to explore SMART Boards under professional guidance.

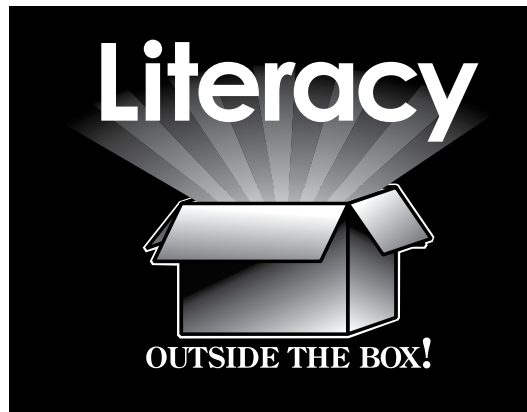
More names have been added to the list of authors and literacy professionals who have already agreed to join us at the conference. Beverly Tyner (author of *Small-Group Reading Instruction: A Differentiated Reading Model for Beginning and Struggling Readers*) will be our Friday Luncheon speaker and David Booth (author of *Reading Doesn't Matter Anymore* and *Guiding the Reading Process*) will be our Saturday breakfast speaker. We will also hear from Rebecca Stead, who

won the 2010 Newbery Award for *When You Reach Me*, as well as Sara Pennypacker, who is a New York Times best-selling author of many children's books, including *Clementine* and *Sparrow Girl*. Other literacy professionals will join us, including Beverly Chin, an expert on multicultural literature and writing and former president of NCTE; Carol Jago, president of NCTE, who has written substantial contributions to the NCTE series *In the Classroom*; Diane Barone, an expert on early

literacy, assessment, and how poverty impacts literacy development and author of such books as *Writing Without Boundaries* and *Narrowing the Literacy Gap*; and Cathy Puett Miller, known as The Literacy Ambassador, and author of *Before They Read* and *Powerful Picture Books*. Salman Amjad, proficient in six languages, comes to us from Saudi Arabia and will provide insight into how

best to reach students whose first language is not English. We will also be joined by Robert Burleigh, this year's Prairie State Award winner, author of such books as *American Moments*, *Stealing Home*, *A Man Named Thoreau*, and *The Future of the Earth*.

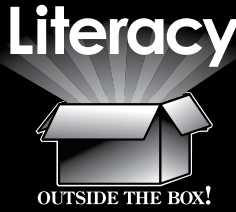
So, make plans to join us at the 2011 IRC Conference from March 17-19, 2011 in Springfield, Illinois. Early registration ends on February 1st and the Online Housing System will close on February 23rd. Don't forget to preorder your **2011 Conference Shirt** by February 18th!



IRC Conference 2011

Registration Form

March 17-19, 2011
Springfield, Illinois



Return this form with payment to:
Illinois Reading Council
 1210 Fort Jesse Road, Suite B2
 Normal, IL 61761
 Or fax to: (309) 454-3512
 Or register online at
www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org

ONE NAME ON EACH FORM Please print or type. Form may be reproduced.

Name (Last) _____ (First) _____
 School/Business _____ City _____
 Home Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Telephone () _____ Business Telephone () _____
 Email _____ Presenting at Conference? Yes No
 Are you an IRC member? Yes No Council Affiliation _____ Are you an IRA member? Yes No

REGISTRATION includes meetings on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.	On or Before February 1, 2011	After February 1, 2011
____ IRC Member (Membership Number _____)	\$150	\$175
____ Retiree (Member) ____ Preservice Teacher with ID (Member)	\$25	\$50
____ Non-Member (If you join now with your conference registration, register as a member!)	\$225	\$250
____ Retiree (Non-Member) ____ Preservice Teacher with ID (Non-Member)	\$50	\$75

MEALS Meals are optional. Mark choice of menu. Include payment with registration.

____ Thursday Breakfast (A. Lincoln) <i>Jeff Anderson</i>	\$18	\$23
____ Scrambled Eggs & Sausage ____ Vegetarian		
____ Thursday Luncheon (A. Lincoln) <i>Brassell & Rasinski</i>	\$22	\$27
____ Hot Grilled Chicken Club ____ Vegetarian		
____ Thursday Luncheon (Hilton) <i>Patrick Carman</i>	\$22	\$27
____ Ham & Cheddar Wrap ____ Vegetarian		
____ Thursday Prairie State Award Banquet (A. Lincoln) . . . <i>Robert Burleigh</i>	\$30	\$35
____ Chicken Marsala ____ Vegetarian		
____ Friday Breakfast (A. Lincoln) <i>Frank Serafini</i>	\$18	\$23
____ Cinnamon French Toast ____ Vegetarian		
____ Friday Luncheon (A. Lincoln) <i>Beverly Tyner</i>	\$22	\$27
____ Hot Tarragon Chicken Sandwich ____ Vegetarian Salad		
____ Friday Luncheon (Hilton) <i>M.T. Anderson</i>	\$22	\$27
____ Turkey Cranberry Waldorf Salad ____ Vegetarian		
____ Friday Night Pizza Party for Preservice Teachers Only!	FREE	FREE
____ Friday Banquet (A. Lincoln) <i>Jane Yolen</i>	\$30	\$35
____ Pork Loin with Madeira Sauce ____ Salmon ____ Vegetarian		
____ Friday Night Entertainment Event (Hilton) <i>Barry Lane's Literacy Cabaret</i>	\$10	\$15
____ Saturday Breakfast (A. Lincoln) <i>David Booth</i>	\$18	\$23
____ Three Cheese Omelet ____ Vegetarian		
____ Saturday Author Luncheon (Hilton) <i>Marc Brown</i>	\$25	\$30
____ Teriyaki Chicken ____ Vegetarian		

METHOD OF PAYMENT

(Sorry, no P.O.'s accepted!)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

\$ _____ \$ _____

Check (payable to IRC)

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Credit Card Expiration Date

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Special Accommodations – Individuals who need special accommodations must make specific requests in writing to the IRC office at least three weeks prior to the conference.
 Cancellation/Refund Policy – Requests must be made in writing by March 1, 2011. Please see the complete policy under General Conference Information or at IRC Website.

Illinois Reading Council

ONLINE HOUSING RESERVATION SYSTEM

Conference Dates – Thursday, March 17; Friday, March 18; and Saturday, March 19, 2011

Over 1,200 rooms have been reserved for the 2011 IRC Conference. Because of the large number of rooms needed each year, IRC utilizes the assistance of the Housing Bureau at the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau. Special room rates have been negotiated at the hotels/motels listed below. To obtain these special rates, reservations must be made through the **Online Housing Reservation System** by February 23, 2011.

Go to www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org
Select **Conference** on the menu,
then click on **Reserve Housing Online!**

ON-SITE HOTELS

President Abraham Lincoln Hotel.....\$107

701 East Adams St., Spfd., IL 62701
Located adjacent to the Convention Center

Hilton Springfield Hotel.....\$118

700 East Adams St., Spfd., IL 62701
Across the street from the Convention Center

Meetings and meal functions are held at both the Abraham Lincoln and the Hilton Hotels.

MOTELS NORTHEAST OF DOWNTOWN

Northfield Inn.....\$77

3280 Northfield Dr., Spfd., IL 62702

Ramada Springfield North.....\$80

3281 Northfield Dr., Spfd., IL 62702

MOTELS SOUTHEAST OF DOWNTOWN

Candlewood Suites.....\$70

2501 Sunrise Drive, Spfd., IL 62703

Hilton Garden Inn.....\$103

3100 S. Dirksen Parkway, Spfd. IL 62703

Comfort Suites.....\$89

2620 S. Dirksen Parkway, Spfd., IL 62703

Holiday Inn Express.....\$109

3050 S. Dirksen Parkway, Spfd. IL 62703

Drury Inn & Suites.....\$100

3180 S. Dirksen Parkway, Spfd., IL 62703

Microtel Inn & Suites.....\$81

2636 Sunrise Drive, Spfd. IL 62703

Hampton Inn East.....\$103

3185 S. Dirksen Parkway, Spfd., IL 62703

- **Housing Reservations** will only be processed online with a credit card until **February 23, 2011**. After February 24th, all rooms that have not been reserved will be released for general sale.
- **Advance Deposit** of one night's room and tax will be charged to your credit card by some of the hotels. If you would like to pay by check, please forward your **deposit check** to your assigned hotel and your credit card will be credited. Do not send any checks to the Illinois Reading Council or the Springfield Housing Bureau.
- **Confirmation** will be emailed to you from the Housing Bureau upon completion of your housing reservation, as well as any changes or cancellations. Please keep this email for your records.
- **Cancellations** or changes to your arrival/departure must be made before February 23, 2011 to receive a full refund. The advance deposit charge is non-refundable after February 23, 2011. Please note that some hotels charge for early departure and some require a two night minimum stay. After February 23rd, please make changes directly with the hotel.
- **Double Rooms** (2 beds) are at a premium. Please do not reserve a double room (2 beds) unless there are 2 or more attendees.
- **Free Shuttle Service** will be provided by the IRC between all the hotels except the on-site hotels listed and the Prairie Capital Convention Center on Thursday and Friday. Shuttles run approximately every 45-60 minutes from 6:15 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Night shuttles run every 90 minutes from 6:15 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. On Saturday, there are many parking options available and on-street metered parking is FREE!

IRC Literacy Support Grants News

By Sheree Kutter, Chair

1. To encourage thinking “outside the box,” **new** literacy support grant projects for 2011-2012 will receive additional points on the rubric. The application deadline is May 1, 2011 and grants will be awarded for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012.
2. The average amount of a small grant awarded is \$587. The average amount of a large grant awarded is \$1,834.
3. School administrators must sign the cover sheet if grant is written for a classroom or multiple classes in a school.
4. For every grant awarded, a final report must be submitted within 30 days of completing the grant. The form is online at the IRC website at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org on the Literacy Support Grants page under “Committees.”

ABC's of Illinois

About the Beautiful Communities of Illinois

An ABC Book Created For Illinois Students, By Illinois Students

The Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education (ICARE) in conjunction with IRC is again sponsoring the popular classroom writing project. All classrooms in Illinois are invited to participate.

Manuscript entries are due **December 17, 2010**. Please see IRC website for details at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org.

Children's Choices Book Award

By Pam Farris

During the 2009-2010 school year, several members of the Northern Illinois and the MID-State Reading Councils took part in the Children's Book Council/International Reading Association's Children's Choices Book Award Program. This program involved nine schools as far north as Belvidere and south as Normal.

Children's Choices began as an annual joint project of the International Reading Association and the Children's Book Council in 1974. Each year, approximately 10,000 children ages 5 to 13 from different regions of the United States choose 100 favorites from books donated by U.S. children's book publishers. Goals of Children's Choices include: providing young readers with an opportunity to voice their opinions about the books written for them; to develop an annual annotated reading list of new books that young readers enjoy reading; and to assist teachers, librarians, booksellers, parents, and others in finding books that will encourage young readers to read more.

Each year team leaders are selected from five different regions of the United States. The team leader recruits team members from various schools that are representative of the demographics of the United States at large.

Children's Choices winners for 2009-2010 included such titles as *Lulu the Big Little Chick* (Grades K-2) written and illustrated by Paulette Bogan (Bloomsbury USA), *Lunch Lady and the Cyborg Substitute* (Grades 3-4) written and illustrated by Jarrett J. Krosoczka (Knopf/Random House), and *Dork Diaries: Tales from a Not-So-Fabulous Life* (Grades 5-6) written and illustrated by Rachel Renee Russell (Aladdin/Simon & Schuster).

Children's Choices annotated list is published in *The Reading Teacher* in October and downloadable from the IRA website at www.reading.org.

News from the Intellectual Freedom Committee

By Gail Huizinga & Susanne Picchi,
Intellectual Freedom Co-Chairs

Illinois Reading Council's Intellectual Freedom Committee's role is to provide varied resources for teachers across the state which promote intellectual freedom. We would like to feature The McCormick Freedom Project, an organization founded to support freedom and the first amendment, as one of those valuable resources.

The McCormick Freedom Project's main purpose is to advance the ideals of a free democratic society and is one of the nation's largest charitable organizations dealing with first amendment rights. The McCormick Freedom Project was established as a charitable trust in 1955 with the death of Col. Robert F. McCormick, the Chicago Tribune's longtime editor and publisher. The organization's mission is to "enable informed participation in democracy by demonstrating the relevance of the First Amendment and the role it plays in the ongoing struggle to define and defend freedom."

Although the McCormick Freedom Museum has closed their physical museum in downtown Chicago, they continue to make people aware of and learn how to exercise their First Amendment rights through an exceptional website: www.freedomproject.us

The website has many links dealing with the first amendment and a citizen's rights and responsibilities.

We would like to highlight just a few examples:

- **Libraries and the First Amendment**
 - examines the role libraries play in the struggle to define and express freedom

- **Freedom Express Mobile Museum**
 - 45-foot mobile museum dedicated to telling the story of our first amendment freedoms throughout Chicagoland and the surrounding areas.
- **The Power of One**
 - stories of real Americans, past and present, who have made a difference in the struggle for intellectual freedom
- **Discovery Trunks**
 - artifact reproductions and multimedia kits showcasing the lives of historical figures such as Barbara Johns, Sojourner Truth, Abraham Lincoln, Alice Paul and Frederick Douglass
 - available to Illinois middle school teachers at no charge and can be ordered online
- **Freedom in the News**
 - compilation of recent news articles about freedom
- **Student News Media Protocol**
 - developed to foster responsible and free student news media in schools
- **Civics Blueprints for High School**
 - summarizes six promising approaches to high school level civic education.

"McCormick Freedom Project is a valuable resource to support freedom and the first amendment."

The **McCormick Freedom Project** invites everyone to learn more about their programs, plans and resources at their web site www.freedomproject.us, follow them on Twitter, become a fan of the Freedom Project on Facebook, or just join an ongoing conversation about freedom on their blog, *Fanning the Flames*.

Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education
GENE CRAMER ICARE FOR READING AWARD
NOMINATION FORM

The Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education (ICARE) is accepting nominations for the annual Gene Cramer ICARE for Reading Award. This award has recently been renamed in honor of Gene Cramer, the founder of ICARE. ICARE recognizes the importance of educators in modeling the love of reading and the printed word for today's students who are constantly presented with a vast array of other media. Thus, the purpose of the Gene Cramer ICARE for Reading Award is to honor an educator who has performed in an outstanding manner to show concern for the affective domain and who has promoted lifelong reading habits among students. The award is given annually at the March meeting of ICARE to be held in conjunction with the Illinois Reading Council conference in Springfield.

PROCEDURE

1. Inform IRC members of the award. (Note: The person nominated NEED NOT, however, be a member of IRC.)
2. Distribute Gene Cramer ICARE for Reading Award forms.
3. Return form by January 1, 2011 to Mary Hicks, Boundless Readers, 5153 N Clark Street, Suite 206, Chicago, IL 60640.
4. The winner, after careful consideration, will be informed by February 1, 2011.
5. The award will be presented at the IRC Conference in March 2011.

CRITERIA

1. Educator in good standing in the profession.
2. Educator who contributes to the spread of the joy of reading and promotes reading habits among students.
3. Educator who serves as an exemplary model for others in promoting the affective domain of reading.
4. Educator recommended for the award by other educators.

CANDIDATE FOR NOMINATION

Name _____ Position _____

Address _____ Phone _____

REASONS FOR NOMINATION

Please submit your reasons for nominating this educator on a separate sheet of paper and attach it to this form. Provide specific details that illustrate your nominee's qualifications.

NOMINATOR

Name _____ Position _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Thank you for helping ICARE circulate the message about this award. Please feel free to make copies for your colleagues. We are confident that your enthusiasm and participation in this program will help ICARE and IRC foster the love of reading among all our children here in Illinois.

Return form by January 1, 2011 to Mary Hicks, Boundless Readers, 5153 N Clark Street, Suite 206, Chicago, IL 60640

Guatemalan International Project

By Carol Owles,
IRC Student Membership Chair

In both February and August, several IRA members traveled to Guatemala City to work with teachers, in coordination with the Consejo de Lectura, the Guatemalan Reading Council. The New York, New Jersey, and Illinois Reading Councils were represented as part of the IRA team presenting workshops. I was both proud and privileged to be part of this team and to be present for the book distribution to schools, books purchased in May with funds raised from our Handicraft Sales at the IRC Conference. Our Council sent over 70 hardback books in several cartons at a cost of \$600. We were part of the shipment of several thousand dollars' worth of books sent at this time. Collectively, the book distribution benefited 49 teachers and 2969 children in 4 schools. Teachers and students in the village of San Juan Sacatepéquez, in the mountains outside of Guatemala City, excitedly and gratefully accepted books for their classrooms and emerging school libraries. Since books are rare and precious commodities in most schools in Guatemala, the Consejo chose these schools because their teachers are participating in monthly workshops for professional development. Thus, they are more apt to utilize these books in informed ways in their instruction to benefit students.

Thank you to the IRC Board and IRC members for so graciously purchasing handicrafts at our annual conference, so that the \$600 profits could be used to buy these books. Your generosity is acknowledged and appreciated!!

Several Reading Councils in our state have sponsored teachers at a cost of \$50 per teacher to attend the bi-annual Guatemalan Literacy Conference held in February 2011. Thank you! Through this "Teacher to Teacher Project," your Council can pay the registration costs for Guatemalan teachers to attend this Conference. Even though the \$50 may not seem like a big cost, it is to a teacher who only earns an average of \$300 to \$400 as a monthly salary. Check our IRC website for more details on this program and how your Council can participate in this worthwhile International Project at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org under "Committees."

Meet Another IRC Researcher

By Elizabeth Goldsmith-Conley,
IRC Studies and Research Chair

The IRC Studies and Research Committee continues to build its network of IRC members engaged in research and to introduce these members and their research to you through articles in the *IRC Communicator*.

Meet **Amy Feiker Hollenbeck**, our first interviewee of the 2010-2011 school year. Amy is an Assistant Professor of Literacy and Specialized Instruction at DePaul University. Before becoming an academic, Amy spent many years teaching in special education. Her students ranged from the severe and profoundly disabled to those with language and learning difficulties. Her teaching experiences inspired her to earn a master's as a reading specialist and a Ph. D. in special education.

Her current and very timely research focuses on Response to Intervention. She is conducting a survey, **The RtI Readiness Survey**, which is designed to answer the following questions: 1)

What do teachers and administrators already know about RtI? 2) What structures have been set up in their school to satisfy RtI requirements? and 3) What are their beliefs and attitudes about RtI so far? The survey, still in its beginning stages, has received Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval from DePaul. This summer Amy piloted it with graduate students and hopes eventually to expand across the state. So far she has collected 70 responses, mainly from private parochial schools. Her findings so far indicate that many administrators and teachers are unaware of RtI and are amazed that they are to be responsible for its implementation. One administrator was sure it was just a fad which would quickly pass. Amy believes that the results of this survey should hold much value for district level professionals and college faculty. They should also be of interest to teachers who will be able to compare their own level of knowledge and understand where they may profit from further staff development.

For further questions about her research, contact Amy at afeiker@depaul.edu. To join our network, contact the Studies and Research Committee at studiesandresearch@illinoisreadingcouncil.org.

To find out more about the important work of all IRC Committees, please visit the IRC Website at illinoisreadingcouncil.org under "Committees."

Cool Studies: Counterfeit Fluency

By Lou Feroli

I've had a version of this conversation too many times recently. My teacher friend says, "It's great that we're seeing so much improvement in our kids' fluency."

"How nice," I respond. "How do you know? Are they really lifting the words off the page?"

"What do you mean?"

"How do you know their fluency is improving? Is their phrasing better? Their expressiveness?"

"Well, no. Their scores are up, of course."

"Their fluency scores? What scores?"

"Words per minute."

"Words per minute?" I respond. "I thought you said 'fluency'."

"Oh, I see," my friend says. "OK. Not words per minute, words *correct* per minute."

"So what you really mean is that their speed, their reading *rates* are improving."

"Yes. Right. Fluency"

At about that point I try to find something else to talk about.

Merriam-Webster defines counterfeit as "something likely to be mistaken for something of higher value." Rate is not fluency—it's counterfeit fluency.

Late last summer I finally got some time off and did what many IRC members do. The family drove north to Illinois' favorite state park (Wisconsin) and spent three days poolside immersed in some summer leisure reading. Just me and *Reading Research Quarterly*. That's living.

What I learned was that folks are getting serious about

putting this fluency phenomenon under the microscope. Senior IRC members might remember Sheila Valencia from her contribution to the cutting-edge development of the IGAP test, the predecessor of ISAT. She and her new friends at the University of Washington are concerned that the fluency measures many of us use these days to screen and monitor progress are misidentifying kids. Their study "Oral Reading Fluency Assessment: Issues of Construct, Criterion, and Consequential Validity" compared how kids performed on "fluency" measures that are really just reading rate with how they did on fluency measures that included phrasing and expressiveness: behaviors that would reflect actually comprehending what they were reading.

"Rate is not fluency. Rate might be pretty similar to fluency for beginners, but beyond the primary grades, using rate and calling it fluency gets false negatives and false positives."

The National Assessment of Educational Progress periodically assesses national reading achievement. Back in 1994, they added, for a sample of the country, a fluency measure. They created a scale based on phrasing and expressiveness—not on rate. Our national preoccupation with fluency hadn't begun. Fluency hadn't yet been counterfeited.

So Valencia and her colleagues dusted off the NAEP scale and adapted it a bit for the 2nd, 4th, and 6th graders in their study. They gave 279 kids the Iowa Test of Basic Skills Reading Comprehension subtest. Then the students were given passages to read orally in two sessions. One passage was a narrative and the other an expository. They ended up with scores for accuracy and rate (after one minute and after three minutes), a prosody score (using a rubric from the NAEP scale), and two comprehension scores (number of questions answered correctly after the oral reading and the ITBS).

What they found was that accuracy and rate decreased from one minute to three minutes. Their conclusion was that one-minute timings overestimate kids' rate and accuracy. They also reported that rate was not as strongly correlated with comprehension "as suggested by previous research," a reference to the research-base for AIMSweb and DIBELS.

Continued on page 15

Cool Studies continued from page 14

It is possible that the rate-comprehension relationship has actually weakened over time. A piece in *Reading Today* by Rasinski and Hamman reports that the national norms for rate have changed. American kids read faster than they did fifteen years ago. So if rate norms have changed, shouldn't our benchmarks change, so kids have to read faster still? Where will it end? I'm reminded of an old advertisement for a speed-reading program. Evelyn Woods, it was claimed, could help you to read the then popular novel *Jaws* in 45 minutes, cover to cover. Well, OK, but why would you want to? We can also sprint through the museum, but what's the point?

The coolest part of the NAEP and Valencia studies isn't just that they measured phrasing and expressiveness; it's that the directions readers were given had to do with understanding, not rate. In the NAEP study, kids read the passage and answered three comprehension questions. Then they were asked to "read the story as if they were reading to someone who had never heard it before." Nothing was said about rate. In Valencia's study kids were asked to "read orally as they would in class," and they were told that after reading they would be asked several questions about the passage. They were asked five questions, but here's the best part: The kids were unaware they were being timed!

Valencia's study found that rate and prosody contribute equally to comprehension at grade two, but as grades go up, rate matters less and prosody matters more. The researchers' concern is with what they term "consequential validity." If we measure based on rate, we risk getting "false positives" by identifying kids as failing who are not. They found that "a substantial portion of students in grades 4 and 6 read slowly and inaccurately enough to be considered at risk, yet had strong comprehension."

Likewise, as many as a quarter of the kids had rate and accuracy scores that were strong even though their comprehension was not. That pattern results in "false negatives," kids who might miss out on services because their rates are OK, even if comprehension is not. Rate is not fluency. Rate might be pretty similar to fluency for beginners, but, beyond the primary grades, using rate and calling it fluency gets false negatives and false positives.

I can think of four solutions in the interest of aligning our testing practices with the research evidence. First, we could evaluate fluency with a rubric based on expres-

siveness, so that the task would be focused on meaningful reading. If that's not possible, how about telling kids, as we do our words per minute measures, that we are going to ask them some questions after they read? And then ask some simple questions. We wouldn't even have to score them, just so long as we set the readers a purpose that involves comprehension. A third possibility is that we simply don't tell the kids they are being timed, and just tell them to read the passage well. And if we can't do any of those, let's at least make one very small change in our own language. Let's agree to call our sixty-second measures reading "rate." Rate is speed—it's not fluency. It's counterfeit fluency, "something likely to be mistaken for something of higher value."

IRC members can get the NAEP fluency study at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs95/web/95762.asp>, and you can get the fluency rubric at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/ors/scale.asp> or just email me and I'll send it to you.

Valencia, S., Smith, A., Reece, A., Li, M., Wixson, K., & Newman, H. (2010). Oral reading fluency assessment: Issues of construct, criterion, and consequential validity. *Reading Research Quarterly*, 45, 270-291.

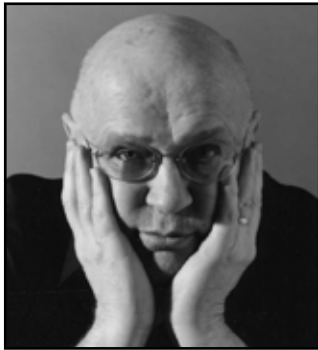
The Illinois Language and Literacy Council
and the Illinois State Board of Education
will co-host the

37th Annual Young Authors Conference May 21, 2011

at Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois.

The 2011 Guidelines and Registration
packets will be available in early November.

Please visit the IRC Website at
www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org for more
information. If you are interested in
volunteering, please contact Christina
Podraza at cpodraza@bsd2.org.



Congratulations to Robert Burleigh, the 2011 Prairie State Award Winner!

Robert Burleigh, our 2011 Prairie State Illinois Author of the Year, was born and raised in Chicago. He holds an undergraduate degree from DePauw University in Indiana and a Master's Degree from the University of Chicago. He is the author of over 35 books for children including *One Giant Leap*, *Home Run: The Story of Babe Ruth*, *Flight*, *Abraham Lincoln Comes Home*, *Chocolate: Riches from the Rain Forest*, *Toulouse Lautrec: The Moulin Rouge and the City of Lights*, *Stealing Home*, *Hoops*, and *The Secret Life of Houdini*. His latest book, *The Adventures of Mark Twain by Huckleberry Finn*, will be published this year. His books represent multiple genres and appeal to a

wide range of age groups. His presentations captivate children and adults alike.

In describing his work, Robert notes, "While the subjects vary, my books are linked philosophically, stylistically and structurally by my wish to capture where possible the emotional intensity—the essence—of whatever the subject is. I believe the hard facts (historical and biographical) are extremely important, and I always weave them into the narrative. But beyond that, I like the book to convey the feeling of immediacy, of being there—whether there is flying an airplane, hitting a baseball, or painting a picture." (www.robertburleigh.com)

Please join IRC in congratulating Robert Burleigh!

