



# SCIRA

Suburban Council of the International Reading Association

Fall Newsletter 2011

Suburban  
Council of the  
International  
Reading  
Association

**President's Message**

Laura Polkoff  
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**Announcements**

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**SCIRA's  
Fall Conference**

October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Featuring  
Laura Beltchenko

Information and  
Registration

Questions--contact  
Claudia Katz at  
[ckatz17755@aol.com](mailto:ckatz17755@aol.com) or  
847-236-1164  
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**NCE**

*RtI in Literacy: An  
Instructional Frame for At-  
Risk Readers*

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

Information and  
Registration

Questions--contact  
Claudia Katz at  
[ckatz17755@aol.com](mailto:ckatz17755@aol.com) or  
847-236-1164  
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## Note from the President

Note from the President  
By Laura Polkoff  
Co-President of SCIRA



Dear SCIRA Friends,

Have you ever been lost? I am talking about driving in the country at night with no idea where you are as the intersecting streets are not only few and far between but also are not listed on a map. This summer my daughter and I had a wonderful cross-country trip looking at colleges. I get lost frequently so I prepared for my trip by purchasing a Garmin GPS. Wow! Talk about coming into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I did not need to worry about getting lost, as the Garmin navigator was always there to guide me to my destination even making adjustments if I made a wrong turn. I no longer have anxiety about taking a driving trips and getting lost.

I hope that you had the opportunity to attend SCIRA's and NLU's Teacher Renewal Seminar on June 23 and 24, featuring both Richard Allington and Peter Johnston who spoke about RTI. As I begin my 2011-2012 School year their wise voices ring in my ear just like the Garmin navigator voice to help me direct my teaching so the students in my care can reach their goals by the end of the year. Dr. Allington's talk was highly charged advising that 98% of kids who walk into kindergarten should be reading at grade level by the end of first grade. To reach this goal schools must invest in kindergarten and first grade programs to catch all students up. Peter Johnston discussed the influence of teacher talk and questioning on student achievement. Asking open-ended questions like "How do you know...?" or "What problems did you come across today?" or "Are there any other ways to think about that?" will help children learn to think together and develop better reasoning and comprehension skills.

This year promises to be just as exciting and thought provoking for SCIRA as we extend our professional development by exploring the Common Core Standards adopted by the State of Illinois on June 24, 2010. Did you know that 44 other states have also adopted these standards? This is a state led initiative that promises to provide clear standards and benchmarks in English language arts and

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Jan Rashid

mathematics. Whether you are using different materials, methodologies or coming from different directions these standards have the potential to work like a GPS system and bring us all to the same destination. By having clear standards across state lines, all education systems can work towards the common goal of having our students better prepared as citizens and more competitive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global marketplace.

I hope to see you at our all of our conferences this year focusing on the Common Core Standards. In October Laura Beltchenko will be discussing what the Common Core Standards are and how teachers can apply them in the classroom. On February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Margaret McKeown will share her work and strategies in vocabulary, which is a very strong component of the Common Core Standards. Finally, in June 2012 we will host Linda Hoyt who will present non-fiction strategies and the Common Core Standards. These professional development opportunities will help all of us navigate complex educational goals. Just like many roads can lead to the same destination - teachers do not need to use the exact same curriculum to achieve an intended learning outcome. I learned that with my new navigation system.

“The great thing in this world is not so much where we are, but in what direction we are moving.” Oliver Wendell Holmes

Laura Polkoff  
Co-President



**New Co-Presidents Kathy Miller and Laura Polkoff!!**

## Memories of Richard Allington and Peter Johnston

On Thursday and Friday, June 22&23, 2011, the Suburban Council of the International Reading Association (SCIRA) and the Teachers Renewal Seminar of National-Louis University held its Spring Conference at the North Shore Holiday Inn in Skokie, Illinois. The keynote speakers at the conference were **Dr. Richard Allington** and **Dr. Peter Johnston**. Almost three hundred participants attended. Thirty-seven participants took an additional one credit hour from National-Louis University.

A variety of breakout sessions presented by local teachers, SCIRA Board members, University professors, reading specialists, consultants, and literacy coaches were an additional highlight of the conference. **Ann Bates**, Asst. Professor in Reading and Language at NLU, shared **Early Intervention: A Few of My Favorite Things**. **Sophie C. Degener**, Asst. Professor in Reading and Language at NLU, revealed **Addressing the Challenges of Guided Reading: An Updated Approach**. **Katherine Wiesolek Kuta**, NLU Faculty, Maine SD207, explained **Using Learning Styles for Motivation, Choice, and Engagement**. **Every Book Its Reader, Every Reader His or Her Book** was the topic of **Toby Rajput's** talk. Toby is Children's and Youth Literature Librarian at NLU. **Dr. Jan Rashid**, Asst. Superintendent for Instructional Services, Des Plaines SD 62, demonstrated **Data Done Right: Teachers Take Control. RtI in Two Schools: Two Perspectives** put **Mary Sue Smith**, Literacy Coach, Henking/Hoffman, Glenview SD34, in the spotlight. **Sarah Weisberg**, teacher at Winkleman School & **Deborah Shefren**, NLU faculty and Consultant, described the process of **Talk in First Grade**. **Laura Beltchenko**, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, Wauconda, Il, imparted **The Behavior Side of RtI: Use Children's Literature to Address the "other side"**

**of the RtI triangle. Teaching for Synthesis of Nonfiction Texts with Read Alouds** was communicated by **Sunday Cummins**, Ph.D., Asst. Professor in Reading and Language at NLU. **RtI as a Framework for School Improvement** was put across by **Demetra Disotuar**, Early Intervention Specialist RtI, Evanston SD65. **Using I-PADS to Enhance Primary Students' Literacy Instruction** was put into words by **Ellen Finnegan**, Reading Specialist, & **Jennifer Fletcher**, Building Technology Assistant, Mt. Prospect SD57. A description of **Response to Intervention through Tier 1 and 2 Differentiation in Science** was given by **Cecilia B. Frank**, Reading Consultant and Graduate Instructor & **Terie Engelbrecht**, Science Dept. Chair & Differentiation Specialist, Marengo CHSD54. The work of **Instructional Leadership Teams (ILT): Change, Vision, Trust and Collaboration** was put into words by **Debra Gurvitz**, Associate. Professor in Reading and Language at NLU. Dr. Gurvitz also described a unique program, **Writing Circles. Scaffolded Independent-Level Reading** was delivered by **Claudia Katz**, Instructor at NLU. **Differentiating Instruction in RtI to Meet the Needs of All Children K-2** was conveyed by **Ms. Jane Vallin**, Literacy Coach and Primary Grade Educator, Rowland Reading Foundation. **Kris Utley**, Academy for Urban School Leadership, District 299, clarified the workings of **PRC2 in Action**.

An all-star panel moderated by **Dr. Donna Ogle**, SCIRA founder and Professor at National-Louis University, consisted of RtI Experts: **Dr. Peter Johnston**, **Laura Beltchenko**, Asst. Superintendent in Wauconda, **Mary Sue Smith**, Glenview District 34, and **Ellen Fogelberg**, Literacy and Early Childhood Director, Evanston District 65. The panel discussion concluded the first day of the conference.

Conference attendees enjoyed our wonderful vendors:  
Rowland Reading Foundation, a SILVER sponsor  
PS Associates, a BRONZE sponsor  
National Geographic, a BRONZE sponsor  
Grace Education, provided name tags  
Scott-Foresman, conference folders  
American Reading, dinner with Dr. Allington and the panel members  
Other vendors were Usborne Books & More and Half Price Books.



SCIRA Stars enjoy a joke with **Dr. Johnston** after the conference. Pictured are **Laura Beltchenko**, SCIRA Immediate Past President, **Laura Polkoff**, Incoming Co-President, **Kathleen Miller**, Incoming Co-President, **Jan Rashid**, Immediate Past President.



**Laura Beltchenko**  
**Understanding**  
**And Achieving**  
**The Common Core**  
**Standards**

**SCIRA**  
**Fall Conference**  
**Thursday,**  
**October 6, 2011**  
National-Louis University  
5202 Old Orchard Rd.  
Skokie, Illinois  
**4:00-8:00 PM**

Laura Beltchenko, the “spirited” Assistant Superintendent of Wauconda community Unit School District1118, will introduce everyone to the Common Core Standards. She will provide an overview of the new standards in English language arts/literacy and highlight their key aspects.

As instructor for the associated course, RLR 595tba Understanding the Common Core Standards, Ms. Beltchenko will continue her in-depth analysis and provide numerous suggestions on transition activities for teachers and districts to consider.

Registration for this event is limited to 200 participants.

USE A SPEARATE FORM FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION. Please print or type. Form may be reproduced.  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred E-mail (for confirmation) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Preferred Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ School Name \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| ___ SCIRA Member  | \$40 |
| ___ Non-SCIRA Member (includes one-year SCIRA membership) | \$80 |
| ___ Student, Paraprofessionals or Associates              | \$25 |

**METHOD OF PAYMENT**                      **TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED**                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ CHECK (PAYABLE TO: SCIRA) enclosed. We cannot accept credit card payment for this conference.

\_\_\_ Purchase Order (Please attach) # \_\_\_\_\_

Registrants will **not** receive confirmation. Questions: [pkaufman@dps109.org](mailto:pkaufman@dps109.org)

**Return this form with payment to: Pam Kaufman, 208 Greenbriar Drive, Deerfield, Il 60015**

See attached form.

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. Each conference day will count for **4 CPDUs**.

**Conference overview**

**4:00-5:00 MEET AND MUNCH AND VISIT VENDORS**

**5:00-5:15 SHORT INTRODUCTION BY SCIRA PRESIDENTS**

**5:15-6:30 PRESENTATION BY Laura Beltchenko**

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

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

**8:00-10:00 INITIAL COURSE MEETING**

**THERE IS AMPLE PARKING IN THE BUILDING NEXT TO NLU. EXIT ON THE SECOND FLOOR AND TAKE THE ELEVATOR UP TO THE THIRD FLOOR FORUM ROOM.**

**ONE HOUR OF GRADUATE CREDIT FROM NATIONAL-LOUIS UNIVERSITY IS AVAILABLE.**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT COMMON CORE STANDARDS -Saturday October 15, 2011  
on the same site, the NLU North Shore Campus.**

*TAKE THE Special NLU Course:*

RLR595TBA Selected Topics in Reading: Understanding the Common Core Standards

This course will be held on the North Shore Campus.

**\_\_\_\_\_ One hour of University credit for an additional \$350 (available from National-Louis University) you must pay for University credit with a separate credit card or check. You may also sign-up for the course at the conference.**

**To Register for the SCIRA CONFERENCE and One hour of University Credit**

- 1. COMPLETE THE SCIRA REGISTRATION form (above), attach a check payable to SCIRA for \$40. Non-members can use this option without paying an additional fee and will not receive membership.**
- 2. Complete NLU registration (on following page) with payment of \$350.00**
- 3. Mail both documents , SCIRA REGISTRATION with conference fee \$40 (check or PO made out to SCIRA), & NLU Registration \$350.00 (Check or Credit Card made out to National-Louis University) to**

**Claudia Katz, 1329 Oxford Rd, Deerfield, IL 60615**

**Questions or information about the course? Call Claudia at 847-236-1164 [ckatz17755@aol.com](mailto:ckatz17755@aol.com)**

**Students using financial aid for tuition must register for the class no later than September 15, 2011.**

**DO NOT MAIL GRADUATE REGISTRATION directly to NLU**

**MAIL COMPLETED GRADUATE REGISTRATION FORM with \$350.00 CHECK OR**

**CREDIT CARD FORM payable to NLU AND TRS/SCIRA REGISTRATION TO:**

**CLAUDIA KATZ, 1329 OXFORD RD, DEERFIELD, IL 60015**

# NATIONAL-LOUIS UNIVERSITY GRADUATE REGISTRATION FORM

SOCIAL SECURITY NO. \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: LAST \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST/MIDDLE \_\_\_\_\_

MAIDEN (IF APPLIES) \_\_\_\_\_ / Check if new name or address since last graduation

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SPRING 2011\_

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

ETHNIC BACKGROUND (CHECK ONE)

1 / American Indian or Alaskan Native 2 / Black Non-Hispanic 3 / Asian or Pacific Islander 4 / Hispanic 5 / White Non-Hispanic

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

/ Fellowship / Doctoral Scholarship

/ ADMITTED TO GRADUATE PROGRAM: Program \_\_\_\_\_ Advisor \_\_\_\_\_ / NOT ADMITTED /

I am  a new NCE/NLU student  I am a returning NCE/NLU student

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

**ALL INFORMATION MUST BE COMPLETED OR FORM WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU**

CRN	COURSE NUMBER	COURSE REGISTRATION Course Title	SEM HOURS	For outreach Course, list site
	RLR595tba	RLR 595tba Special Topics in Reading: Understanding the Common Core Standards	1	

**NOTE: Payment must be submitted at time of registration. CONFIRMATION OF REGISTRATION WILL BE SENT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature Date

**CREDIT CARD CHARGE FORM**

STUDENT'S SOCIAL SECURITY NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

I hereby authorize National-Louis University to charge my Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express account in the amount of \$\_\_350.00\_\_\_\_, which represents tuition.

CHECK ONE: / VISA / MASTERCARD / DISCOVER / AMEX Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ -

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ CARDHOLDER'S NAME (*print*) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cardholder's Signature Date

# New On the Blog!

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

Look here to learn more about ICARE's state-wide literacy project. It is about statues, monuments, and memorials in the state of Illinois.

<http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/localcouncils/icare.html>

<http://www.lincolnparkstatues.com/>



## WANTED: SCIRA Scholars

Want to become a SCIRA Scholar? Post a comment below on how you applied and implemented what you learned at our recent conference! Your name will then be entered to win a well-deserved reward! Remember to post your email so we can contact you if you are one of the winners! Good luck!

Please include: What did you try out/implement? What age/grade level are the students? How did it go? Any tips? Is there anything you would do differently next time?

We look forward to learning from each of you! Post below for a shot at winning a reward and becoming a SCIRA Scholar!!!

National-Louis University  
North Shore Campus  
Reading Center  
5202 Old Orchard Rd  
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SCIRA  
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**Join Us For An Enlightening &  
Insightful Conference**

**TRS / SCIRA Summer Conference**

(Suburban Council International Reading Association)

*October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

Skokie, Illinois

NLU Campus

*Featuring*

**Laura Beltchenko**

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

**Please visit our blog for updates and forms!!**

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/>