

MEDIA ADVISORY

National Reading Recovery & K–6 Classroom Literacy Conference February 5-7, 2006

Sunday, February 5, 2006

Sunday's Keynote Session

Words for the Wise: The Language of Teaching and Learning

WHO: Peter Johnston is a professor in the Reading Department at the University at Albany–State University of New York, and the author of *Choice Words: How Our Language Affects Children's Learning*, a book that is fast becoming standard reading for teachers. He explains that through language, children not only learn to read and write, but they learn how to become strategic thinkers.

WHAT: Professor Johnston will examine the vitally important learning that teachers produce in classrooms that is hard to name and thus is not recognized by tests, by policymakers, by the general public and often by teachers themselves.

WHEN: Sunday, February 5, 2006 – 10:30 a.m. to noon

WHERE: Columbus Convention Center – Hall D

Reading Recovery Works to Accommodate Diversity

WHO: A panel of experts, including:
Patricia Kelly, Reading Recovery trainer, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA;
Catherine Compton-Lilly, Reading Recovery trainer, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI;
Francisco Gómez-Bellengé, director, National Data Evaluation Center, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Robert Schwartz, Reading Recovery trainer, Oakland University, Rochester, MI

WHAT: In light of the growing population of immigrant communities around the country, this distinguished panel will explore findings that show how Reading Recovery works to close the achievement gap in early literacy with different student subgroups. Panel members include Reading Recovery professors Patricia Kelly, Catherine Compton-Lilly, and Robert Schwartz, who are joined by Francisco Gómez-Bellengé, director of the National Data Evaluation Center, which collects data from around the nation on student performance in Reading Recovery.

WHEN: Sunday, February 5, 2006, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: Convention Center, D 242-243

The Mind's Affective Life

- WHO: Dr. Carol Lyons, a Reading Recovery trainer and professor emerita at The Ohio State University, is an expert in understanding the role that emotions play in learning. Using the latest research in neuroscience including MRI and PET scans of the brain, she has studied how emotion can help or hinder children's learning. A well-known lecturer and author of *How to Use Brain-Based Research to Maximize Children's Learning*, Dr. Lyons makes this complex subject easy for parents and teachers to understand.
- WHAT: By understanding that emotion and cognition are totally intertwined, teachers can empower their struggling students to use what they know while extending that knowledge and building on it.
- WHEN: Sunday, February 5, 2006 – 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.
Monday, February 6, 2006 – 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.
- WHERE: Sunday, Hyatt Regency Ballroom
Monday, Hyatt Regency Ballroom

Monday, February 6, 2006

Monday's Keynote Session

The Real Cost of Literacy Failure

- WHO: Julia Douëttil (*pronounced* "Doo-ETT-eel") is a Reading Recovery trainer at the Reading Recovery National Network based at the University of London's Institute of Education. She coordinates Reading Recovery across the whole of the British Isles including England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, The Republic of Ireland and now Denmark.
- WHAT: Ms. Douëttil will discuss the "real cost of literacy failure," including the economic prospects of those who are illiterate or who have very low literacy, and the relationship between poor literacy and arrests for criminal behavior. She will also report on the results of a study that quantitatively estimated the social benefits of learning.
- WHEN: Monday, February 6, 2006 – 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.
- WHERE: Columbus Convention Center – Hall D

Teaching Children in Poverty: A Different Perspective, A Different Approach

- WHO: Dr. Barbara Schubert is a Reading Recovery trainer at St. Mary's College in Moraga, CA. Dr. Schubert is a respected educator, author, consultant and leader in literacy and cross-cultural understanding. She has been the recipient of many field study grants in the areas of literacy, history and social science, including a Fulbright-Hayes Fellowship to West Africa and one to China.

WHAT: Dr. Schubert will examine factors that directly affect how well children from impoverished backgrounds function within an educational setting, and point out the ways by which individuals escape the cycle of generational poverty. She will elaborate on the cognitive strategies that must be built to help students from a poverty-class culture succeed.

WHEN: Monday, February 6, 2006 – 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 7, 2006 – 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Monday, Hyatt Regency, Union A-E
Tuesday, Hyatt Regency, Franklin A-D

Wonderful Words: What's New in Children's Literature

WHO: As professor of language, literacy and culture at The Ohio State University, Dr. Pat Scharer keeps up to date with the newest books.

WHAT: Which books are destined to become classics that children and teachers will read and re-read? Among the trends Dr. Scharer sees are continued interest in picture book biographies which are suitable for read-aloud in the primary grades as well as for independent reading among older children. At two conference sessions, Dr. Scharer will review criteria for selecting children's books and will share some of her favorite books of the past year.

WHEN: Monday, February 6, 2006 – 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. (Grades 3-6)
Tuesday, February 7, 2006 – 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. (Pre-K through Grade 2)

WHERE: Monday, Convention Center, C 113-115
Tuesday, Hyatt Regency, McKinley

Tuesday, February 6, 2006

Tuesday's Keynote Session
For the Love of Books

WHO: Coleen Salley, professor emerita at the University of New Orleans in Louisiana and a teacher for over 30 years, is New Orleans' premier storyteller. Her reputation as a children's literature expert extends worldwide. Reading favorites like *Cajun Night Before Christmas*, she has visited hundreds of schools and libraries across America, Asia and Europe. Her exuberant style makes her popular with children and adults alike. Her specialties include storytelling techniques, early childhood literature, and promoting books by first-time authors. A born entertainer, Coleen has even appeared in a VISA commercial.

WHAT: Legendary storyteller Coleen Salley shares books and illustrators who have inspired her for more than 45 years and discusses what books work best for various age groups.

WHEN: Tuesday, February 6, 2006 – 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Columbus Convention Center – Hall D

Washington, DC in the Year of the Dog

Update on Congress and Federal Policies on Literacy Education

- WHO: RRCNA Director of Advocacy Lucy Gettman has 20 years' experience as an advocate working with policymakers at the state and national levels. She was named 2004 Distinguished Alumna by the State University of New York, College at Cortland and in 2005 was elected to the Committee for Education Funding (CEF) executive committee. CEF is the nation's largest education coalition and is dedicated to achieving adequate federal support for our nation's education system. She has a master of arts in public policy and a master of social work from The Ohio State University.
- WHAT: Congress has already stripped certain items from their education funding bill – how far down the list of priorities is education funding for the current administration? Key short-term issues include appropriations and the reauthorization of the higher education bill. Longer-term issues involve the What Works Clearing House and an investigation by the General Accountability Office of Reading First management by the U.S. Department of Education.
- WHEN: Tuesday, February 7, 2006 – 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.
- WHERE: Convention Center, D 140-141

Joey Won't Read "Caddie Woodlawn?" I Can't Imagine Why.

- WHO: Tony Keefer is a literacy coordinator and fourth-grade teacher for Brown Elementary in the Hilliard City School District in Hilliard, OH. He works with teachers to recognize the differences in the kinds of materials boys read—more nonfiction and action-oriented books.
- WHAT: A growing number of boys from all backgrounds are falling behind in school and as a result, educators are looking hard at ways to engage and involve boys. Mr. Keefer's workshop for classroom teachers is designed to help teachers create a classroom culture where boys can become engaged and thoughtful readers.
- WHEN: Tuesday February 7, 2006 – 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- WHERE: Convention Center, C 220-222