

# SCIRA

## Suburban Council of the International Reading Association

**SCIRA Board  
2014-15  
Spring Newsletter  
2015**

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### *Note from the Presidents*

By Debbie Shefren & Sarah Weisberg  
Co-Presidents of SCIRA



Dear SCIRA Friends,

Yes, it was cold and wintery outside but inside, at our SCIRA Winter Conference, it was warm and filled with educators eager to learn about Writing in the Digital Age. Dr. Hicks, featured presenter, shared many ideas and suggestions about crafting in the digital age, examples of digital book reports using glogster.com and piccollage.com and use of the green screen app. He also shared wonderopolis.com, “*where the wonders of learning never cease*”. This amazing site includes *a wonder of the day, wonder explorations, wonder questions, and an educator’s sandbox*. Dr. Hicks also introduced MMAPS as a way for students to organize and focus their writing. MMAPS is an acronym for:

**Mode**—the genre of a text

**Media**—the form in which a text is created

**Audience**—the reader, listener or viewer of the text both intended and incidental

**Purpose**—the action the author takes, in both academic and a personal sense

**Situation**—the context for the writer herself/himself as well as demands of the writing task/assignment

As a follow up to Dr. Hick’s presentation, SCIRA sponsored a technology support workshop facilitated by Jenny Gustavson. This hands on workshop provided support for all who wanted to continue their professional learning. Jenny helped the participants learn more about blogging and how to set up edublogs and kidblogs. She also shared easel.ly, a simple web tool that empowers anyone to create and share powerful visuals (infographics, posters and ways to create awesome info graphics. It truly was an amazing learning experience enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you, Jenny!

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Spring Newsletter 2015</b></p> <p><b>Presidents' Message Pages 1-2</b></p> <p><b>SCIRA Summer Renewal Conference Information and Registration page 3-5</b></p> <p><b>National Louis University optional 1 credit graduate course information and registration Pages 6-7</b></p> <p><b>Check out SCIRA's amazing web site! <a href="http://scira.weebly.com">http://scira.weebly.com</a></b></p> <p>Looking for more information? Would you like to see pictures and get up to the minute information about SCIRA? Looking to register for a course or a conference?</p>	<p><i>President letter continued...</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>JOIN US FOR THE SCIRA SUMMER RENEWAL CONFERENCE</b></p> <p><b>We are thrilled to welcome Lester Laminack and Kelly Gallagher</b> as the featured presenters at the SCIRA Summer Renewal Conference scheduled for Thursday June 18th and Friday June 19th from 8:00 am to 3:00 p.m at the Holiday Inn in Skokie.</p> <p><b>Lester Laminack</b> will be the featured speaker on Thursday. He is an accomplished author of professional books for classroom teachers that include <i>The Writing Teachers Troubleshooting Guide</i> and <i>Bullying Hurts: Teaching Kindness Through Read Alouds and Guided Conversations</i>. He is also the author of six children's books. His newest publication <i>Three Hens and a Peacock</i> is now available at your local bookstore. Lester Laminack's presentation will address <i>learning to read like a writer</i> and the important implications for literacy learning.</p> <p><b>Kelly Gallagher</b> will be the featured speaker on Friday. Kelly Gallagher is a teacher, author, speaker and coach dedicated to helping students become better readers and writers. He also is an accomplished author of professional books that include <i>In the Best Interests of Students</i>, <i>Write Like This</i>, <i>Readicide</i>, and <i>Teaching Adolescent Writers</i>. Kelly Gallagher presentation will address building reading lives that last, teaching the argument paper and teaching real world writing through modeling and mentor text.</p> <p>We are so looking forward to this wonderful opportunity. Don't miss it! Be sure to take advantage of the early bird discount and register by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Registration information can be found on page 3 of the newsletter.</p> <p><b>Clock Hour Information</b></p> <p>The State of Illinois has changed how we will be providing clock hours (CPDU's). Illinois Reading Council (IRC) is our provider. The following is the new procedure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. After our Summer Renewal Conference, we will send the IRC a list of all participants that attended the event with their email addresses.</li> <li>2. An evaluation form will be sent electronically to those participants on the list.</li> <li>3. Once the electronically sent evaluation form has been completed and returned electronically to the IRC office, the IRC office will send the clock hours certificate form electronically to each participant.</li> </ol> <p>Think warm Spring thoughts! Looking forward to seeing you on June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at the SCIRA Summer Renewal Conference Sarah &amp; Debbie</p>
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*SCIRA MEMBERS IN THE NEWS!*

SCIRA members Char Cobb and Camille Blachowicz were interviewed about vocabulary instruction and their new book, "No More 'Look up the list' Vocabulary Instruction for Ed Week. Read the interview at

[http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/classroom\\_qa\\_with\\_larry\\_ferlazzo/2015/03/response\\_vocabulary\\_instruction\\_is\\_more\\_than\\_giving\\_a\\_list\\_of\\_words.html?cmp=ENL-EU-NEWS3](http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/classroom_qa_with_larry_ferlazzo/2015/03/response_vocabulary_instruction_is_more_than_giving_a_list_of_words.html?cmp=ENL-EU-NEWS3)

# **SCIRA Teacher Renewal Summer Conference**

## **June 18-19**

### **Holiday Inn Skokie, Illinois**

**Lester Laminack will be speaking about When Writer's Read.** Writers approach a text with an eye for more than, "What's the story here?" Writers look for structure, craft, intention, bias, and authenticity of content in any text. Learning to read like a writer has many important implications for literacy. Explore ways to help your students look at text and question the credentials and knowledge base of the writer, identify craft examples in that text, pay attention to structure, and then transfer what they have learned to their own writing. Teach your students how good writing is more than just beautiful language. Work with some of the best children's literature available and become grounded in the craft lessons contained in those books. Return to your classroom and use those same books and identified craft lessons as curriculum for a successful year of teaching writing.

**Kelly Gallagher's session titles are as follows:**

Session 1: Building Reading Lives That Last

Session 2: Teaching the Argument Paper

Session 3: Teaching Real-World Writing Through Modeling & Mentor Texts

# SCIRA Teacher Renewal Summer Conference Registration Form

USE ONE FORM FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION.

Please print or type. Form may be reproduced.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**REGISTRATION:** School districts wishing to send five or more participants should contact Brittany Plath at [scirareg@gmail.com](mailto:scirareg@gmail.com) or 847-207-4914

_____ Teacher Renewal Seminar (Two-day Conference, including meals & handouts)	
<b>Early Bird Price Good Through April 1, 2015</b>	<b>\$200</b>
<b>After April 1, 2015</b>	<b>\$220</b>
<b>At the Door</b>	<b>\$250</b>
_____ Non-SCIRA Member (Two-day Conference, including meals and one-year SCIRA membership. (You must join SCIRA to attend the conference.)	
<b>Early Bird Price Good through April 1, 2015</b>	<b>\$245</b>
<b>After April 1, 2015</b>	<b>\$265</b>
<b>At the Door</b>	<b>\$295</b>
	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>
	<b>\$ _____</b>

## METHOD OF PAYMENT

Online registration with payment by credit card or pay pal go to <http://alturl.com/56wwf>

Mail in registration with payment by Purchase Order or Check payable to SCIRA to:

**Brittany Plath**  
**810 Highland Place, Highland Park, IL 60035**

## **CLOCK HOUR INFORMATION**

The State of Illinois has changed how we will be providing clock hours (CPDU's). Illinois Reading Council (IRC) is our provider. The new procedure follows:

1. After our Summer Renewal Conference, we will send the IRC a list of all participants that attended the event with their email addresses.
2. An evaluation form will be sent electronically to those participants on the list.
3. Once the electronically sent evaluation form has been completed and returned electronically to the IRC office, the IRC office will send the clock hours certificate electronically to each participant.

Teachers working toward **clock hours** 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 **6** clock hours.

**Questions?** Contact Brittany Plath at [scirareg@gmail.com](mailto:scirareg@gmail.com)

# SCIRA Teacher Renewal Summer Conference

## *ABOUT THE SPEAKERS*

**Lester L. Laminack** is Professor Emeritus from department of Birth-Kindergarten, Elementary and Middle Grades Education, at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina where he received two awards for excellence in teaching [the Botner Superior Teaching Award and the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award]. Lester is now a full-time writer and consultant working with schools throughout the United States. He is an active member of the National Council of Teachers of English and served three years as co-editor of the NCTE journal *Primary Voices* and as editor of the Children's Book Review Department of the NCTE journal *Language Arts* (2003-2006). He also served as a teaching editor for the magazine *Teaching K-8* and wrote the Parent Connection column (2000-2002). He is a former member of the Whole Language Umbrella Governing Board, a former member of the Governing Board and Secretary of the North Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children, and a former member of the Board of Directors for the Center for the Expansion of Language and Thinking. He served as the Basic Reading Consultant to Literacy Volunteers of America from 1987 through 2001. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Our Children's Place [[www.ourchildrensplace.com](http://www.ourchildrensplace.com)].

**Kelly Gallagher** has devoted himself to the teaching of reading, writing, listening and speaking since 1985—first and foremost, as a high school ELA teacher in Anaheim, California, and also as an author/consultant who works with educators around the world. Today, he is considered one of the leading voices in literacy education. Always in search of a better way, Kelly honed his craft by taking on leadership positions in several key literacy programs, including the California Reading and Literature Project, the South Basin Writing Project at California State University, Long Beach, and the Puente Project, a University of California outreach program that prepares under-represented high school students for transition into universities. For several years, he taught secondary literacy courses as an adjunct professor at California State University, Fullerton, and, most recently, he served as the president of the Secondary Reading Group of the International Reading Association (IRA). Inspired by his classroom, mentors and professional development experiences, Kelly has written five books for teachers, many of which have been used in education schools around the world. His sixth book—*"In The Best Interest of Students"*—is due out in February 2015. He is also a featured author for several ELA classroom textbooks and programs. In 2013-14, Kelly worked with the Harlem Village Academies (HVA) in New York City, where he taught a high school writing course and coached secondary teachers. As part of his affiliation with HVA, he became a founding faculty member for the Progressive Education Institute, a graduate of school of education that aspires to become the premier institution for teacher preparation.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS**

Visit Lester's website at [www.lesterlaminack.com](http://www.lesterlaminack.com)

Visit Kelly's website at [www.kellygallagher.org](http://www.kellygallagher.org)

# RECEIVE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COURSE CREDIT

Attend the TRS/SCIRA Summer Conference:

June 18, 2015 – Lester Laminack

June 19, 2015 – Kelly Gallagher

Holiday Inn North Shore, 5300 West Touhy Ave., Skokie, IL 60077

Students interested in one hour of graduate course credit through NLU may attend the SCIRA Summer Conference in Skokie, June 18-19, 2015 and complete the requirements of this course.

The purpose of this course is to generate, design, and develop creative teaching ideas as students apply what they learn during the conference to their specific teaching situations. This course will also enhance the conference experience.

## Course Calendar & Requirements:

### Register

1. **Register separately for the SCIRA Summer Conference**, June 18-19, 2015 by going to: <http://scira.weebly.com/registration.html> . Please note that there is a separate fee to register for the conference.
2. **Register for the Graduate Course by June 12, 2015** by completing the course registration form.
  - o **Email** completed registration form including credit card payment section to Mary Hoch at [mary.hoch.edu](mailto:mary.hoch@nl.edu) **OR**
  - o **Mail** completed registration form with tuition payment of **\$360**, check payable to National Louis University or completed credit card payment section to: **Mary Hoch, Reading Center Director, National Louis University, 850 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL 60532.**

### Before the Conference – Readings:

3. **Professional text:** Prior to the conference, course participants will choose **one** of the presenter's professional development books to read. Participants will *summarize* and *analyze* the text, and then discuss its *application* in their current educational setting. Text choices:
  - o Gallagher, K. (2011). *Write like this: Teaching real-world writing through modeling and mentor texts*. Portland, ME: Stenhouse.
  - o Gallagher, K. (2015). *In the best interest of students: Staying true to what works in the ELA classroom*. (scheduled for release Feb., 2015.)
  - o Laminack, L.L., & Wadsworth, R.M. (2013). *The writing teacher's troubleshooting guide*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.
4. **Article:** After reading the professional text, participants will choose and read one journal article on the same topic. This will be used for the final project. (*See syllabus for recommended articles*)

### During the Conference – Reflective Journal

5. Attend the conference on Thursday & Friday.
6. Participants will complete **an electronic log** documenting their participation at the conference sessions on both days.

### After the Conference – Final Project

7. **Synthesis of new learning:** Following the conference and completion of other assignments, course participants will synthesize what they have read (text and article), along with the conference presentations to develop a plan for implementation in their current educational setting.

### June 28, 2015

- o All assignments due via email to [mary.hoch@nl.edu](mailto:mary.hoch@nl.edu).
- o Materials must be received as an electronic document.

Questions? Contact Mary Hoch at [mary.hoch@nl.edu](mailto:mary.hoch@nl.edu) or 630-874-4533.

NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE REGISTRATION FORM

Mail completed graduate registration form with **\$360 check** payable to National Louis University or completed credit card payment section to Mary Hoch, Reading Center Director, National Louis University, 850 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL 60532

OR

Email completed registration form including credit card payment section to Mary Hoch at [mary.hoch@nl.edu](mailto:mary.hoch@nl.edu).

**Registration must be received by June 12, 2015.**

**ALL INFORMATION MUST BE COMPLETED OR FORM WILL BE RETURNED.**

NLU ID# or SOCIAL SECURITY # \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

ETHNIC BACKGROUND (CHECK ONE)

1. American Indian or Alaskan \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Asian or Pacific Islander \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Black Hispanic \_\_\_\_\_  
4. White Hispanic \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Black Non-Hispanic \_\_\_\_\_ 6. White Non-Hispanic \_\_\_\_\_

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

/Fellowship \_\_\_\_\_ /Doctoral Scholarship \_\_\_\_\_

ADMITTED TO GRADUATE PROGRAM: Program \_\_\_\_\_ Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

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

CRN	COURSE NUMBER	COURSE REGISTRATION Course Title	SEM HOURS
	RLR595BW	Special Topics in Reading: Using Mentor Texts to Develop Deeper Reading and Writing	1

/FALL \_\_\_\_\_ /WINTER \_\_\_\_\_ X SPRING \_\_\_\_\_ 2015 \_\_\_\_\_ /SUMMER \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Tuition payment must be submitted at time of course registration.**

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**CREDIT CARD CHARGE AUTHORIZATION FORM**

STUDENT'S NLU ID# or SOCIAL SECURITY # \_\_\_\_\_

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

I hereby authorize National Louis University to charge my Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express account in the amount of **\$360.00**, which represents tuition.

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

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

CARDHOLDER'S NAME (print) \_\_\_\_\_

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

CARDHOLDER'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

**SCIRA**  
**P.O. Box 396**  
**Northbrook, Il 60065**

**SCIRA**  
Suburban  
Council of the  
International  
Reading  
Association

**SCIRA Summer Renewal Conference**

(Suburban Council of the International Reading Association)

**Featuring!**

***Lester Laminack and  
Kelly Gallagher***

**June 18 & 19, 2015**

**Holiday Inn  
5300 West Touch Avenue  
Skokie, Illinois 60077**

Please visit our SCIRA website for valuable information on upcoming SCIRA conferences. Online registration and additional registration forms may be downloaded there as well. Please visit <http://www.scira.weebly.com>