President’s Message

Reading Recovery Works: 30 Years of Excellence

RRCNA President Patricia L. Scharer

It’s time to party! It is exciting to be planning for the 30th anniversary of Reading Recovery in North America. We hope that everyone will be part of this celebration through local events and also nationally at the National Reading Recovery & K–6 Classroom Literacy Conference in February 2015.

Two years ago, I decided to capture the thoughts and reflections of key individuals who were part of the early history of Reading Recovery in the U.S. I traveled across the country with my video camera learning everything I could about the people who have made Reading Recovery possible for the past 30 years.

Rose Mary Estice was in the first teacher training class held at The Ohio State University in 1984. During her interview, she noted that she had always thought she was a pretty good teacher but then reflected, “I didn’t really know how to teach until Reading Recovery.” Just last week, a teacher just finishing her initial training year in Reading Recovery told me the very same thing!

My interviews are full of other amazing quotes like these:

- It’s the greatest professional learning experience I’ve ever had. (Cliff Johnson, Georgia State University)
- When Romeo got to “Along came…” he said, “ain’t no tiger afraid of a crocodile!” My God! (Noel Jones, University of North Carolina Wilmington)
- Clay read widely in related fields which gave her the greater vision to be able to be a strong “rudder” — to offer “innovative lenses” to maintain quality but also evolve. (Diane DeFord, University of South Carolina)
- When I first became acquainted with Reading Recovery in the 1980s, I didn’t even have words to express it. Reading Recovery was a genuine professional community. (Anthony Bryk, president, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching)

That’s what that story was all about! He was focused on the meaning and the story! (Noel Jones, University of North Carolina Wilmington)

- Marie Clay always made you feel comfortable. She never was an authority figure; she was always humble. She listened and she watched. She knew what to ask to pull you along. (Carol Lyons, The Ohio State University)

Whether you are among the handful of people who remember our beginnings in 1984 or are new to the Reading Recovery community, each of us has reason to be grateful to Marie Clay and to appreciate her legacy.

RRCNA Plans and Resources to Help You Celebrate Your Success

We are getting ready to celebrate at all levels! As you think about your own celebrations, it will be helpful for you to know the larger plans and resources you will have available.

First, the theme:

Reading Recovery Works: 30 Years of Excellence

This theme allows us to describe how and why Reading Recovery works for students, teachers, and schools. RRCNA will feature examples that include student success stories, teacher professional development, and how Reading Recovery is an integral part of education.
of whole school success. RRCNA will also seek stories for *The Journal of Reading Recovery* and for a special anniversary section on the RRCNA website.

**Resources for schools, training sites, and UTCs**
RRCNA will create resources to help local schools, training sites, and universities celebrate and raise community awareness. By the end of summer the member section of the RRCNA website will offer

- 30th anniversary graphics for print and online use,
- template press releases and website copy to be adapted for local use,
- 30th anniversary fact sheets,
- template certificates and press releases to recognize training sites for 15, 20, or 25 years of operation,
- and more!

**Anniversary websites**
The RRCNA website will host a special anniversary section with selected success stories about students, teachers, schools, and photos of anniversary celebrations across the country. In addition, the site will link to schools, training sites, and university websites with local anniversary stories and events.

**National Conference**
This is the place where Reading Recovery professionals and others will gather to learn and to celebrate our history. Plans for a special anniversary reception are underway during the Conference, February 7–10, 2015, in Columbus, OH. Wherever you are, you can find a way to celebrate and to reach out to let others know about Reading Recovery’s rich history and continued success. I can’t wait to watch these exciting events as they spread across the U.S. and Canada!

During one of my interviews with Gay Su Pinnell, she described a lesson as “like a beautiful dance” between the teacher and reader. There have been over 2 million dances since Reading Recovery came to North America. Now, it’s time for us to get on our party shoes and dance in celebration of 30 years of excellence!

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**Join us in Chicago for the 2014 Teacher Leader Institute**

**June 11–14 at the DoubleTree Hotel Oak Brook**
(west of downtown)

**CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- Going Deeper into Teaching for Strategic Activity
- Planning Effective Professional Development Around Teaching for Strategic Action
- i3 and the Remarkable Success of Reading Recovery
- Comprehensive Literacy • Leadership and Outreach • Technology
- Optional Sessions on Wednesday, June 11

**Audience — Currently certified teacher leaders and trainers**

Register online at Conferences & Events on the RRCNA website

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**Keynote Speaker Julia Douëtil**
University of London