

The Harbinger

The Newsletter of the South Carolina Council of Teachers of English

December 2010

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The South Carolina Council of Teachers of English is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the improvement of English and language arts instruction in South Carolina. Members include teachers at all levels—kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, high school, college—as well as administrators, students, and retired educators. SCCTE is an NCTE affiliate.

The Countdown to SCCTE 2011

On behalf of the South Carolina Council of Teachers of English, I'd like to invite you to join us January 28-29 for the 2011 SCCTE Conference at the beautiful Kiawah Island Resort. The theme for SCCTE 2011 is "Building Bridges," and our hope is that you will find at the conference many opportunities to build bridges across grade levels, subject areas, and geographical distances with like-minded colleagues who are committed to helping students become better readers, writers, speakers, and thinkers.

SCCTE 2011 will feature an outstanding lineup of featured speakers. We're pleased to welcome Kylene Beers, author of *When Kids Can't Read*, and Bob Probst, who wrote *Response and Analysis* and co-edited *Adolescent Literacy* with Kylene and Linda Reif. Sara Kajder, author of *Adolescents and Digital Literacies*, will be speaking at our special "Computers and Coffee" session on Saturday morning as well as facilitating an interactive workshop on Saturday afternoon. The conference will also feature Randy Bomer, a past-president of NCTE, who will discuss the effects of poverty on students' literacy development and Jim Randels, the co-founder of *Students at the Center*, a school-based writing program in New Orleans. Jim will also be featured at "Friday Night Flicks" as we eat popcorn and candy, watch student-made films from *Students at the Center*, and consider the concept of "Writing with Light" as an instructional tool.

As excited as we are about the featured speakers for SCCTE 2011, we're also anticipating the over 60 concurrent sessions during which educators from elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and colleges and universities will share classroom resources, research, and more! One special strand of concurrent sessions, *Tech @ the "Ledge"*, will provide participants the opportunity to learn more about the latest digital resources that can be used to enhance teaching and learning.

For all the latest information about SCCTE 2011, follow us on Twitter@sccte2011, check out the SCCTE 2011 Facebook group, or find us online at www.sccte.org.

Come join over 250 teachers from all over the state as we celebrate the work we do and discover ways to do that work even better. We look forward to seeing you all at Kiawah this January!

Warmest Regards,



Matthew C. Nelson
SCCTE 2011 Conference Chair



INSIDE



2011 Conference
Schedule

Featured Speakers

Awards and
Scholarship Information

SCET Call For Articles

2011 SCCTE Conference: *Building Bridges*

Featured Speakers

Kylene Beers, a former middle school teacher, is Senior Reading Advisor to Secondary Schools with the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, Columbia University. She is the author of *When Kids Can't Read—What Teachers Can Do* (2002) and coeditor—with Robert Probst and Linda Rief—of *Adolescent Literacy* (2007). A respected authority on struggling readers who works with elementary, middle school, and high school teachers across the nation, Kylene currently serves as Past President of the National Council of Teachers of English.

Randy Bomer, former NCTE President, holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University and is currently a language and literacy specialist at the University of Texas and director of the Heart of Texas Writing Project. For two decades Bomer has worked as a literacy consultant with K-12 teachers and administrators in districts around the country. He assists teachers of all levels launch writing and reading workshops in their classrooms and teach effectively within those environments. Bomer has conducted research on professional development as well as on teaching and learning interactions in classrooms. He is the author of *Time for Meaning* (1995) and *For a Better World* (2001), as well as recent journal articles analyzing the implications of the deficit perspective in discussions of educating children of poverty.

Sara Kajder is an assistant professor at Virginia Tech whose teaching has been anchored in assisting middle and high school students to connect out of school literacies with in school literacies – including helping students create multimodal texts (like blogs and digital stories), communicate their meaning-making through podcasts and engage in web 2.0 learning spaces like wikis, twitter and other tools. Regardless of the tool(s) we use, Kajder focuses on the uses of new literacies to affirm the literacies students bring into our classrooms, to produce knowledge and to put students' knowledge to work. Recipient of the National Technology Leadership Fellowship, she is the author of *Bringing the Outside In* (2006), *The Tech Savvy English Classroom* (2004) and *Adolescent Digital Literacies: Learning Alongside Our Students* (2010).

Bob Probst was first an English teacher in junior and senior high schools in Maryland and then English Supervisor for the Norfolk, Virginia schools before he moved on to Georgia State University as Professor of English Education. Bob is the author of *Response and Analysis: Teaching Literature in the Secondary Schools* (2004) and coeditor—with Kylene Beers and Linda Rief—of *Adolescent Literacy* (2007). Bob has worked extensively with the National Council of Teacher of English and many state Councils and school systems, and has talked about the teaching of literature with groups in such far-flung places as Sweden, France, Costa Rica, and Guam.

Jim Randels is executive vice president of United Teachers of New Orleans and is a parent, teacher, and graduate of New Orleans Public Schools. He taught at Frederick Douglass High before and after the state takeover and currently teaches at McMain and McDonogh 35 High Schools. He has authored over \$5 million worth of grants to assist public education in New Orleans. Jim is also co-editor of *Pedagogy, Policy, and the Privatized City: Stories of Dispossession and Defiance from New Orleans* (2010), a collection of stories and commentaries about race and education as seen through the lens of post-Katrina New Orleans.

Frank W. Baker has conducted hundreds of workshops for educators across the United States. Frank is a national "Leaders in Learning" honoree. He is also a consultant for the National Council of Teachers of English NCTE and the SC Writing Improvement Network. Frank's books include *Political Campaigns and Political Advertising: A Media Literacy Guide* and *Coming Distractions: Questioning Movies*.

An Associate Professor of Education at Furman University since 2002, **Paul Thomas** has focused throughout his career on writing and the teaching of writing. His newest publications include *Parental Choice?* (2010, *Information Age Publishing*) and the first volume in a new series he edits, *Challenging Genres: Comics and Graphic Novels* (Sense Publishers).

Tentative Schedule

Thursday, January 27

5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Registration and Check-In

Friday, January 28

7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Registration and Check-In
8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Exhibits
8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 a.m. "A" Concurrent Sessions
10:00 a.m. Jim Randels
11:00 a.m. "B" Concurrent Sessions
11:45 a.m. Luncheon
1:00 p.m. "C" Concurrent Sessions
2:00 p.m. Randy Bomer
3:00 p.m. "D" Concurrent Sessions
4:00 p.m. Workshops
8:00 p.m. "Friday Night Flicks"

Saturday, January 29

7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Registration
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Exhibits
7:30 a.m. Breakfast
8:00 a.m. "Computers & Coffee" w/ Sara Kajder
9:00 a.m. Kylene Beers
10:00 a.m. "E" Concurrent Sessions
11:00 a.m. "F" Concurrent Sessions
11:45 a.m. Luncheon/Exemplary Writing Awards
12:45 p.m. Extended break to visit exhibitors
1:15 p.m. "G" Concurrent Sessions
2:15 p.m. Workshops



SCCTE Awards and Scholarships

Affiliate Award

Recognizes and celebrates a local affiliate that provides outstanding service to the profession. (Recognition by certificate and plaque at the SCCTE Conference)

Coleman Undergraduate Scholarship

Recognizes and celebrates an outstanding undergraduate student majoring in some aspect of the teaching of English Language Arts. (Recognition by \$1000 award and certificate at the SCCTE Conference)

New Member Award

Recognizes and celebrates an outstanding new member of the organization (5 years or fewer). (Recognition at the SCCTE Conference and \$500 toward attendance at NCTE annual convention in November of the following year).

Outstanding Administrator Award

Recognizes and celebrates an administrator who provides outstanding encouragement in support of English Language Arts programs in a district or school. (Recognition by certificate and plaque at the SCCTE Conference)

Richard Riley Award for English Language Arts

Recognizes and celebrates a classroom teacher who displays outstanding service to the profession. (Recognition by certificate and plaque at the SCCTE Conference)

Best Use of Conference Theme Award

Recognizes and celebrates SC English teachers whose attitudes and strategies demonstrate the theme of the annual convention in their classroom. (Five recipients will be recognized by certificate at the SCCTE annual convention in January)

Secondary Section High School Teacher of Excellence

Recognizes and celebrates a high school classroom teacher. SCCTE's selection will be entered into the NCTE's Secondary Section Teacher of Excellence award program. (Recognition by certificate and plaque at the SCCTE Conference)

Award Nomination and Documentation Materials

DOCUMENTATION FOR ALL AWARDS SHOULD BE SENT BY DECEMBER 10 TO: Dr. Rebecca Kaminski, SCCTE Coordinator for Awards and Scholarships, Clemson University University Center TE Suite, 225 S. Pleasantburg Dr., Greenville, SC 29606-5616, or emailed to krebecc@clemson.edu. Please note that special requirement information and nomination materials are available online at www.sccte.org. Note also that some awards require both SCCTE and NCTE membership.

South Carolina English Teacher Call For Articles

The South Carolina Council of Teachers of English welcomes contributions to *South Carolina English Teacher* (SCET), a journal that represents varied perspectives, formats, and voices focusing on the teaching of English in our state. SCET publishes teacher research, critical essays, teaching strategies, bibliographies, interviews, personal essays, short stories, poetry, and other creative works including black and white photography and drawings. We invite original artwork for our cover design. Each manuscript should be no more than 12 double-spaced, typed pages in current APA style. SCET is a blind, peer-reviewed journal. Place the author's personal and institutional identification including an e-mail address on the cover page only. Please attach a copy of your manuscript in Word, subject heading, SCET, to mstyslin@mailbox.sc.edu. Submissions will not be returned. Deadline for submission for the 2011 issue of SCET is March 29, 2011. All submissions postmarked by this date will be considered. Send manuscripts to:

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SCCTE: *THE HARBINGER*

The South Carolina Council of Teachers of English

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Happy Holidays!
from SCCTE