

LCTE Council Notes

Newsletter of the Louisiana Council of Teachers of English

April 2007

Announcing the 2007 LCTE Fall Conference!

The 2007 LCTE Fall Conference will be held October 26-27, 2007 in Lafayette, Louisiana.

The conference will feature keynote speaker Carol Jago. Her wide and varied experience in standards assessment and secondary education in general has made her a sought-after speaker with Heinemann Speakers. As an author, she also works closely with Heinemann Publishers and with the National Council of Teachers (NCTE). Additionally, she has collaborated extensively as an author for Holt Rinehart Winston on the creation of textbooks for teaching English Language Arts.

Jago has a long-time association with the California Association of Teachers of English and has edited their scholarly journal *California English* since 1996.

An avid reader, she is known to her colleagues as an inexhaustible fund of reading suggestions and she shares her recommendations as a reader with visitors to her web site.

Jago has 32 years of experience at Santa Monica High School in California.

In addition, Adam Banks, Ph.D., author of *Race, Rhetoric, and Technology*, is slated to lead the Saturday workshop. He is interested in helping

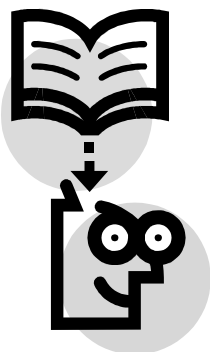
students and writers gain “access to the larger nation and its technologies not merely for the sake of access, but in order to transform both the nation and those technologies that design, construct, and sustain it.”

The conference will also feature presentations by Dr. Bernard Gallagher, Walter Brown, Rocky Colavito, Ann Sayas, Joseph Tullier, and Jackie Jackson.

Stay tuned to the LCTE website (www.nicholls.edu/lcte) for more information!



Pictured: Carol Jago



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President's Message

Dear Fellow LCTE Members:

Congratulations to all of you and to all of your students who participated in the 2007 EXPO (See the list of winners elsewhere in this *Council Notes*). A big thanks to all who helped make this year's EXPO a success, especially Elizabeth Rodrigue and Marjorie Ambrose. We had the help of members, LSU professors, teachers, parents, and students. Big thanks also to the teachers at Baton Rouge Magnet, East Jefferson High, Riverdale, and South Terrebonne for their enthusiastic participation. And encourage your colleagues at other area high schools to participate. Let's make EXPO 2008 bigger than ever. There is such an energy and excitement in the room as medals and trophies are awarded!

Our fall conference (Friday, Oct. 26th and Saturday, Oct. 27th), at the Best Western in Lafayette, will have *beaucoup* presentations: Holt, Rinehart and Winston are sponsoring Carol Jago, a 32-year teacher, noted textbook author, and respected presenter, as our keynote speaker for our Friday luncheon. On Saturday, Dr. Adam Banks of Syracuse University will hold a two-hour workshop helping us understand the complex relationship of *Race, Rhetoric, and Technology* (the title also of his book).

Presentations by board members are also lined up: Dr. Bernard Gallagher is presenting "The Kind of Questions You Ask Determines the Kind of Answers You Get." Walter Brown has promised to return with his highly popular poetry lesson based on hit tunes. Rocky Colavito, Ann Sayas and Joseph Tullier have also agreed to present. And I will explain how the use of highlighters increases student awareness about requirements for any assignment ("Colors: Not Just for Kindergartners Any More"). Mark your calendars for the last Fri/Sat in October. Then

finish the day with a run over to Baton Rouge for the Festival of the Book. Here's an opportunity to be reminded that you love to learn—and to get excited all over again with all the fresh ideas we can exchange with each other.

We are moving forward with our plans for an online literary map for Louisiana. Ann Sayas has agreed to work in the area of writers for middle school. Fran Middleton has agreed to continue research she began using background maps in public domain. Several people have asked, "Do we include popular writers? Romance writers? Mystery?" My feeling is that if a member would like to nominate an author he/she can vouch for, we need to include them, along with our Pulitzer prize winners, recognized literary figures, etc. So email me your nominations—don't have your favorite authors left out just because you didn't nominate them! And if you would like to serve as a committee head for writers for the high school or college level, please email me.

One more way members can help: LCTE is looking for a new *Council Notes* Editor. *Council Notes* comes out four times a year, and we like to also have it posted on our website. If you are interested, please email me with CV or resume attached. Deadline: May 20, 2007. And a huge thanks to Melissa Garner (who is now Mrs. McDonald) for her contributions not only as editor of *Council Notes*, but also for the beautiful *LEJ* she edited on the hurricanes. Congratulations and best wishes, Melissa, as you begin a new chapter in your life.

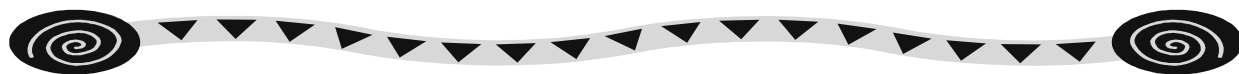
I cannot close this letter without a mention of the tragedy at Virginia Tech last week. As educators, we always try so hard to reach and push the best and the brightest, and it is hard to hear about the loss of so many of our country's

best and brightest, young men and women who perhaps could have made life-changing differences in America's future, all in a single day. If there is a message here, it is perhaps that we need to strive harder to reach those who have been crippled in their emotional upbringing, those who do not fit in, those who in their pain might choose a desperate course of action. I did take note, as I am sure some of you did, of the English teacher who realized the extent of the shooter's problems, and her attempts to secure him help. Very often it is the English or art teacher who is made aware of the problems of these troubled students. May

we all use this incident to re-dedicate ourselves to helping our students not only read or write better, but to think more clearly, to consider others, and to bridge the gaps that separate us.

May all of you take advantage of this coming summer to relax, refresh your spirits, and read some good books. And for those of us still teaching during the summer—may we fit in some time for ourselves also.

Sincerely,
Jackie W. Jackson



Editor's Note

Dear LCTE Members,

In fall 2005, I was given a great opportunity to guest edit the *Louisiana English Journal* special issue on Katrina and Rita. During this project, I was introduced to many talented students through their writing about their experiences and many teachers who encouraged these students to submit their work. At this time, I was also introduced to service on the LCTE board and stayed on as *Council Notes* editor and Webmaster even after my term as *LEJ* editor was up.

Throughout my time as an LCTE member, I have been learned about the many wonderful resources and opportunities that LCTE offers teachers and students through its annual fall conference and English Expo, as well as the wealth of resources available in LCTE publications and on its website. I heartily

encourage others to take advantage of these resources and to actively take part by volunteering for open LCTE board positions.

It is great sorrow that I now say goodbye to all those with whom I have worked over the past few years, but I look forward to a new life in Nebraska with my husband. I have enjoyed my time as a LCTE board member, and I offer the board, the members of LCTE, and the many other teachers in Louisiana my best wishes for the future.

Sincerely,

Melissa Garner McDonald
Council Notes Editor, 2006-07
Webmaster, 2006-07
LEJ Editor, 2005-06

2007 ENGLISH EXPO CONTEST WINNERS

	CONTEST	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
A	Posters	Bryce Turgeon – EJHS	Jessy Escobedo- BRMHS	Angela Schifani- BRMHS
B	Book Cover	Jessy Escobedo- BRMHS	Heather Lee-EJHS	Lac Nguyen-EJHS
C	Literature	Elisia Barlo-BRMHS	Ivan Lafayette-BRMHS	Kendra Temple- BRMHS
D	Business Letter	James Humes-BRMHS	Cory Durbin-RHS	Regdricka Jones- BRMHS
E	Poetry	Myeisha Webb-BRMHS	Stephanie Rivet-BRMHS	Regdricka Jones- BRMHS
F	Prose	Jane Zhang- BRMHS	Allyson Spizale-EJHS	Courtney Gardere- EJHS
G	Personal Narrative	Sarah Jones-EJHS	Dooly Park- BRMHS	Jane Zhang- BRMHS
H	Tech. Writing	NO ENTRIES		
I	Audio Comprehension	Neal Wu- BRMHS	Oanh Truong- BRMHS	Ivan Lafayette- BRMHS
J	Proofreading	Sarah Dennis- BRMHS	Shagun Mathur- BRMHS	Oanh Truong- BRMHS
K	Vocabulary	Kayla Perez-EJHS	Neal Wu- BRMHS	Krysten York- BRMHS
L	Traditional Storytelling	Bryce Turgeon-EJHS	Myeisha Webb- BRMHS	Kayla Perez-EJHS
M	Original Storytelling	Fay Boudreaux-RHS	Cory Vincent- BRMHS	John Pierre LaFleur- BRMHS
N	Informative Speaking	Sree Yalmanfili- BRMHS	Breonne Johnson-EJHS	Sarah West-EJHS
O	News Writing	Cindy Nguyen- BRMHS	Kenisha Campbell- BRMHS	Tynisha Martin-RHS
P	Opinion Writing	Maegan Pela-EJHS	Shagun Mathur- BRMHS	Katelyn Daigle -STHS
Q	Short Story	Brittany Lassiter-EJHS	Joy Maloney-EJHS	Lucy Li- BRMHS

EJHS-EAST JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL
 BRMHS – BATON ROUGH MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL
 RHS – RIVERDALE HIGH SCHOOL
 STHS – SOUTH TERREBONNE HIGH SCHOOL



Current LCTE Board Openings

For more information or to apply, contact Jackie Jackson, LCTE President,
at jackie.jackson@nicholls.edu.

Council Notes Editor

Publishes *Council Notes*, the LCTE newsletter, four times a year. Responsible for collecting and relaying announcements, publicity, and other information. Must be familiar with desktop publishing.

Webmaster

Maintains LCTE website on a regular basis. Must have knowledge of web publishing software and/or html.

Private School Representative

Represents private school English teachers in all LCTE matters. Distributes information as necessary.

Junior High School Representative

Represents junior high/middle school English teachers in all LCTE matters. Distributes information as necessary.

2006-08 LCTE Board Contact Information
www.nicholls.edu/lcte

President

Jackie Jackson
jackie.jackson@nicholls.edu

Vice President/Program Chair

Bernard Gallagher
Bernardg@lsua.edu

Vice President Membership

Marjorie Ambrose
marjorieambrose@gmail.com

Secretary

Bridget Fortenberry
BFortenberry@ebrpss.k12.la.us

Treasurer

Cieltia Adams
cieltia@yahoo.com

College Representative

Lisa Abney
abney@nsula.edu

Secondary Representative

Susan Adams
susanadams@tpsd.org

Junior High Representative

TBA

Private School Representative

TBA

SLATE Representative

Walter Brown
walterearlb@yahoo.com

Publicity Chairperson:

Joseph Tullier
joseph.tullier@gpsh.org
choctaweagle@yahoo.com

NCTE Liaison/SCOA

Representative
Paralee Norman
Nparalee@bellsouth.net
NormanP@nsula.edu

Expo Chairperson

Libby Rodriguez
elizabeth.rodriiguez@jppss.k12.la.us

Expo Registrar/Co-Chair

Marjorie Ambrose
marjorieambrose@gmail.com

Louisiana English Journal Editor

Rocky Colavito
Colavito@nsula.edu

Council Notes Editor

Melissa Garner McDonald
melissagarner318@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Melissa Garner McDonald
melissagarner318@yahoo.com

Immediate Past President

Patricia West
pwest@ebrpss.k12.la.us
PatriciaL26@aol.com