Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers
53rd Annual Meeting

November 5-8, 2009
Charlotte, North Carolina
Marriott Charlotte City Center
Local Activities and Sights
Charlotte, NC

Mint Museum of Craft and Design
220 North Tryon Street Charlotte, NC 28202 704-337-2000
www.mintmuseum.org/

Discovery Place
Featuring IMAX Dome and Charlotte Nature Museum
301 N Tryon St Charlotte, NC 28202  704-372-6261
www.discoveryplace.org

Innovative Works Dance Production
Booth Playhouse
130 North Tryon St. Charlotte, NC 28202 704-372-1000
www.blumenthalcenter.org/default.asp?blumenthal=59&objId=1284

Misery: Theatre Charlotte
501 Queens Rd Charlotte, NC 28207 704-376-3777
www.theatrecharlotte.org/0910season.htm
Wed & Thu at 7:30 pm; Fri & Sat at 8:00 pm
Adapted by Simon Moore from the novel by Stephen King

Charlotte Epicenter
210 E Trade Suite B-120 Charlotte NC 28202
Featuring restaurants, bowling, shopping, and movies

Levin Museum on the New South
200 E 7th St Charlotte, NC 28202 704-333-1887
www.museumofthenewsouth.org/

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Upper right: Photo by Jason Tromm
Lower: Photo by James Willamor
Hotel Information

Ideally situated in the heart of Uptown Charlotte, the Four-Star Charlotte Marriott City Center hotel offers quality accommodations. The hotel is within walking distance of the city’s finest restaurants, shops, nightlife, and museums. Note that the hotel has a smoke-free policy. There are cultural and recreational activities available for the early arrival members. Please visit the Marriott Charlotte City Center website at http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/cltcc-charlotte-marriott-city-center/ for lots of information about the hotel and surrounding area.

Final Hotel Registration Date is October 7, 2009

Register online at http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/cltcc?groupCode=cgrcgra&app=resvlink&fromDate=11/5/09&toDate=11/8/09 This link will be on the ALER website, just click on it to go to the Charlotte City Center hotel website. On the right side, please verify arrival and departure dates, number of persons in the room, enter your Marriott rewards number (if you have one), and click for next page. The conference code is already in the system. You should see a room rate of $145.00 per night for single, double, triple, quadruple occupancy. Please book your room quickly as we have limited hotel space booked in the contract. Space may be sold out before the cut off date of Oct. 7, 2009.

Airport Transportation / Shuttle Service

The Charlotte Douglas International Airport is 9 miles from the hotel. There are no shuttle services at this airport. There are city cabs at the airport 24 hours a day. Set rate to all City Center locations is $25.00 one way. There is a city bus that runs every 45 minutes (cost unknown at this time).

The Marriott contracts with CLT Transport. Sedan rate is $35.00 to the hotel and $30 return to the airport. Call 704-925-0666 to make reservations.

Driving to the Conference

Take Billy Graham Parkway South to I-77. Follow I-77 North. Off I-77, take exit 10 (Trade Street). At stop light turn right onto Trade Street. Go 1 mile and hotel is on the left. From I-85 - Take I-77 South. Take Exit 10B (Trade Street East). Follow Trade St into city and hotel entrance is on the left.

Parking At the conference:

On-site parking, fee: $4 hourly, $12 daily

Valet parking, fee: $18 USD daily
**“BOOKmark the Community” Service Project**

ALER is starting a community service project to support literacy in the conference city. Members of ALER will have the opportunity to tour First Ward Elementary School and/or Seigle Avenue Partners on Thursday afternoon, read to children, and leave a book. Please consider joining ALER members to support this literacy project. Bring a new book or books you could read and leave with these organizations for use by their students.

Students served by First Ward Elementary School and the Seigle Avenue Partners live in uptown Charlotte’s First Ward community. The First Ward, which is located in uptown Charlotte among skyscrapers, mixed-use housing, theaters and museums, has been the site of segregation, desegregation, and resegregation. This school and organization work to meet the needs of students and their families, many of whom live in poverty.

First Ward Elementary School, in Charlotte’s historic First Ward community, is the site of the first school in Mecklenburg County. While approximately 80% of the students at First Ward Elementary receive free or reduced lunch, the school has developed multiple partnerships with community organizations, businesses, universities, and non-profits to help address these challenges.

Since its founding nearly a decade ago, Seigle Avenue Partners (SAP) mission has been to build hope into the lives of students and families living in Charlotte’s most fragile inner-city communities through free programming aimed at assuring school success. SAP serves this mission by providing affordable, quality afterschool programs, parent education and Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools® summer literacy programs for students and families living in poverty in Charlotte.

**Websites:**

Seigle Avenue Partners:  [http://www.seigleavenuepartners.org/](http://www.seigleavenuepartners.org/)
[http://education.uncc.edu/freedomschool/](http://education.uncc.edu/freedomschool/)

Further information will be available in the Fall Newsletter.
Sharyn McCrumb is an award-winning Southern writer best known for her Appalachian “Ballad” novels, set in the North Carolina/Tennessee Mountains, including *New York Times* Best Sellers *She Walks These Hills* and *The Rosewood Casket*. Other books include: *The Ballad of Frankie Silver, The Songcatcher, and Ghost Riders*. The Novel *St. Dale* won a 2006 Library of Virginia Award as well as the AWA book of the Year Award.

McCrumb, who was named a “Virginia Woman of History” in 2008 for Achievement in Literature, also has other honors that include: AWA Outstanding Contribution to Appalachian Literature Award; the Chaffin Award for Southern Literature; the Plattner Award for Short Story; and AWA’s Best Appalachian Novel. A graduate of UNC- Chapel Hill, with an M.A. in English from Virginia Tech, McCrumb was the first writer-in-residence at King College in Tennessee. In 2005 she was honored as the Writer of the Year at Emory & Henry College. Her novels have been translated into German, Dutch, Japanese, and Italian. She has lectured on her work at Oxford University, the University of Bonn-Germany, and at the Smithsonian Institution.

“My books are like Appalachian quilts,” says Sharyn McCrumb. “I take brightly colored scraps of legends, ballads, fragments of rural life, and local tragedy, and I piece them together into a complex whole that tells not only a story, but also a deeper truth about the culture of the mountain South.”

Opening Reception

8:30 – 10:00 p.m.  Salon D

*A convivial experience laced with the warmth for which ALER is known.*

A warm welcome for new ALER Members,
The Future of our Great Organization.

A chance to Engage with Members
who have Nurtured ALER’s Ideals.

An Opportunity to Connect with Friends.

*Please indicate attendance on the Conference Registration Form so you receive a ticket to this event.*
Title: Kid-watching, Negotiating, and Podcasting: Imagining Literacy Instruction for the 21st Century

Dr. Vivian Vasquez is an Associate Professor in the School of Education, Teaching, and Health at American University in Washington DC. Dr. Vasquez taught pre-school and public school for fourteen years prior to working in higher education. She has held appointed and elected offices in organizations including the National Council of Teachers of English, American Educational Research Association, International Reading Association, and Center for Expansion of Language and Thinking. Her honors include holding the distinction of being the only person to win both the NCTE James N. Britton Award, which she won in 2005, and the AERA Division B Outstanding Book of the Year Award in 2006. Both these awards were for her book Negotiating Critical Literacies with Young Children. Dr. Vasquez’s book, Getting Beyond ‘I Like the Book’: Creating Space for Critical Literacy in K-6 Classrooms, was an IRA Book Club selection. She currently hosts the CLIP (critical literacy in practice) Podcast located at www.clippodcast.com. Her presentation will provide a provocative, engaging view of what literacy instruction can and should be in the new century.

Readers’ Forum

This year’s conference offers a new event -- Readers’ Forum -- ALER’s spin on the popular “One Book” model used in many colleges, universities, and communities. Conference attendees are invited to read the book, Ex Libris: Confessions of a Common Reader by Anne Fadiman.

Ex Libris, Confessions of a Common Reader, is a set of eighteen well-crafted essays in which Anne Fadiman shares her love of reading and books. Whether you read one, a few, or all eighteen essays, you are certain to chuckle, make connections to your own lives as book lovers, and learn some new tidbits of literary information.

The book can be purchased at many local book stores, or through a link to Amazon.com on the ALER website www.aleronline.org. If you buy the book through the link on the ALER website a percentage of the book’s purchase price will be donated to ALER for use in the Community Service project.

There will be several informal gatherings during the conference for interested ALER members to converse about the book. We hope you will enjoy (book description). Special thanks to the ad-hoc committee that has been planning the Readers’ Forum, Susan L’Allier (chair), Dianna Baycich, Tami Craft Al-Hazza, and Janet Towell.
Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers

Division Meetings and Forums
Salon D

Teacher Education
Preparing Preservice Teachers for Developing Children’s Literacy in the 21st Century
Presenters:  Diehl Boggs, Mayra Daniel, Jill Lewis, and Susan Massey
   A short business meeting will follow the presentation.

College Reading
Best Practices in College Literacy (Annual Idea Exchange)
   A short business meeting will follow the presentation.

Adult Learning
   Presenter:  Tim Ponder   Title:   Being a Good Digital Citizen
   A short business meeting will follow the presentations.

Clinical Reading
Presenter: Jack Cassidy   Title:   What’s Hot and What’s Not in Reading Clinics
   Presenters: Mary Applegate, Robert Cooter, Susan L’Allier   Title:  Panel Examining the Applications of Three Popular IRIs in contrasting Literacy Research Contexts
   A short business meeting will follow the presentations.

CRA New Member Luncheon
Come meet colleagues over lunch

Friday, Nov. 6, 2009
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Location:  BlackFinn American Saloon
(1.5 blocks from Hotel)

Speaker:   Victoria J. Risko

You can’t afford to miss one of the most popular highlights of our conference! This year’s speaker will be Victoria J. Risko, past president of ALER, Vice President of IRA, and ALER award recipient. Join veteran members, division chairs, and journal editors in this very popular event. Network with colleagues and become life-long friends.

Cost:  $16.00 -- great salad, sandwich, side dishes, dessert, and beverage.

PrePay on Registration Form and indicate intent to participate.
FRIDAY EVENING EVENT
Levine Museum of the New South

Friday 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Culture and Collegiality

Dessert and Dance

Join ALER members at the 
award winning Levine Museum of the New South.

http://www.museumofthenewsouth.org/

The centerpiece of the Museum is the award-winning exhibition, Cotton Fields to Skyscrapers: Charlotte and the Carolina Piedmont in the New South. The exhibit features Charlotte and its 13 surrounding counties as a case study to illustrate the profound changes in the South since the Civil War. Visitors can enjoy an interactive, hands-on experience as they tour 6 different "environments" within the exhibit which features more than 1000 artifacts, images, video clips, music, and oral histories, resulting in the nation's most comprehensive interpretation of post-Civil War Southern history.

There will be a dessert reception with a DJ and Dancing.

Or just enjoy the museum as a cultural activity.

Free to all registered ALER Conference Attendees.

$10.00 for guests.

You must indicate attendance

on the Conference Registration form

for your ticket to enter the museum and the dessert / Dance.
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Joan Wink

Title: Building Literacy Communities through Critical Pedagogy

Dr. Joan Wink is a professor emeritus of education at California State University, Stanislaus in the College of Education. Throughout her career, she has focused on languages, literacy, and learning in pluralistic contexts. She has forty years of experience in various educational settings: pre-K, middle and high school, higher education, and international education.


Her presentation will demonstrate how the notions of critical literacy, grounded in critical pedagogy, provide one way of building literacy communities.

Speaker: Mona Matthews

Title: U can’t C what U don’t Know: Crossing Boundaries in Early Literacy Learning

Mona W. Matthews is Professor of Early Childhood Education at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia. Mona’s research focuses on early literacy learners. She crosses the domains of emergent literacy and child development to inform her understanding of how our youngest learners develop as oral and written language learners. Mona, along with her colleague, Caitlin Dooley, just completed a three-year longitudinal study which examined young preschool children’s emergent comprehension. ALER has been a major force in Mona’s professional development. ALER has provided an outlet for her written work, a forum for the presentation of that work, and a place to ponder ideas for future work.
Speakers:  Marino C. Alvarez & Victoria J. Risko

Title:  What Comes Before Matters In The End

Marino C. Alvarez is a professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning of the College of Education and a senior researcher and Director of the Exploring Minds Project in the Center of Excellence in Information Systems at Tennessee State University. He is the only recipient of both the Teacher-of-the-Year and the Distinguished Researcher-of-the-Year Awards at Tennessee State University. His interest in content literacy stems from his years as a middle and secondary school social studies teacher. He has served on national committees, editorial advisory boards such as Reading Research Quarterly, Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy, The Reading Teacher, the Journal of Literacy Research, and is the Past President of the College Reading Association and Past Chair of the Action Research Special Interest Group of the American Educational Research Association. His publications appear in edited chapters and in journals such as Reading Research Quarterly, Reading Research and Instruction, United Kingdom Reading Association, Teaching Exceptional Children, the National Association of Secondary School Principal, and the Baker Street Journal. Dr. Alvarez is a co-author with Bob Gowin entitled The Art of Educating with V Diagrams published by Cambridge University Press, and The Little Book: A Companion Guide to Research, published by Rowman & Littlefield.

Victoria J. Risko is a professor in the Language, Literacy, and Culture program of the Department of Teaching and Learning at Peabody College of Education, Vanderbilt University. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in literacy education. Her research focuses on literacy development for students’ experiencing literacy difficulties, reading comprehension, and teacher education. Her research is published in edited monographs and in journals, such as Literacy Research and Instruction, Reading Research Quarterly, Journal of Literacy Research, and Language Arts.

Vicki received the A. B. Herr Award (2002) and the Laureate Award (2008) from the College Reading Association, and the Distinguished Research Award (1992) from the Association of Teacher Education for her investigations of multimedia case methodology. Vicki is vice president of the International Reading Association and will become president in 2011. She was a member of IRA’s Board of Directors from 2002-2005. She also served on several IRA committees and commissions. Most recently, she was chair of the Publications Committee and the IRA Teacher Education Task Force, and was co-chair of the Reading Disabilities SIG. She is currently co-editor of the Research to Classroom column of The Reading Teacher. She was elected as a member of the Board of Directors, International Reading Association, 2002-2005. She is a past-president of The College Reading Association.
Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers

Presidential Reception
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Salon E

Come, Meet, and Congratulate our Current and Next Presidents.
See highlights of the Conference!
Join colleagues to reminisce about this conference and to plan for next year.

Please indicate attendance at the Presidential Reception for your ticket to this event.

Sunday, November 8 Highlights

ALER Town Hall Meeting
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Salon A

Come and express your ideas, opinions, and suggestions on current and future ALER practices, needs, and endeavors. Everyone is encouraged to attend.