

Reports for CATE Board of Directors Meeting February 10, 2000

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California English | [NW](#) |
Carol Jago, editor

Manuscript report, November 1999 - February 2000
Total manuscripts submitted 28
Manuscripts accepted 12
Manuscripts rejected 14
With reviewers 2

The spring issue of California English is currently in production and should be in CATE members' mailboxes by mid-March. The theme of this issue "Film and Literature, To View or Not to View" generated some very interesting and one very controversial manuscripts.

Reviewers have once again served their professional organization extraordinarily well by providing the editor with sage advice.

In the summer issue California English will feature a special collection of articles on Marlyn Whirry, California's teacher of the year. I am waiting to hear if she also wins the national teacher of the year award before running the pieces. It would be unfortunate for her to garner the title (she is one of four finalists) and for us as an organization only to congratulate her on the state award. Marlyn herself has agreed to write an essay, probably derived from the speech she gave in Sacramento.

Here are the next two calls for manuscripts. Please let me know if you have ideas for future issues.

Summer 2000
Editing for Correctness - Revising for Content
(deadline July 1, 2000)

Much to most students' chagrin, writing well means re-writing. What strategies for revision do your students use? How do you teach the fundamentals of revision? What strategies have you discovered to peer revision productive? What incentives seem to work best for getting students to re-write their work? How has technology changed the way you have students work on their papers? Which ideas for publishing student writing work best for you?

Fall 2000

Those Who Can, Teach
(deadline July 15, 2000)

In his introduction to The Norton Book of Personal Essays, Joseph Epstein (1997) writes that, "The personal essay is, in my experience, a form of discovery. What one discovers in writing such essays is where one stands on complex issues, problems, questions, subjects. In writing the essay, one tests one's feelings, instincts, thoughts in the crucible of composition." This issue of California English offers you the chance to write such a personal essay. How did you become a teacher? And why ever did you choose to be an English teacher? Did you always want to teach or did a series of lucky accidents bring you to the classroom? What can your experiences teach those who are new to the profession? What has teaching taught you?

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Convention Coordinator's Report | [NW](#) |

by Punky Fristrom

1. I recommend the approval of Akiko Morimoto as the chair of CATE 2001
2. All is ready for CATE 2000. A grateful thanks to co-chairs Angus Dunstan and Cecil Morris, as well as their key committee members. I have particularly appreciated working with Program Chair Suzanne Laughrea, Pre-convention Chair Kathy Dixon, Local Arrangement Chair Marla Sullivan and Registration Chair Susan Karpowicz. Many others will be working hard during the convention. I hope that board members will take every opportunity to commend and thank them.
3. Board responsibilities at the convention include attendance at the board meeting on Thursday, the New Teachers' Reception (Golden State AB- 6:00- 7:30 p.m. Friday), the Exhibitors' Reception (Hospitality Suite- 6:00- 7:00 p.m. Friday), Council Caucuses (Rooms at the Hyatt- see program- 7:15 a.m. Saturday), the President's Reception (Golden State AB- 6:30- 7:30 p.m. Saturday) and the Annual Business Meeting (Regency DE- 7:30 a.m. Sunday).
4. In addition board members should sign up and attend as appropriate the following. Assist at registration Thursday 7:00- 9:00 p.m. Distribute invitations and give thanks to exhibitors on Friday afternoon. Attend meal functions and sit at the reserved tables near the podium. Work in the CATE Booth. Meet in the Hospitality Suite before major functions when members of your council are being honored or to meet speaker.
5. Board members have traditionally provided gifts for exhibitors and books for new teachers at the convention. Please plan to continue doing so. Bring your books and gifts to the board meeting.
6. Convention Sites- 2001-2004
 - 2001 February 9-11
Ontario Convention Center/Doubletree/Country Suites
Ontario
 - 2002 February 15-17
Oakland Marriott and Convention Center
Oakland
 - 2003 February 14-16
Palm Springs Convention Center
Palm Springs
 - 2004 February 6-8
Town and Country

San Diego

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CATEweb | [NW](#) |

Larry Jordan, Webmaster

Since CATEweb first began in September 15, 1997 there have been much progress. I wish to thank all those who have been so helpful in obtaining various information which has made the web site a success.

During CATE 2000, I will be taking photographs to be posted on CATEweb as a photo journal of the speakers, meetings, workshops, entertainment, and most other convention activities. The plan is to cover all possible throughout the convention with the only limiting factor being time conflicts. I will be using a megapixel digital camera which allows a much shorter time to get photos posted, and although the printed quality is slightly less than a good 35mm camera, a limited number of prints can be made available for press releases and other uses. I will need a list of prints desired and whether color or B&W is best suited for your needs.

As CATE 2000 approaches, the convention part of CATEweb gets the most attention from visitors. The Board Reports are also visited quite frequently, indicating that more than just board members look them over. During the past seven days (Jan 24-30), there have been 2,186 total page requests.

I would like feedback from those printing the board reports as to the need of creating new windows [|NW|](#) to remedy problems of printing the wrong frame (pencils) and not what was intended. Each report requires a new web page and can be continued if deemed useful.

I am always open to suggestions on how to improve CATEweb or possibly to help to solve any related problem you might have. If time allows, please contact me in person sometime during the convention and I'll do my best to help.

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Policy/Censorship Chair Report | [NW](#) |
by Don Mayfield

Governor Davis' Budget Proposal

The Governor once again proposes a myriad of new programs and focus areas to provide, as he describes, "incentives for students, teachers, and schools in the area of higher expectations."

The Governor divides his new initiatives into three categories:

- Recruiting, preparing, and supporting teachers
- Rewarding student achievement and improving student performance
- Increasing the capacity of schools to meet higher expectations

Approximately \$441 million of funding for the Governor's Initiatives is from Proposition 98, but a considerable allocation--\$472 million—is from the State's General Fund in non-Proposition 98 allocations to other state agencies, including the University of California and the California State Colleges and Universities.

Teacher Recruitment and Preparation

A significant portion of the new reforms focus on teacher recruitment and the Governor's attempt to reduce the number of teachers that are on emergency credentials. About 28,500 teachers-- work with

an emergency permit rather than a regular teaching credential and that a high percentage of the teachers that are on emergency permits teach in inner city schools. They note that in Los Angeles alone, one-quarter of the city's 34,000 teaching force do not hold full teaching credentials.

The Governor's themes focus on cash awards for low-performing schools that do not have fully credentialed teachers, regional consortia to promote successful recruitment strategies, and specialized financial incentives with funding for home down payments and \$20,000 salary bonuses for those teachers that have National Board Certification and teach in low-performing schools.

The Governor also proposes significant expansion of teacher institutes and notes about 70,000 teachers will receive additional training in the budget year through these programs. He proposes Reading Institutes, English Language Learner Institutes, High School Teacher Math Institutes,

Mathematics Specialist Institute, Algebra Professional Development Institutes, and Expansion of the Subject Matter Projects administered by the University of California.

Student Achievement

The Governor also focuses on student achievement with added dollars for student scholarships and supplemental programs for students who have fallen behind in reading or math. He proposes Mathematics Instruction Academies and the California Summer School Programs in Mathematics and Science.

The Governor also proposes increased availability of Advanced Placement (AP) courses to ensure that, by the fall of 2001, "all students in California who desire to take AP courses are able to do so." One of the unique characteristics in the development of this theme is the focus on the purchase of new computers for those high schools that do not offer AP courses so that the courses may be offered on line.

Technology in Education

Technology support includes \$175 million of one-time funds to help schools purchase additional computers in the classroom, plus continuance for the fourth year of the Digital High School Program. The Governor also proposes funding to continue the expansion of school district participation in the California School Information Services (CSIS) project for electronic student data transfer.

Instructional Materials

The Governor's Budget continues significant allocations for instructional materials, most of which are at the same level as in 1999-00:

- Standardized Aligned Textbooks--The Schiff-Bustamante Instructional Materials Program--\$250 million. This will be the third year of a
 - four-year program.
 - K-12 Instructional Materials Fund--\$164.3 million
 - California Public School Library Protection Act--\$158.5 million
 - Classroom Libraries Funding--\$25 million. This program is for reading books and not textbooks.

High School Exit Exam

In January, the CDE awarded the contract for the exam items to the American Research Institute, who promised to meet the October, 2000 deadline.

At their Dec, 1999 meeting, the HSEE heard public commentary, though most of the comment on content was directed at the math portion of the test. What little comment there was on ELA focused

on the need for a writing assessment.

Academic Performance Index

The statewide results of the API were released the last week in January. Gov Davis' news release praised the API, but also attempted to defend it. It has been criticized for its narrow focus (the use of the SAT 9 only) and for its limited database (again, the use of the SAT 9 only).

California Recommended Reading List

According to a report filed by Carol Jago, this committee met in Sacramento on January 26 and 27. Significant progress has been made towards adding recently published works to the list. Hundreds of titles have been added and old, out of print titles eliminated. It was announced that the list will now not be completed until fall 2000 (spring 2000 had been the earlier completion date) as another committee chosen by Delaine Eastin will meet to vet the committee's work.

Issues yet to be determined:

- if the list will be limited to a set number of titles
- if the list will appear in print, on the web, or both
- how often the list is to be updated
- if titles on the list will have a lexile score attached
- how field review will be conducted

Committee's concerns include

- the need for more classical literature on the list
- the need for more text in the grades 3-5 selections
- the need for more contemporary drama
- the absence of the two CABE representatives as their counsel and input are sorely needed

Note from Carol: "The committee meets again on March 15 and 16 and has set a fourth meeting date for April 26 and 27. In an effort to make our representation of CATE truly representative, please let us know if you feel strongly about any of these issues."

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FACET | [NW](#) |

by President Faith Nitschke

The members of FACET were pleased to know six students in our chapter received NCTE's Achievement in Writing Awards. This is a "shared" award in that creating an atmosphere for good writing is the result of many excellent teachers' collaborative efforts.

In support of continuing this belief in the value of our students and their writing, FACET will underwrite the cost of four savings bonds as awards at the Annual Young Writers Conference which will be held in April at California State University, Fresno. This conference is open to high school students throughout the Fresno region.

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CATENet | [NW](#) |

Jim Burke, Moderator

Continued daily traffic about a range of subjects mostly focusing this last few months on the following subjects: reading, exit exam, API, and standards. While these are ongoing conversations, the evolving nature and evolving perspectives on the subjects confirm the value of CATENet as a forum where many of the leaders within our profession can publish their thoughts. Another trend we have seen in

recent months is the voice of the classroom teacher rubbing up against the consultant and professor to claim their own place at the table. It's been a lively and meaningful discussion which I assume will continue. Up next: CATENet live at CATE 2000 in Sacramento.

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Southland | [NW](#) |

Kathy Allen, President

Our newsletter, *Sunspots*, went out in January with "What's New" inside:

- Conference of the Living Tree was highly successful. It featured Sheridan Blau, Graciela Limon, and Shawn Hubler
- CATE2000 is fast approaching. We are delighted to award classroom excellence to Carol Schowalter and Joyce Bennett. We also awarded the L.A. Times Read by 9 series for advancing reading/writing instruction
- CATE2000 Creative Writing Contest entries due March 1, 2000 to Sally Delnort at P.O.Box 7637, Redlands, CA 92375
- Timely articles such as, "Re-examining the Golden State Exam" by Carol Jago, "Books on Tape" by Lanore Pearlman, "One Brick at a Time" by Kay Williams Pierce celebrating collaboration between college and high school faculties, "Reading/Language Arts Computer Programs" by Jan Almy, and "Best Titles of 1999" selected by the SCTE Board.
- Congratulations to Jim Burke for receiving NCTE's Intellectual Freedom Award and to Marilyn Whirry for her nomination as National Teacher of the Year!
- SCTE Spring 2000 will feature a field trip to the Getty. The cost of \$15 allows members to invite family and friends to join this fun-filled group on Saturday May 6th. For information contact JoAnna at (562)438-0449

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Redwood | [NW](#) |

Joan Williams, President

Redwood Council has been working on promoting the writing contest these past few weeks. We decided to provide students a variety of options this year by incorporating the "Crossing Thresholds" theme with a local genre-based contest.

We are also planning a reception in March to recognize our CATE award winners. This gives us an opportunity to promote CATE locally and to involve more teachers in understanding the various aspects of the organization.

A committee was formed to organize a conference in the fall with the cooperation of the various school districts. We hope to provide an opportunity for the local English teachers to exchange ideas since travel is frequently a problem that prevents teachers from attending the state conferences. We will begin planning in March.

Ideas for resolutions have been generated, and the chair from our council will be carrying these forward.

Redwood Council is excited about Sacramento and congratulates the convention chairs on a strong program.

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Convention Co-Chairman Angus Dustan

1. Local arrangements volunteers are receiving their final assignments as the convention rapidly approaches. We should be reminded once again that an event like this cannot take place without wonderful contributions, both large and small, from many busy people. I particularly want to thank our Program chair, Suzanne Laughrea, who taught herself to use the database, assembled a group of colleagues and produced the program.
2. As of today (2/5) Linda Scott reports that our registration number stands at 1130, due to a last minute mailing surge!
3. Board members will be receiving requests to volunteer for specific duties (registration, hospitality etc). The Convention committee thanks you in advance for your contribution.
4. We particularly encourage you to join us on Friday evening at the Golden State Museum, where, in addition to the excellent exhibit featuring many aspects of California ("The place, the People, the Politics and the Promise," to quote the brochure) you can enjoy Serenata Winds, a classical music trio, jazz with Joe Gilman and a buffet and no host bar. Be sure to purchase your drink coupons before arriving at the museum - we are not allowed to sell alcohol on state property.
5. The full Convention program is available on CATEweb.

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Capitol Council | [NW](#) |
Angus Dunstan, President

Though many CATE members and non-members within the Capitol Council area have helped to create CATE 2000, it is still not clear whether a role can be found for the council itself. Once the convention is over, we will be meeting to decide on our future direction. I will continue to serve in any way I can, but I have decided to run for Member at Large, Small Council, so I will no longer be President.

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San Diego Council | [NW](#) |
Carole LeCren, President

The Greater San Diego Council of Teachers of English held its annual Promising Practices conference on Wednesday and Thursday, December 8-9, 1999, at the Town & Country Hotel. Our keynote speakers were Ruth Nathan (who filled in for Janet Allen who was ill), Chris Crutcher, Ralph Fletcher, and Quincy Troupe. Our next big event will be our Lake Arrowhead Retreat the last weekend in April. Susan Vreeland, author of "Girl in Hyacinth Blue" will be speaking. We have distributed flyers for the CATE Creative Writing Contest and will hold a reception for our local winners on April 13. We have been busy putting together a slate for board elections. That's about it for now.

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Past President's Report | [NW](#) |
by Vincent Piro

I. NCTE Liaison Report

A. NCTE Affiliate Awards: NCTE will soon be sending award nomination forms for Affiliate Excellence, Outstanding Newsletter, Outstanding Journal, and Teachers for the Dream. As soon as I receive the forms I will complete and submit them to NCTE. I have also received NCTE's call for nominees for its Distinguished Service Award.

B. Conventions

1. NCTE Conferences 2000:

- a. Spring 2000 Conference: March 16-18, 2000 New York, New York
- b. Conference on College Composition and Communication: April 12-15 Minneapolis
- c. Annual International Shakespeare Conference: March 2-4, 2000 Washington, D.C.
- d. Whole Language Umbrella Conference: July 27-30 Nashville, TN
- e. Annual Conference: Nov 16-19 Milwaukee, Wisconsin

For a complete list of NCTE conferences, see <http://www.ncte.org>

C. Resolutions: 1999: Denver, CO

1. On Government Instruction in Classroom Pedagogy
2. On the Intervention of AACTE in English/LA Programs
3. On High Stakes Testing
4. On Bilingual Education
5. On Diversity

For a complete copy of the resolutions passed at the 1999 annual business meeting, <http://www.ncte.org/resolutions/date.html>

D. Promising Young Writer's Contest: After many failed attempts at reaching Bonnie Rooney, I decided to coordinate the PYW Contest myself. The entries have been distributed to the judges and I will receive their recommendations and forward the results to NCTE. I recommend that a Member-at-Large coordinate this program next year.

II. CATE Elections

A. The following nominations have been submitted:

1. President: Aaron Spain
2. Vice-President: no candidate
3. Member-at-Large, Small Council: Angus Dunstan, Bob Chapman
4. Member-at-Large, Unspecified: Pat Ellis, Lorraine Garcia
5. Member-at-Large, Secondary: Olga Kokino, Monica Maudet

B. Following the guidelines of our by-laws (6.20), **I can accept nominating petitions until the beginning of the annual business meeting.** The petition (6.18.13) shall have the signature of at least 15 regular members and the written approval of the nominee.

C. Schedule:

March 15: Ballot in mail (1st class)
April 8: Postmark for return ballots
April 15: Count Ballots

III. 1999 Awards

A. Classroom Excellence:

1. Barbara Larion (TUCATE)
2. Sid Forman (GSDCTE)
3. Carol Schowalter (SL)
4. Joyce Bennett (SL)
5. Sharon Yosiph Froba (CCCTE)

6. John Matthias (RCTE)
7. Gail Tompkins (FACET)

B. Award of Merit:

1. Jack Webb (GSDCTE)
2. Jan Berk (SL)
3. Margarita Luna Robles (FACET)
4. Lori Wickenhauser (CCCTE)

D. Award Committee Report:

1. Special Career Achievement Award: Fran Claggett
2. Distinguished Service Award

For award [presentation schedule](#), see the convention 2000 page on CATEWeb.

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Central Council | [NW](#) |

Caroline Caracciolo, President

Since the last report in December, Central Council has been working on membership. Within our council, each board member was allowed to give five 1/2 price memberships to new teachers. We were able to give memberships to teachers as well as student teachers. We have established positive correspondence with some of the colleges and universities within our area.

We have also spent time focusing on CATE 2000, obtaining books for the New Teacher Reception, and selecting give-aways for our hospitality suite. We are very appreciative that Linda Scott, the Registrar for the convention, will code our council members so we can place our council ribbons in their registration packets. It will be interesting to see how many members from our council will be at the convention.

Our council, with the help and guidance of our great policy chair, Matt Weeks, worked on resolutions to present to the resolutions committee before the convention. We feel that the issues we will present are very important and effect all of us as educators.

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TUCATE | [NW](#) |

Carol Surabian, President

The Tucate Council is busy preparing for the WIT conference, scheduled for March 23, 2000. We hope to have about 300 students meeting with various authors. It should be an exhilarating day.

At our last book club meeting we were joined by a student who had read our selection and wanted to share her insights as well as gain others. She was a delight to have and we hope to include more students as time goes by. Since we have all been curious about the latest craze of Harry Potter, that will be our next read. Maybe we should import some pre-teen boys to help in the discussion. They seem to really pick up on these books.

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