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Contributors to this newsletter included: Bonnie Wilkerson, Peter Hendrickson, Sherry Rose-Bond, Steve Schellenberg and George Olson.

NATD President's Column

Welcome to Chicago

Bonnie Wilkerson
NATD President 2006-07

I didn't grow up in Chicago, but I've grown into it. It's a beautiful and fascinating city that draws you in. I've learned to love it from different perspectives as I've experienced it through the lives of my children, both of whom have served lengthy tenures living in its busy environs and through the shared experiences of my friends and colleagues. I hope you have the opportunity to sample it yourself as AERA, NCME and NATD come to Chicago in April. Check out the "Bean" and its reflection of the skyline; laugh at the faces on the water sculpture cube, and examine the Frank Gehry band shell and bridge – all at Millennium Park.

Primarily, I hope you have the opportunity to participate in the enjoyable and important activities of the National Association of Test Directors during AERA and NCME. Please RSVP to the invitation in this newsletter and join us for breakfast on Monday, April 9th, 7:30 A.M. at the Hyatt Regency, Plaza Ballroom B. Pearson Assessments is hosting this breakfast for our members. Simply let me know by email that you plan to attend, and I will send you a "ticket" postcard. Our annual business meeting will be held immediately following the breakfast. During that meeting, we will have a presentation by Larry Fruth, Executive Director of the Schools Interoperability Framework Association. The framework is a technical blueprint for K-12 software that enables diverse applications to interact and share data. If you don't know the work of this group, it is an important opportunity since SIF compliance is becoming a standard in data systems. If you do know

the work of the group, it is an opportunity to obtain the latest information and have your questions answered.

Please reserve the evening of Tuesday, April 10 for dinner with NATD. This special event, jointly sponsored by our friends at Riverside, Harcourt, ETS, and Pearson is always a grand event. We can look forward to an evening of good food, conversation and the recognition of people who have made a difference in the profession. The venue is a surprise, but will be revealed on your invitation. Invitations will be sent from our sponsors to all current members.

Our group and your participation in it are so important in illuminating the issues of testing and the public policy that surrounds testing. Frankly I'm torn between my allegiance to the collegiality of our group and its important work. Gratefully, there is really no separation. NATD is a collegial community of likeminded people with a passion for creating and sustaining testing practices that are fair and accurate and that provide valuable data for informing the work of the broader educational community.

To step back and think about how important the work of our members is, look carefully at the bio-statements of our candidates for NATD office. It is through the offices of our members and people like them that data-informed and data-driven decisions are made possible. We act to insure accuracy, quality, validity and fairness. We also act to educate users and potential users of the data created. Our work is at the district level; our influence must extend far beyond. We have

an opportunity, and an obligation to be the gatekeepers of quality and to influence the conscience of the nation as tests are used to make life changing decisions for students and for schools. Join us for the NATD/NCME Joint Symposium, organized this year by President-Elect Sherry Rose-Bond, "NCLB: Fixing It, Changing It, Living with It." Joe O'Reilly of the Mesa Public Schools serves as our symposium

proceedings editor and will be publishing the collected papers.

Check the NATD website, www.natd.org for the proceedings of previous symposia and for continuous updates about times, places and opportunities at the conference. While you are online, check out one of the many Chicago websites. I hope to see you in the spring. Thank you for the work you do, and for being a member of NATD.

Invitation to Breakfast and Annual Meeting

All active National Association of Test Directors members are invited to the Annual Breakfast

Date: Monday, April 9

Time: 7:30 to 8:30 A.M.

Place: Hyatt Regency, Plaza Ballroom B (Chicago)

Host: Pearson Assessments

To attend: RSVP to Bonnie Wilkerson
wilkerson.b@nb27.org

Please respond before March 26. Bonnie will send a postcard "ticket" to you for the breakfast.

The annual business meeting of the National Association of Test Directors will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday April 9 at the Hyatt Regency in Plaza Ballroom B following the breakfast. The agenda will include the business of the group, election of officers and board members, and pertinent information.

Larry Fruth, Executive Director of the Schools Interoperability Framework Association will be our speaker following the business portion of the meeting. His topic will be an overview of the Schools Interoperability Framework.

NATD Board Elections

Our organization is more than a couple of newsletters and a meeting during AERA week. Our presence on the Joint Committee on Testing Practices and the General Advisory Committee on National Accessible Reading Assessments are examples of the ways in which our small organization can influence policy at a national level. Much of this work is done on our behalf by our Board. Please read the biographical statements of this year's candidates and submit your ballot by fax to Peter Hendrickson. **BALLOTS ARE ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER FOR ALL CURRENT MEMBERS.**

Support our Companion Organization

Often within a school district, research and evaluation leaders have unique roles and responsibilities. The meeting of the Directors of Research and Evaluation offers opportunities to hear the perspectives of our peers, learn from other district's accomplishments, and from each others' mistakes. Best of all, membership in the group and participation in the annual meeting are both free to school district Directors of Research and Evaluation. The meeting convenes the Sunday before the start of the AERA meeting in April. This year it will be held Sunday April 8 in Chicago. Special guest speakers will be Thomas Kane from John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and Michael Kean , Vice President for Public and Governmental Affairs for CTB/McGraw-Hill.

To join or find out more, visit the DRE website at www.thedre.org.

Important Survey – Please respond

Dear NATD Member,

We would like to invite you to participate in a survey of educational measurement and testing professionals. The purpose of this survey is to describe the professional activities, training, work settings and levels of compensation in today's measurement and testing field. Your responses will be used to form a comprehensive investigation of the types of activities and practices measurement professionals engage in across academic, consulting, research, government and testing organizations. The final report will be shared with the National Association of Test Directors (NATD) and the National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME), and submitted to professional meetings and journals for wider dissemination. We hope results will inform professional practices, graduate program development, and public policy.

Survey completion should take approximately 10 minutes and no identifying information will be retained. All responses will be confidential and data will be aggregated to ensure individual organizations can not be identified. A response is appreciated by March 15, 2007. If you have any questions regarding this survey or would like the survey link emailed to you, please send an email to srosenthal@collegeboard.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wayne Camara, Kristen Huff, and Sheryl Rosenthal

To begin the survey, please type this address into any Internet browser:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?A=172795438E70154>

Editor's note: It is important that those of us on the front lines of testing are included in this survey.

Biographical Statements from Candidates for NATD Board

Vice President/President Elect

Elizabeth Holtzapple, Ph.D.

Director of Research, Evaluation, Testing and Data Reporting
Cincinnati (OH) Public Schools

I have been a member of AERA for over 25 years, and first joined NATD two years ago. My job responsibilities include student assessment, accountability, research and evaluation, and data reporting. My assessment responsibilities include overseeing the development, scoring and reporting of district benchmark assessment and high school semester exams aligned to curriculum pacing documents. I also oversee the state testing programs and other standardized testing programs. I have particular interests in the responsible and appropriate uses of testing and assessment for measuring student performance, program evaluation and for teacher, school and district accountability. I currently serve on state level test reporting committees and I am active with other professionals in the state in assuring the accurate reporting of state test results for state and federal accountability.

Bonnie Strykowski, Ph.D.

Executive Director of Data and Accountability
Lorain (OH) City Schools

As the Executive Director of Data and Accountability for Lorain City Schools, I am responsible for the oversight of the district's testing and assessment programs.

Lorain City Schools is one of twenty-one urban districts in Ohio. It has a diverse population of 10,000 students. We use a variety of tests and assessments for many purposes including evaluating grant programs, informing classroom instruction, measuring achievement and assessing our special populations.

We use customized, standards based reading and math short cycle assessments in grades 2 through 10. I began an in-house scoring center for these short cycle classroom assessments, where we score short answer and extended response items. We then scan, analyze and produce reports for all 24 schools with a 48 hour turn around. We use a variety of testing formats

including online assessments and utilizing palm pilots for scoring and recording data in the Early Reading First and Reading First programs. We will be adding value added assessments this year.

I also conduct professional staff development on using test data to inform instruction and as well as present test data to the Board of Education, administrators, teachers and community groups. I provide training for principals to conduct building level professional development.

Previously, I was the Evaluation Services Director for the Columbus Public Schools and the Director of Research, Evaluation and Testing in Rockford, Illinois. I have been a SIG chair for AERA and the Director of Research and Evaluation (DRE) Chair. I am the Assistant Affirmative Action Officer for Division H of AERA. I believe that NATD is one of the pre-eminent organizations that can sustain public and professional conversations around issues of testing and public policy from individual classrooms to Capitol Hill.

Secretary

Jack Monpas-Huber, Ph.D.

Director, Assessment and Program Evaluation
Spokane (WA) Public Schools

I joined Spokane Public Schools as Director of Assessment and Program Evaluation in Fall 2006 where I oversee all administration and reporting of state testing, validation of locally developed assessment, and program evaluation activities for the district. To this role I bring an unusual background of diverse experiences. From 1993 to 2000 I studied sociology, earning both a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Science degree in the discipline, where I developed an interest in quantitative research methods and issues of formal organization and social inequalities.

In 2000 I joined Northshore School District in Bothell, Washington where I served as Assessment Data Analyst for six years. I recently completed my Ph.D. in Educational Psychology (specialization in Measurement, Statistics & Research Design) from the

University of Washington. My research interest is in educators' use of assessment data, which includes issues of measurement and validity, data-based decision making, motivation, and the sociology of education and organization.

As Secretary of NATD, I would strive to keep the organization compliant with requirements of not-for-profits and to keep members well-informed through the publication of the newsletters.

Board Member At Large

Connie L. Zumpf, Ph.D.

Assessment Manager, Office of Assessment & Evaluation
Cherry Creek (CO) Schools

I am responsible for data analysis, reporting, data use support, and staff development for large scale District and State assessment programs in a suburban district of about 50,000 students. I have been involved in the creation, development, and ongoing revision of the comprehensive assessment plan in our district since 1997. I take primary responsibility for the development and maintenance of our District's standardized electronic data access for

instructional professionals in our schools. This year, I am part of an effort to revise the school improvement planning & reporting process. My district has also undertaken a far-reaching effort to understand and address "achievement gap" issues by race/ethnicity and gender. I am fortunate to have the professional growth opportunities provided by my participation in all of these initiatives.

In recent years I served as Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President/Program Chair, and President of the Association of Colorado Educational Evaluators, as well as on a State assessment advisory group for Colorado Basic Literacy Act revisions. My work reflects my strong belief in the importance of creating clear links between instructional practice and student outcomes by providing accessible data reporting formats and creating thoughtful, effective processes for sound data use.

I believe that NATD is an important authoritative voice for best assessment practices and appropriate data use, and an equally important forum for professional discourse and growth. I am especially interested in NATD's recent initiatives and areas of involvement, and would be pleased to serve as a Board Member.

The NATD Board – 2006-07:

Bonnie Wilkerson, President

Sherry Rose-Bond, Vice-President

Peter Hendrickson, Past President

Steve Schellenberg, Secretary

George Olson, Treasurer

Philip Morse, At Large

Mike Flicek, At Large

Bonnie Strykowski, At Large

Mike Strozeski, At Large

Ray Fenton, Webmaster

Membership Renewals Have Been Mailed

By now you should have received a membership renewal notice. If you have not, contact NATD Treasurer George Olson (olsongh@appstate.edu) to renew your

membership. Only those members who are up to date will be invited to the NATD dinner. Invitations will be mailed shortly.

AERA/NCME/NATD/DRE meetings
Chicago – April 8-13, 2007

The table below reflects our current understanding of dates, times and venues for AERA, NCME, NATD and DRE.

Sun., Apr. 8	all day	DRE meeting	location TBA
Mon., Apr. 9	7:30 a.m. noon evening	NATD breakfast (7:30) and business meeting (9:00) AERA meeting begins NATD Board meeting	Hyatt Regency Plaza Ballroom B convention hotels
Tues., Apr. 10	all day	NCME meeting begins	convention hotels
	(check NCME web site for time and room)	NATD Symposium NCLB: Changing It; Fixing It; Living With It – Robert Linn, Judy Feil, David J. Kroeze, Barbara A. Boyd, Glynn Ligon – see fall newsletter on NATD web site (www.natd.org) for details	Hotel InterContinental
	evening	NATD Dinner hosted by test publishers	location TBA
Wed., Apr. 11	a.m.	NCME breakfast	convention hotels
Thurs., Apr. 12	a.m. all day evening	AERA Division H breakfast and business meeting last day of NCME meeting Division H Social	convention hotels convention hotels location TBA
Fri., April 13	all day	last day of AERA meeting	convention hotels

For more detail on the DRE, AERA and NCME schedules, consult their respective web sites – www.thedre.org, www.aera.net and www.ncme.org

The convention hotels are the Hyatt Regency Chicago, the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers, the Marriott Chicago Downtown Magnificent Mile, and the Hotel InterContinental Chicago



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