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## From the Editors

Patricia A. Edwards

Tanya S. Wright

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# From the Editors...

by **Patricia A. Edwards and Tanya S. Wright**

It is hard to believe that we have completed two years as editors of *MRJ* and that our editorship ends August 2017. The privilege of editing *MRJ*, a journal rich with history and an important mission, is an honor that we treasure. Thank you for believing in us. We hear your voices and continue to include articles that impact both teacher and student learning. We also want to reiterate that we deeply appreciate all of the wonderful comments we have received about the teacher-friendly articles included in the journal. We want to use this opportunity to introduce the new editors on the Reading, Language and Literacy faculty at Wayne State University—Dr. Kathryn “Kate” L. Roberts (Associate Professor) and Dr. Jon M. Wargo (Assistant Professor). The MSU Editorial Team is confident that Kate and Jon will continue the strong tradition we started when they begin in August 2017.



**Patricia A. Edwards**



**Tanya S. Wright**

Summer vacation is over, and that’s no laughing matter. The scent of new school supplies is in the air. It’s time to start planning for the thunderous roar of children headed back to school. The beginning of a new school year, like the dawning of a new day, reminds us that the future holds infinite possibilities. We hope that your summer was relaxing and filled with adventures and good health because you deserve it. The opportunity to refuel over the summer is a necessary component of the important work that you do. We know that you are about to begin a great school year filled with hope, vision, and excitement. As stressful as this time of year can be, however, there are plenty of things that you can do to get the school year off to a great start. We hope that reading all of the exciting and informative articles in our seventh issue of *MRJ* will help you get off to an extraordinary start.

In this seventh issue, we have included two research-to-practice articles. The first article, by Carrie Symons, addresses three fundamental principles pertaining to emergent bilinguals’ reading comprehension and provides concrete examples of how teachers can bring a linguistic orientation to meaning-making into the mainstream classroom. The second article, by Rebecca Norman, Meghan E. Bauer, and Nancy J. Benfer, focuses on using graphical devices to learn about space. For the popular “Critical Issues” section, we provide articles on adolescent literacy by Erik Skogsberg, a Michigan State University doctoral student, Dr. Vaughn Watson, an MSU Assistant Professor, and Dr. Kathleen Hinchman, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & Professor of Literacy Education at Syracuse University and also Co-Editor with Kelly Chandler-Olcott of the *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*. “Voices from Around Michigan” continues to be well-received by our readers, and in this issue we have one teacher tip article on engaging students as researchers by Lisa Kraiza (Oak Park Preparatory Academy), Delia DeCourcy (Oakland Schools ISD), and Darin Stockdill (University of Michigan) and another teacher tip article on interacting with informational text for close and critical reading by Jill Erfourth, Theresa Hasenauer, and Lorri Zieleniewski. For our seventh

issue, Brandy Archer from the Michigan Department of Education discusses MDE Grants Funding for Early Literacy Coaches.

We provide reviews of professional texts for teachers in a column titled “Must Read Texts”, which is edited by Dr. Kathy Highfield and Dr. Laura Pardo. We include a column edited by Dr. Laura Apol and four doctoral students (i.e., Lisa Domke, Ashley Johnson, Jeanne Loh, and Tracy Weippert) entitled, *For the Love of Literature*. We also include a book review column by Lynette Marten Suckow entitled *Great Lakes, Great Books*.

We encourage our readers to read updates and information about the journal by visiting the Michigan Reading Association’s page on Facebook, following @michiganreading on Twitter, and following Michigan Reading Association on Pinterest. Also, we encourage you to plan to attend the 61st Annual Conference. The conference is scheduled for the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids March 10-13, 2017. For more information, please go to <https://www.michiganreading.org/conferences/annual-conference/annual2017>.

Our journal email address is [mrj@msu.edu](mailto:mrj@msu.edu). We invite you to join the conversation by contributing to *MRJ*. Please email article submissions that are appropriate for any of the sections in our journal. We look forward to hearing from you.

We would like to again thank our fantastic editorial team of Laura Hopkins and Kristen White. We also thank Kaitlin Glause, who was our summer 2016 editorial assistant. These wonderful MSU doctoral students have been indispensable in supporting our work on this journal. We would also like to thank Laura Guzman and Michigan Reading Association President, Sean Kottke, as well as the MRA Board, for supporting our efforts.

We hope that you enjoy our seventh issue of *MRJ* and that you will continue to tell your friends and colleagues about us. Happy reading!

Warmest Regards,

Patricia A. Edwards and Tanya S. Wright  
[edwards6@msu.edu](mailto:edwards6@msu.edu)  
[tswright@msu.edu](mailto:tswright@msu.edu)

Co-Editors, *Michigan Reading Journal*

