
IN MEMORIAM



Arthur N. Applebee

His brilliance, smile, gentleness, intellect, humor, kindness, and collegiality are just some of the qualities we will miss most. The quiet, mighty presence of Arthur Applebee is painfully absent from the University at Albany and worldwide communities of literacy and language learning scholarship. Internationally renowned for his seminal scholarship in those fields, Arthur died suddenly on September 20, following a brief illness. At his retirement in August 2015, Arthur was a SUNY Distinguished Professor in the School of Education, Chair of the Department of Educational Theory & Practice, and Co-Director of the National Research Center on English Learning & Achievement.

With degrees from Yale, Harvard, and the University of London, his work focused on how children and adults learn the specialized forms of language required for success in school, life, and work. His research reframed the ways in which both scholars and practitioners think about critical issues in language learning by interconnecting reading, writing, speaking, thinking, and learning across disciplines.

Arthur was a prolific writer, publishing 25 books and monographs, over 100 journal articles and other publications over his remarkable career, many of which became classics in his field. This includes his first book *Tradition and Reform in the Teaching of English* (1974). Other especially influential books include *The Child's Concept of Story* (1978), *Writing in the Secondary School* (1981), *How Writing Shapes Thinking* (with J. Langer, 1987), *Literature in the Secondary School* (1993), and *Curriculum as Conversation* (1996). His most recent book (2013 with J. Langer) is *Writing Instruction That Works: Proven Methods for Middle and High School Classrooms*.

International, national, state, and local policymakers and educators sought Arthur out for advice on effective approaches to language and literacy education. For example, beginning in the early '70s, he advised the National Assessment of Educational Progress, helping to design, implement, interpret, and report a continuing series of evaluations of the educational attainment of U.S. students. Colleagues and graduate students, too, sought him out for advice about their dissertations and/or career options. Many report that he was "the most important influence on my career."

He spent eight years as editor of *Research in the Teaching of English*, was a past president of the National Conference on Research in Language and Literacy, and in 2004 was inducted into the Reading Hall of Fame. Other awards include the National Council of Teachers of English Russell Award for Distinguished Research in the Teaching of English, appointment as a Fellow of the American Educational Research Association, and the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence.

Arthur shared his life's work with his wife and research partner, Judith Langer; the pair were the first husband and wife to each hold the positions of Distinguished Professor, the highest rank in the State University of New York system. He was much respected and beloved as professor, colleague, collaborator, advisor, mentor, and friend for scholars and educators on the University at Albany campus and across the nation. He is missed by all.

Colleagues from the University at Albany School of Education