School of Education
THE WORLD WITHIN REACH

UNIVERSITY
AT ALBANY
State University of New York

Remembering Arthur Applebee
Our joys are greater,
Our love is deeper,
Our lives are fuller
Because you shared
Your gifts with us.
Distinguished Professor Emeritus
State University of New York
University at Albany
School of Education

Chair
Department of Educational
Theory and Practice

Co-Director
Center on English Learning
and Achievement
Arthur shared his life’s work with his wife and research partner, Judith Langer. The pair were the first husband and wife to hold the position of Distinguished Professor, the highest rank in the State University of New York system.
Transforming Traditions of Teaching and Learning: Explorations in the Development of Higher Literacies
“Writing in the Secondary School (1981)… provided a baseline for the various reform movements that were competing for attention. If we wanted to improve the teaching of writing, I argued, we needed first to understand what teachers were accustomed to doing. Rather than reform, it seemed, we needed revolution, and many scholars and teachers took up the challenge in the years that followed.”
“And most importantly, Judith Langer, who was soon to become my closest collaborator and colleague, appears in the acknowledgements after she gave an early draft of the book a harsh but constructive critique which, I had learned to say, was ‘well taken.’”
“Tradition and Reform was actually an undergraduate history paper that just kept growing...”
“This book offered an opportunity to frame curriculum in school and college in a theoretically new and interesting way - and to address again that early question of why education was a worthy field of study after all these years.”
February 21, 2013

Dr. Arthur Applebee has been selected as a Fellow of the American Education Research Association (AERA)

Established in 2007, the AERA Fellows Program honors educational researchers who have made exceptional scholarly contributions through sustained research.

Dr. Applebee has been internationally recognized as a leading authority on English language arts. His studies focus on how children and adults learn the many specialized forms of language required for success in school subjects, life and work.
Arthur Applebee

312
September 23, 2015
A message from the NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT...

“We have lost a valued colleague and long-time friend, Arthur Applebee, SUNY Distinguished Professor in the School of Education, University at Albany.

Arthur’s life-long work impacted the writing community in many ways including his work as an advisor to the National Assessment of Education Progress and the design and implementation of meaningful writing assessments for students across the country.

We are immensely grateful for Arthur’s deep understanding of writing and language learning, his commitment to developing knowledge with practitioners and scholars throughout his long and distinguished career, and his many contributions to the field that have enriched us all.”
The Reading Hall of Fame

Elected Member
Arthur Applebee

Elected to the Reading Hall of Fame by a vote of the membership for distinguished contributions to literacy research, theory and/or practice. The member is entitled to all rights and privileges associated with this achievement and to all recognition of membership in the Reading Hall of Fame.

Presented on this day May 4, 2004
at the annual meeting of the
Reading Hall of Fame
Reno, Nevada.

President
Remembering Arthur Applebee
by Alan McCorrick, a former student...

“The best part of the story, for me, was that his intellect was matched by the calm decency he displayed toward everyone around him. I never met anyone who worked with him who didn’t have high praise for his work and for his character. He was a very fine man.

He got me through the PhD. He urged me to take the job which became the center of my life for 18 years before I retired. As I sit here, I marvel at the good fortune I had to run into Arthur Applebee at just the right time. Without him, the good life I have today simply would not exist.”
Dr. Applebee was lead author of a series of English literature textbooks for grades 6 - 12 that have been widely adopted by school districts across the United States since 1992.

The author of 24 books and monographs, this was Dr. Applebee’s last book, published in 2013.
“So, as I look back across the four decades of my work, I am very comfortable in rejecting my undergraduate professors’ concerns that I would go astray in the anti-intellectual wastelands of scholarship in education.

On the contrary, the richness and complexity of the relationships among language, literacy and learning [invite] powerful theories that also have the possibility of helping students at all levels develop the high-level knowledge and skills necessary for success in school, at work and in the broader society.

And, as we all know, there is still a lot of work to do.”

Arthur Applebee
IN LOVING MEMORY

Arthur N. Applebee
1949 - 2015