

**Speaker Profiles**  
*Advancing Quality Preschool for All*  
*Sunday, March 21, 2004*

**W. Steven Barnett** is a Professor of Education Economics and Public Policy and Director of the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) at Rutgers University. His work includes research on early education and child care policy, the educational opportunities and experiences of young children in low-income urban areas, the long term effects of preschool programs on children's learning and development, and benefit-cost analysis of preschool programs and their long-term effects. Dr. Barnett earned his Ph.D. in economics at the University of Michigan. Recent publications include *Lives in the Balance*, a benefit-cost analysis of preschool education based on a 25 year study, and, with co-editor Sarane Spence Boocock, *Early Care and Education for Children in Poverty*.

**Gene I. Maeroff** is senior fellow at the Hechinger Institute on Education and the Media of Teachers College, Columbia University, where he was the director from 1996 to 2003. Previously, he was senior fellow at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching on the campus of Princeton University. His most recent book, *A Classroom of One: How Online Learning Is Changing Our Schools and Colleges*, was published in 2003 and will be released in a softcover edition in May. Altogether, he is the author, co-author, and editor of 12 books.

**John Merrow** began his career as an education reporter with National Public Radio in 1974, when he created "Options in Education." That series earned more than two dozen broadcasting awards, including the George Polk Award in 1982. From 1985 to 1990 he was education correspondent for The MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour, and in 1993 he created The Merrow Report for PBS, followed by the NPR series of the same name in 1997. In 2000 he returned to The NewsHour to provide occasional reports on education. Learning Matters, Inc., Mr. Merrow's production company, has been co-producing documentaries with the PBS series FRONTLINE since 2001. Mr. Merrow won a Peabody Award in 2001 for "School Sleuth: The Case of the Excellent School," which aired on PBS. Mr. Merrow earned a Bachelors Degree from Dartmouth College in 1964, a Masters Degree in American Studies from Indiana University in 1968, and a doctorate in Education and Social Policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 1973.

**Betsy Rogers** of Birmingham, Alabama is the 2003 National Teacher of the Year. Dr. Rogers taught at Hewitt Elementary School in Jefferson County for two years before taking time off in 1976 to raise her two sons. From 1982-84 she taught movement education and kindergarten for the Early Learning Program at the First Baptist Church in Leeds. Returning to Jefferson County Schools as a Leeds Middle School math teacher in 1984, Dr. Rogers moved the next year to Leeds Elementary where, prior to starting her first looping class, she taught first grade for five years, then second grade for seven years. Dr. Rogers holds bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education, as well as an educational specialist in elementary education degree and a doctorate in educational leadership, all from Samford University in Birmingham.

**Kirk B. Smith** is a principal of Smith Mumford & Co, a marketing consulting firm with offices in Albany, NY, and the Hudson Valley. Kirk's two decades of marketing experience span corporate, political, institutional, and public-interest assignments. His expertise encompasses quantitative and qualitative research methods, polling, campaign strategy, and mass communications theory. Before co-founding Smith Mumford in 1995, he worked for organizations in New York and Washington managing state and federal political campaigns, developing names and taglines for national advertisers, and leading significant public advocacy campaigns. Smith Mumford's work in early-education issue marketing for the Winning Beginning NY campaign received an American Marketing Association *Mark of Excellence* award in 2003.

**Dorothy S. Strickland** is the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Professor of Education at Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey. A former classroom teacher, reading consultant and learning disabilities specialist, she is a past president of both the International Reading Association and the IRA Reading Hall of Fame. Dr. Strickland has received numerous awards include IRA's Outstanding Teacher Educator of Reading Award, the 1998 recipient of the National Council of Teachers of English Award as Outstanding Educator in the Language Arts, and the 1994 NCTE Rewey Belle Inglis Award as Outstanding Woman in the Teaching of English. Dr. Strickland's publications in the field of reading/language arts include *Administration & Supervision of Reading Programs* and *Teaching Phonics Today*.