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## Passing the Torch, Again

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## Passing the Torch, Again

Before the Great Society programs, back-to-basics education, assessment testing, and more trend and educational *isms* than one would care to remember, there were a number of key college professors around the State of Michigan who volunteered time, effort, energy, and commitment to establish, nurture, and lead a fellowship of persons concerned about reading. They formed the Michigan Reading Association.

By 1960-61, the Association was five years old and well on its way, with a conference at Kellogg Center and booming school growth and expanding teacher education programs. Dr. Jean F. Hamilton was the president of MRA that year. Dr. Hamilton had been at Wayne State University a number of years, helping to train teachers for elementary grade positions. She had donated both her time and thought to the concerns of teachers about quality reading instruction.

Recently, while discussing with her the MRA presidency, I mentioned to her the joy and satisfaction of that office. She stated, "It was an honor to serve as President of the Michigan Reading Association, and a joy to pass the torch of leadership on to others."

After her presidency of MRA, she continued as a faithful steward of knowledge at Wayne State, as well as a frequent presenter at the annual MRA conference.

Jean Hamilton was an early convert to the power and importance of urban education. She loved teaching and gave herself to the preparation of those who would labor in the classrooms of Michigan.

Dr. Hamilton died on December 24, 1980. Again, she passes the torch to us with a challenge to leadership, stewardship, and teaching that reading may be the skill common to us all and that quality of life may be the heritage of all teachers.

Clarence Brock  
*Past President, MRA*