Dr. Albakry is a Professor of Applied Linguistics and an affiliate faculty in the Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program at MTSU. He has held grants and research fellowships from Fulbright, the National Endowment for the Arts, Hanban China, and the University of Connecticut's Humanities Institute. His peer-reviewed papers have appeared in numerous international journals including *Journal of Language & Literature; English World-Wide, World Englishes, Educational Theory*, and *Critical Inquiry in Language Studies*, among others. Dr. Albakry’s scholarly work generally takes up the intersection between the descriptive and prescriptive dimensions of language use, ideology in media discourse, theory and practice in translation studies, and language policies and politics in multilingual contexts.

Dr. Albakry is excited about joining the Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program and teaching Essentials of Linguistics. He also has plans about expanding the program’s course offerings. Recently he proposed a 7000 level course on multilingualism and literacy, a class he looks forward to teaching soon. By examining issues of relevance for literacy educators who need to work with linguistically and culturally diverse groups, the course conceptualizes multilingual literacies as a valued resource rather than a deficit. The course will also explore the relationship between multilingualism and literacy and the interplay of the dominant forces involved in shaping this often...
Alumni News: Davonna Thomas

After graduating with her doctorate in May 2013, Davonna adjuncted at MTSU and Motlow State Community College for one semester. She then accepted a full-time faculty position at Coastal Carolina Community College in Jacksonville, North Carolina. There, she serves as an English instructor and Developmental Reading & English (DRE) Coordinator. She helped to develop curricula, course materials, and exams for four new developmental courses in response to the North Carolina Community College System Developmental Reading & English redesign.

Davonna published a peer-reviewed article this year in which she discussed how the shift in developmental reading and writing instruction at the college level (i.e., integration, acceleration, increased rigor, etc.) is creating new, exciting opportunities for developmental instructors and librarians to collaborate. She recently co-presented at the North Carolina Library Association (NCLA) Conference, where she discussed a scaffolded approach to developmental information literacy instruction.

Fall/Spring Conferences

Upcoming Conferences

Southwest Educational Research Association (SERA), New Orleans, LA

February 10-12, 2016

Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness, Washington, D.C.

March 2-5, 2016

Calls for Papers

Association for Psychological Science, Chicago, IL

Deadline: 12/1/2015 (symposia); 1/31/2016 (posters)

Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Porto, Portugal

Deadline: Posters & Spoken Papers: 12/15/2015

Psychometric Society, Asheville, NC

Deadline: 3/1/2016
Presentations


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Presentations


Publications


Awards

Joanne Coggins received a grant for $2000.00 from APM, Inc. $995.00 of the grant was used to purchase Xcalibre 4.2 (psychometric software), and the rest helped fund travel to the 2015 Annual Conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading in Hawaii.

Congratulations to two of the Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program’s recent graduates—Dr. Rachel L. Peay Cornett and Dr. Penny Thompson—for being selected to serve on the state’s Early Literacy Council.

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Program News

Eleven new students were admitted to the program in Fall 2015.

The following students successfully completed the practicum: Spring 2015 – Zack Barnes, Kim Bell, Wencheng Hu, Heechun Moon
Summer 2015 – Laura Briggs, Joanne Coggins, Perry Louden

The program congratulates the following students for passing the preliminary examination: Casey Brasher, Joanne Coggins, Melanie Maxwell, Heechun Moon, Tyra Pickens, and Summer Talbert

Upcoming Events . . .

The Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program presents

4th Annual MTSU Literacy Research Conference

January 30, 2016
Proposal Deadline: December 5, 2015

Family Day