Dr. Tim Odegard was recently appointed as the Chairholder of the Katherine Davis Murfree Chair of Excellence in Dyslexic Studies. As Chair, his research aims to focus on the potential causes of reading disorders; in addition, his role allows him to advocate for effective interventions for struggling readers.

Dr. Odegard is a Developmental Cognitive Psychologist who, as part of his postdoctoral fellowship, completed the two-year dyslexia specialist training program at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. He is a licensed teacher of dyslexia as well as a Certified Academic Language Practitioner (CALP).

Areas of research include:

* Cognitive and Neurological Deficits Associated with Developmental Dyslexia;
* Cognitive Neuroscience;
* Learning, Memory, and Cognition;
* Cognitive Development

Dr. Odegard has served as primary investigator on several research grants, including:

* Auditory Visual Memory Conjunction Project of the Neuroimaging and Biomarkers Studies Research Protocol (January 2008-June 2010);
* Brain Connectivity in Dyslexic Children after Intensive Reading Intervention (September 2006-September 2007); and
4th Annual Literacy Research Conference

This year’s conference welcomed Dr. Doug Fuchs, Professor and Nicholas Hobbs Chair in Special Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt University, as Keynote Speaker. Dr. Fuchs’ presentation, entitled “Exploring the value of working memory training when combined with skills-based instruction in reading comprehension,” addressed the efficacy of working memory training on reading skills. His experience as a world-renowned researcher and former classroom teacher effectively addressed the diverse crowd in attendance at the conference, which included teachers, researchers, and graduate students.

Presentations at this year’s conference addressed a wide variety of topics related to reading proficiency. Spoken and poster presentations included studying reading prosody at the neuronal level, analyzing intervention effectiveness, the importance of writing instruction on literacy development, fluency assessment for older students, and the impact of music intervention on struggling readers.

Upcoming Conferences & Proposal Deadlines

Teacher Education Division of CEC  
November 9-12, 2016 Lexington, KY  
Proposals due by June 1, 2016

Northeastern Educational Research Association (NERA)  
October 26-28, 2016 Trumbull, CT  
Proposals due by June 1, 2016

Psychonomic Society  
November 17-20, 2016 Boston, MA  
Proposals due by June 1, 2016

National Title 1 Conference  
February 22-25, 2017 Long Beach, CA  
Proposals due by June 16, 2016

Linguistic Society of America (LSA)  
January 5-8, 2017 Austin, TX  
Proposals due by July 1, 2016

Mid-South Educational Research Association (MSERA)  
November 2-4, 2016 Mobile, AL  
Proposals due by July 15, 2016

Society for Research in Child Development  
April 6-8, 2017 Austin, TX  
Proposals due by September 30, 2016
**Presentations**


Gay, V. (March, 2016). The perks and pitfalls of providing co-requisite learning support. League for Innovation in the Community College, Chicago, IL.


Reed, K. N. (2016, July). The presentation of war in young adult literature: A lesson on media messages. Poster to be presented at the annual meeting of the International Literacy Association, Boston, MA.


**Sawyer-Rudler Research Fellowship in Literacy**

Dr. Diane J. Sawyer held the Katherine Davis Murfree Chair of Excellence in Dyslexic Studies from 1989 until her retirement in 2010. During that time, the TN Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia was established in 1993. Dr. Sawyer also proposed the establishment of the Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program and she served as the first director of the program.

**Casey Brasher** was recently awarded this grant for Spring 2016.

**Jennifer Cooper**, who was awarded the Sawyer-Rudler Research Fellowship in Literacy last fall, used the grant funds to purchase testing protocols to implement her research study.

The deadline to apply for the Fall grant is August 31, 2016.


**4th Annual Literacy Research Conference**

Keynote speaker Dr. Doug Fuchs presenting his research, “Exploring the value of working memory training when combined with skills-based instruction in reading comprehension.”
Alumni News: Rachel Anderberg

Rachel Anderberg graduated from the Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program in the Spring of 2013 and currently works for the Colorado Department of Education as the Early Literacy Grant Manager. The Early Literacy Grant is a state grant that provides about $4 million to struggling schools in the state. The current cohort of schools includes 30 schools that are spread across the state of Colorado, representing 15 districts and 7,315 students. Schools must select a Core program and intervention programs from a list that have been thoroughly reviewed and approved as meeting the requirements of SBRR.

Rachel oversees the entire project, ensuring that schools are in compliance with the requirements of the grant, and that they are on track to make their goals. When schools are not making progress, she works with them to develop a plan so that they can meet their goals.
Dr. Mohammed Albakry will spend part of summer, 2016 in China at the Beijing Language and Culture University on an Understanding China Fellowship awarded by the Chinese Language Council International, Hanban. In addition, Dr. Albakry was selected to be a Fulbright English Specialist Roster Candidate by the Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Washington, DC.

Dr. Cyrille Magne was recently interviewed for the MTSU On the Record radio program regarding his research on the relationship between music rhythm abilities and speech rhythm sensitivity. You can listen to the interview, “The Music of our Speech,” at www.wmot.org.

Doctoral student Leticia E Skae is part of the design group for the New Teacher Academy for Metro Nashville Public Schools. She is one of three teachers involved in the design process. In addition, Leticia has been invited to participate in the inaugural national summer Center for Teaching Quality's Value Creation Retreat.

Jennifer Parrish (pictured) and Summer Talbert collaborated across disciplines in their presentation, “Integrating science and literacy: A meta-analysis.”

Tyra Pickens, who recently defended her dissertation, presented a talk on the “Impact of sociocultural influences on the reading comprehension growth trajectories of adolescents.”

Outstanding Student Awards

Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program’s Outstanding Students for the 2015-2016 academic year:

Summer Talbert and Heechun Moon

These awards were presented at the College of Education Academic Awards Ceremony on April 19, 2016

Faculty and Student News

The Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program

Family Day/Orientation Meeting

August 20, 2016

10:00 am-2:00 pm

(mandatory for all Literacy Studies Ph.D. students)

Upcoming Events . . .

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Literacy Research Conference

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