

Ph.D. in Literacy Studies, Middle Tennessee State University

Newsletter

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

All students are required to attend the annual orientation, **August 25**, 8:30 - noon, COE.

Annual Picnic will be on Saturday, **Sept. 8**, 11 - 2.

All GA contracts must be completed and submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies by **July 15**. Please contact Angela Morrell for an appointment to complete the paperwork.

First-time GAs are required to attend one of three orientations. Contact the Office of Graduate Studies, 898-2840, to reserve a spot.

Aug. 20, 10 - 12
Aug. 21, 1 - 3
Aug. 22, 10 - 12

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Recognizing student accomplishments in 2011-2012

Conference Presentations

Two students presented at the Annual MSERA Conference last November. **Elizabeth Waters** presented her recent research in progress. **Jo Ann Marx** (Bebe) wrote, submitted and presented a proposal/abstract for the MSERA Conference with Dr. Jwa Kim and won an award in the category of new research ideas.

Two students presented at the 2011 TRA Conference. **Davonna Thomas** presented a session poster, and **Ling Wang** presented a poster entitled "ESL Vocabulary Learning and Retention Strategies."

Elizabeth Waters presented at the Conference of American Instructors of the Deaf, Tennessee Association of Middle Schools, and at the Tennessee Teachers of English to Students of Other Languages on the topic of writing and grammar instruction.

Casey Brasher presented the results from her action research project from LITS 7210 at the 2011 Annual College and Career Readiness Conference in Nashville. Casey also presented a poster at the 2012 National Association of School Psychologists conference in Philadelphia. The study examined progress-monitoring practices among Tennessee school districts using state-approved Response to Intervention (RTI) plans compared to districts still using the discrepancy model to identify students with specific learning disabilities.

Davonna Thomas presented at three additional conferences: the SCALE Read. Write. Act Virtual Conference, the AAACE Annual Conference, and the COABE Annual Conference.

Publications

Ling Wang published the article "Which is more effective for adult ESL reading and vocabulary learning: Form-focused or incidental learning?" *Tennessee Reading Teacher*, 39(1), Fall/Winter 2012.

Melissa Brock co-authored with Dr. Cyrille Magne the article "Reading acquisition and phonological awareness: Beyond the segmental level." *American Journal of Neuroscience*, 3, 10-16.

Grants

Rachel Anderberg participated in a grant awarded to the Dyslexia Center. As part of an intervention study, she worked to develop and implement some of the workshops provided by the Center. Rachel also co-authored with Dr. Stuart Bernstein a \$3,400 FRCAC grant entitled "High School Reading Tutors."

Stacey Miller assisted in the application of the Richard Siegel Foundation Grant awarded to Smyrna Primary School. The \$10,000 grant, entitled "Literacy in Motion", was for an outdoor classroom where students could move and play while simultaneously practicing academic skills.

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The program faculty would like to acknowledge students who reached significant academic milestones in spring 2012:



Stacey Miller successfully defended her dissertation entitled *Literacy Practices as Predictors of Reading Achievement* directed by Dr. Jeanne Fain and read by Drs. Cyrille Magne and Dana Fuller, and graduated with a Ph.D. in Literacy Studies on May 5, 2012.

From left to right: Drs. Fuller, Miller, Fain, Magne, Kim.

- ◆ **Rachel Anderberg** passed the preliminary examination and entered the dissertation phase of the program. Her dissertation proposal defense is on June 22, 2012.
- ◆ **Rachel Cornett** completed the program's 60-hour practicum at *Read to Succeed* (Murfreesboro, TN) under the supervision of Lisa Mitchell, Executive Director.

Student accomplishments (cont.)

MTSU 2012 Scholars Week Achievements

Jo Ann Marx (Bebe), Candice Nolan, Holly Marshall, Kimberly McKay, and Marianne Chumley collaborated on a problem based learning project (PBL) that researched the differences between Massachusetts and Tennessee in the areas of standardized tests, demographic information, curriculum standards, and teacher licensure. The poster presentation won first place in the College of Education competition. **Candice Nolan's** poster entitled "Will Common Core Make Us Standard?" won first place in the Scholars Forum. **Kyungtae Kim** received a third place prize for his research project on Multidimensional Item Response Theory.

Other Notables

Rachel Anderberg proposed a course, ELED 1001 Becoming a Paraprofessional Literacy Tutor, that was adopted by the University Curriculum Committee.

Rachel Cornett spoke at a literacy forum hosted by Read to Succeed and broadcast on a local station. Rachel was also one of thirty educators across Tennessee selected to serve as members on the Tennessee Reading Textbook Adoption Panel, which evaluates reading curriculum.

Elizabeth Waters presented to the Houston Public School District teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing on grammar and writing instruction.

Future conferences and calls for papers

IRA 58th Annual Convention, April 21- 24, 2013. Proposals are being accepted as of May 28. www.reading.org

LRA (Literacy Research Association) Conference, Dec. 4-7, 2013. Call for Papers TBA. www.literacyresearchassociation.org

International Dyslexia Association 64th Annual Conference, November 6-9, 2013. Call for Papers TBA. www.interdys.org

2013 National Reading Recovery & K-6 Classroom Literacy Conference, February 2-5, 2013. www.readingrecovery.org

Society for the Scientific Study of Reading (SSSR), July 10-13, 2013. www.triplestr.org

ASCD 2013 Annual Conference & Exhibit Show, March 16-18, 2013. www.ascd.org

AERA American Educational Research Association, April 17-May 1, 2013. Call for papers closes on July 22. Theme: "Education and Poverty: Theory, Research, Policy, and Praxis." www.aera.net

CCIRA Colorado Council International Reading Association Conference on Literacy, Feb. 6-9, 2013. www.ccira.org

Illinois Reading Recovery Center For Literacy, 2013 Comprehensive Literacy and Reading Recovery Conference, Jan. 23-25 2013. <http://www.nl.edu/rconf/>