

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

Newsletter

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Dr. Rebecca Fischer was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Fischer attended Trinity College for her undergraduate degree and she majored in Deaf Education. She later returned to academia to earn a master's degree in Aural Habilitation and Education of the Hearing Impaired from McGill College. She obtained her doctoral de-

gree in Hearing and Speech Sciences with an emphasis in Audiology from Vanderbilt University. After completing her doctoral work, she worked at the Bill Wilkerson Center to complete her certification by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and was later offered a position in Communication Disorders at MTSU. Dr. Fischer has taught for the last 16 years at MTSU and previously worked at Tennessee State University. She is by profession an audiologist and is interested in auditory processing disorders. Her research hinges on studying these processing disorders, looking at critical reading, and the hearing impaired.

Dr. Fischer has been with the Literacy Studies Ph.D. program since its inception and played a part in its development. She teaches the CDIS 6000 course

which looks at communication disorders in children and reviews current studies of communication disorders within the field of education. Dr. Fischer is passionate about teaching auditory processes because the literature connects it to dyslexia and other language processing disorders. She believes that the communication portion of this program is essential because there is a lack of knowledge in the field regarding communication disorders and how children learn to read and write. This feeds into instructional strategies, certain areas of the balanced literacy framework, and mis-labeled students in special education. More recently Dr. Fischer has been working with graduate students and staff on a project which explores clinical training for undergraduate students. Additionally, she is working with a graduate student on investigating the writing abilities of college students at MTSU.

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Student Profile: Ling Wang



I was born in Shandong Province of China, the hometown of the world-renowned educator and philosopher, Confucius, where teaching is known as one of the most glorious and respectable professions. I was so lucky to find and be admitted by our interdiscipli-

nary Literacy Studies Ph.D. program at MTSU. This is my third year in the Literacy Studies Ph.D. program. I have completed all the course work and passed the preliminary exam guided by Dr. Blackwell, Dr. Kim, and Dr. Magne. I took the research format of this exam, which is also the

GOT NEWS?

We would like to publish your news in our newsletters. Please let us know if you have published, presented or performed other newsworthy events!

Also, if you have questions you'd like answered, please email us the questions and we'll try to provide the answers in the next newsletter.

Email: dlij3z@mtmail.mtsu.edu

Annual MTSU Linguistics Olympiad

Saturday, February 1, 2014

Email Dr. Blackwell if you'd like to help out by pretesting problems or serving as a judge.

Fall Semester Dates

Fall Break 10/12-15/2013

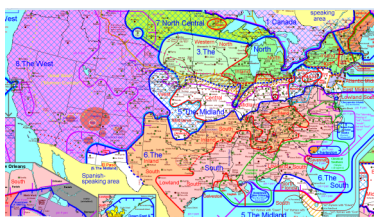
Spring Registration begins
11/11/2013

Graduation deadline
11/25/2013

Thanksgiving Break
11/28/2013 – 12/1/2013

Last Day of Classes
12/04/2013

Fall Student Activity Fee Funds
Applications are due September 18 by 4:30 PM in Student Union 330.



An Interactive map of regional American accents

<http://aschmann.net/AmEng/>

Student Profile (continued)

pilot study of my dissertation research that is related to Chinese vocabulary acquisition by adult English speakers. It not only enabled me to utilize the multi-area knowledge I learned through the course work in the program, but it is also a perfect match with my current and future career goals. Specifically, the research investigates the effects of single and dual coded instructional methods using computer-based multimedia on Chinese character learning.

I was told it is never too early to start thinking of a potential dissertation topic, so when taking the required courses and reading book chapters

and journal articles, I always considered how what I learn and read could be connected to my career field. When I found a potential topic, I searched to see how much this area had been explored and in what ways I could make my original contribution to this area. I was also told that on the journey to a Ph.D., the dissertation phase is like a rollercoaster ride — you may feel excited and ambitious at one time, but anxious, depressed and exhausted at other times. Only your genuine interest in your topic can beat all the negative moods.

My strong interest in this topic comes from my daily

teaching practice: the difficulty of college students whose native language is English learning Chinese, especially at the vocabulary level, due to the significant differences between the two writing systems. As a member of the Chinese Language Teachers Association as well as the International Reading Association, I read journal papers regularly to help me locate the unaddressed “holes” in the literature. By conducting research and submitting papers to peer-reviewed journals, and by presenting at professional conferences, I received professional feedback and comments on my work. Now I have found my topic, and I am ready for this rollercoaster” ride.

Fall/Spring Conferences

Upcoming Conferences

- * MTWP Fall Writing Conference , MTSU. September 21, 2013. www.middletnwritingproject.org
- * TN Assoc. of School Librarians, Murfreesboro, TN; Oct. 3-5, 2013
- * International Dyslexia Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA; November 6-9, 2013
- * Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston University, November 1-3, 2013
- * Society for the Neurobiology of Language Conference, San Diego, CA; November 6-8, 2013
- * MSERA Conference, Pensacola, FL; November 6-8, 2013
- * ASHA Convention, Chicago, IL; Nov. 14-16, 2013.
- * TRA Annual Conference, Murfreesboro, TN; December 8-10, 2013
- * Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, Dallas, TX; December 4-7, 2013
- * Comprehensive Literacy and Reading Recovery Conference, Chicago, IL; January 22-24, 2014
- * 35th Annual Ethnography in Education Research Forum, Philadelphia, PA; Feb. 28– Mar. 1, 2014.

Calls for Papers

- * 79th Annual Meeting of the Psychometric Society; Conference is July 22-25, 2014; Deadline not yet listed. <http://conferencing.uwex.edu/conferences/ps2014/abstracts.cfm>
- * Tennessee Reading Association Annual Conference, Murfreesboro, TN; <http://www.treads.org/>; Deadline not listed
- * Call for Chapters: Exploring Implicit Cognition: Learning, Memory, and Social-Cognitive Processes; **Deadline 09/30/2013** ; zhjin@ucdavis.edu
- * 35th Annual Ethnography in Education Research Forum; Philadelphia, PA; **Deadline 10/01/2013** <http://www.gse.upenn.edu/cue/forum>

Publications and Presentations

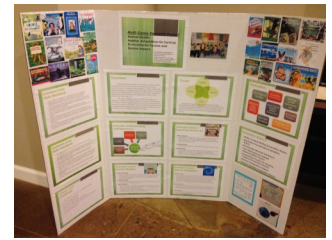
“Defining Moments: An Examination of Using Definition-Supported Authentic Texts to Improve Reading Comprehension and Increase Vocabulary Acquisition”; Jennifer Cooper; Amy Elleman (Faculty Sponsor), Literacy Studies. *Scholars Week* 2013. April 1-5, 2013

“Kindergarten Family Responses to Culturally Relevant Texts”; Katie Schrodtt; Jeanne Fain (Faculty Sponsor), Literacy Studies. IRA Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX, April 19-22, 2013.

“Development and Validation of the Korean Motor Performance Scale (KMPS) for Children with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism spectrum Disabilities”; Kyungtae Kim; Jwa K. Kim (Faculty Sponsor), Literacy Studies. *Scholars Week* 2013. April 1-5, 2013

“Becoming Reading Detectives: A Pilot Study Considering the Impact of Inferential Comprehension Instruction on Textual Understanding and Knowledge Acquisition”; Penny Thompson; Jennifer Cooper; Holly Marshall; Michelle Hasty; Amy Elleman (Faculty Sponsor) Literacy Studies. *Scholars Week* 2013. April 1-5, 2013 ****2nd Place Honors**

“Voice and Choice: Critical Response to Relevant Texts”; Michelle Hasty; Jeanne Fain (Faculty Sponsor), Elementary and Special Education and Literacy Studies. MTSU *Scholars Week* 2013. April 1-5, 2013
****2nd Place Honors**



Katie Schrodtt's poster presentation at the National IRA conference in Texas.

Announcements

Literacy Studies Graduate Student Association

The organization is looking for two representatives to attend the monthly meetings held by the SGA. Please contact Rachel Cornett if you are interested in representing the program at rlp2j@mtmail.mtsu.edu.

Faculty News

NSF Grant Awarded to Dr. Cyrille Magne

Dr. Cyrille Magne was awarded a \$121,338 two-year grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) entitled "Examining Neural Markers of Implicit Speech Rhythm during Silent Reading". Dr. Magne will investigate how linguistic rhythm affects the processing of both structure and meaning of written sentences in English. Dr. Magne will use electro-

physiological methods to measure how linguistic rhythm influences brain activity during reading. He expects to answer the question whether rhythmic information is actively used to constrain reading and whether a regular rhythm may be used as a mean to facilitate reading comprehension. The full abstract and information regarding the grant can be found at http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1261460&HistoricalAwards=false



LITS Ph.D. Program visits Korea

Dr. Jwa Kim organized a summer trip to Korea for the students in the program this past summer. The students were able to use the time to learn about

how literacy is taught in another country and use what they have learned thus far in the program to better understand how theory transforms into practice.

“Serving over 100 children with motor differences, this school was like nothing I had ever seen. I am definitely a better person and teacher for having experienced this. “ ~Katie

“What fascinates me about doing this has to do with how it connects with and impacts literacy. “~Esther

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Program News

Eleven new students joined the program in fall 2013.

The following students successfully completed the 60-hour practicum: Casey Brasher and Kyungtae Kim (spring 2013); Danica Booth, Jennifer Cooper, Holly Marshall, Bebe Marx, Andrea Milligan, Penny Thompson (summer 2013).

The program congratulates the following students for passing the preliminary examination: Danica Booth, Rachel Peay Cornett, Michelle Hasty, Missie Stugart.

Looking ahead...

Be part of our community's annual literacy event

Reading in the Schools Day

September 20, 2013

Organized by Read to Succeed



Fall Semester Information Session

**Writing the Dissertation
Proposal**

Presented by Dr. Elleman

October 7, 2013

7:30 p.m.

COE 140

If you are approaching or have reached the proposal stage of the program, please make plans to attend.

Reading in the Schools Day is an annual event. **Rutherford County elementary schools, private schools, and Murfreesboro City Schools participate in this annual event.** Over 1,000 classrooms and 20,000 children have volunteer readers in their classrooms sometime during the day. For coordinator contact information, please go to <http://readtosucceed.org/coordinators.html>.