

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

Newsletter

Faculty Profile: Jwa Kim, Ph.D., Program Director

Program Director

Jwa Kim, Ph.D.
Jwa.Kim@mtsu.edu
615-904-8419 COE 321

Practica and Teaching Assistantships

Aleka Blackwell, Ph.D.
Aleka.Blackwell@mtsu.edu
615-898-5960 PH 370

Program Secretary

Angela Morrell
Angela.Morrell@mtsu.edu
615-904-8434 COE 316

Program Email:

literacy@mtsu.edu



I was raised in Daegu, South Korea, and I graduated from Kyungpook National University with a B.Ed. degree in Educational Sciences and an M.Ed. in Educational Psychology from the same university. Then I started teaching in the Depart-

ment of Educational Sciences at my Alma Mater in 1980.

In 1984, I came to the University of Oklahoma to further my study in Quantitative Psychology. In 1989, I graduated from the University of Oklahoma in Quantitative Psychology specialized in item response theory (IRT).

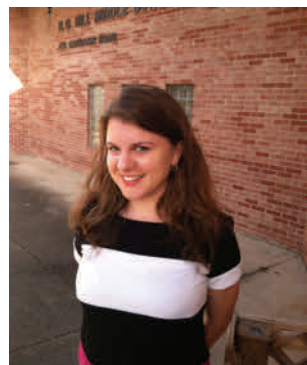
In 2004, I was part of the proposal team for the Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program. For four years, I had worked with the team to start the Literacy Studies Program. Finally in 2008, the Program had three students to start with.

My research interests include ability estimation through IRT both in uni-dimensional and multi-dimensional settings, multivariate data analysis, scale development, and structural equation modeling (SEM).

Currently I am working on model recovery in multi-dimensional IRT and Latent Growth Curve Analysis with depression data.

This is my 25th year at MTSU, and my 6th year with the Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program. I hope as the program grows that we will resolve some of the growing literacy issues within the field.

Student Profile: Danica Booth



I am not one of those people who knew instantaneously that I wanted to be a teacher. My great grandfather was a teacher in

Pennsylvania in the late 1800s. My grandmother taught parochial school for 33 years. I even taught Sunday school and gymnastics during high school and college, but I did not give in easily to what is apparently a family legacy. It took awhile, a few degrees, a few international trips, and a stint as a journalist before I realized my calling.

I was born in Wisconsin, and I was raised in Mt. Juliet, TN. I graduated high school with highest honors from Mt. Juliet High School in

1999.

I attended Austin Peay State University where I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Languages with a Minor in Communications (2002) and a Master of Arts in English (2003). After graduating, I taught as an adjunct instructor in English at Austin Peay. Then I moved to Daegu, South Korea where I taught English to Kindergarteners through high school students at YBM Sisa English Center for Children.

I decided to return to teaching in the

Inside this issue:

Faculty Profile	1
Student Profile	1-2
Conferences/Workshops	2
Publications/Presentations	3-4
Publications in the field	3-4
Faculty and Student News	3
Program News	4

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: dlj3z@mtmail.mtsu.edu

**Annual MTSU Linguistics Olympiad
February 1, 2014**

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

Spring Semester Dates

Early Registration Begins

November 11-22, 2013

January 17, 2014

Classes begin

January 21, 2014

MLK Day—No Classes

January 31, 2014

Last day to file Intent to Graduate Form for May 2014 Graduation

March 11-17, 2014

Spring Break—No Classes

March 29, 2014

Last day to file dissertation for May graduation

April 1-12, 2014

Early registration begins

May 1, 2014

Last day of classes

Student Profile (continued)

United States, and I enrolled at Trevecca Nazarene University, where I earned a Masters of Arts in Teaching. I had the fortune of find a job I love, with an administration I adore, and a faculty who provided the kind of support necessary for an idealistic first year teacher. I am now in my sixth year of teaching reading to eighth graders at H.G. Hill Middle School in Metro Nashville Public Schools. I spend a large part of every day delighted that I can stand in front of my students and guide them on their journeys as readers and writers. I also am currently working toward my

National Board Certification.

I enrolled in the PhD. in Literacy Studies program in June of 2010 and am hoping to graduate in May 2014. I was drawn to the program because of the multi-dimensional nature of the curriculum and the challenging range of requirements. I wanted to pursue a PhD because no matter what goal I have set for myself, a PhD has always been the academic finish line that I knew I wanted to cross.

My favorite moments with the program so far include being able to work with Burundi refugees as

a part of Literacy from a Sociocultural Perspective and working with the Nashville Adult Literacy Council teaching immigrant adults to read as my Practicum this summer.

Harkening back to my international endeavors, my research interests also have a global perspective. I am currently writing my dissertation which is entitled "Scaffolding Content-Area Vocabulary Instruction for EL Students." I am interested in providing research-based strategies to assist all teachers in teaching the multitude of students from a variety of cultures who sit in the modern American classroom.

Fall/Winter Conferences and Calls for Papers

Upcoming Conferences

13th Annual SLAT Conference; Feb. 28—Mar. 14, 2014; Tucson, AZ.

4th Annual Alabama Modern Languages Conference; Feb. 7-8, 2014; Tuscaloosa, AL.

27th Annual CUNY conference on Human Sentence Processing; The Ohio State University; Columbus, OH; March 13-15, 2014.

Australian Mathematical Psychology Conference 2014; Feb. 12, 2014; Australia; <http://ampc14.eventbrite.com.au/>

South Eastern Conference on Linguistics; Mar. 27-29, 2014; Myrtle Beach, SC.

2014 AERA Annual Conference; April 3-7, 2014; Philadelphia, PA.

Calls for papers

SECOL; Mar. 27-29, 2014; <http://ww2.coastal.edu/secol81/index.html>; **Deadline 12/31/2013.**

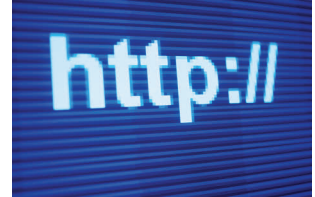
28th AAAI-14; Quebec City, Quebec, Canada; **Abstracts due 01/31/2014**; <http://www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/aaai14.php>.

Smarter, Thinking Brains for a Common Core Era; New York, NY; **Deadline 4/1/2014**; <http://www.learningandthebrain.com/Event-271/Smarter,-Thinking-Brains-for-a-Common-Core-Era/Program>.

Publications, Presentations, & Posters

Presentations

- ⇒ Maxwell, M., Schrodt, K. (September 2013). Using Picture Books to Teach Persuasive Writing. Middle Tennessee Writing Project Conference.
- ⇒ Schrodt, K. (September 2013). Using QR Codes in Common Core Writing. Middle Tennessee Writing Project Conference.
- ⇒ Fain, J., Hasty, M., Maxwell, M., Schrodt, K. (October 2013). Emergent Understandings of the Schooling Literacy Project: Diverse School Generating Close Reading & Critical Responses to Global & Informational Texts. 23rd Annual Association of Christian Education Preparation Programs (ACEPP) Conference, Memphis, TN.
- ⇒ Magne, C. (October 2013). Music Aptitude and Speech Rhythm Sensitivity. Invited Talk at the University of Memphis
- ⇒ Johnson, D. (October 2013). Finding Your Voice within Culturally Responsive Texts. 2013 Annual Kentucky Reading Association Conference, Lexington, KY.
- ⇒ Skae, L. (November 2013). Student Engagement with YA (Young Adult) Literature. Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Educational Research Association, Pensacola Beach, FL.
- ⇒ Johnson, D. (November 2013). Counter Narratives and Critical Literacy: Reflections on a year of practice. 2013 Student Coalition for Action in Literacy Education Virtual Conference.
- ⇒ Kyungtae K., Elleman, A., Kim, J., Brooks, C. (November 2013). Yearly Growth Rates on Curriculum-Based Measurement of Reading with Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Population . Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Educational Research Association, Pensacola Beach, FL.
- ⇒ Jung, S. , Herman, J., Kim, J. (November 2013). Perception Differences between Parents and Teachers of Children at-risk of Dyslexia. Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Educational Research Association, Pensacola Beach, FL.
- ⇒ Moon, H., Kim, J., Fuller, D. (November 2013). *Relationship among Personality, Religiosity, and Political Orientation using Structural Equation Modeling* . Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Educational Research Association, Pensacola Beach, FL.



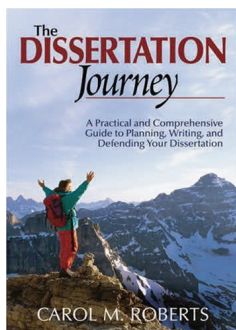
Stay Connected with past and present Literacy Studies PhD Students!

Literacy Studies page on D2L

“friend” us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/>

“Every book is a children's book if the kid can read!”
— [Mitch Hedberg](#)

The Dissertation Journey by Carol Roberts



“*The Dissertation Journey* is a no-nonsense guide by Carol M. Roberts to avoiding procrastination, wasted effort, and confusion; it outlines practical, step-by-step guidelines from conceiving a topic to publishing its results. Packed with both helpful general suggestions and specific tips, tricks, and techniques tailored to the needs of doctoral students, *The Dissertation Journey* includes checklists, sample forms, time management advice, the latest insights to making use of technology, recommendations for support groups, lists of resources for further inquiry, and much more. *The Dissertation Journey* is especially recommended reading for anyone approaching or hard at work on their own dissertation.” (Reviewer’s Bookwatch, December 2004)

Faculty and Student News

Dr. Jwa Kim completed another half marathon this fall with his fastest time yet and under two hours (1 hour, 59 minutes, and 47 seconds)!

Kyungtae Kim won graduate research honors at this year’s Annual MSERA Conference in Pensacola, FL.

Congratulations to Leticia Skae on her recent marriage.

Middle Tennessee State University
 Ph.D. in Literacy Studies Program
 MTSU Box 402
 Murfreesboro, TN - 37132

Newsletter Editors

Aleka Blackwell, aleka.blackwell@mtsu.edu

Dorian Johnson, dlj3z@mtmail.mtsu.edu

<http://www.mtsu.edu/literacy/>

Program News

Ling Wang successfully defended her dissertation “The Effects of Single and Dual Coded Multimedia Instructional Methods on Chinese Character Learning” on Wednesday, October 30, 2013, and will graduate in December 2013. Congratulations, Dr. Wang.

The *Literacy Research in Progress Conference* will take place February 15, 2014. The call for proposals will be sent out no later than December 2013, and proposal abstracts will be due January 10, 2014.

Please come along with your significant others and a dish to share to the **2013 Literacy Studies Holiday Gathering**, December 14, 2013, at 1:30 p.m., at the Foundation House.

The **8th Annual MTSU Linguistics Olympiad** will take place on February 1, 2014. Volunteers are still needed. Please contact Dr. Aleka Blackwell (aleka.blackwell@mtsu.edu).

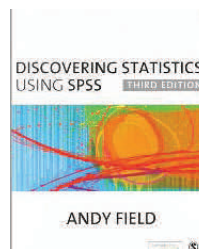
Publications, Presentations, & Posters continued...

- ⇒ Schrodtt, K., FitzPatrick, E., Fain, J. (November 2013). (Re) inventing the Research Paper with Multi-Genre Writing. National Council of the Teachers of English Annual Convention Boston, MA.
- ⇒ Pridmore, M., Magne, C., Lense, M., Gordon, R., Key, A., Dykens, E. (November 2013). Affective Priming Effect of Music on Emotional Prosody in Williams Syndrome. Fifth Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, San Diego, California.
- ⇒ Magne, C., Pridmore, M., Brunas, N. (November 2013). Influence of Word Stress Sensitivity on a Visual Lexical Decision Task. Fifth Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, San Diego, California.
- ⇒ Magne, C., Hubbard, T., Langston, W. (November, 2013). Spatial Arrangement of Vertically Related Word Pairs affects the N400 Component. Fifth Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, San Diego, California.

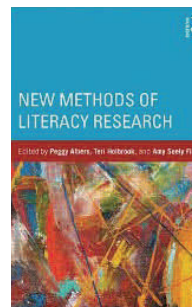
Publications

Compton, D. C., Miller, A., C., Elleman, A. M., & Steacy, L. M. (2013). Have we forsaken reading theory in the name of 'quick fix' interventions for children with RD? *Scientific Studies of Reading*.

Publications in the field



Discovering Statistics Using SPSS by Andy Field. (2013). Andy Field's comprehensive and bestselling *Discovering Statistics Using SPSS 4th Edition* takes students from introductory statistical concepts through very advanced concepts, incorporating SPSS throughout.



New Methods of Literacy Research edited by Albers, P., Holbrook, T., and Flint, A. (2013). Literacy researchers at all stages of their careers are designing and developing innovative new methods for analyzing data in a range of spaces in and out of school. Directly connected with evolving themes in literacy research, theory, instruction, and practices—especially in the areas of digital technologies, gaming, and web-based research; discourse analysis; and arts-based research—this much-needed text is the first to capture these new directions in one volume. Written by internationally recognized authorities whose work is situated in these methods, each chapter describes the origin of the method and its distinct characteristics; offers a demonstration of how to analyze data using the method; presents an exemplary study in which this method is used; and discusses the potential of the method to advance and extend literacy research.