Dr. Marcia A. Barnes, of Vanderbilt University, ushered in the 6th Annual Literacy Studies Research Conference on February 17. Dr. Barnes’ expertise in the areas of cognitive psychology and developmental neuropsychology combined to offer a fascinating keynote address. Her talk, Sources of Reading Comprehension Difficulties in Adolescents: What Do We Know and What Can We Do About It?, examined the roles of knowledge and inference on students’ comprehension abilities.

The Literacy Studies Research Conference continues to grow in both variety of presentation topics and number of attendees. This year, the nearly 200 in attendance saw presentations and posters from Literacy Studies faculty and students as well as faculty and students from several regional universities. Research presentations included topics on English-language learners and writing instruction, state policies regarding Response to Intervention for students with learning disabilities, and the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE).

**Sawyer-Rudler Research Fellowship**

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.

The 2017-2018 award recipients were Stacy Fields and Natalie Griffin.

**The fall application deadline is August 31, 2018**
Preliminary Exams

Congratulations to the following students for successfully completing preliminary examinations.

Stacy Fields—Summer 2017
Adam Rollins—Fall 2017
Kelli Wallace—Fall 2017
Victoria Gay—Spring 2018
Melissa McMahan—Spring 2018
Leticia Skae—Spring 2018
Daren Li—Summer 2018

Faculty & Student News

- The program’s Outstanding Students Award in Literacy Studies 2017-2018 was awarded to Stacy Fields and Qian Wang
- Stacy Fields and Qian Wang were awarded the Ethel Bowden Stricklin Scholarship
- Dr. Eric Oslund was awarded the Faculty Research and Creative Activity Grant to examine teacher knowledge of RTI and data-based decision making
- Daren Li was awarded a Provost Writing Fellowship for Fall 2018 and Spring 2019
- Jennifer Meyer was elected as the TESOL International CALL-IS Co-Chair Elect for a three-year term
- Tim Nelson accepted a position as an MTSU faculty member in the University Studies department
- Dr. Elleman was promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure at MTSU

Congratulations to These recent Graduates

Weon H. Kim
Summer 2017
Application of the IRT and TRT Models to a Reading Comprehension Test

Dissertation Committee
Dr. Amy M. Elleman, Chair
Dr. Ying Jin
Dr. Mohammed Albakry

Karen N. Reed
Fall 2017
Empowering School Librarians to be Literacy Instruction Leaders Through Professional Development

Dissertation Committee
Dr. Eric L. Oslund, Chair
Dr. Amy M. Elleman
Dr. Charles D. Milligan
Dr. Terri J. Tharp


Wallace, K., & Fields, S. (2018, February). Effective implementation of literacy instruction for English language learners. Presented at the 6th Annual Literacy Research Conference, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN.


*This poster earned the Clouse-Elrod Education Research Award at the COE Awards*
Upcoming Conferences & Proposal Deadlines

American Educational Research Association (AERA)  
April 5-9, 2019, Toronto, Canada  
Proposals due 7/23/18

Tennessee Reading Association  
December 2-4, 2018, Murfreesboro, TN  
Proposals due 9/ 8/18

Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program Family Day and Student Orientation

Mark your calendars! August 25, 2018, is our annual, mandatory orientation for ALL Ph.D. students.

Orientation will be held from 10am-2pm at the Foundation House  
(324 W. Thompson Ln., Murfreesboro, TN 37120)

Families are welcome to join us for a potluck lunch following orientation sessions.

Alumni News

Dr. Rachel Peay Cornett (2014) was awarded a scholarship by Alpha Delta Kappa, an international honorary organization of women educators. She completed her leadership licensure with Lipscomb University this spring.

Dr. Katie Schrodt (2015) has joined MTSU as Assistant Professor in the Department of Elementary and Special Education.

Dr. Jennifer Cooper (2016) was named Director for the Tennessee Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia.

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 regarding the program, please email us and we will try to provide the answers in the next newsletter.

Email: Amy.Elleman@mtsu.edu
       Angela.Morrell@mtsu.edu
       pkw2f@mtmail.mtsu.edu

Summer/Fall Dates

Summer Commencement  August 11
Orientation/Family Day  August 25
Fall classes begin  August 27

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