

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

Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program

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Staff Profile: Angela Morrell



Angela Morrell is the person who holds our program together.

As the program's secretary, Angela helps you along the way from the time you are interested in the program all the way until you walk across the stage at graduation.

The glue that holds us together, Angela has been with the department for seven years. During this time, she has assisted with the growth of the program as we welcomed and graduated more and more students. Responsive and caring, Angela is always there to support the Literacy Studies students in anything they need help with.

If you know anything about Angela, you know that she is a determined worker, colleague, and friend. In her personal life, she made a huge weight loss transformation by losing over 150 pounds through exercise, lifestyle changes, and a team of supportive family and friends. She has shared her inspirational story with many others, including speaking to students at MTSU, local media, seminars with her coach/trainer, and conferences. She is truly an inspiration to those at MTSU.

Because of her passion for health and wellness, she plans to pursue her master's degree in Health and Human Performance. She wants to study the latest research, information and resources available. This knowledge, coupled with her own personal experience, will be valuable tools as she continues to help others on their journeys to healthier living.

Angela has been married to Allen, a local worship leader and singer/songwriter, for 31 years. They have two adult children. Her family is no stranger to MTSU. Angela previously worked at MTSU's TN Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia and graduated from MTSU in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in nursing. Allen graduated from MTSU and is currently working on his master's degree in Liberal Arts. Both of their children are working on degrees at MTSU as well.

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:

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Summer/ Fall Semester Dates

Commencement
August 12, 2017

Summer classes
May 15-August 11, 2017

Orientation/Family Day
August 26, 2017

Fall classes begin
August 28, 2017

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5th Annual Literacy Research Conference



This year's conference welcomed Dr. Peter Sayer from the University of Texas at San Antonio. His keynote presentation, Linguistic Funds of Knowledge: Building on Bilingual Students' Home Language Resources, was of great interest for teachers who teach diverse learners.

An important topic for teachers in the Middle Tennessee area, teachers left the presentation with more knowledge and information to take back to their classrooms and districts.

Afterward, Dr. Sayer sat in on many presentations and was impressed by the research.

The 5th Annual Literacy Research Conference saw a variety of presentations in the area of literacy. Spoken presentations included a review of mindfulness and exercise in schools, embedding working memory training in an intervention program, Common Core, and a review of Specific Learning Disabilities as defined in Tennessee.

Upcoming Conferences & Proposal Deadlines

Teacher Education Division of CEC
November 7-10, 2017 Savannah, GA

Proposal deadline past

Mid-South Educational Research Association (MSERA)
November 8-10, 2017 Starkville, MS

Proposals due by July 25

Southeastern Psychological Association
March 6-9, 2018 Charleston, SC

Proposals due by October 11

Tennessee Reading Association
December 10-12, 2017

Proposals due by August 15

International Dyslexia Association
November 8-11, 2017 Atlanta, GA

Proposal deadline past

Presentations

Albakry, M. (2017). The ideal language professional: Stance and credibility in TEFL applications. Paper to be presented at the 11th Norwegian Forum of English for Academic Purposes (NFEAP) Summer Conference, Oslo, Norway.

Albakry, M. (2017). Textual production of an academic self: stance and engagement strategies in grant and fellowship proposals. Paper presented at the American Association for Corpus Linguistics (AACL) Conference, Portland, Oregon

Elleman, A. M., Hennessey, N., Steacy, L. M., Coyne-Green, A., Pritchard, E., Ashton, G., Salamone, J., Schaeffer, S., Fields, S., & Compton, D. L. (2016, November). From the printing press to Twitter: An exploratory study examining the role of knowledge transfer in comprehension for students with learning differences. Spoken presentation for the International Dyslexia Association, Orlando, FL.

Elleman, A. M., Steacy, L. M., Elmore, J., Fitzgerald, J., Borovsky, A., Compton, D. L., Coyne-Green, A., Pritchard, E., Olson, C., Fields, S., & Griffiths, N. (2017, April). Modeling the Complex Nature of Vocabulary Learning for Students with Learning Differences. Vocabulary SIG presentation at the American Education Research Association conference, San Antonio, TX.

Fields, S., Gay, V., Talbert, S., & Elleman, A.M. (2016, November). Instructional writing strategies for ELL adolescent learners: A meta-analysis. Presented at Mid-South Educational Research Association Conference, November 2, 2016, Mobile, Alabama

Kim, W & Oslund, E (2016, July). Applying testlet response theory models to a reading comprehension test. Presented at the Twenty-Third Annual Meeting of the Society for Scientific Study of Reading, Porto, Portugal.

Magne, C. (2016, November 19). Linguistic Rhythm, Musical Rhythm and Reading Skills: ERPs and Individual Differences. Poster session presented at the 12th Annual NeuroMusic Conference, Nashville, TN.

Magne, C. (2016, November 30). Music training, speech rhythm and reading skills. In D. Dickinson (Chair), Exploring the relationship between music, language and literacy. Symposium conducted at the 66th Annual Conference of the Literacy Research Association, Nashville, TN.

Parrish, J. L., Talbert, S., Elleman, A. M. (2016, July). Integrated science and literacy K-12 instruction: A meta-analysis. Poster presented at the Twenty-Third Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Porto, Portugal.

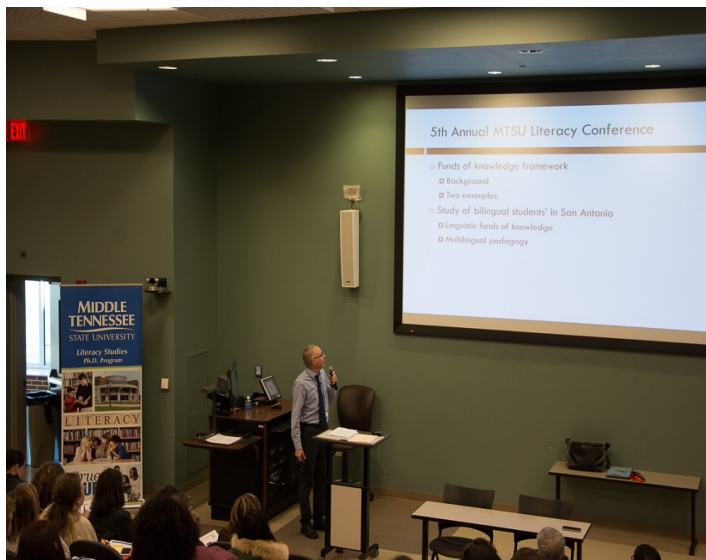
Reed, K. N. (2017, January). Super librarians: Cultivating the mindset of school librarians who go above and beyond. Paper presented at annual meeting of the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE), Atlanta, GA.

Important Reminders For Students

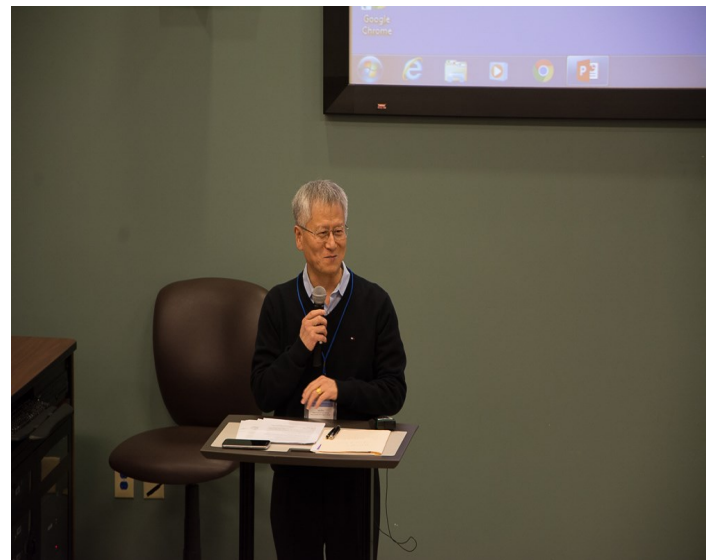
- Students wanting to complete the preliminary exam must complete the registration form during the first two weeks of the semester.
- For students planning on working on their residency requirements, don't forget to fill out the residency contract.
- When requesting a POD for LITS and DYST courses, remember to email both Angela and the professor with your M #, course number, and CRN number.
- Program Orientation is mandatory for ALL Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program students (current and new). This year it will be held on August 26, 2017 (see page 6 for more details). Mark your calendars!!

Publications

- Albakry, M. (Ed). (2017). *Translations and the Intersections of Texts, Contexts, and Politics: Historical and Socio-Cultural Perspectives*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Albakry, M. (In press). Beyond assimilation and othering: Theater translation and the translator's agency, in *Routledge Handbook of Arabic Translation*, Sameh F. Hanna, Hanem El-Farahaty & Abdel Wahab Khalifa (Eds). London & New York: Routledge.
- Elleman, A. M. (2017). Examining the Impact of Inference Instruction on the Literal and Inferential Comprehension of Skilled and Less Skilled Readers: A Meta-Analytic Review. *Journal Of Educational Psychology*.
- Elleman, A. M., & Compton, D. L. (2017). Beyond Comprehension Strategy Instruction: What's Next? *Language, Speech & Hearing Services In Schools*, 48(2), 84-91.
- Elleman, A. M., Steacy, L. M., & Compton, D. L. (2017). Child and word predictors of vocabulary acquisition during text reading among struggling readers. *Scientific Studies of Reading*, 21(2), 133-145
- Li, M. & Albakry, M. (2017). Globalism and cultural tension: Discursive constructions of the English language in China's print media. *Journal of Asian Pacific Communication*, 27.1. 1-21.
- Jantzen, M. G., Large, E. W., Magne, C. (Eds.). (2016). *Overlap of Neural Systems for Processing Language and Music*. Lausanne: Frontiers Media.
- Reed, K. N. & Albakry, M. (2017). School librarians' views of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): Perceived impact on literacy instruction role and career. *Tennessee Libraries*.. 67(1).
- Reed, K. N. & Miller, A. (In press). An examination of instructional intervention on doctoral student perceptions of scholarly communications. *Practical Academic Librarianship*.



Dr. Peter Sayer, Keynote Speaker
5th Annual Literacy Research Conference



Dr. Jwa Kim, Program Director
5th Annual Literacy Research Conference

Recent Program Graduates

Joanne Coggins

Measurement of Morphological Awareness Use of Fourth and Fifth Grade Students with Reading Difficulties

Dr. Eric Oslund, Chair
Dr. Amy M. Elleman
Dr. Cyrille L. Magne

Heechun Moon

The Influence of Implicit Speech Rhythm Sensitivity on Reading Comprehension

Dr. Cyrille L. Magne, Chair
Dr. Amy M. Elleman
Dr. Jwa K. Kim

Andrea Milligan

A Psychometric Analysis of Teacher-Made Benchmark Assessment in English Language Arts

Dr. Jwa Kim, Chair
Dr. Amy Elleman
Dr. Cyrille Magne

Sang Hee Jung

Metrical Stress Sensitivity and Reading Skills in Adults

Dr. Cyrille Magne, Chair
Dr. Amy Elleman
Dr. Aleka A. Blackwell

Holly B. Marshall

The Effectiveness of Readers' Theatre on Fluency, Comprehension, and Motivation on Primary Students

Dr. Amy Elleman, Chair
Dr. Jwa Kim
Dr. Alyson Bass
Dr. Joan Boulware

Melanie Maxwell

Examining Professional Development and Teacher's Learning About Literacy Instruction

Dr. Cyrille Magne, Chair
Dr. Terri Tharp
Dr. Joanna Durham-Barnes
Dr. Amy Elleman

Casey Brasher

Beyond Screening and Progress Monitoring: An Examination of the Reliability and Concurrent Validity of Maze Comprehension Assessments for Fourth-Grade Students

Dr. Amy Elleman, Chair
Dr. Jwa Kim
Dr. Aimee Holt

Laura Clark Briggs

A Comparison of Narrative and Expository Text Comprehension for Students at Varying Levels of SES: A Latent Growth Curve Analysis

Dr. Jwa Kim, Chair
Dr. Amy Elleman
Dr. Ying Jin

Outstanding Students & Scholarships Recipients



Upcoming Events . . .

The Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program

Family Day/Orientation Meeting

August 26, 2017

10:00 am-2:00 pm

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

Faculty and Student News

The program's outstanding students for 2016-2017 were Weon Kim and Adam Rollins (pictured next to Dr. Kim).

The following received \$500 scholarships from the Ethel Bowden Stricklin Endowed Scholarship: Tess Fotidzis, Zahya Ahmed, and Daren Li (Pictured above).

Stacy Fields was awarded a Research in Progress award at the Mid-South Educational Research Association.

Daren Li, Jwa Kim, and Zaya Ahmed were awarded second place, for graduate students in College of Education, for their presentation Analyzing Growth and Change Between ELL and non-ELL Examinees: Latent Growth Curve Modeling Applied to Reading Comprehension Test at MTSU Scholar's Day.

Leticia Skae was the runner up teacher of the year for Metro Nashville Public Schools.

Dr. Tim Odegard was awarded the Luke Waites ALTA Award of Service for his contributions to improve services for students with dyslexia.

Dr. Amy Elleman was recently awarded tenure. She will be promoted to Associate Professor this fall.

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.

The Spring 2017 award recipients were Tess Fotidzis and Collin Olson.

The fall application deadline is August 31, 2017.