

Business Name

Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program

Remote Learning in the Time of COVID-19

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Literacy Studies Ph.D.

Inside this issue:

Remote Learning	1
MSERA	2
Upcoming Conference & Proposal Dates	2
Student Awards & Accomplishments	3
2020 MTSU Literacy Research Conference	3
Presentations & Publications	4-5
Dissertation Defenses & Alumni News	6
Practicum & Preliminary Exams/Student Re- minders	7
Faculty Grants & Memorial	8

When the Spring 2020 semester first began in January, no one could have imagined the events that would later transpire. As COVID-19 cases quickly spread across the country and the rest of the world, safety measures began to call for distancing and closures. As many universities began to call for distance learning and eventual closures, Middle Tennessee State University followed suit. After an extended Spring Break in March, university administration announced that students would return home and all classes would move to a remote format for the remainder of the semester.

Students in the Literacy Studies Ph.D. program helped faculty members to move classes to remote, finished coursework for the semester, and continued research-

ing and writing. While this has been a challenging time for the MTSU community and beyond, faculty, staff, and students have continued to support one another as much as possible. All are looking forward to a decline in the spread of COVID-19, and a return to normalcy.

Stay up-to-date with MTSU information about COVID-19 at <https://www.mtsu.edu/coronavirus/>



MSERA 2019 Annual Meeting

The Mid-South Educational Research Association held its annual meeting November 6-8, 2019 in New Orleans, Louisiana. MTSU's Literacy Studies program was well represented as nine current students, two faculty members, and a host of alumni were in attendance. Three students discussed their research at roundtable talks, and the other six students presented research in progress. Nicole Crouch, Jasmine Jackson, Susan Porter, Molly Risley, Ping Wang, and Bingshi Zhang all received Research-in-Progress awards. Dr. Stacy Fields received the Outstanding Dissertation Award. In addition to the wide range of interesting research presentations, conference attendees were also treated to an inspiring keynote speech from Louisiana public schools' legend, Merlyna Valentine. She reminded researchers about the importance of perseverance and the powerful impact that their research may have on the future of educational practice and policy.



*"Investigating
today to
improve
education
tomorrow."*



Upcoming Conference & Proposal Deadlines



- National ESEA Conference will be February 8-11, 2021 in Boston, MA. Proposal deadline: **6/15/20**
- Mid-South Educational Research Association (MSERA) will be October 28-30 in Little Rock, AR. Proposals due: **7/15/20**
- American Educational Research Association (AERA) will be April 9-12, 2021 in Orlando, FL. Proposal deadline: **7/22/20**
- Association for the Advancement of Educational Research will be November 11-13, 2020 in Sanibel Island, FL. Deadline for submissions: **10/15/20**

Student Awards and Accomplishments

Jennifer Meyer was chosen as Teacher of the Year for Middle Tennessee by Tennessee Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TNTESOL) in Gatlinburg, TN, in November 2019.

Nicole Crouch, Jen Grow, and Molly Risley received the Ethel Bowden Stricklin Scholarship and Outstanding Student Award.

Jennifer Meyer was selected to receive the Sawyer-Rudler Research Fellowship in Literacy Scholarship for Fall 2019.

Barbara Adams was appointed the State Of Tennessee Department of Education's Dyslexia Advisory Council as the speech-language pathology representative, a council that **Susan Porter** and Erin Alexander also serve on.

Nicole Crouch and **Natalie Griffin** passed the Reading Specialist Praxis and are now licensed Reading Specialists for the state of Tennessee.

Bingshi Zhang, Gene Cowart, Ife Popoola, Pam Shewalter, and Nicole Crouch participated in the Online Research & Creative Activity Exposition.

2020 MTSU Literacy Research Conference

On February 29, 2020, the Literacy Studies Ph.D. program held its 8th Annual Literacy Research Conference. The conference welcomed Dr. Jeanne Wanzek as the keynote speaker, who is the Curry-Ingram Endowed Chair at Peabody College of Vanderbilt University. She is also a professor in the Department of Special Education, and conducts research on effective reading instruction and intervention for students with reading difficulties and disabilities. Her keynote address focused on making an impact with intensive reading interventions. Thank you to the conference committee members who worked for months leading up to the conference to ensure its success. Over 40 presentations were given, with the majority of these being presentations by current students, faculty, and alumni of the Literacy Studies Ph.D. program. This year's conference brought in 180 attendees.



Presentations & Publications

- Abarquez-New, J.,** & Albakry, M. (2019, November). *Incorporating multicultural literature in the secondary curriculum: Teachers' perceptions and attitudes* [Research In Progress Session]. Mid-South Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, United States.
- Barnes, Z., Elleman, A. M., Oslund, E. L., Odegard, T., & Kim, J. (2019, November). *How cognitive flexibility grows and impacts later reading achievement* [Paper presentation]. Mid-South Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, United States.
- Choi, D., Davis, T., Magne, C. L. (2019, November 21). *Cortical associates of semantic processing in children who do and do not stutter* [Paper presentation]. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention, Orlando, FL, United States.
- Crouch, N.,** & Oslund, E. L. (2019, November). *The effect of unit starters on writing and vocabulary in first grade students* [Research In Progress Session]. Mid-South Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, United States.
- Dainty, J.** (November, 2019). *Analysis of Diagnostic Information Provided by Published Tests of Decoding and Word Reading* [Paper presentation]. Annual International Dyslexia Association Reading, Literacy & Learning Conference, Portland, OR, United States.
- Elleman, A. M., Oslund, E. L., **Griffin, N. M.,** & **Myers, K. E.** (2019). A review of middle school vocabulary interventions: Five research-based recommendations for practice. *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools*, 50(4), 477-492. https://doi.org/10.1044/2019_LSHSS-VOIA-18-0145
- Elleman, A. M. (2020, January). *Searching for deeper meaning: Evidence-based strategies for improving comprehension* [Invited Presentation]. Plain Talk about Literacy and Learning, New Orleans, LA, United States.
- Elleman, A. M. (2019, July). *Relations between vocabulary and comprehension: A story of complexity* (Discussant Paper), *Aspects of vocabulary and reading comprehension* [Symposium]. Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Toronto, Canada.
- Elleman, A. M. (2019, June). *Key ingredients to improving comprehension: An administrator's guide* [Invited Presentation]. Mid-Cumberland Children's Reading Foundation 3rd Annual Conference, Lebanon, TN, United States.
- Fields, R. S., Elleman, A. M., Oslund, E. L., Clark, L., Ahmed, Z., & **Olson, C.** (2019, November). *Adapted self-regulated strategy development: An intervention for second language adolescents* [Paper presentation]. Mid-South Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, United States.
- Griffin, N. M.,** Elleman, A.M., Oslund, E. L. (2019, July). *The impact of contextual vocabulary instruction and growth mindset intervention on vocabulary, comprehension, and persistence* [Poster presentation]. Annual Meeting of the Scientific Study of Reading Annual Conference. Toronto, Canada.

Presentations & Publications Continued...

- Grow, J., & Elleman, A. M.** (2019, November). *Accelerated Reader in elementary and middle school: A review of literature* [Research in Progress Session]. Mid-South Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, United States.
- Hein, M. B., Class, K., Magne, C. L., Schmidt, G. W., Baber, G.,** (2019, May). *Individual characteristics and creativity across domains* [Paper presentation]. European Association for Work and Organizational Psychology, Turin, Italy.
- Jackson, J.** (2019, November). *Uncovering the impact of growth mindset factors on the text selection of middle school students* [Research in Progress Session]. Mid-South Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, United States.
- Mahmoodi-Shahrehabaki, M., & Oslund, E. L.** (2019, November). *A conceptual representation of the language teachers' knowledge repertoire, information literacy, self-efficacy, and burnout* [Paper presentation]. Mid-South Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, United States.
- Oslund, E.L., Elleman, A.M., & Wallace, K.** (2020, February). *Understanding teacher factor related to data-based decision making using mediation* [Paper presentation]. Pacific Coast Research Conference, San Diego, CA, United States.
- Porter, S., & Kim, J.** (2019, November). *The structure of the student risk screening scale for internalizing and externalizing behaviors (SRSS-IE) in K-4* [Research in Progress Session]. Mid-South Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, United States.
- Risley, M., & Elleman, A. M.** (2019, November). *Examining the impact of writing interventions and literacy strategy instruction on middle and high school mathematics achievement* [Research in Progress Session]. Mid-South Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, United States.
- Schrodt, K., Elleman, A. M., FitzPatrick, E. R., Hasty, M. M., Kim, J. K., Tharp, T. J., & Rector, H. S.** (2019). An examination of mindset instruction, self-regulation, and writer's workshop on kindergartener's writing performance and motivation: a mixed methods study. *Reading & Writing Quarterly: Overcoming Learning Difficulties*, 35, 427-444.
- Wang, P., & Kim, J.** (2019, July). *Measurement invariance rate between classical test theory (CTT) and item response theory (IRT)* [Poster presentation]. Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Toronto, Canada.
- Wang, P., & Kim, J.** (2019, November). *Application of item response theory (IRT) in diagnostic reading comprehension tests* [Research in Progress Session]. Mid-South Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, United States.
- Zhang, B., & Kim, J.** (2019, November). *The relationship between the intercept and the slope in upper elementary reading and mathematics using longitudinal data* [Research in Progress Session]. Mid-South Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, United States.

Dissertation Defenses

Zahya F. Ahmed

Impact of Gender and Linguistic Background on English
Language Arts Test: Differential Item Functioning

Dissertation Committee:

Dr. Jwa K. Kim, Chair

Dr. Eric L. Oslund

Dr. Amy M. Elleman

Dr. Ying Jin

Tess Fotidzis

Phonology, Prosody, and Reading Skills: A Mismatch
Negativity Experiment

Dissertation Committee:

Dr. Cyrille L. Magne, Chair

Dr. Amy M. Elleman

Dr. Laura Barquero

K. Melissa McMahan

Measurement Validation and Exploratory Research:
Measuring Teachers' Code Knowledge and Its Association
with Dyslexia Therapy Clinical Hours and Confidence to
Teach Literacy

Dissertation Committee:

Dr. Jwa K. Kim, Chair

Dr. Eric L. Oslund

Dr. Ying Jin

Alumni News

Dr. Stacy Fields was awarded the Herbert M. Handley Outstanding Dissertation Award, Mid-South Educational Research Association. (November 7, 2019).

Dr. Zachary Barnes was selected into the 2020-2021 cohort of the National Science Foundation Quantitative Research Methods for the STEM Education Scholars program. He will receive training and mentorship from researchers at the University of Maryland for a year.

Dr. Katie Schrodtt, was featured in MTSU Out of the Blue. (Fall 2019)

Check it out here....<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eztu4-UkPs&feature=youtu.be>

From MTSU On the Record: Student-Centeredness by School Librarians with Dr. Karen Reed
<https://youtu.be/2CMKg62Dp6A>

Practicum & Preliminary Exams

Practicum Completion

*The following students successfully completed
their practicum:*

Zheng Peng—*Spring, 2019*

Masoud Mahmoodi-Shahrehabaki—*Spring, 2019*

Jessica Abarquez-New—*Summer, 2019*

Nicole Crouch—*Summer, 2019*

Jasmine Jackson—*Summer, 2019*

Jennifer Meyer—*Summer, 2019*

Karilena Yount—*Summer, 2019*

Tamera Hutchings—*Fall, 2019*

Ping Wang—*Fall, 2019*

Barbara Adams—*Spring, 2020*

Shonna Phelps—*Spring, 2020*

Preliminary Exams

*The following students successfully completed
their preliminary exams:*

Masoud Mahmoodi-Shahrehabaki—*Summer, 2019*

Natalie Griffin—*Spring 2020*

Tamera Hutchings—*Spring, 2020*

Jennifer Meyer—*Spring, 2020*

Karilena Yount—*Spring, 2020*

Important Reminders for Students

- ♦ Orientation will be August 22, 2020 (Attendance is required).
- ♦ Next deadline for the Sawyer-Rudler Research Fellowship Application is August 31, 2020.
- ♦ Students who want to complete the preliminary exam must complete the registration from during the first two weeks of the semester.
- ♦ When working on residency requirements, remember the residency contract is due **before** beginning residency.

Faculty Grants & Awards

Dr. Cyrille Magne and Dr. Reyna Gordon (Vanderbilt University Medical Center) won a \$1,000,000 National Science Foundation award for a collaborative project that examines the neurobiological and genetic basis of speech rhythm sensitivity and its relationship with reading abilities.

In Memory...



Dr. Melissa McMahan



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