

# Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program

## What's Next for Researchers and Educators?

### Interim Program Director:

**Amy Elleman, Ph.D.**  
[Amy.Elleman@mtsu.edu](mailto:Amy.Elleman@mtsu.edu)  
 615-898-5688 COE 391

### Executive Aide:

**Angela Morrell**  
[Angela.Morrell@mtsu.edu](mailto:Angela.Morrell@mtsu.edu)  
 615-904-8434 COE 316

Program Email:  
[literacy@mtsu.edu](mailto:literacy@mtsu.edu)

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### Literacy Studies Ph.D.

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Over the last year and a half, both educators and researchers have been forced to adapt their traditional methods of work to accommodate new safety protocols as people around the world continued to battle the COVID-19 panic. While challenges and setbacks have resulted from the pandemic, researchers and educators have also learned a great deal. Whether they've re-examined how they deliver lessons and conduct research, or they've found new questions to ask that were once considered answered and settled, there's a new energy in the world when it comes to literacy education and research. For all the pain and suffering the pandemic has caused, it also forced more people to become problem-solvers. As a result, a great benefit in our education research community is the influx of on-demand

professional development opportunities, specialized lectures, and workshops led by current teachers for the benefit of teachers. Our own Jessica Abarquez-New hosted one such workshop for secondary teachers through ILA's fall 2020 Conference, which shifted from an in-person event to a virtual event in October. While some organizations are moving back to in-person events, many (such as ILA) will continue to offer online research presentations, at least through 2021.



## Student Awards and Accomplishments

**Jessica Dainty and Bingshi Zhang** received the Ethel Bowden Stricklin Scholarship and Outstanding Student Award.

**Jessica Dainty** was selected to receive the Sawyer-Rudler Research Fellowship in Literacy Scholarship for Spring 2021.

**Jen Grow and Molly Risley** passed the Reading Specialist Praxis and are now licensed Reading Specialists for the state of Tennessee.

**Jessica Abarquez-New** was selected to lead a secondary pathway workshop at ILA's October 2020 virtual conference.

**Jennifer François's** dissertation was chosen as the College of Graduate Studies nominee for the Council of Graduate Schools Distinguished Dissertation Award.

**Bingshi Zhang**, under the mentorship of **Dr. Jwa Kim**, took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the **College of Education Scholar's Week**.

**Nicole Crouch**, under the mentorship of **Dr. Eric Oslund** and **Dr. Amy Elleman**, won the Clouse Elrod Educational Research Award at the **University Scholar's Week Poster Presentation**.

**Pam Shewalter**, under the mentorship of **Dr. Tim Odegard**, won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the graduate division for the College of Education at the **University Scholar's Week Poster Presentation**.

**Katie Myers** was selected Teacher of the Year for East Side Elementary in Bedford County.

## Alumni News

Dr. Natalie Griffin (2020) has accepted the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Elementary & Special Education at MTSU.

Dr. Perry Loudon (2019) has accepted a position as a Lecturer for READ 1000 in the University Studies Department at MTSU.

## Presentations & Publications

### Publications

**Francois, J. & Albakry, M.** (2021). Effect of formulaic sequences on fluency of English learners on standardized speaking tasks. [In press]. *Language Learning & Technology*.

Nunnery, B., Kissel, B., & **Schrodt, K.** (2021). Writer's Workshop: Maintaining social connection in remote learning. *Childhood Education*, 97(2), 52–59. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00094056.2021.1900767>

**Schrodt, K.**, FitzPatrick, E., & **Elleman, A.** (2020). Becoming Brave Spellers. *The Reading Teacher*, 74(2), 208–214. <https://doi.org/10.1002/trtr.1923>

Smit, D. J., Andreassen, O. A., Boomsma, D. I., Burwell, S. J., Chorlian, D. B., de Geus, E. J., Elvåshagen, T., Gordon, R. L., Harper, J., Hegerl, U., Hensch, T., Iacono, W. G., Jawinski, P., Jönsson, E. G., Luykx, J. J., **Magne, C. L.**, Malone, S. M., Medland, S. E., Meijs, H., Meyers, J. L., Moberget, T., C. S., Sisodiya, S. M., Porjesz, B., Thompson, P. M., van Beijsterveldt, C. E.M., van Dellen, E., Via, M., Wright, M. J. (in press). Large-scale collaboration in ENIGMA-EEG: A perspective on the meta-analytic approach to link neurological and psychiatric liability genes to electrophysiological brain activity. *Brain and Behavior*.

### Presentations

**Francois, J.** (2021, March 25-27). Using Google sheets to scaffold writing [Invited speaker panel presentation]. In A. B. A. Relyea & M. Halaczkiwicz (Chairs) *Practical approaches to leveraging technology in L2 writing* [SLWIS & CALL-IS Intersection Panel]. TESOL International, Virtual.

Gustavson, D. E., Wang, Y., Below, J., Cox, N. J., **Magne, C. L.**, Gordon, R. L., Sixth Annual BRAIN Initiative Investigators Meeting, "Investigating the biological basis of speech rhythm sensitivity with internet-based, scalable approaches.," Virtual. (June 2, 2020).

**Magne, C. L., Fotidzis, T.**, 12th Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, "Individual differences in categorical perception of intonation contrasts predict reading comprehension skills: A behavioral and mismatch negativity (MMN) study.," Virtual. (October 22, 2020).

### Media Appearances

**Magne, C.L.** "Training the Brain," MTSU On the Record. (February 9, 2021).

# Dissertation Defenses

## **Qian Wang**

The Impacts of Student-Level and School-Level Factors on Students' Reading Achievement: An Application of Hierarchical Linear Modeling

Dissertation Committee

Dr. Jwa K. Kim, Chair

Dr. Eric L. Oslund

Dr. Amy M. Elleman

Dr. Ying Jin

## **Zheng Peng**

Culture Literacy in College English Textbooks in China: Investigating its Relationship to Students' Intercultural Competence and Teachers' Attitudes

Dissertation Committee

Dr. Mohammed Albakry, Chair

Dr. Jwa K. Kim

Dr. Amy M. Elleman

## **Masoud Mahmoodi-Shahrebabaki**

Associations among Literacy Teachers' Grade Level, Teaching Experience, Work-family conflict, Burnout, and Turnover Intentions

Dissertation Committee

Dr. Eric L. Oslund, Chair

Dr. Jwa K. Kim

Dr. Amy M. Elleman

## **Natalie Griffin**

The Impact of Growth Mindset on Vocabulary, Comprehension, Persistence, and Self-Perception

Dissertation Committee

Dr. Amy M. Elleman, Chair

Dr. Jwa K. Kim

Dr. Eric L. Oslund

## **Ping Wang**

Reader-test Interactions: An Explanatory Item Response Study on Reading Comprehension

Dissertation Committee

Dr. Jwa K. Kim, Chair

Dr. Amy M. Elleman

Dr. Eric L. Oslund

## **Jennifer François**

Impact of Multimodal Feedback and Formulaic Sequences on Improving Fluency of English Learners on Computer-Based Speaking Assessments

Dissertation Committee

Dr. Mohammed Albakry, Chair

Dr. Jwa K. Kim

Dr. R. Stacy Fields

## Dissertation Defenses, continued

### Jessica Abarquez-New

From Vague Standards to Qualitative Clarity: A Validation Study of the Multicultural Text Selection Rubric

Dissertation Committee

Dr. Katie M. Schrodt, Chair

Dr. Jwa K. Kim

Dr. Alicia Pence

### Nicole Crouch

The Effect of a Knowledge-Based Curriculum Using Science Read-Alouds on Vocabulary, Content, and Listening Comprehension Outcomes with Preschoolers

Dissertation Committee

Dr. Eric L. Oslund, Chair

Dr. Jwa K. Kim

Dr. Amy M. Elleman

## Upcoming Conferences

- Council for Learning Disabilities 43<sup>rd</sup> International Conference will be October 14-15 in Las Vegas, NV. Register here: <https://cld.wildapricot.org/event-4286956>
- Mid-South Educational Research Association (MSERA) annual meeting will be November 9-12 in New Orleans, LA. For more information or to register: <http://www.msera.org/>
- American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL) Conference will be March 19-22, 2022, in Pittsburgh, PA.

## Important Reminders for Students

- ◆ Next deadline for the Sawyer-Rudler Research Fellowship Application is September 1, 2021.
- ◆ Students who want to complete the preliminary exam must complete the registration form during the first two weeks of the semester.
- ◆ When working on residency requirements, remember the residency contract is due **before** beginning residency.



## Farewell, Dr. Kim

After more than three decades of service to MTSU, Dr. Jwa Kim retired August 1, 2021, as Director of the Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program. Under his leadership, the program grew from 6 students in 2010 to 40 students at the beginning of the 2020-2021 academic year! The program has also celebrated 45 graduates! In addition to directing the program, Dr. Kim taught a variety of courses, advised students on both personal and professional matters, pursued university support for the lovely student hub in the COE, brought together an outstanding faculty team, oversaw countless research projects, chaired numerous dissertation committees, and supported student presentations (as seen in the image below). Dr. Kim has served MTSU and the Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program well and has touched countless lives through his dedication to higher education and commitment to student success. Quantitatively, qualitatively, and in any other ways that count, Dr. Kim has made a lasting impression on all who have had the opportunity to work with him or learn from him, and we certainly wish him all the best. Thank you, Dr. Kim!



Newsletter Editors:

Molly Risley  
[mer5q@mtmail.mtsu.edu](mailto:mer5q@mtmail.mtsu.edu)

Amy Elleman, Ph.D.  
[Amy.Elleman@mtsu.edu](mailto:Amy.Elleman@mtsu.edu)

Angela Morrell  
[Angela.Morrell@mtsu.edu](mailto:Angela.Morrell@mtsu.edu)