

Fall 2013 — ALTA bul*le*tin

The Newsletter of the Academic Language Therapy Association

ALTA Conference and News of Interest

Karen Avrit, M. Ed., LDT, CALT-QI
President, ALTA

Hello everyone. I hope those of you working in the schools are off to a good year. I can't believe how quickly the holidays are approaching. ALTA has been busy growing and expanding. We now have 1759 CALTs, 258 CALPs, and 146 QIs/ICALPs, for a total of 2163 members. It is so exciting to have over 2000 members.

There have been some changes at the ALTA office. Casey Conway has moved on to new things, and [Maggie Rejino](#) has taken on the responsibility of being the new Account Executive for ALTA. Maggie is a great addition and we have her to thank for our [new Facebook page](#). If you have not "liked" the page yet, please do so.

Chris Bedenbaugh has been busy, busy, busy planning the [ALTA Annual Conference](#). The conference will be held at the Richardson Renaissance on April 25-26, 2014. She has secured a great lineup of speakers, so be sure to read the article about the conference in this newsletter.

I hope to see many of you in New Orleans and on [Facebook](#).



New ALTA Account Executive

Maggie Rejino

Hi, my name is Maggie Rejino and I am the new Account Executive for ALTA. I am happy to be working for such an inspiring organization and taking on the new challenges that go along with it. I began working with ALTA in August of this year after recently graduating from the University of North Texas with a Bachelor's Degree in English and a minor in Advertising. *The Sagebrush Review*, an arts and literary journal, has recently published two of my poems in their latest volume. Apart from my day job, I am also pursuing my Master's Degree in Journalism. I look forward to getting to know more about your organization, and I am excited to be working with all of you in the near future. Please feel free to contact me by email with your questions at any time. My email is office@altaread.org.



ALTA National Conference 2013

Christine Bedenbaugh, M.Ed., CALT, QI

The 27 Annual ALTA National Conference was held April 25-26, 2013, at the Renaissance Hotel in Richardson, Texas. On Friday morning, Dr. Vennecia Jackson, Director of Diagnostic Services at the Luke Waites Center for Dyslexia and Learning Disorders at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, was the keynote speaker and discussed the topics of **From research to PRACTICE: The Role of Executive Functions and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: How Executive Functions Roll!** She engaged the audience with her vibrant personality and vast knowledge of her topics. Following Dr. Jackson's presentations, the annual business meeting was held during lunch. Reports from ALTA officers and standing committees were given. Courtney Hoffman provided a legislative update. ALTA congratulated and extended a warm welcome to its newest member, the Ohio Chapter of ALTA.

Next, annual awards were presented. The first award presented was the Aylett R. Cox ALTA *Educator Award*, which is given to an educator who has made a significant impact in the lives of individuals with dyslexia. This year's recipient was Lenox Reed. She has spent over 20 years working with students with dyslexia, first as a CALT-QI, and then as a Founding Executive Director of the Neuhaus Education Center. Another award that was presented in honor of Aylett Cox was *The Aylett Royall Cox Memorial Scholarship*. The ALTA Foundation established a scholarship in memory of Aylett Royall Cox to continue to pay tribute to her extraordinary work. The Foundation was grateful for the opportunity to recognize Jeffie Cilano from Key Learning Center at the teaching level with a \$250 scholarship and Catie Malone from ASDEC at the therapy level with a \$500 scholarship. Their scholarships were made possible due to the generous donations received by the foundation in Aylett's memory. Another award given was the Luke Waites ALTA *Award of Service*. This award honoree is someone who has made a significant contribution to improve services received by dyslexic individuals. This year's recipient was Gladys Kolenovsky, a dedicated advocate for the rights of dyslexic students, who has made numerous contributions to the dyslexic community at large. Beverly Dooley was honored next with the Jamie G. Williams ALTA *Founders Award* as an innovative educator who has been a dedicated member in the establishment and promotion of ALTA as an organization. The next award presentation was the Dr. Lucius Waites Memorial Scholarship, which was established in the memory of Dr. Lucius Waites to continue to pay tribute to his extraordinary work. This scholarship was made possible due to the generous donations received by the Foundation in his memory. This new \$500 scholarship will be given to a Qualified Instructor in training and this year's recipient was Karen Bildner from Specialized Language Development. Dr. Waites' love of all things chocolate was celebrated immediately following the business meeting with a chocolate-themed snack break in his honor.

Dr. Brian C. Forsythe, D.O., was the afternoon speaker on the topic of **Why is my student taking this medicine?** He provided conference attendees with background information on the many uses of a specific medication and scenarios for which certain medications may be utilized. Saturday began with the presentation of the *I Believe in Myself Award*, which was given to Hailey Hendershot, who submitted the winning essay explaining why art was important to her. She was awarded with a \$250 scholarship to be utilized for art lessons. Hailey won our hearts with her enthusiastic smile, can do attitude and exceptional fashion sense. Sue Jones, from Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, lectured on the topic of **Identification of Dyslexia in Young Children**. Her willingness to share her expertise was appreciated greatly. Following Sue Jones's presentation was the Panel of Reading Success Stories, which consisted of Susan Guest, Rob Kelton, Nancy Disterlic, and Bryan Rigg. After listening to their stories of both struggles and successes, we were forever changed and reminded why we chose as our careers to assist children in reaching their intellectual potentials.

Following a delicious fajita lunch and a visit to the Exhibits Hall, Annette Stanislav presented **Students with Oral and Written Language Disorders**. She did a wonderful job sharing strategies with us, and we will remember forever the quote by Mahatma Gandhi, "Keep your thoughts positive" The conference was closed with an Alliance Question and Answer session. The ALTA conference staff is looking forward to [next year's conference](#), which will be held at the Renaissance Hotel on April 25-26, 2014. William Van Cleave will be back by popular request and will be speaking on "morphology." Bryan Rigg will be sharing the rest of his Reading Success Stories, also at your request! ALTA will also welcome Judy W. Pulice, CAE, who will give practical advice and real-world information on promoting ALTA at the state and national levels. We hope to see you then!



Beverly Dooley and Kay Peterson at 2013 ALTA Conference



Gladys Kolenovsky and Karen Avrit at 2013 ALTA Conference

ALTA Rocky Mountain Chapter Well Represented at Rocky Mountain Branch IDA-Hosted Conference

Carolyn Dutton, CALT

Numerous members of the ALTA Rocky Mountain Branch and additional ALTA members attended a conference in Beaver Creek, Colorado, October 11-12, 2013, hosted by the IDA-Rocky Mountain Branch. We

gathered for a Meet-n-Greet the night before the conference began (William Van Cleave, author of *Writing Matters* joined us) and passed out ALTA pins to be worn during the conference; the pins garnered a lot of interest from other conference attendees. Two of our members, Elaine Cheesman and Margie Gillis, delivered presentations at the conference. It was great to see so many ALTA members at the conference.



Members pictured in front of the ALTA booth are from left to right:
Kathleen Cropp Borgerson, Carolyn Dutton, Angie Nalder, Tasha Zoller, Mary Russell,
Loraine Spencer, Cara Avallone, Margie Gillis, Jodi Shike, and Sandra Giorgetta

Report from IMSLEC

Karen Vickery, Ed.D, LDT, CALT, QI
President of IMSLEC

It is a good time to reflect on numerous accomplishments of the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC), and at the core of these accomplishments is the commitment of professionals involved in every part of our organization. The board, executive committee, and other committees have worked tirelessly to continue this important work. This year following an independent program review, the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) recognized the IMSLEC for meeting IDA's, "*Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading.*" As a result of the review of IMSLEC's accreditation process, all of the courses accredited by IMSLEC are recognized by IDA. IMSLEC has earned a reputation as an organization that strives to help others improve the field of multisensory structured language education through meeting high standards and adhering to a strong set of principles of instruction. This is evident in the quality of the teachers

and therapists trained by IMSLEC accredited courses. As the number of IMSLEC-accredited courses grows, so do the learning opportunities for students in many parts of the United States and beyond.

ALTA Chapter Development

Jean A. Colner CALT, C/AOGPE, ICALP
ALTA Chapter Chair

As ALTA expands into other regions of the nation, we encourage our members to form local ALTA chapters. Currently, we have the ALTA Arkansas Chapter, ALTA Rocky Mountain Chapter, ALTA New York Chapter, ALTA Mississippi Chapter, and most recently the ALTA Ohio Chapter.

Regional ALTA Chapters are formed to provide local collegial support and professional development opportunities for continuing education credit. All ALTA members are required to log CEU hours annually to remain current in our field. By hosting regional Professional Development (PD) seminars, workshops and/or conferences, we offer a valuable service for our local ALTA members. We also raise community awareness about our national professional certifying organization.

The ALTA Ohio Chapter was officially recognized at ALTA's 2013 annual spring conference. Our Chapter's officers, Peg Hollenback, Kara Lee, and Jean Colner, formed a steering committee in August 2012. We followed the [procedures for chapter development](#). In November 2012, we hosted an ALTA informational display at our local IDA branch Dyslexia Community Fair event. Our ALTA Ohio Chapter sponsored two successful PD seminars in January and June of this year. Since 2007, Ohio has grown from one ALTA member to 55 ALTA members today. We hope to continue this growth trend and to provide high quality professional support for Ohio's ALTA members.



ALTA Ohio Chapter officers (left to right):

Vice President Peg Hollenback, CALP; President Jean Colner, CALT, ICALP; and Secretary Kara Lee, CALP

ALTA Mississippi Chapter — News from the Hospitality State

Terri Broome, Ed.S, NBCT, LDT, CALT, QI

The ALTA Mississippi Chapter began organizational work in July 2007, with the help of Kay Peterson and Barbara Fox from Dallas, Texas, and Mitti Bilbo, our first President, from Brookhaven, Mississippi. We became an official established chapter in February 2012. We began with 15 members and have grown to 25 members. We are expecting to grow quickly with many new Mississippians graduating from our two Master's Degree Programs every year and becoming Certified Academic Language Therapists.

The Mississippi Chapter meets twice a year at Mississippi College, which is centrally located in the state. During our meetings we have been fortunate to have speakers such as Karen Avrit, ALTA President, Kay Peterson, Past ALTA President, William Van Cleave, a nationally recognized speaker specializing in morphology and written expression, and Robin Lemonis, Dyslexia Coordinator for the Mississippi Department of Education. Our members are active and involved in promoting dyslexia awareness and providing instruction for public school districts, private schools, and clinics throughout the state. Several of our members have opened their own practices.

Our latest endeavor was to promote the Mississippi College Dyslexia Education and Diagnostic Center's fall dyslexia seminar. Several of our members who are dispersed throughout the state contacted their local radio

stations and provided them with information about our organization, dyslexia in general, and the seminar's date, time, and location. The future looks bright in Mississippi for students with dyslexia. We are honored to be an official chapter and look forward to bonding as professionals who maintain the highest standards of commitment to the profession and ALTA.