

Spring 2013 — ALTA bul*le*tin

The Newsletter of the Academic Language Therapy Association

ALTA at 50th Annual International Learning Disabilities Association (LDA) Conference

Janet Flory, MA, LDT, CALT, QI

ALTA was represented at the 50th Annual International Learning Disabilities Association (LDA) Conference held in downtown San Antonio February 13-16, 2013. Participants were able to visit the ALTA booth in the Exhibit Hall between sessions during the three-day conference. Visitors were greeted by Janet Flory of Scottish Rite Learning Center of South Texas, Janice Robson of Scottish Rite Dyslexia Center of Austin, and Mary Wines of Midwestern State University. Questions were answered and information dispersed about ALTA.



ALTA Attends Courage to Risk Conference in Colorado

ALTA members and Rocky Mountain Chapter members attended the Courage to Risk Conference, held January 25-26, at the Broadmoor Hotel. This conference is hosted by various organizations, including IDA-RMB, CASHA, CDE and CEC.



Kathy Eaton and Cara Avallone



ALTA Rocky Mountain Chapter Members



Joan Lee, Kris Abell and Donna Dolce

ALTA Conference and News of Interest

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

What an exciting time of year; so many things are happening. The ALTA Regional Conferences in Ohio and Mississippi were a big success. Thanks to Jean Colner in Ohio for spreading the good word and getting others involved in ALTA, and thanks to Kay Peterson for all of her hard work in Mississippi. I had a great time getting to know our Mississippi colleagues and they were great hosts.

For those of you in Texas, thanks for your quick response about tracking your students. HB 1264 and SB 185 were both passed through the Education Committees on Tuesday, March 5, and will hopefully move quickly to the floor. Thank you Cherie Howell, Mary Yarus, Melanie Royal, Linda Gladden, and Jessica Smith for being in Austin to testify and support the Bills. Thank you Courtney Hoffman for ALL you do. With the passing of this bill, the Texas public school students identified with dyslexia will be tracked through PEIMS throughout their whole school career.

The nominees for the ALTA Board of Directors are [listed in this newsletter](#). Please review them so you will be ready to vote next month at the annual ALTA conference. The conference promises to be exciting and informative with great speakers on pertinent subjects. We will also be celebrating and honoring the life of Dr. Luke Waites, a longtime pioneer in the field of dyslexia. [Sign up early!](#) I hope to see all of you there.

Remember, membership renewals are due this month. I am so humbled to represent such a great group of people. You DO make a difference.

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



Colorado ALTA Member Receives Prestigious Award: My Story

Kathleen Cropp

In August 2010, I became a Certified Academic Language Practitioner (CALP) through The Dyslexia Center, now the Colorado Literacy and Learning Center (CLLC), in Colorado Springs. The training in the structure of the English language and in Take Flight has been invaluable. The knowledge I have gained through this experience has had a significant impact on my students' learning. As a general education teacher, I now understand how to present grade level standards effectively. I can modify the curriculum with research-based practices in mind. The lowest performing students in my class are benefiting from the Take Flight program. In my classroom, students don't need to wait to be identified as special education before they can receive appropriate intervention. As a result, last year 83% of my students completed first grade reading at a proficient level and 95% of my students demonstrated proficiency on their final spelling tests.

My training has not only benefited my students, but my school as well. Fellow teachers are now interested in my training and often seek my opinion regarding their struggling students. Many ask questions about the structure of the language. I have explained the six syllable types to teachers and provided instructional ideas. My principal and coworkers are grateful for the knowledge I am able to share because of CLLC.

Last year, I applied for an Excellence in Teaching Award. This is a prestigious award that was funded by a "pay by performance" grant through my district. It was a rigorous, one-year application process that required me to submit various essays, videos of teaching, and data to show evidence of high achievement in my classroom. I give great credit to the knowledge I gained through my training at CLLC, and using Take Flight in my classroom, for my receiving this award, which was accompanied by a \$10,000 check! I am forever grateful to CLLC for providing such high quality and comprehensive training. Thank you for changing the lives of my students!



Proposed 2013-2015 Slate of Officers and Board of Directors

The slate listed below provides the positions that will be filled this year and the nominees proposed by this year's Nominating Committee. As provided by our bylaws, Article V, Section 1, (b) and (c), additional nominations for officers and directors may be submitted in writing and signed by three active members in good standing at least 15 days prior to the annual meeting. Any submissions should be mailed to the national office and received by April 10, 2013. At the April 26, 2013, business meeting, active members in good standing will be allowed to vote on those nominees as proposed by the Nominating Committee and any additional nominees submitted by April 10, 2013. Unless there are extenuating circumstances as determined by the Executive Committee, no nominations will be made from the floor.

The slate of officers and directors as proposed by the 2013 Nominating Committee includes:

Tim Odegard	VP Membership	2nd term	(2013-2015)
Jean Colner	VP Long Range Planning	Served partial 1st term	(2013-2015)
Lynne Fitzhugh	VP Public Relations	Served partial 1st term	(2013-2015)
Kathleen Carlsen	Treasurer	Served partial 1st term	(2013-2015)
Janet Flory — Board of Directors			(2013-2015)
Margie Gillis — Board of Directors			(2013-2015)
Carin Illig — Board of Directors			(2013-2015)
Janice Robson — Board of Directors			(2013-2015)
Rebecca Tolson — Board of Directors			(2013-2015)
Cheryl Ward — Board of Directors			(2013-2015)

Officers and Board of Directors returning to complete terms include:

Karen Avrit	President	(2012-2014)
Marilyn Mathis	President Elect	(2012-2014)
JoAnn Handy	Secretary	(2012-2014)
Christine Bedenbaugh	VP-Programs	(2012-2014)
Lexie Barefoot	VP-Website	(2012-2014)
Suzanne Carreker — Board of Directors		(2012-2014)
Linda Gladden — Board of Directors		(2012-2014)
Ginny Little — Board of Directors		(2012-2014)
Treaa Owens — Board of Directors		(2012-2014)
Nancy Cushen White — Board of Directors		(2012-2014)
Mary Wines — Board of Directors		(2012-2014)

Officers and Board members who completed their terms in 2012 include:

Carin Illig (nominated for another term)
Roxanne Schoen
Lucy Smith
Catherine Ghassemi
Elaine Cheesman
Elsa Cardenas-Hagan

The 2013 Nominating Committee members are:

Tim Odegard, Chair
Jean Colner
Lynn Fitzhugh
Mary Wines
Karen Vickery

Proposed Slate of Officers Biographies and Photos

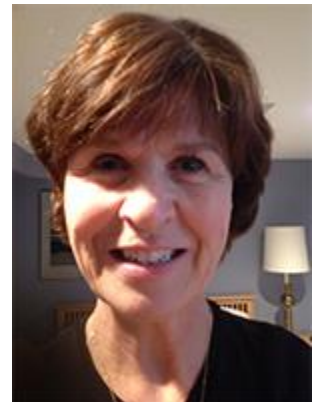
Carin M. Illig, M.Ed, CALT, ICALP
Clinical Director, Children's Dyslexia Centers, Inc.
Board of Directors, 2nd Term

Carin Illig earned a Master's degree in Elementary Education and a Graduate Certificate in General Special Education. She currently holds an Experienced Education License in New Hampshire with certifications in Elementary Education, General Special Education, Learning Disabilities and Reading/Writing Specialist. Carin worked in public education for twelve years, primarily as a Case Manager and Reading Specialist at the high school level. Carin is certified by the Children's Dyslexia Centers, Inc., at the following levels: Initial, Advanced, Trainer of Initial and Trainer of Advanced. She has ten years of experience tutoring children and adults with dyslexia and training people in the Children's Dyslexia Center's IMSLEC-accredited program. She currently serves on the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC) Board and the IMSLEC Council. Since July 2009, Carin has served as the Clinical Director of the Children's Dyslexia Centers, Inc., which currently has 52 Centers. This program is a charitable outreach of the Scottish Rite Masons of the Northern Jurisdiction.



Cheryl C. Ward, M.S, CALP
Clinical Director, Children's Dyslexia Centers, Inc.
Board of Directors, 1st Term

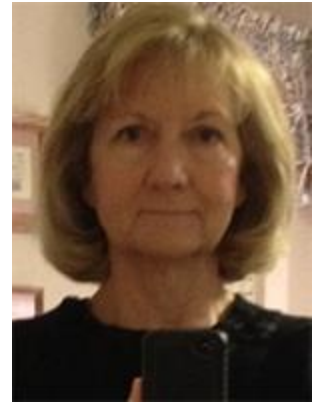
Before working on behalf of students who struggle learning to read, Cheryl was a healthcare administrator for many years. Her interest in education and knowledge about dyslexia resulted from her youngest being diagnosed with dyslexia. After leaving healthcare, Cheryl trained at the Scottish Rite Children's Dyslexia Center (CDC). Cheryl led the effort for a group of four of her colleagues there to sit for the ALTA practitioner exam, becoming the first ALTA members in Wisconsin. Cheryl continues working at the CDC and also works in a multidiscipline private practice, North Shore Center, in Mequon, WI. Cheryl recently completed her term as President of the Wisconsin Branch of the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) and continues her advocacy work locally in Wisconsin and nationally. Cheryl is among the founding members of the Wisconsin Reading Coalition and Literate Nation, working to inform educators, legislators, and the public about evidence-based reading practices for students and reading preparation for teachers to ensure all students will be lifelong literate participants in the intellectual process of gaining meaning from print.



Janet Flory, MA, LDT, CALT, QI

Licensed Dyslexia Therapist, San Antonio Christian Schools, San Antonio, Texas
Board of Directors, 1st Term

Janet Flory is the director of the Scottish Rite Learning Center of South Texas, in San Antonio. She became a Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT) in 1997, and has been an educator for 30 years. Janet continued to train at the Austin Scottish Rite Dyslexia Center in order to become a Qualified Instructor (QI), which she completed in August, 2006. Additionally, she is a Licensed Dyslexia Therapist at San Antonio Christian Schools.



Janice Robson, M.Ed., LDT, QI

Program Director, Austin Scottish Rite Learning Center, Austin, Texas
Board of Directors, 1st Term

Janice Robson retired from 30 years of public education in Texas in 2010. She received her dyslexia therapist training at the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas and became a Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT) in May 2002. Janice continued to train at the Austin Scottish Rite Learning Center in order to become a Qualified Instructor (QI), which she completed in May 2007. Having attained this qualification, Janice contracts with the Austin Scottish Rite Dyslexia Center where she is the Program Director. She also contracts with the Scottish Rite

Learning Center of South Texas to train teachers to become Dyslexia Therapists.

Jean A. Colner, CALT, C/AOGPE, ICALP

Director, Columbus Children's Dyslexia Center, Columbus, Ohio
VP Long Range Planning, 1st term

Jean Colner has been the Director of the Columbus Children's Dyslexia Center since 2004. Jean is the principle teacher-trainer for the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC) accredited MSLE Orton-Gillingham training program offered annually by the Children's Dyslexia Learning Center. She is certified by the Children's Dyslexia Centers at the Initial and Advanced levels, and is a Trainer of Initial and Advanced levels. Jean is a member of the ALTA Ohio Chapter steering committee, and is developing the ALTA Ohio Chapter. She serves on the national Academic Language Therapists Association (ALTA) Board of Directors and is Vice President for Long Range Planning. Jean is also a member of the national Alliance Board of Directors and the Alliance Exam Review Committee. Locally, Jean serves on the Central Ohio Branch of IDA Board of Directors, and serves on the COBIDA Program and Professional Development committee.



Lynne Fitzhugh, Ph.D., LDT, CALT-QI
Director, Colorado Literacy and Learning Center, Colorado Springs, Colorado
Associate Professor, Colorado College
VP, Public Relations- 1st Term



Lynne Fitzhugh is the Founding Director of the Colorado Literacy and Learning Center (CLLC) (formerly The Dyslexia Center at Penrose-St. Francis) in Colorado Springs, a non-profit organization providing direct services to children with dyslexia; professional development in reading instruction; and community outreach. TDC is the first and only training course in the state of Colorado to earn accreditation from the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC). Lynne is a founding member of the ALTA Rocky Mountain Chapter. Lynne received her Ph.D. in Psychology from Southern Methodist University with a concentration in learning disabilities. She is a Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT) and Qualified Instructor (QI). Lynne is an Associate Professor and Founding Director of the Master of Arts in Teaching/Literacy Intervention Specialist Program at Colorado College. She serves on various boards, including the National Board of the International Dyslexia Association; the Listening to Learn Guild; the Learning and Educating About Disabilities (L.E.A.D.) Foundation; and the Southern Methodist University Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development Leadership Advisory Board. In 2011, Lynne was named Chair of the Research to Practice in Education Committee for IDA.

Margie B. Gillis, Ed.D., CALT
Research Affiliate, Haskins Laboratories, New Haven, Connecticut
President, Literacy How, Inc.
Board of Directors, 1st Term



Dr. Margie Gillis is a Research Affiliate at Haskins Laboratories and President of Literacy How. Margie worked as a special educator in public as well as private schools for 20 years and became a certified Academic Language Therapist during that time. In 1998, she earned her Doctorate of Education in Special Education from the University of Louisville, where she began her work training teachers of reading. In 2000, she became an Early Reading Success Fellow at Haskins Laboratories, and in 2009, she founded Literacy How to continue the professional development work she began at Haskins. She is past-president of the Connecticut Branch of the International Dyslexia Association and a member of IDA's Knowledge and Practice Standards Committee. She is also the co-founder of Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities, Inc. (SKLD).

Rebecca Tolson, M.Ed., CALT
Owner, Tolson Dyslexia Services, LLC, North Canton, Ohio
Adjunct professor, Akron and Ashland Universities
Board of Directors, 1st Term



Rebecca Tolson is the owner of Tolson Dyslexia Services, LLC. She is a Certified Academic Language Therapist who provides remediation for children and adults with dyslexia. She has a Master's of Education degree from Southern Methodist University. She is Wilson level I, II, and group certified and has taken Orton-Gillingham Introduction and Advanced courses. She has fifth grade teaching experience and has fourteen years of private practice experience using multi-sensory structured language techniques. She is an adjunct professor for Ashland University and Akron University and provides professional development presentations on dyslexia and multisensory structured language education for Educational Service Centers and school districts. Rebecca is actively involved in the Ohio dyslexia legislation movement and serves

on the Ohio Board of Regents Task Force, HB 96 early screening pilot study committee, and HB 157 dyslexia professional development committee. She served on the International Dyslexia Association national university review board committee for certifying institutions of higher education. Rebecca completes her Certificate of Advanced Studies program at Southern Methodist University in May of 2013.

Timothy N. Odegard, Ph.D. CALP

Director of Research and Evaluation, Wilson Language Training
VP, Membership, 2nd Term

Timothy N. Odegard is a Developmental Cognitive Neuroscientist with expertise in dyslexia and learning and memory. He completed his PhD at the University of Arkansas and later completed Postdoctoral training at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical center in Dallas and Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. This work included advanced training in the use of neuroimaging to understand developmental disabilities and abnormalities in cognition, and clinical training in multisensory instruction for individuals with dyslexia. After his Postdoctoral training, he joined the faculty of the University of Texas Arlington, achieving the rank of Associate Professor with tenure. Recently, Tim joined Wilson Language Training where he is the Director of Research and Evaluation. He still holds an academic appointment at the University of Texas at Dallas' Center for Brain Health, and is the author of numerous peer reviewed scientific publications in the area of dyslexia and cognitive development.

