

# Spring 2014 — 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

WOW!! It is 2014 and this will be my last newsletter as your President. It has been an honor to serve you and represent this organization the past 2 years. I thank you for the trust you have placed in me. ALTA is our organization, an organization of professionals dedicated to helping those with dyslexia. We continue to grow both in numbers and recognition. I am proud of what we have achieved and I look forward to the next generation.

The annual conference is right around the corner and I hope to see most of you there. Christine Bedenbaugh has put together another great conference that will be a true learning experience, as well as fun. It is always exciting to get together with your "old" classmates and catch up on family and work news. [Click here to read speaker abstracts.](#)

The nominating committee, headed up by Tim Odegard, has put together an outstanding Board of Directors for the 2014-2015 term. Please take time to look over [Tim's report](#) before the annual conference in April so you will be ready to vote.

Finally, I am so proud that Texas is forming a Texas ALTA Chapter. Linda Gladden and Kim Jameson have done a great job getting this together. Texas is a big state and Linda and Kim have worked tirelessly to see every part of the state is represented and will have a voice as this chapter moves forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent this organization the last 2 years.



## Proposed 2014-2016 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, 2014. At the April 25, 2014, 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, 2014. 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 2014 Nominating Committee includes:**

Marilyn Mathis	President	(2014-2016)
Janna Curry	President Elect	(2014-2016)
Christine Bedenbaugh	Secretary	(2014-2016)
Suzanne Crawford	VP-Programs	(2014-2016)
Lexie Barefoot	VP-Website	(2014-2016)
Ginny Little	Board of Directors	(2014-2016)
Maureen Martin	Board of Directors	(2014-2016)
Mary Wines	Board of Directors	(2014-2016)
Suzanne Carreker	Board of Directors	(2014-2016)
Cherie Howell	Board of Directors	(2014-2016)
Nancy Cushen White	Board of Directors	(2014-2016)

**Officers and Board of Directors returning to complete terms include:**

Tim Odegard	VP Membership	(2013-2015)
Jean Colner	VP Long Range Planning	(2013-2015)
Lynne Fitzhugh	VP Public Relations	(2013-2015)
Kathleen Carlsen	Treasurer	(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 members who completed their terms in 2014 include:**

Karen Avrit	President
Marilyn Mathis	President Elect
JoAnn Handy	Secretary

Christine Bedenbaugh	VP-Programs
Lexie Barefoot	VP-Website
Ginny Little	Board of Directors
Treasa Owens	Board of Directors
Mary Wines	Board of Directors
Suzanne Carreker	Board of Directors
Linda Gladden	Board of Directors
Nancy Cushen White	Board of Directors

**The 2014 Nominating Committee members are:**

Tim Odegard, Chair (2012-2014)

Lynne Fitzhugh (2012-2014)

Mary Wines (2012-2014)

Rebecca Tolson (2014-2016)

Carin Illig (2014-2016)

## **ALTA Welcomes Van Cleave Back to ALTA Conference!**

### **An Interview with William Van Cleave**

**Lynne Fitzhugh, Ph.D., LDT, CALT-QI**

**Director, Colorado Literacy and Learning Center, Colorado Springs, Colorado**

**Associate Professor, Colorado College**

### **An Interview with William Van Cleave**

ALTA's 2014 Spring Conference will feature William Van Cleave as he presents his latest edition of *Everything You Want To Know & Exactly Where To Find It*. A nationally recognized and highly engaging speaker, he has presented on effective teaching practices at conferences and schools around the country since 1995, including the 2012 ALTA Conference. While his own background is in language-based learning difficulties, the strategies William promotes are effective for students of all skill levels and abilities. His high level of enthusiasm and energy; his interactive style; and his passion for working with teachers make him an effective presenter.



In 2004 William published the first edition of *Everything You Want To Know & Exactly Where To Find It*, an Orton-Gillingham-based reference guide. Now in its fourth edition, this manual serves tutors and teachers of struggling readers and spellers around the country. He has since developed a number of multisensory games and activities.

In the spring of 2012, William completed *Writing Matters: Developing Sentence Skills in Students of All Ages*. Schools in the public and private arenas have adopted his methodology, and his writing approach is used by both one-on-one tutors and classroom teachers. Most recently, he has been part of the professional development component of a S.I.G. Grant with a charter school for last chance students in Oklahoma City. There, he has trained, observed, and mentored faculty; model instructed; and designed and implemented curricula.

William is currently working on several projects, including a book of phrases and sentences for reading and spelling that will serve as a companion book to his *Everything* text and a series of workbooks to complement *Writing Matters*. He has plans for guides on essay writing and the research process.

During his career, William has tutored; taught literature, writing, and math; and held several administrative posts. He continues to tutor privately in Greenville, South Carolina, as well as over Skype. He received his B.A. in English and Women's Studies from The College of Wooster and earned his M.A. in English from S.U.N.Y., New Paltz.

William graciously took time to answer questions in anticipation of his time with ALTA members this April.

**L: You spoke at the ALTA conference several years ago. How do you feel about coming back?**

**W:** In all seriousness, the workshop at ALTA makes my top five list of speaking engagements. I loved the participants' enthusiasm and energy, the size of the group, and their passion for teaching kids. Though some of them were not as comfortable with writing as they were with reading instruction when we started, they embraced the strategies we covered and participated actively throughout. A great crowd! I'm hoping for a repeat experience. (Don't let me down, people!)

**L: How did you become interested in written expression?**

**W:** I was trained by three women, including Diana Hanbury King. One of her passions in the field is written expression — so I think that's part of it. I have enjoyed grammar and sentence structure since I was in middle and high school, though. The College of Wooster, my alma mater, requires an undergraduate thesis for all students, and I thrived in that environment. In fact, just last night I visited campus and had dinner with my thesis advisor — still a mentor after all these years.

**L: How did you become interested in morphology?**

**W:** I didn't fair so well in middle school Latin. The women who trained me as an adult really engaged me in this study. Looking at how a study of morphemes (units of meaning in words) can help develop students' vocabulary has really opened my eyes. I love helping teachers develop the ability to engage students in this area as well. I'm intrigued by using morphology to develop not just vocabulary, but also advanced decoding and spelling skills.

**L: How do you see your career evolving?**

**W:** My passion is training teachers. In an ideal world, I travel the country presenting two- and three-day workshops on written expression and morphology full time.

**L: What do you feel are some of the biggest problems in education today?**

**W:** Instructors need effective techniques to reach a wide variety of students. Whether you're a language therapist or a mainstream classroom teacher, you're going to be confronted with students of varying skills and abilities. We have to arm teachers to reach as many of those students as humanly possible. This takes training on two levels. Teachers need knowledge of the subject, and they need knowledge of how best to teach it.

**L: What accomplishment in your career to date are you most proud of?**

**W:** I'm really proud of *Writing Matters*, my book on teaching sentence structure. It's been well received by tutors and teachers of struggling students, but mainstream teachers are also embracing it across the country. It's the culmination of a lot of reading and thinking about writing, of my work with a wide variety of students in a wide variety of settings, of dozens of workshops I've given on writing, and of all of the ideas about teaching writing that have been churning in my head for years.

**L: What is your biggest goal in life?**

**W:** I am getting ready to write workbooks to go with the sentence structure book. Then, I'll turn to a book on writing paragraphs and essays and, potentially, workbooks to accompany that text. I look forward to the day when I can say, "My writing approach is complete." (Of course, at that point, I'll probably start revising something — never a dull moment in my world!)