

Spring 2016 — ALTA bul*le*tin

The Newsletter of the Academic Language Therapy Association

President's Message

Marilyn Mathis, M.Ed., CALT-QI
President, Academic Language Therapy Association

Happy 30th Anniversary ALTA Colleagues!



During 1985-1986, a group of extraordinary professionals from a number of teacher training centers met to establish the professional organization of which we are so proud to belong to today, the *Academic Language Therapy Association*. The continued strength of our thriving organization is solidly based on the original mission of ALTA, *"to establish, maintain, promote and strengthen standards to assure that the membership will perform quality professional services for students with dyslexia and related disorders."*

ALTA has never wavered from this mission and now we are reaping the well-deserved reward of a highly respected national organization with an excellent reputation. Parents and educators can turn to us knowing they will receive high quality services based on a tried and true history of maintaining professional standards with integrity.

As we gather together on April 15th and 16th for our 2016 Annual Spring Conference, we will be celebrating ALTA's rich history of 30 years. Our conference, *"Pearls of Wisdom"*, will feature many giants in our field whose collective wisdom has guided us throughout the years. We are honored to welcome these [speakers](#), who have each made a significant impact in our field. On behalf of the ALTA membership, I wish to thank each of these individuals that have contributed so much to the body of knowledge that has guided our training throughout the years. Through their wisdom, they have been the "Teachers of Teachers" that have taught us how to effectively instruct children who are struggling to learn to read.

Each annual conference requires an enormous commitment of volunteer time. Conference Committee Chairman, Suzanne Crawford, has been hard at work finalizing a myriad of details for our anniversary program and celebration. I wish to thank her along with all of the committee members — Christine Bedenbaugh, Karen Avrit, Karen Vickery, Kay Peterson, Helen Macik, Jean Colner and Lynne Fitzhugh for their vast contributions and endless hours to organize a wonderful program.

A few reminders:

ALTA's Annual Business Meeting will take place on Friday at 12:15 PM. Included on the meeting agenda will be votes for the following:

- The [bylaws amendments](#) presented by our Bylaws Committee Chairman, Jo Ann Handy.
- The ALTA Slate-The Nominating Committee, Chaired by Rebecca Tolson, has been at work since early January. [The proposed slate is included in this newsletter.](#)

Please take time to review these items in preparation for votes at our annual meeting.

Licensure: Courtney Hoffman — ALTA's lobbyist, continues to keep a close eye on licensure. For an update, please read her article.

Legislation: Be sure to check out the articles on "Dyslexia in the News" in this issue.

Anniversary Video: Learn about our new ALTA video

Chapter News: Arkansas, Ohio, Rocky Mountain, Mississippi, New York, and Texas Regional Chapters bring us up to date

As I entered my position as president of ALTA, 2 years ago, I was filled with great optimism and passion to lead our highly respected organization. I leave with added unwavering allegiance and feel confident that ALTA will grow even stronger in the future. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president. It has been an honor and pleasure as well as a tremendous professional growth experience.

I look forward to seeing many of you in April. It is always a special time of learning, sharing, and renewing friendships. Take note that during the conference there will be many surprises, including raffles of four beautiful strands of pearls. I hope you will join us as we celebrate ALTA's past as we also look forward to an exciting future in which each of you play an important part!

Devotedly,

Marilyn Mathis
President of ALTA

ALTA Celebrates 30th Anniversary with *Pearls of Wisdom*

Lynne Fitzhugh, Ph.D., LDT, CALT-QI
President, Colorado Literacy & Learning Center



The Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA) will celebrate its 30th Anniversary on April 15th and 16th at the 2016 Spring Conference, *Pearls of Wisdom*. The conference will be held at the Renaissance Dallas Richardson Hotel in Dallas, Texas.

"We are excited to feature a distinguished lineup of speakers," commented ALTA President Marilyn Mathis. "Topics will highlight our past history, beginning with the strong foundations of Samuel Orton and Anna Gillingham."

Pearls of Wisdom speakers include Marcia Henry, Judith Birsh, Tim Odegard, Nancy Cushen-White, and Reid Lyon. ALTA, the oldest professional organization of its type in the country, will honor ALTA Pioneers, Lifetime Members, past presidents, and 25 and 30 year members.

"The conference hopes to trace how ALTA established a model for research in best practices, originally building our organization in Texas and now having expanded into 46 states," added Mathis.

In addition to the program, Conference Co-Chairs Suzanne Crawford and Chris Bedenbaugh have scheduled raffles and book signings. In celebration of the conference theme, one highlight will be raffles of four strands of pearls ranging in length from 18 to 42 inches. Raffle tickets will be \$5 each or five for \$20. Drawings will be held at the end of the conference on Saturday.

The Renaissance has donated a complimentary hotel stay which will be determined through a game of "Heads or Tails" played for a \$5 entry fee. In a multisensory fashion familiar to ALTA members, players will choose heads or tails. A coin will then be flipped, eliminating all of those making the losing choice. The game is then repeated until one person is left as the winner.

Cash is preferred for purchase of raffle tickets. Proceeds from the raffles and games will benefit the ALTA Foundation. We hope to see all of you in April!

ALTA 30th Anniversary Video to be Released at Spring Conference

Lynne Fitzhugh, Ph.D., LDT, CALT-QI
President, Colorado Literacy & Learning Center



In honor of ALTA's 30th Anniversary, a video tribute honoring ALTA will be introduced at the 2016 Annual Spring Conference, *Pearls of Wisdom*. Veteran ALTA members as well as new ALTA members were interviewed about the impact of ALTA in their lives.

"It has been a delight to work on this video and hear from ALTA members who have made such an impact in our field," reported Lynne Fitzhugh, ALTA VP of Public Relations. "It was touching to hear not only of the professional significance ALTA has had in their lives, but also of the networking and camaraderie experienced by all."

The video is being produced by Jim Tapley, an award-winning photographer and producer who has done freelance corporate work at various hospitals, colleges, and corporations. Jim spent 19 years at Dallas's powerhouse ABC affiliated news station, WFAA, serving as news tape editor, news operations manager, and news photographer during his time there. According to Tapley, his love for visual storytelling has kept him behind the camera for over 35 years.

"While working for Southern Methodist University a couple of years ago, I had the fantastic opportunity to profile the folks at the Luke Waites Center for Dyslexia and Learning Disorders at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas," commented Tapley. "It was so rewarding for me to see educators getting such positive results teaching children with learning problems, so when ALTA asked if I would help them with this video, I jumped at the chance to meet more of these incredible teachers."

The video, which will be under 5 minutes in length, will be available following the conference on the ALTA website. Along with interviews, it will touch on the history of ALTA and the purpose and passion of the founders of the organization.

ALTA is a professional membership organization founded in 1985 to establish, maintain and promote standards of education, practice, and professional conduct for Certified Academic Language Therapists and Certified Academic Language Practitioners. ALTA was the first national group established solely for highly qualified written-language professionals with verified training and knowledge necessary to teach students with dyslexia and/or related disorders. Currently, ALTA is represented by nearly 2,000 members in 46 states, with 6 chapters and 4 regional councils.

It is the intent of ALTA that Certified Academic Language Therapists and Certified Academic Language Practitioners be universally recognized as highly qualified specialists who have met uniform standards of professional post-baccalaureate education, and that the credentials conferred by ALTA will assure the public and other professionals of the competence, integrity, and professionalism of these members. Individuals who are graduates of an IMSLEC accredited training course or who have had commensurate training may apply to sit for the Alliance Exam and join ALTA.

Our Popular Garage Sale is back!

Do you have no-longer-needed teaching materials to donate to the ALTA Garage Sale? Many members could use your extra reading and spelling decks, readers, games, workbooks, handwriting materials, educational workbooks, incentives, and even text books. Anything you may have used at one time but no longer need just could be useful to someone else. Profits from the sale will go to the ALTA Foundation, a non-profit organization that helps to fund ALTA.

PLEASE CONTACT: Garage Sale Co-Chairs Jill Gilbert at 972-841-7695 or Celeste Spiers at 214-288-0714, or bring your items to the hotel on Thursday, April 14.

Karen S. Vickery: Recipient of the Etoile DuBard Award of Excellence

Congratulations to ALTA member Karen S. Vickery, Ed.D., LDT, CALT, QI for receiving **The Etoile DuBard Award of Excellence from IMSLEC** in 2015.

This prestigious award is given annually at the IMSLEC fall meeting, to a person who meets the ideals, professionalism and dedication exemplified by the life of Etoile DuBard. Dr. Karen Vickery is the Director of Learning Therapy Program at Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development at Southern Methodist University



Pictured with Karen are Jana Jones and Janna Curry

The Children's Dyslexia Centers of Pennsylvania Received the Janet L. Hoopes Award

The Janet L. Hoopes Award is presented annually to an individual, or individuals in Pennsylvania or Delaware who have made a significant contribution to the education of those living with learning disabilities. At the annual Philadelphia Branch IDA conference in 2015, the Children's Dyslexia Centers of PA were the proud recipients of this prestigious award.

In 1994, The Scottish Rite Masons collaborated with Massachusetts General Hospital to launch a new philanthropy to help children with dyslexia. The Children's Dyslexia Centers implement the Orton-Gillingham Approach with one-on-one tutoring at no charge to children who have been diagnosed with a learning disability or dyslexia. The children are tutored twice weekly after school by trained tutors with the Children's Dyslexia Center's Orton-Gillingham Approach. Progress is monitored annually and the average time in the program is two years.

The positive impact of this early intervention on the lives of these children has been compelling. Scottish Rite Masons have taken a national lead in providing services for children with dyslexia. Twenty-one years later, there are now forty-five Centers in thirteen states. Eight of these Centers are in Pennsylvania. The current directors are Marilyn Mathis — Allentown, Cathy Clements — Bloomsburg, Cynthia Allen-Fuss & Lori Lewis — Harrisburg, Heather Hinkle — Lancaster, Melissa Merrit-New Castle, Kathleen Carlsen — Philadelphia, Susan Hissick — Reading.



From left to right: Charlotte Granito, Brenda Wise, Kathleen Carlsen, Janet Becker, William Zeimer, Marilyn Mathis, Michael Hall, Gail Killmon, Sylvia Rosen

Click the image to download a higher resolution version of the image

ALTA-Rocky Mountain Chapter is Growing!

Alison Santa Maria, ALTA-RMC Board Chair of Membership and Outreach

2015 was an exciting year for the Rocky Mountain Chapter of ALTA! The membership in Colorado alone has expanded to forty-five members, due in large part to the exceptional IMSLEC accredited training offered through the Colorado Literacy and Learning Center in partnership with Colorado College. The Rocky Mountain Chapter serves a total of 141 members in 7 states along the west coast.

In response to growing numbers, the ALTA-RMC Board of Directors has made concerted efforts to expand its presence. Last fall, the Board elected two new members, [revamped their website](#), created a Facebook page, hosted a few meet-and-greets, and exhibited at the annual Reading in the Rockies Conference! We successfully shared the word of ALTA with inquisitive teachers and conference-goers.

2016 is sure to be just as busy! As soon as February 3, ALTA-RMC will be exhibitors at the annual CCIRA Conference in Denver. ALTA-RMC is proud to be collaborating with IDA and AOGPE as exhibit partners at the conference. This trio of incredible professional organizations are hoping to present a united front for the service of all struggling readers and dyslexics, at a conference designed for teachers of reading. ALTA-RMC is committed to providing more contact with members in 2016, offering more opportunities to collaborate and learn, with and from each other.

We also incredibly proud to announce we have more members than ever working towards their Qualified Instructor Certification (7 total)!

Here's to a busy 2015 and an even busier 2016!



ALTA Ohio Chapter News

Jean Colner

The ALTA Ohio Chapter holds an annual workshop to provide members with CEU opportunities. Past events have included: Two Cincinnati teachers, who were part of the Ohio Dyslexia Pilot program, demonstrating Orton Gillingham group instruction in the urban classroom, Contributing author, Kathleen Carlsen presented on the Texas Scottish Hospital's Rite Flight fluency curriculum program, Gina Cooke presented her Spelling Matters workshop, Christopher Woodin, from the Landmark School, presented on Multisensory math instruction. All these workshops were very well received.

This year the ALTA Ohio Chapter plans to host a Dyslexia simulation evening event as an outreach to parents and teachers in the east side of Columbus. This will be the fifth annual event sponsored by our local chapter.

News for the Arkansas ALTA Chapter

Kelly Brown

Since the passing of the dyslexia law in 2013 many new and exciting things have been happening in Arkansas. Due to the new law, each Educational Cooperative has a dyslexia contact for their area. The dyslexia contacts at each co-op are there to provide necessary information and support to school districts. Vicki King, who is the Vice President of the Arkansas ALTA chapter, is also the Dyslexia Program Advisor for the Arkansas

Department of Education, and is training the dyslexia contacts at each cooperative. Vicki King holds a Masters degree in Reading and is also CALT and QI certified.

These literacy specialists at each co-op work with the dyslexia contacts in each school district to: help with training on the different types of dyslexia screeners, provide training for core instruction in the area of phonics and word study, answer questions about the dyslexia law, and support the districts in any way to help make sure we begin to identify students with the characteristics of dyslexia early on so they get the interventions they need.

Many new teachers are being trained to become Academic Language Therapists and the Arkansas ALTA chapter is encouraging them to come to meetings and learn more about ALTA. We are hopeful that our membership will increase so we can provide more outreach services for parents, teachers and other CALTs. We are also beginning the process to seek being licensed by the state.

We are excited that the Arkansas Department of Education is providing a Dyslexia Conference for Arkansas Schools called Literacy for All: Understanding Dyslexia. This free conference will be held on March 7 and 8th in the convention center in Hot Springs Arkansas. Dr. Sally Shaywitz will be a keynote speaker. Our chapter is thrilled about all the positive changes that are occurring in Arkansas and hope to be actively involved in the continuing work that needs to be done.

The Southern Region of the Texas ALTA Chapter

The Southern Region of the Texas ALTA Chapter is looking forward to the Texas ALTA Conference on April 30, 2016 in Austin at the University of Texas Thompson Conference Center. *On the Road to Success*, arranged by Texas ALTA Co-Chairs Kim Jameson and Linda Gladden, features presenters from the region including Dr. Anton Koshy, Developmental Pediatrician; Dr. Elsa Cardenas Hagen, Speech Pathologist; and Congressman Lamar Smith. Professionals and the parents they work with will have the opportunity to hear presentations on a wide range of topics concerning dyslexia including legislation, early identification, intervention, ADHD, the evaluation process, and social/emotional issues. More information and online registration are [available here](#).

Regional Co-Chairs, Sara Mandelbaum Beer and Alice Womack Marsel, are looking for CALTs who can assist us in planning local ALTA meetings in communities throughout the Southern Region of Texas ALTA. Please contact alice.marsel@gmail.com or for more information or to help organize a meeting.

Mississippi State (MS) ALTA Chapter

Mary Lou Johnson, M.Ed., QI, NBCT, MS ALTA Chapter President

The ALTA MS Chapter's foundational stages began in 2007 with the help of ALTA Qualified Instructors, Kay Peterson and Barbara Fox. Through their efforts and the first chapter president, Mitti Bilbo, the MS Chapter became an official established chapter with fifteen members. Terri Broome became president in 2013 and by October 2015 there were 49 members. Kristen Frierson is currently Vice-President.

The first regional conference was held in February 2013 through the leadership of Kay Peterson. Ms. Peterson directs Mississippi College's Master of Education — Dyslexia Therapy Program. The program provides

opportunities of professional development for Certified Academic Language Therapists, Qualified Instructors, and other educational professionals. Education for parents of students with dyslexia is also offered.

In February, MS ALTA Chapter held its fourth regional conference. Dr. Nancy Cushen White was keynote speaker and spoke about advanced morphology. Amy Perkins, who holds a B.S. in math and is a homeschool mother of three children with dyslexia, presented multisensory math. Alison Webster, CALT, CCC-SLP presented on organizational skills. Rachel Smith, CALT, LDT organized a Parent/Student Panel that included dyslexic students who were successful high school.

The MS Chapter holds membership meetings twice annually. The New Summit Schools and MS Dyslexia Centers provide therapy in the cities of Madison, Greenwood and Hattiesburg areas and employ CALT's and interns from M.Ed. Dyslexia Therapy programs throughout the state.

As more Mississippians graduate with a masters degree in Dyslexia Therapy at Mississippi College, Mountain College, University of Southern Dubard School, and William Carey College, the MS ALTA Chapter hopes to continue to grow through the collaboration of dedicated professionals providing quality services to individuals with difficulty in reading, writing and spelling.



MS ALTA Regional Conference 2016: L to R —

Mary Lou Johnson, MS ALTA President; Kay Peterson, Director, MS College M.Ed. Dyslexia Therapy Program; Melinda Hill, MS ALTA Secretary; Dr. Nancy Cushen White, Keynote Speaker; Kristen Frierson, MS ALTA Vice Pres.; Missy Shraeder, MS ALTA Treasurer

West Texas ALTA

James Phillips Williams (JPW) Learning Center

The James Phillips Williams Memorial Foundation in San Angelo is a busy place these days. Tutoring and teacher training are taking place year around. Teacher training is taking place in San Angelo, Lyford Consolidated School District, Odessa-Ector County Independent School District, and Amarillo in partnership with West Texas A&M, and Scottish Rite. There are presently thirty-nine teachers in training and new classes will begin in the summer. JPW has a Parent Night the second Monday of each month. Programs have been The Big Picture, Rethinking Dyslexia and Dallas Swafford from Angelo State University discussing Accommodations for college students. We are spread out so many miles that we travel long distances. There are six Education Service Centers in West Texas: Region 14 — Abilene, 15 — San Angelo, 16 — Amarillo, 17 — Lubbock, 18 — Midland, and 19 — El Paso. Many great things are taking place in West Texas.

— Betzy Day, JPW

West Texas A&M (WTAMU) Center for Learning Disabilities

Over six years the WTAMU Center for Learning Disabilities has offered a variety of educational forums for parents, educators, and professionals in the field of dyslexia and ADHD. All events are offered at no charge and CEU's are available. We offer a variety of topics to meet the requested needs of the attendees. Some of these topics include Strategies for Helping Your Child with Learning Differences, Approaches to Working Together with the School for My Child's Success, and Legal Issues: Parental Rights. On average, we have 50 to 75 in attendance. We also encourage the participants to bring their children. While the adults meet, we offer a separate area for the children to have fun and learn successful tools and strategies for living with learning differences at home and school. The children are instructed by WTAMU Professors who specialize in the field of learning disabilities.

— Tammye Jackson, WTAMU

Odessa, Ector County Independent School District (ECISD)

At the January 14th meeting, Jacqui Gore showed a film about students with dyslexia and some of the challenges they face. The film also covered some of the misconceptions parents may have about dyslexia students. The parents had an opportunity to ask questions after the video. During the ECISD Parent Information Meeting, February 4th, Renee Lynch, counselor from Wilson & Young Middle School, reviewed several components of the TEA Accommodations Triangle. She went over some of the most common accommodations dyslexic students use during classroom and state/district tests. Jill Shedd showed a brief video that gave the students' perspective of using the Standardized Oral Administration (SOA) of the STAAR test. She emphasized to the parents that typically this administration is most appropriate for middle school or older students who are responsible enough to pace themselves to complete the test.

ECISD has twenty CALTS. Seven have completed training and have a position waiting for them to get enough hours to take the test. Five students are in training now and are accumulating hours to take the test. Finally, seven begin the first year training this summer.

— Lesli Coody, ECISD

Proposed 2016-2018 Slate of Officers and Board of Directors

Proposed 2016-2018 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 March 31, 2016. At the April 15, 2016, 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 March 31, 2016. 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 2016 Nominating Committee includes:

Janna Curry-Dobbs	President	2016-2018
Karen Vickery	President Elect	2016-2018
Christine Bedenbaugh	Secretary	2016-2018
Tim Odegard	VP-Programs	2016-2018
Cherie Howell	VP-Website	2016-2018
Maureen Martin	Board of Directors	2016-2018
Lesha Stallons	Board of Directors	2016-2018
Carin Illig	Board of Directors	2016-2018
Kathleen Carlsen	Board of Directors	2016-2018
Kim Haugee	Board of Directors	2016-2018
Janet Flory	Board of Directors	2016-2018

Officers and Board of Directors returning to complete terms include:

Jo Ann Handy	VP Membership	2015-2017
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Margie Gillis	VP Long Range Planning	2015-2017
Lynne Fitzhugh	VP Public Relations	2015-2017
Janice Robson	Treasurer	2015-2017
Jean Colner	Board of Directors	2015-2017
Rebecca Tolson	Board of Directors	2015-2017
Rebecca Gould	Board of Directors	2015-2017
Vicki King	Board of Directors	2015-2017
Helen Macik	Board of Directors	2015-2017
Judith Birsh	Board of Directors	2015-2017

Officers and Board members who completed their terms in 2016 include:

Marilyn Mathis	President	2014-2016
Janna Curry-Dobbs	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

The 2015 Nominating Committee members are:

Rebecca Tolson (2014-16)
Cherie Howell (2014-16)
Maureen Martin (2015-17)
Jean Colner (2015-17)
Karen Avrit (2015-17)

Candidate Biographies



Christine Bedenbaugh

Christine Bedenbaugh graduated from the University of Florida in 1987 with a Master's Degree in Elementary Education. She is a nationally certified Reading Specialist, a Licensed Dyslexia Therapist, a Certified Academic Language Therapist, and a Qualified Instructor of Language Therapists in Training. She enjoys guiding teachers to become Dyslexia Specialists as the Director of Shelton School's Academic Language Therapy Program. She is also a middle school teacher, coordinator of the Alphabetic Phonics Program at Shelton School and Evaluation Center (the largest school in the world designed to meet the needs of students with learning differences), serves on the Board of the Academic Language Therapy Association as the secretary, serves on the board of the International Multisensory Language Education Council as the Vice President in charge of Accrediting Dyslexia Teacher Training Centers and is celebrating her 28th year as an educator.



Kathleen P. Carlsen, M.Ed., LDT, CALT-QI

Director, Children's Dyslexia Center of Philadelphia, Philadelphia PA

Kathleen Carlsen is Director of the Children's Dyslexia Center Of Philadelphia, a non-profit located in Northeast Philadelphia. The Center received the 2015 Janet Hoope's Award from the Pennsylvania Branch of the International Dyslexia along with the other Pennsylvania Children's Dyslexia Centers. Kathleen has been a member of ALTA since 1998 and served ALTA as Treasurer (2012-2015), By-Laws Committee Chair (2008-2010), Nomination Committee Chair (2006-2008), and Secretary (2004-2006).

Before moving to the Philadelphia area, Kathleen was the Dyslexia Lab Coordinator at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children (TSRH), where she also was a contributing author of the 'Take Flight' curriculum developed at the hospital. She received her Certified Academic Language Therapist certification in 2000 and completed her Qualified Instructor certification in 2005 through TSRH. Additionally, she completed the Children's Dyslexia Centers training to become an ICALP.

She received her Masters in Education from Arizona State University and her Bachelors of Arts in Environmental Health from California State University Fresno. She worked in public schools for eleven years and then went into training at TSRH. The one constant while moving from California, to Arizona, to Texas, and now Pennsylvania was to help children read. It was clear after becoming involved in the field of dyslexia the importance of providing this intervention to more children and the only way to reach more children was to train teachers.



Janna Curry-Dobbs, M.Ed., L.D.T., C.A.L.T., QI

Online Coordinator & Lecturer, Learning Therapy Center, Southern Methodist University

Janna Curry-Dobbs is the Online Coordinator for the Learning Therapy Program at Southern Methodist University. She received her M.Ed. from Texas A&M at Commerce in Secondary and Higher Education. She has 30 years of classroom experience in public schools. With a background in Speech Therapy and Psychology, she brings knowledge of these two areas to the field of Dyslexia Teacher training.

Janna received her Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT) training in 1977 from Aylett R. Cox and Margaret T. Smith. She is a Qualified Instructor for Learning Therapist training as well as Dyslexia Teacher Level training. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Academic Language Therapy Association. She is a co-author of the Multisensory Teaching Approach to Reading and Spelling and has presented at various conferences and workshops.



Janet Flory, M.Ed., CALT, LDT, QI

With over 30 years of experience as an educator, Janet Flory is the Director of the Scottish Rite Learning Center of South Texas, in San Antonio. Janet became a Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT) in 1997 and a Qualified Instructor (QI) in 2006. Janet has worked for many years as a QI at the Scottish Rite Learning Center of South Texas, the Scottish Rite Dyslexia Center of Austin, and the Dyslexia Center of Austin, training teachers to become Dyslexia Therapists. Janet also works with students in Southside ISD as a Reading Specialist.



Kim Haughee, M.A.E., CALT, ICALP

Kim began her career in education as an elementary teacher in the Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation after graduating from Ball State University in 1973. She continues to search for instructional interventions to help struggling readers. She completed many graduate hours beyond her Master of Arts in Education degree and was able to successfully participate in many opportunities that helped to further her understanding of the reading process. She is certified in Reading Recovery, Wilson Language, and phonological awareness strategies. She is also a certified Orton-Gillingham initial and advanced level tutor, as well as an initial and advanced level trainer. In 2012, she became a Certified Academic Language Therapist through ALTA, followed by Instructor of Certified Academic Language Practitioner in 2014. She is also the current president of the Indiana Branch of IDA. She has worked with tutors and children at the Children's Dyslexia Center in South Bend, Indiana since 2000 and has seen many children make significant reading gains in an instructional environment that matches their learning style and individual needs.



Cherie Howell, M.Ed, LDT, CALT

Cherie Howell is the Dyslexia Coordinator for Frisco ISD. She joined ALTA in 2005 as a dyslexia therapist and has been leading the dyslexia program in Frisco since 2010. Cherie is a Licensed Dyslexia Therapist and a Certified Academic Language Therapist. She received a Masters of Educational Leadership from the University of North Texas in 2013 and a Bachelor of Science focusing on Curriculum & Instruction from Texas A&M University in 1988. She coordinates all components of the dyslexia program in FISSD, supervises the dyslexia teacher training program, and designs and implements professional learning for classroom teachers. Cherie's passion is helping students and teachers achieve high levels of learning.



Carin M. Illig, M.Ed, CALT, ICALP

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 NH 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 IMSLEC Board and the IMSLEC Council. Carin has previously served as a member of the ALTA Board of Directors and as a Board Member for the Wisconsin IDA branch. Since July 2009, Carin serves as the Clinical Director of the Children's Dyslexia Centers, Inc., which currently has 45 Centers. This program is a charitable outreach of the Scottish Rite Masons of the Northern Jurisdiction.



Maureen K. Martin, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, CALT, QI

Maureen K. Martin, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, CALT, QI is the director of the DuBard School for Language Disorders at The University of Southern Mississippi where her professional activities include direct clinical services, authorship of a textbook and therapy materials, adjunct university instruction, and school administration. She has over 40 years of experience as a nationally-certified speech-language pathologist and educator of students who are deaf and hard of hearing. She also is a certified academic language therapist (CALT) and qualified instructor (QI) recognized by the Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA). She holds certification in reading, learning disabilities, elementary education, and school administration. She is a charter board member and past president of the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC) and past president of the Mississippi Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Dr. Martin represented Mississippi on the Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Council of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). She has conducted numerous courses, workshops, and in-service professional training sessions in the United States, in Canada, and in the Republic of Ireland.



Timothy Odegard, PhD

Timothy Odegard, PhD holds the Murfrees Chair of Excellence in Dyslexic Studies and is a Professor of Psychology at Middle Tennessee State University. He is a developmental Cognitive Psychologist whose research focuses on memory and language, incorporating experimental methods and neuroimaging to understand the development of these aspects of human cognition. His research in the area of reading strives to identify factors that predict the response of individuals with dyslexia and related specific reading disabilities to

intensive reading instruction and leverage this knowledge to inform the differentiation of instruction provided to these individuals.



Lesha Stallons, M.Ed., CALT, QI
Frisco ISD

Lesha is currently a Dyslexia Specialist and Qualified Instructor at Frisco ISD. She began her teaching career as a Special Education teacher in 2002 and became a Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT) in 2010 through Texas Scottish Rite Hospital. She received her Master's Degree in Educational Technology Leadership from Lamar University and continued her training through Texas Scottish Rite Hospital to become a Qualified Instructor (QI). She continues to teach Take Flight to elementary students in Frisco ISD as well as train educators in the Take Flight program to prepare them to become Certified Academic Language Therapists.



Karen S. Vickery, Ed. D.

Karen S. Vickery, Ed. D. is a faculty member of the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development and Director of the Learning Therapy Program at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She graduated with a B.S.E. And M.S.E. in Reading from Arkansas State University. She received her doctorate from Texas A&M Commerce. Karen taught in the public schools of Missouri, Arkansas, and Texas for 35 years. She has instructed grades 2-8 in public schools and has taught reading to all grade levels. She has served as the 504/Dyslexia Coordinator for Greenville ISD. She received Alphabetic Phonics training at the Dean Learning Center under the tutelage of Aylett Cox, Margaret Smith and Edith Hogan. She is a Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT), a Qualified Instructor (QI), and a Licensed Dyslexia

Therapist (LDT) with the state of Texas. Under her direction, the SMU program has been accredited by the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC) in both teaching and therapy levels, and instructor level training on both levels. She also holds certifications in elementary education, reading, supervision, curriculum, and instruction. She is a board member of the Academic Language Therapy Association, chair of the Academic Language Therapy Association Foundation Scholarship Committee. She serves as Chair of the College and University Committee and is former President, Vice President/President Elect, treasurer and an executive committee member of the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC). She is former President, treasurer and an executive committee member of the Alliance for Accreditation and Certification of Structured Language, Inc. Dr. Vickery is a member of the International Dyslexia Association and serves on the Dallas Branch of the International Dyslexia Association Advisory Board. She was appointed by Governor Perry to the Dyslexia Interim Study Committee Dec. 2009.

Dubard School News

Maureen K. Martin, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, CALT, QI, Director, DuBard School for Language Disorders

New products now available for teachers of students with dyslexia

Teachers, speech-language pathologists, dyslexia specialists and other professionals who work with individuals with dyslexia/specific learning disabilities in reading now have access to a new product to aid in the remediation of dyslexia. The DuBard School for Language Disorders at The University of Southern Mississippi has released the Language Enhancement and Achievement Program (LEAP), a program for students who struggle with reading, writing and spelling.

LEAP is a modified DuBard Association Method® curriculum designed for students with challenges in reading, spelling and/or written language (dyslexia), or who exhibit difficulty rhyming, sounding out words, and blending sounds into words. LEAP's highly specialized multisensory curriculum allows the student to quickly progress through sound-symbol associations and key skills. LEAP goes directly to the problem, teaching the most critical skills to gain maximum results.

"We're happy to bring this product to market because we know it will save teachers and therapists valuable time while providing quality services to students who struggle with reading," said DuBard School director Dr. Maureen Martin. "We took what we've been working on for six years and put it in a convenient package, allowing therapists to get right to work and spend less time creating and organizing materials."

The LEAP product provides the teacher or therapist the documents needed to implement the program — the therapist/teacher manual, curriculum, PowerPoints for introduction of new material, lesson plans, student books pages, and all of the forms such as informal tests and homework charts. Sold in a digital format, users can complete documents digitally or on paper. The digital format allows therapists to use the program for multiple clients.

LEAP was piloted and has been used at the DuBard School for seven years, and internal research shows the program's effectiveness. On average, students diagnosed with a reading disability improved their ability to read unfamiliar words by 64 percent after 48 hours of instruction (one semester). Detailed research is available on the DuBard School website at www.usm.edu/dubard.

"LEAP is a multisensory program that is straightforward, beautifully organized, and the lessons are easy to follow," said Sarah McGrew, a recent graduate of the dyslexia therapy master's program at The University of

Southern Mississippi who has taught LEAP. "The way in which it incorporates the DuBard Association Method® perfectly teaches the skills needed for children or adults with dyslexia."

In addition to purchasing the disc, professionals can also purchase a complete instructional set that includes supplemental materials needed to implement the program such as flash cards, student practice pages and more.

LEAP is recommended to be used by individuals who have had professional preparation to do so, such as completing the Basic Course in the DuBard Association Method®. The program is not intended for students with oral language and/or articulation disorders. LEAP is only available to purchase through The University of Southern Mississippi bookstore at 601-266-4381. To learn more, visit www.usm.edu/dubard.

Master's Degree in Dyslexia Therapy now available at The University of Southern Mississippi

The University of Southern Mississippi is now accepting applications for the Master of Education in dyslexia therapy program beginning this summer. This will be the third cohort of students entering the nationally recognized and accredited program.

Upon completion of the 30-hour program, graduates will receive a Master of Education degree and will be eligible to become dyslexia therapists licensed by the Mississippi Department of Education as well as the national credential of Certified Academic Language Therapists (CALT).

This hybrid program is built around a working professional's schedule, offering a mixture of on-campus instruction, online courses, weekend classes and in-person or virtual supervised practicum. Additionally, the cohort is limited to 16 students, creating a personalized and in-depth educational experience for each student.

The Southern Miss dyslexia therapy program is a collaboration between the DuBard School for Language Disorders in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences and the Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education. This partnership between colleges provides graduate students with more diverse learning opportunities in a single graduate program.

The DuBard School's professional development program has been accredited by the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council since 1998 and is accredited by the International Dyslexia Association for meeting the Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading, credentials also associated with the degree program. All instructors are highly qualified and hold either a Ph.D., Ed.D., CALT, QI (Certified Academic Language Therapist, Qualified Instructor), or combinations of these credentials, therefore are experts in dyslexia/specific learning disabilities in reading. In addition, they hold credentials in literacy, communication disorders, learning disabilities and related disorders, as well as elementary education, special education and school administration.

A new cohort begins every summer. Applications are currently being accepted and are reviewed for acceptance as they are received. Interested applicants may apply online through the Southern Miss graduate school at www.usm.edu/graduateschool. Additional information, including the plan of study, application process and scholarship opportunities, may be found online at www.usm.edu/dubard or by contacting Dr. Maureen Martin at the DuBard School at 601.266.5223 or maureen.martin@usm.edu.

DuBard School offers array of professional development opportunities in 2016

**FIND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO FIT YOUR NEEDS AT THE
DUBARD SCHOOL *for* LANGUAGE DISORDERS
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI**

Courses and Offerings

DuBard Association Method® Basic Course
June 20-24

DuBard Association Method® Practicum
June 6-30 (or by arrangement)

DuBard Association Method® Seminar
June 27-July 1

Seeking Solutions: Is it Dyslexia?
A workshop on assessment of dyslexia
August 23-25

Conscious Discipline Workshop
August 31, September 28, October 19 (Three-Part)

DuBard Association Method® Basic Course
September 20-22/October 11-13 (Two-Part)



All offerings are held in Hattiesburg, MS.
Custom on-site programs are also
available across the country.
Contact us for more details.



**REGISTER, LEARN MORE AND VIEW ALL AVAILABLE OFFERINGS ONLINE:
WWW.USM.EDU/DUBARD**

AA/CEOE/ADA

DuBard Association Method® Basic Course: June 20-24

DuBard Association Method® Seminar: June 27-July 1

DuBard Association Method® Practicum: June 6-30

Seeking Solutions: Is it Dyslexia? (A workshop on the assessment of dyslexia): August 23-25

Conscious Discipline Workshop: August 31, September 28, October 19 (Three-Part)

20th Annual DuBard Symposium: Dyslexia and Related Disorders: September 14-15

DuBard Association Method® Basic Course: September 20-22, October 11-13 (Two-Part)

All offerings are held in Hattiesburg, Miss. Custom on-site programs are also available across the country.
Contact DuBard School for Language Disorders for more information at usm.edu/dubard or 601-266-5223.

What Has Becoming A CALT Done For My Professional Growth?

Jennifer L. Scaffidi, M.Ed., CALT



My journey to become a CALT began in 2012. Being a mother of a dyslexic student and a teacher, becoming a CALT was something that I felt necessary to do for myself both personally and professionally. Personally, I thought it was my responsibility to my daughter to educate myself about dyslexia and to learn all of the skills necessary to teach her in order for her to be a successful reader. I also had a professional obligation to the many students I work with at school in the Title 1 Reading Program.

The CALT program was challenging and rigorous. I learned so much about the English language and how to use multisensory techniques to instruct students, especially dyslexics. That knowledge is being used daily in my home and at my job.

Becoming a CALT has made me an expert. This expertise has greatly benefitted my daughter and my students. An area that I wasn't expecting to quickly enter into is professional development. About two months after becoming a CALT, I was asked to deliver two four day professional development workshops for all of our Special Education teachers in our district on multisensory language strategies. I created a four day workshop for the middle school and high school teachers and also a four day workshop for our kindergarten through grade five teachers. This was something out of my comfort zone, but I accepted the challenge and have received very positive feedback. I will be presenting a summary of my four day workshops at my district's next board meeting.

Now that I have some professional development under my belt, I am thinking about moving onto the next level by becoming a Qualified Instructor. Even though my instruction to become a CALT is done, I feel that I continue to grow professionally as a result of all the opportunities that are constantly being presented to me. I am looking forward to the next part of this journey.

Jennifer L. Scaffidi, M.Ed., CALT
North Canton, Ohio

United States Department Of Education Office Of Special Education And Rehabilitative Services

[Read more . . .](#)

Legislative Update

Courtney Read Hoffman

As you are aware, the licensure for Dyslexia Therapists and Practitioners was continued during the last legislative Session and the program will be moving from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). In preparation for that move, TDLR drafted rules for the licensing program that were posted on the Secretary of State website for public input. ALTA emailed a link to those rules so members could comment.

The agency also provided a hearing on January 12, where testimony could be taken on the proposed rules. Incoming ALTA President Janna Curry testified at that hearing in Austin along with Robin Cowsar, an ALTA member who was instrumental in the passage of the legislation to keep the licensure. Janna, Robin and I took concerns and praises that we had received from the ALTA membership to the hearing. TDLR was very receptive.

Issues such as the grandfather clause that allowed members to become therapists without a Masters in the first year of licensing will still be in place. And at TDLR there is a more lenient forgiveness rule if one forgets to renew the license. Because TDLR is known for its excellent online delivery of services, we will likely see improved communication with the move to that agency. Most functions, including change of address, email or phone can be handled online.

The rules for Licensed Dyslexia Therapists and Practitioners were adopted at the March TDLR Commission meeting. The creation of an Advisory Committee is the next step in the process. Proposed names for the advisory committee will be taken in April and May and instructions will be posted on the Licensed Dyslexia Therapists and Practitioners webpage at TDLR for information on submissions. That webpage is [located here](#). At the bottom of the page is a link to sign up for notices from TDLR regarding the licensure. I encourage you to do so! **Please note that the data base for licensure has not been officially moved from DSHS to TDLR, so you continue to apply and renew your license at DSHS until October 3, 2016, when the licensure will officially transfer to TDLR.**

Primary elections occurred on March 1, but some races will have a runoff on Tuesday, May 24. Please pay attention and vote on that day as it is important to participate in determining who represents you!

Dyslexia in the News

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) was officially replaced on December 10, 2015 when President Obama signed the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*. [Read More.](#)

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

The *US Department of Special Education* published an article which clarified that dyslexia, dyscalculia, and dysgraphia are conditions that could qualify a child as a child with a specific learning disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). [Read More.](#)

Research Excellence and Advancements for Dyslexia Act (READ Act)

The *Research Excellence and Advancements for Dyslexia Act* (READ Act) ([H.R. 3033](#)), a bipartisan bill introduced by Reps. Lamar Smith (R-Texas) and Julia Brownley (D-Calif.) was unanimously approved by the House of Representatives. Smith and Brownley are co-chairs of the bipartisan [Congressional Dyslexia Caucus](#). The Caucus is comprised of over 100 Members of Congress and is dedicated to increasing public awareness about dyslexia and ensuring all students have equal educational opportunities. The READ Act requires the National Science Foundation (NSF) to devote at least \$5 million annually to dyslexia research. The focus would be on best practices in the following areas:

- Early identification of children and students with dyslexia
- Professional development about dyslexia for teachers and administrators
- Curricula development and evidence-based educational tools for children with dyslexia

[Read More.](#)

Best Dyslexia Websites for 2016

Best Dyslexia Websites for 2016 as reported by Lucie M. Curtiss, R.N. And Douglas C. Curtiss, MD, FAAP in the website called Dyslexia and Unstoppable. [Read More.](#)

2015 IMSLEC Innovator Awards for Excellence

Outstanding School Administrator

James McLaughlin

Outstanding MSLE Teacher

Brian Thompson

Outstanding MSLE Therapist

Tina Graves

Danyle Duke

Outstanding MSLE Educator in a College or University

Judy Shapiro

Outstanding MSLE Professional

Carol Duke

Dawn Dennis

Patricia K. Sanieski

Laurie Wagner