



Connie Briggs, President

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## President's Message

I am pleased to serve as the president of your organization this year! ALER has been my professional 'home' since 1990 when I was introduced to the organization by a mentor professor. This organization is known for its mentorship to early career professors and doctoral students, and we want to continue that tradition.

A membership survey was sent out recently to seek information about your specific research and practice interests in order to provide the best professional community of support within the ALER organization. I hope you took the time to complete the survey. It is good to reflect on the past, but we also must look to the future. One of the conversations that will be taking place is if the names of the divisions

are clearly linked to the function of the work. Do new members find the divisions are meeting their needs? I will be working with the Division Chairs to reflect on the titles and mission descriptions of their divisions based on the information we learn from this survey.

Another way the organization has tried to serve membership is by providing Social Link, a members' only space for connecting, collaborating and sharing personal accomplishments and interests. It is a place for members to stay in touch and collaborate with colleagues all year long. If you haven't checked out Social Link please try it by logging into your ALER member portal. In addition, once you have an active

account, you can download the Social Link app and connect with others on the go.

After the ALER Conference in Louisville, a conference evaluation questionnaire was sent out to membership. The feedback we received is appreciated and will be incorporated into the planning of the 2019 ALER Conference in Corpus Christi, Texas on November 7-10, 2019. Seth Parsons, president elect and conference co-chair with Tammy Donaldson, have secured excellent speakers for our event. See the ALER website under 'Conferences' for a list of the keynote speakers and a blurb about their work.

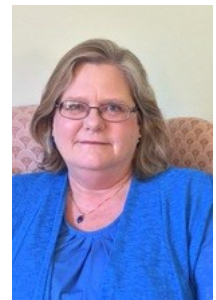
We want to make ALER your professional home as well. The ALER Executive Board members value your input and suggestions to make our organization more relevant and meaningful to you. Please feel free to contact one of us if you have great ideas to share. I look forward to seeing each of you in Corpus Christi in November.

## Thank You!



Tami Craft Al-Hazza

Thank you to outgoing President, Tami Craft Al-Hazza, an associate professor at Old Dominion University, for your service as ALER President. We also want to thank Julie Kidd, outgoing Past-Past President and professor at George Mason University, for your many years of service on the ALER Executive Committee and Board.



Julie Kidd

**\*\*\*Conference proposals now due on March 22, 2019!\*\*\***

## Clinical Division



Debra Coffey,  
Chair

The Clinical Division advances the understanding of the learner and learning process at the clinical, diagnostic, instructional, and administrative levels within the professional field of reading. Our current goals are to increase the presence and relevance of the Division for ALER members.

The 2018 Clinical Division meeting focused a spotlight on leaders in literacy. Debra Coffey, the Clinical Division Chair, led the panel discussion as leaders in literacy shared significant literacy strategies and career highlights.

This distinguished panel of professors and researchers featured past Chairs of the Clinical Division who have a major impact on literacy projects across the nation. We were inspired by the

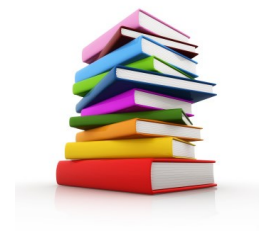
insights of J. Helen Perkins, Jeanne Cobb, Jerry Johns, Kristine Wilke, Mary Applegate, and Stephanie McAndrews. They shared treasured moments from their careers and strategies they used from the literacy clinic to the classroom and beyond.

As we had breakfast with the stars, this meeting focused on strategies instructors can use to build learning engagement and enjoy throughout their careers. Jerry Johns and Kristine Wilke gave us a photo tour of the Jerry L. Johns Literacy Clinic, and our panelists shared meaningful strategies for personalized learning. At the end of the session, an instructor commented, "I am so glad I came to this session because I am going to use these ideas on

Monday."

Debra Coffey, Cindy Jones, Chair-Elect, and Julie Francis, Secretary, of the ALER Clinical Division look forward to welcoming leaders in literacy and exploring more strategies for personalized learning in 2019!

If you have questions about the Clinical Division, please contact Debra Coffey, Chair, at [dcoffey1@kennesaw.edu](mailto:dcoffey1@kennesaw.edu).



**"A book is like  
a garden,  
carried in the  
pocket."  
— Chinese  
Proverb**

## Adult Learning Division

The fall 2018 meeting of the Adult Learning Division (ALD) hosted 11 attendees and one presentation, "Evaluating online teaching and learning among adult learners" by Dr. Laurie Sharp from West Texas A&M University.

The meeting and members also engaged in a vivid discussion about the ALD mission/vision statement and the division name. The conversation allowed members to reflect on the Division's needs and contributions. As an extension of the meeting,

we continue to work on the mission/vision statement, as well as rethink the name of the Division. With a unanimous vote, the members elected to change the name of the Adult Learning Division to the Division of Literacy for Lifelong Learners. We know this change will need to be presented at the Spring Board Meeting and we also welcome any additional discussion around this topic.

The current Chair, Dr. Chyllis Scott was concluding her two-year term, but due

to obligations by the Chair-Elect, members and leadership voted that Chyllis would continue to serve as the chair for the following year. At the conclusion of the 2019 conference Drs. Dianna Sand and Roberta Pate will resume the roles of Chair and Chair-elect. Additionally, division business included a discussion of ways to increase ALD participation, and working toward becoming more involved in the larger dialogue of adult learning.

For further information about the division, contact Chyllis Scott, Chair, at [Chyllis.scott@unlv.edu](mailto:Chyllis.scott@unlv.edu).



Chyllis Scott, Chair

## Teacher Education Division

The Teacher Education Division is interested in teacher education practices at the undergraduate and graduate levels, promoting improvement of preservice and inservice programs for literacy development.

The Teacher Education Division meeting was held on Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-2:55 in the Grand Ballroom West. The session had approximately 30 participants. The meeting began with a welcome by Chair, Patricia Durham. Minutes from the 2017 division

meeting were approved, and a short business meeting followed. One of the main topics discussed during the business meeting was that of a creation of a TED digital repository. In this repository, members can upload citations of their work to be shared with other TED members bi-annually. Co-Chair Jacquelyn Ingram shared the intent of this repository, which is to share research for literacy teacher education as well as help to encourage using each other's work as references when writing.

Four groups of Round Table Discussions followed the business meeting. Each table had two presenters to offer the participants in the division an opportunity to hear two presentations of their choice. The topics for the individual tables were "Using Literature in Teacher Education;" "Undergraduate Engagement;" "Trends and Identity; and Global and Social Justice." At the end of the first 30 minutes, participants selected a new table

to visit and the presenters had a second presentation time. The meeting ended with an announcement for the 2019 round table proposals. While TED will still focus on general Teacher Education Research, a theme for next meeting will be on Reading Specialist graduate programs. Elections will be held in 2019 for Co-Chair as Patricia Durham will roll off and Jacquelyn Ingram will ascend to Chair of the division.

If you have questions about TED, please contact Patricia Durham, Chair, at [pmd006@shsu.edu](mailto:pmd006@shsu.edu).



Patricia Durham, Chair



Dianna Sand, Chair

## College Literacy Division

The College Literacy Division (CLD) focuses on literacy practices and methods for teaching post-secondary students at all achievement levels, including developmental-level reading, writing, study skills, and ESL through critical 21<sup>st</sup>-century literacy education and research.

The CLD held its annual meeting on Friday, November 9, 2018, in the Grand Ballroom West, at the Seelbach Hilton Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. Twenty-eight members attended the business portion of the meeting. Division business included an update on the CLD 10-Year Retrospective for the Historian Committee.

Many thanks to all who participated.

After the business portion, the CLD held its Idea Exchange presentations. This year, Vicki Collet and Wally Thompson, Idea Exchange Co-Chairs, divided nine presentations into three strands: (1) Preservice Teacher & Undergraduate, (2) College Freshmen, and (3) Children and Family Literacy. Presenters had approximately 15 minutes with some additional time for questions.

The Preservice Teacher & Undergraduate Strand included the following presentations: *Scaffolded Video Analysis to En-*

*hance Learning in Teacher Preparation Programs* (Susan Gapp); *Extending the Walls of Our Classrooms with Online Informal Learning Environments* (Rebecca Putman), and *Formative Feedback: Scaffolding Student Growth as Writers* (Sharon Matthews and Tracey Hodges). The College Freshmen Strand included: *Creating a Shared Culture through a Common Reading for First-Year Students* (Ellen Kaiden), *Reading Between the Lines: Understanding Post-Secondary Reading Needs*, (Dianna Sand), and *Justice and Society: A Course Designed for College Freshmen*, (Bettina Murray). The Children and Family Literacy Strand included: *Integrating Children's Books into Teaching Math and Science* (Eva M. Ogens), *Engaging Family Literacy: A Framework* (Hannah Wells), and *Adding a Spark and Promoting Equity by Illustrating Text Features with Multi-Media* (Debra Coffey).

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on November 8, 2019, in Corpus Christi, TX. The conference theme is *Building Bridges with and for Literacy*, and the CLD encourages the submission of your proposals using this link <https://www.aleronline.org/page/2019conference1>

If you have any questions about the CLD, please contact Dianna Sand, Chair, at [dsand@holymfamily.edu](mailto:dsand@holymfamily.edu)





## Award Winners for 2018

On November 10, 2018 at the annual conference Awards Breakfast, ALER awards were presented. The A.B. Herr Award is presented for distinguished service in reading and Dr. Debra Coffey received the award for 2018. The Albert J. Mazurkiewicz ALER Special Services Award recognizes an ALER member for special service and/or significant contributions to ALER. Dr. Vicky Zygouris-Coe, former co-editor of *Literacy Research & Instruction*, was the 2018 recipient.

The Jerry Johns Promising Researcher Award honors and supports research by a junior ALER member whose work is beyond the dissertation phase. The 2018 recipient was Dr. Katherine L. Wright. Dr. Wright was also the recipient of the 2018 ALER Literacy Teacher Education Research Grant, awarded for promising research that addresses significant questions in literacy. Dr. Luis Javier Penton Herrera was the winner of the 2018

Dissertation Award for his study titled, "Learning English as a third language: The language and literacy experiences of adolescent immigrant Ixil students in the United States." Kara Lynn Ness was the recipient of the 2018 Master's Research Paper Award.

The Judy Richardson Literacy as a Living Legacy Award is made to an ALER member to support a literacy-related project for an existing need in a

school typically not supported by other public or private funds. Dr. Robin D. Johnson was the recipient of this award for 2018.

Congratulations to all the 2018 ALER award recipients!

## Research Committee Update

Encourage your master's level students submit their papers for ALER's awards for outstanding master's papers and your doctoral level students to submit their dissertations for ALER's award for outstanding dissertations papers. Go to this link, <http://www.aleronline.org/awards.html>, for details about the awards.

Also, you can find the call for these awards' applications at this link: <https://www.aleronline.org/page/futureleaderscall>

The Research Committee is also reviews applications for the ALER Literacy Teacher Education Research Grant. Information about this

<https://www.aleronline.org/page/researchgrant>

The deadline to submit applications for these opportunities is **August 1, 2019**.



## Ten Year Retrospective Nears Publication

Co-Historian and lead editor Barbara McClanahan reports that the *Ten Year Retrospective Supplement* to the 50-Year History is making steady progress and is on target to be published by the November ALER Conference in Corpus Christi. Besides oral histories of ALER presidents and award winners for the time period from 2008 to 2018, the volume is expected to include an organizational history section, histories of the divisions, and a content analysis of articles published in the ALER Yearbook during the period. Although most writing needs have been filled, Dr. McClanahan indicated that there is still a need for reviewers. If you are interested, contact her at [barjmcc@gmail.com](mailto:barjmcc@gmail.com) for an application.

### Call for Reviewers for Outstanding Dissertation and Master's Research Papers

One of the most rewarding experiences Leslie La Croix, Co-Chair of the Research Committee, has had over the past four years is as a reviewer for the outstanding dissertation and master's research papers. Reviewing these papers has informed her in areas beyond her own research topics and has given her pride in our profession. Would you offer your services as a reviewer for the Research Committee? Please contact Dr. Tracy Hodges at [thodges@ua.edu](mailto:thodges@ua.edu) by August 1, 2019 if you would like to volunteer for this important service to ALER and the profession.

### Special Thanks to Our Reviewers

Our special thanks to our reviewers for the 2018 awards including: Sharon Pratt, Cindy Jones, Michael Manderino, Cathy McGeehan, John Ponder, Kent Layton, Allison Ward-Parsons, Maryann Mraz, Sarah Clark, Seth Parsons, and Wolfram Verlaan. We deeply appreciate their service to ALER and the donation of their time and expertise for these important awards for our new scholars.

**"Today a reader,  
tomorrow a  
leader."  
— Margaret Fuller**