

Winter 2020-2021

Specialized Literacy Professionals

Volume 29, Issue 4

<http://www.literacyprofessional.org/>



A Year
Like No Other!!!

A message from the President...

Dear SLP members,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and that you are rested from the holiday break and ready to move into winter and spring with renewed energy.

As I reflect on the past 10 months, I realize how much I have grown as a literacy educator – of both children and teachers. Of the many adjustments and initiatives I worked on these past months, I am the most proud of my preservice teachers this past fall, who bravely stepped into the role of virtual tutors in our university reading clinic. I watched them as they administered reading assessments and provided reading intervention via web-conferencing. I also got to know them as



President's message continued...

teachers through our one-to-one virtual coaching sessions where we reflected on their students' growth as readers and planned next steps. I've never worked as hard as I did during this time, but the experience stretched me as a learner and reading teacher, something positive that has arisen out of this pandemic teaching situation.

We missed gathering for our annual meeting due to the cancellation of the 2020 ILA Conference. However, the board and committees have been steadily working to provide exciting opportunities for you, our members. The Service Project Grant Committee has developed a new grant initiative. The Research Committee continues to work on projects related to the interests of literacy professionals and most recently completed a study on the topic of diversity in the literacy classroom. Finally, the Awards Committee continues to honor members who have contributed research to move the field forward. Read more about these happenings later in this issue. You'll also read about the many stellar contributions that our members are making in the field of literacy by way of publications and service.

Later this spring we will hold elections for three SLP board member positions. Please be on the lookout for more information, and consider running for one of these positions and/or nominating a colleague.

Please share this newsletter with other literacy professionals who may be interested in the information within. Also, please consider inviting colleagues to join the SLP SIG through the SLP website.

Be well and have a wonderful spring!

Bethanie C. Pletcher, President

(2020-2022)



@literacyprofessionals.org

Meeting...

Your Board Members

President (2020-2022). Bethanie Pletcher, *Associate Professor and Barbara G. Silverman Endowed Professor in Literacy*, Texas A & M University- Corpus Christi

President-Elect (2020-2022). Aimee Morewood, *Associate Professor and Outreach Coordinator*, West Virginia University

Past-President-Elect (2018-2020). Stephanie Grote-Garcia, *Professor*, University of the Incarnate Word

Board Members.

Evan Ortlieb (2020-2022), *Dean*, Zucker Family School of Education, The Citadel,

Ramona Pittman (2019-2021), *Associate Professor*, Texas A&M University- San Antonio

Cathy Toll (2019-2021), *Department Chair*, University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh

Wolfram Verlaan (2019-2021), *Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and Director of the Reading Specialist Masters Program*, University of Alabama-Huntsville

Patricia Durham (Secretary), *Associate Professor*, Sam Houston State University

Johnathan W. Hill (Treasurer), *Doctoral Student*, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi

Emeritus Member, Jack Cassidy

Emeritus Member, Barbara Kleba

Emeritus Member, Mary Ellen Skidmore

Newsletter Editor, Patricia Durham (2018-Current)

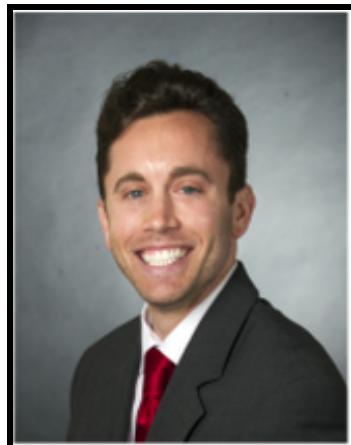
Meeting...

Our New Board Members

Welcome New Board Member ... As President-Elect Aimee Morewood will continue to broaden the work of the research committee. This group has a strong voice with ILA given their work on the national survey of literacy leaders and the ILA's Multiple Roles of School-Based Specialized Literacy Professionals. This research needs to continue, and this SIG is well positioned to be at the apex of this work within ILA. Her second goal would be to increase membership in this SIG so that literacy leaders across the educational landscape understand the work of this SIG and turn to it for important information when making crucial educational decisions. Finally, her third goal would be to better understand the needs of this SIG's membership. She would like to find out more about their professional needs and position the Specialized Literacy Professionals SIG as a supportive resource for our colleagues across the ILA organization.



Welcome New Board Member ... As a new and returning board member, Evan Ortlieb will continue the important work of the Research Committee by completing its study addressing diversity in literacy instruction; continue granting awards to recognize the impactful research in our literacy communities; and grow our constituency as THE forum for all things related to literacy professionals, research, and practice.



Membership

Membership is available online.

Membership registrations and renewals are available online at
<http://www.literacyprofessional.org/join.html>.

The following three options are available: one year (\$10.00), two years (\$15.00), or four years (\$30.00). Please encourage a colleague to join our SIG this year.

Ways to become involved:

- Join a committee and like us on Facebook
- Participate in the mentoring program
- Share your research or apply for a grant



Opportunity for Members...

Doctoral Student and New Faculty Mentoring Program

Doctoral Students and New Faculty Members

- Do you teach university courses that prepare specialized literacy professionals? Would you like to be paired with another university-based instructor teaching similar courses?
- Are you conducting research that affects literacy professionals?
- Would you like feedback on a manuscript, presentation proposal, or other project?



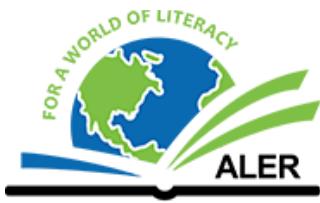
Mentoring Committee Update. We are currently seeking K-12 practitioners as well as early career faculty to enroll in our SLP mentoring program. Please consider signing up and/or mentioning it to your networks for others who may be interested in learning with and from experts in the field with respect practitioner and/or research: <https://tinyurl.com/y3rbnhns>.

Opportunity for Members to present...

Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers conference in 2021 (ALER)

Educate to Liberate: Call for conference proposals. Deadline to submit a proposal to the November 4-7, 2021 conference is February 15, 2021. For more information on proposal submissions follow the link below.

[ALER CONFERENCE PROPOSAL INFORMATION](#)



Recognizing....

Service to the Specialized Literacy Professionals Awarded to Past President

Stephanie Grote-Garcia. At the end of the Fall 2020 SLP Board meeting, the board honored Stephanie Grote-Garcia for her two years of service as President (as well as for the many previous years of dedicated service to the organization). Incoming President, Bethanie Pletcher complimented her on leadership and mentoring she provided graciously over the years. Secretary, John Hill, awarded her with the Plaque of Service.



Highlighting....

Members' Contribution to the Field: ILA's Jerry John's Outstanding Teacher Educator in Reading Awarded to SLP Board Member!

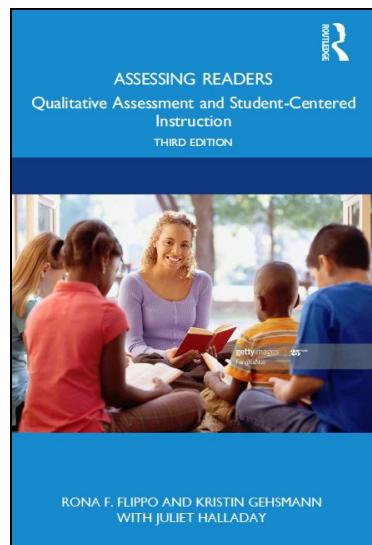
Aimie Moorewood. The International Literacy Association (ILA) presents this US\$1,000 award annually to honor an outstanding college or university teacher of reading methods or reading-related courses. It is our pleasure to highlight, Aimee Moorewood as the 2021 recipient. Check out the link below to her highlight in the Literacy Today January/February 2020/2021 issue!

Literacy Today January/February 2020/2021 issue

Highlighting....

Member's New Edition

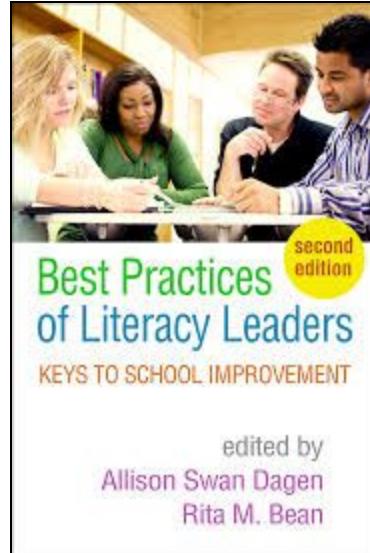
Rona Flippo has a new book in production. It is her third edition of "Assessing Readers: Qualitative Assessment and Student-Centered Instruction (3rd ed.)" by Rona F. Flippo and Kristin M. Gehsmann (with Juliet Halladay). New York, NY: Routledge. It will be published in the spring of 2021.



Spotlight on:

The Jack Cassidy Award for Scholarly Contributions

The recipient of our 2020 Jack Cassidy Award for Scholarly Contributions is Allison Swan-Daggen. Her chapter entitled, *Schools as places of learning: The powerful role of literacy leaders*, featured in Dagen and Bean's (2020) edited text, *Best practices of literacy leaders: Keys to school improvement*, is a must-read for every literacy professional. We hope to have a brief follow-up webinar to permit members to ask probing questions stemming from this important contribution to the field.



Highlighting....

Members' Impact on the Community



Member Jacy Ippolito. Much of my service during the COVID-19 pandemic has been focused on connecting with reading specialists and literacy coaches virtually (via Zoom) to listen to their challenges and offer support. Holding weekly "salon" virtual sessions seemed important at first, to help coaches to share what was working (and

vent about challenges!). Now, as the pandemic has extended, monthly check-ins have become more of the norm -- reflecting as a group of coaches across districts on how to best support teachers as students learn from home, in-person, and in a mixture of "hybrid models." We are now transitioning to starting to collect more formal research data about these coaches' experiences during the pandemic.

Member Diane Kern. Serving as the ILA National Recognition Coordinator alongside ILA staff and over 50 ILA reviewers with expertise as literacy professional educators.

Member Bethanie Pletcher. Visit this link to a video created by TAMU-CC regarding a virtual tutoring project from fall 2020.

<https://animoto.com/play/nixOadinUf7t7bgnD1FreQ>

Member AnnMarie Jay. I have been invited to serve as a co-editor of PA Reads: The Journal of the Keystone State Literacy Association (KSLA). I have served as a

reviewer for PA Reads as well as for some other journals for a number of years; I thoroughly enjoy reviewing. In the past I have served as president of KSLA (KSRA then) and as the IRA/ILA Coordinator for Pennsylvania. Both were wonderful experiences with great people. Now, I will serve as a co-editor for the journal. KSLA is a wonderful professional organization and I am pleased to take on this new role.

Upcoming Opportunity for Members...

COMING SOON

SLP Literacy Service Project Grant

Update from Grant Committee. We will soon be offering our members an opportunity to apply for the annual \$500 SLP service project grant to acquire materials and other resources for service projects supporting literacy development. Be on the lookout for an announcement for the due date and submission process. The goals of this service project grant initiative are to:

- initiate, extend, or expand existing university-, school- and/or community-based literacy projects;
- support literacy-focused trainings for parents and other community members, and/or professional learning opportunities for teachers, specialists, and other school-based professionals /or parents;
- increase access, equity, and diversity efforts related to literacy instruction and/or literacy materials; and
- expand literacy intervention work.
- align grant work with the SLP mission (<http://www.literacyprofessional.org/>) and the 2017 Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals (<https://literacyworldwide.org/get-resources/standards/standards-2017>)

An Update from the Committees

Membership Committee. Led by Johnathan Hill, the membership committee is looking to increase our visibility and to recruit more members for our organization. The goal is to grow our membership to over 100 active members by the end of this year. We are doing this primarily through social media and word of mouth. We are slowly but surely growing our Facebook group and while our Twitter account is still new, it too is growing. If you have any information, studies, or publications you would like announced on the social media accounts, you can email jhill@islander.tamucc.edu

If you have not yet, please give us a follow at: <https://www.facebook.com/literacyprofessional.org> on Facebook

And [@SpecializedLit](#) on Twitter

Also, we rely heavily on our members spreading news of our organization through word of mouth with colleagues, students in reading professionals' programs, and reading professionals across campuses and districts. So, if you know a specialized reading professional who would be great for our organization, encourage them to go to <http://www.literacyprofessional.org/join.html> to join.

The Specialized Literacy Professionals SIG has a diverse membership made of doctoral students, faculty members, researchers, and K-12 educators. Together, we support the SIG's mission of helping literacy professionals:

- keep abreast of recent efforts to develop standards and assessments for those delivering reading/literacy services;
- actively communicate with other professional organizations;
- take a proactive stance on issues involving literacy professionals;
- provide a forum for the professional development of all literacy professionals;
- conduct research relevant to literacy professionals.

Awards Committee. The 3rd Annual Jack Cassidy Award for Scholarly Contributions Award recognizes scholars whose research is not only timely but also has the potential to impact specialized literacy professionals. The Awards Committee currently seeks nominations for scholarly works from the year 2019 that have the potential for immediate impacts and widespread implications for specialized literacy professionals. Nominees must be a member of SLP. Please consider submitting a nomination when the call is sent out.

Research Committee. The Research committee, led by Evan Ortlieb, has been very busy with four main areas.

1. Diversity- “Deconstructing how we do and don’t address issues of diversity in literacy instruction”. Submitted for publication to a well-known, peer-reviewed journal in literacy education. Details forthcoming about where to find this paper once it has been accepted for publication. This important paper will move the field forward in the area of diversity, combining quantitative and qualitative data collection in a mixed methods explanatory, sequential design.
 2. Digital literacy – The research committee is currently considering options to conduct a follow up investigation regarding digital literacy use during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 3. Edited book addressing topics from the ILA standards. “What’s Hot in Literacy from Research and Practice”. Various authors can discuss key issues and how these topics are transforming literacy learning across print, hybrid, and online spaces. Evan Ortlieb will be sending out a call for chapter proposals later this year.
 4. We may also pursue a historical piece about the rich history of the Specialized Literacy Professionals SIG



Highlighting....

Members' Publications

Dobbs, C. L., Ippolito, J., & Charner-Laird, M. (2020). Disciplinary literacy: Exemplary processes and promising practices. In E. Ortlieb, S. Grote-Garcia, J. Cassidy, & E. H. Cheek (Eds.), What's hot in literacy: Exemplar models of effective practice (Literacy Research, Practice and Evaluation, Vol. 11) (pp. 17-31). Emerald Publishing Limited.

<https://doi.org/10.1108/S2048-045820200000011005>

Hudson, A., & Pletcher, B. C. (2020). The art of asking questions: Unlocking the power of a coach's language. *The Reading Teacher*, 74(1), 96-100.

<https://ila.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/trtr.1911>

Hudson, A., & Pletcher, B. C. (2020). What teachers want: Literacy coaching that meets their needs. *Texas Journal of Literacy Education* 8(1), 56-66.

<https://www.talejournal.com/index.php/TJLE/issue/view/3/3>

Ippolito, J., & Lieberman, J. (2020). Literacy coaches as literacy leaders. In A. Swan Dagen, & R. M. Bean (Eds.), Best practices of literacy leaders: Keys to school improvement (2nd Ed.) (pp. 69-88). New York: Guilford Press.

Ippolito, J., Dobbs, C. L., & Charner-Laird, M. (2020). Middle and high school literacy programs: Attending to both instructional and organizational challenges. In A. Swan Dagen, & R. M. Bean (Eds.), Best practices of literacy leaders: Keys to school improvement (2nd Ed.) (pp. 187-208). New York: Guilford Press.

Kern, D., Morewood, A., Dagen, A. S., Martinez, M., DeJulio, S., Harmon, J., & Sailors, M. (2020). Teacher preparation is hot and should be! In E. Ortlieb, S. Grote-Garcia, J. Cassidy, & E. H. Cheek (Eds.), What's hot in literacy: Exemplar models of effective practice, Vol 11, (pp. 95-110). Emerald Publishing, Ltd. doi:10.1108/S2048-045820200000011009.

Lisenbee, P., Pilgrim, J., & Vasinda, S. (2020). Integrating technology in literacy classrooms: Models and frameworks for all learners. Taylor and Francis Publishing.

Young, C., Polk, L., Durham, P., & Kerbs, M. (2020). The boys are back and they're looking for drama. *The Texas Journal of Literacy Education*, 8(1), 112-125.

<http://www.talejournal.com/index.php/TJLE/issue/view/3/3>