Spring/Summer 2024 *Volume 32, Issue 1*

SPECIALIZED LITERACY PROFESSIONALS

A publication of ALER's Specialized Literacy Professionals Special Interest Group

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear SLP members!

Well, the 2023-2024 school year has wrapped up! Members of SLP have had another productive year. The committee chairs and board members have been hard at work since the fall to create different professional opportunities for our SLP members. Please be sure to read through all the committee reports in this newsletter-there's something for everyone here!

SLP is a wonderful organization. The board members and committee chairs continue to focus their conversation on how to effectively and efficiently provide support to the membership. Please consider becoming more involved in SLP by applying for a leadership position in the future. The time commitment for each of these positions is very manageable throughout the school year. We are currently in the process of holding elections, and we look forward to welcoming new leaders to the board this summer.

SLP is looking to continually grow its membership because we know the value of having many members with different experiences. If you have a university/college colleague or work with practicing teachers who are not members of SLP, please talk with them about this group! The board has discussed the idea of extending personal invitations to join SLP, and we really feel that you sharing your experiences will create a welcoming path for potential new members to explore. Please share the website with your colleagues so that they can see for themselves the many ways they can become involved with SLP!

http://www.literacyprofessional.org/

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SLP President, Aimee Morewood
Professor, West Virginia University

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Remember to nominate a solo author or a team of authors for the *Jack Cassidy Award for Scholarly Contributions*. SLP wants to recognize the amazing work that its members contribute annually to the field. If you know of a piece published in 2023, please nominate the author(s) for this award.

The Service Project Grant Committee and the Engagement Committee are ready to get moving with their next projects. Members were emailed information about the service project grant in March, and the committee is currently reviewing applications. Every year this grant supports wonderful work! Also, be sure to check out the information on the next page about the upcoming book club brought to you by the Engagement Committee. I'm sure you will want to be a part of this next SLP activity!

Don't forget to join us on Facebook! SLP wants to share its members' accomplishments, so please continue to send information about publications and projects that you would like us to share with membership.

Lastly, this is my final newsletter as the SLP President. I absolutely cannot believe that my two-year term ends on June 30, 2024. I am thankful that I was able to serve such a dedicated group of professionals. Working with the SLP Board over the last two-years has been a meaningful professional and personal experience. It has been a pleasure working with all of you through different activities, meeting with you at our annual session at the ALER conference each fall and engaging in impactful work that supports specialized literacy professionals. I'm excited to see how SLP continues to grow in the future and know you are in great hands with Patricia Durham as the next president. I look forward to continuing my work with SLP.

As always, thank you for all the work you do in the field of literacy education.

Aimee Morewood, President, SLP

SLP BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT (2022-2024)
Aimee Morewood
West Virginia University

PRESIDENT-ELECT (Jan-June 2024)
Patricia Durham
Sam Houston State University

TREASURER (2023-2025)
Johnathan W. Hill
Tarleton State University

SECRETARY (2022-2024)
Shelly J. Landreth
University of Texas-Permian Basin

BOARD MEMBER (2022-2024)
Gina Doepker
University of Texas-Tyler

BOARD MEMBER (2023-2025)
Bethanie Pletcher
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

BOARD MEMBER (2023-2025)
Roberta Raymond
University of Houston-Clear Lake

BOARD MEMBER (2023-2025)
Tara Wilson
University of Texas-Permian Basin

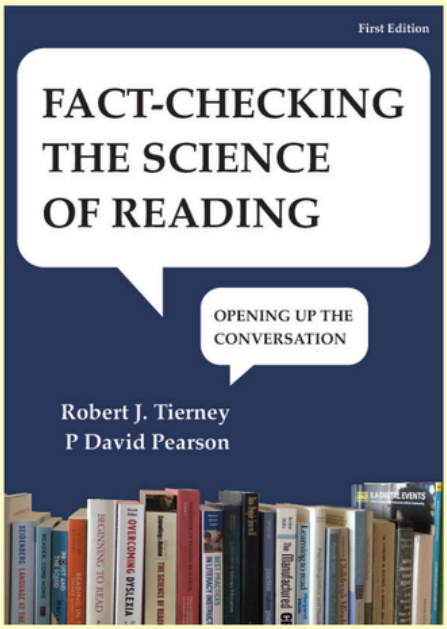
BROUGHT TO YOU BY

THE ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PATRICIA DURHAM, BETHANIE PLETCHER, ROBERTA RAYMOND

COMMON READER

Specialized Literacy Professionals (SLP)



Join us for a virtual book club!
We will be reading.....

Fact-Checking the Science of Reading: Opening Up the Conversation

by Robert J Tierney and P. David Pearson

FREE DOWNLOAD @
https://literacyresearchcommons.org/

Join SLP to participate:
click for more information!

5:30 PM CST via Zoom

July 18, August 15, September 19,

*** The October 17 Session will host BOTH Authors live!!

and culminating at the 2024 ALER Conference

Click to Register

Zoom link and reading schedule will be emailed.

ALER Conference 2024

Breaking Down Barriers to Mobilize Our Literate Selves

November 7-9
DoubleTree, Orlando, FL

Please join us for the SLP Board Meeting
Saturday, November 9, 7:45-9:30, Magnolia A

https://www.aleronline.org/page/Orlando2024

AWARDS COMMITTEE
SUBMITTED BY
PATRICIA DURHAM & GINA DOEPKER

The Awards Committee organized the Call for Nominations related to the Jack Cassidy Award for Scholarly Contributions. The selected entry will be awarded at the 2024 ALER annual conference in November. Below is the call:

Accepting Nominations for the 2024 Jack Cassidy Award for Scholarly Contributions

In recognition of Dr. Cassidy's service to SLP and his scholarly contributions to the field of literacy through the What's Hot in Literacy survey, SLP annually recognizes the authors of one scholarly publication with the Jack Cassidy Award for Scholarly Contributions. Chosen scholars are recognized for their scholarship of timely (i.e., HOT) topics and the potential impact their scholarship may have on specialized literacy professionals.

Awardees will be recognized at the annual fall meeting of Specialized Literacy Professionals.

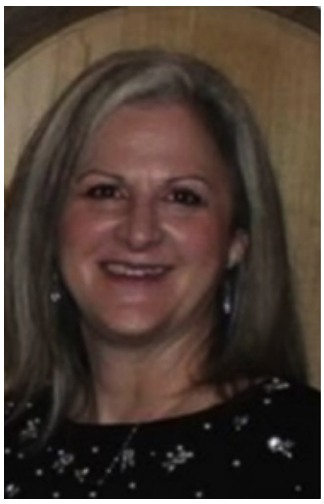
Qualifications:
· The recipients must be a member of SLP.
· The recipients' contributions should reflect timely (i.e., published within the awarded year) topics and a potential to impact specialized literacy professionals.

To nominate or self-nominate authors of one scholarly publication, please send an email to Patricia Durham, Chair of the Awards Committee, at pmd006@shsu.edu.

On behalf of our friends in TERSG,
the Teacher Education Research Study Group, you are invited to...

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

STEPHANIE ALEXANDER



Stephanie Alexander is a literacy coach with over thirty-six years of experience in education. For the last ten years, Stephanie has been a literacy coach in several elementary and secondary schools where she assisted teachers in both the art and science of teaching. Before becoming a literacy coach, she was a classroom teacher with experience in kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade. Stephanie's passion for assisting struggling readers led her on a journey to learn as much as she could about teaching children to read. She became a Reading Recovery teacher and pursued a master's degree in Reading and Literacy.

Stephanie also has experience as an adjunct instructor with the University of West Florida where she teaches reading and other teacher preparation courses. In 2018, she was honored to receive the UWF Adjunct of Excellence Award. Her experiences at the university developed a desire to acquire more knowledge. She recently completed her Doctor of Education degree in Reading and Literacy Leadership. This fall she will embark on a new adventure as she has accepted a job as the Assistant Professor of Clinical Practice at the University of West Florida.

In her free time, Stephanie enjoys camping and boating with her husband, spending time with her sons and daughters-in-law, playing the piano, and reading.

We are looking for members to feature in the newsletter. If interested, please send a brief bio and photo (optional) to Shelly Landreth at: landreth_s@utpb.edu

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

SUBMITTED BY BETHANIE PLETCHER

The Research Committee has submitted a manuscript for publication titled, "Two Sides of the Same Coin: Finding Balance in the Midst of a Reading War." The authors of this paper were Bethanie Pletcher, Gina Doepker, Patricia Durham, Aimee Morewood, and Roberta Raymond.

We are currently brainstorming a topic for our next paper, as it is our goal to produce one collaborative paper per year.

Please contact Bethanie Pletcher at bethanie.pletcher@tamucc.edu if you are interested in working on a paper and/or you have ideas for future papers.

Membership is available online at:

http://www.literacyprofessional.org/join.html

The following options are available:
one year $10.00
two years $15.00
four years $30.00

Please encourage a colleague to join our SIG this year!

MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

Bryars, L., & **Pletcher, B. C.** (2024). "Are you gonna help us with writing?": Empowering writers through bibliotherapy and dialogue journaling. *The Reading Teacher, 77(6), 1027-1034.* https://ila.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/trtr.2320

Consalvo, A., **Doepker, G. M**., Neel, J., Whittington, A., & Dubre, V. (2024). The chocolate war 2.0: Archival exhibit as OER and companion text in the English classroom. Special Issue: *Oregon English Journal, XLVI*(1), 24-33.

Doepker, G. M. (2024). Miss Lady Bird's wildflowers: How a first lady changed America – Book Review. *The Social Studies Texan*.

Doepker, G. M. (2023). Revisiting an Old Friend: The Story of Babar the Little Elephant – Book Review, *The Social Studies Texan, 39*(3), 667-67.

Doepker, G. M. (2024). Mixed A Colorful Story – Book Rationale. *NCTE This Story Matters Teacher Corps* database.

Doepker, G. M. (2024). I'm From – Book Rationale. *NCTE This Story Matters Teacher Corps* database.

Ippolito, J., & Bean, R. M. (2024). *The power of instructional coaching in context: A systems view for aligning content and coaching*. Guilford Press.

Ippolito, J., Dobbs, C. L., & Charner-Laird, M. (2024). *Disciplinary literacy inquiry and instruction* (2nd ed.). Harvard Education Press.

Pletcher, B. C. (2023, July). Literacy and the instructional cycle: Framework for a successful year. Literacy Today, an ILA publication (top read). https://publuu.com/flip-book/24429/445819/page/52