PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Whether you are reading this in New York or in Ohio, in Colorado or in California—don’t you love knowing that you are part of a national network of people who share your love of teaching those who struggle with learning to read, write and spell? And an even more powerful fact is that we all share and use a common knowledge and understanding of the structure of the English language as we work with our students or train teachers. And whether your summer has been filled with providing language therapy instruction, additional training and professional development for yourself, or perhaps even a moment of vacation for rest and relaxation, know that all of us in ALTA are wishing you well.

This is an exciting time for ALTA. As a professional organization, we have achieved another goal, that of state licensure. In the early years of the organization I remember numerous discussions about the possibility of some type of state or national certification. ALTA founders set high goals and standards for the organization in order to have the training be recognized at the highest levels. Licensure is another step towards achieving that vision. All are encouraged to apply for licensure as soon as you receive the application. The license is granted through the Texas Department of State Health Services. Information can be found at the following link http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/dyslexia/default.shtm Know that all members of ALTA are eligible to apply for a license. Those members who live outside of Texas can download an application from the Texas Department of State Health Services website.

Helen Macle
ALTA’s Fundraising Luncheon

The ALTA Conference fundraising luncheon was a special event to celebrate the achievement of Texas State Licensure for Dyslexia Therapists and Practitioners. The goal of state licensure has been on the ALTA agenda since its founding.

Tincey Miller who was instrumental in the legislative process to achieve this licensure was honored with a replica of the licensure certificate to be issued this fall. Tincey was also the guiding force in the Texas Dyslexia Law.

Dr. Reid Lyon, internationally recognized in the field of Learning Disabilities and specifically dyslexia, was the luncheon speaker. Dr. Lyon is a distinguished professor of education policy and leadership. He holds a joint appointment in the School of Brain and Behavior Sciences at the University of Texas-Dallas where he is a distinguished scientist at the Center for Brain Health. From 1992 until 2005 Dr. Lyon served as a research psychologist and the chief of Child Development and Behavior Branch within the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Recognized also were Courtney Hoffman, ALTA’s lobbyist, and legislators Rob Eissler, Joan Huffman, and Stephen Mills.

Proceeds from the luncheon will assist in the continuance of our legislative efforts to foster the licensure process.
Licensure and Title Changes

by Treasa Owens

ALTA’s licensure initiative was successful during the 81st Legislative Session at the Texas Capitol. House Bill 461 passed in June 2009 and contained features which allow ALTA to have a continuing voice in setting policy for the state of Texas.

Two unique features of the bill are especially meaningful for ALTA members:
- a grandfathering period until November 2012
- the ability for out-of-state ALTA members to seek licensure as a Licensed Dyslexia Therapist or a Licensed Dyslexia Practitioner through the process developed by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

The passage of HB461 created the need for ALTA to examine and align the governing documents and procedures in light of the licensing requirements which became effective May 1, 2010. At ALTA’s annual spring conference, membership approved the change of titles for membership levels of Instructor of Associate Academic Language Teachers (IAALT) to Instruction of Certified Academic Language Practitioner (ICALP) and Associate Academic Language Teacher (AALT) to Certified Academic Language Practitioner (CALP).

Those to whom this affects will be receiving a new certificate to replace the previous one containing the new title changes. Please replace the previous certificate with the new one when you receive it and attach the membership sticker to show your membership renewal date.

Shelton School Names New Outreach Director

Nancy Coffman, CALT, QI, has been appointed as the new director of outreach for Shelton School and Evaluation Center, effective June 1, 2010. She first worked at Shelton as a teacher and later as assistant head of middle school. After working for a time at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children’s outreach coordinator for the Center for Dyslexia, she was recruited to return to Shelton in 2009 as the associate director of Shelton’s outreach center.

Nancy is a past president and a board member of ALTA, and is the current president of the Alliance for Accreditation and Certification of Structured Language Education. She is a past winner of IMSLEC’s Innovator Award and is a frequent presenter for IDA. She does extensive training in multisensory structured language approaches for numerous school districts. As director of Shelton’s outreach center, she will be responsible for the school’s training series, an extensive summer school program, and the Shelton Scholars tutoring program. Recent expansion of the outreach program includes distance learning, webinars, and a storefront for Shelton’s unique educational materials.
A Thank You From the Outreach Committee

by Joan Hogge

The Outreach Committee is celebrating a creative, collaborative year.

We joined with The Dallas Children’s Theater to support their marvelous production of *hard 2 spel dad* and helped the inmates at Dawson Prison make a *HOPE Alphabet Quilt* sharing their hope for their future lives when they are set free. Joan Hogge, Judy Echois, and Lucy Smith went to the jail to take fabric and instruct them in painting the squares. Joan and a friend, quilter Carolyn Metten, laid out the completed squares in a colorful pattern, and Carolyn pieced and quilted the squares together into the beautiful quilt we showcased at the ALTA Conference. We are grateful to Carolyn for her generous, creative spirit.

ALTA members who contributed at least $12.00 (one dollar for each month of the year) were entered into a drawing for the quilt at the ALTA Conference and we earned $580.00 for Texas Hope Literacy, Inc., founded by one of our own members, Lucy Smith. The winner of the quilt was CALT Ginny Little, of the Payne Education Center in Ardmore, Oklahoma. She plans to hang the quilt in the center for all to view and enjoy.

We are planning a painting workshop, called *Paint For Your Life*, at the jail during July 2011, which Joan Hogge will lead. If anyone is interested, please call Joan at 972-424-5740. We had many come by the Outreach Booth at the Conference and share their interest and enthusiasm in our projects. We would appreciate your help, support, and ideas.

We also hope to continue our collaborations with DCT and HOPE and include Dallas Bethlehem Center next year with STARLIT, a literacy weekend with authors of children’s books at DCT. We hope to include the disadvantaged children of DBC and those of the incarcerated in this weekend, as well as children and families throughout the community.

Another project is connecting with the children of the incarcerated, perhaps with a reading program or helping them develop their interest in reading. If you are interested, or have other ideas about how to connect with and help the children of the incarcerated, please contact us. We would love to hear from you. In the meantime, we celebrate our accomplishments on behalf of ALTA and literacy and look forward to next year.
“Can you not pick me up any more?” “Make it look like you don’t know me.” These were things he said to me at the beginning of the school year. Typical for a fifth grade student new to a school and being pulled from class for dyslexia services.

Julian eventually warmed up to the idea of being pulled from class, but it took many hours of referring back to famous people who had also grown up with dyslexia. One Saturday, I went to Julian’s basketball game and was amazed. He may be small but was a “powerhouse” when it came to playing basketball. After the game, I told him he was amazing and that we had to come up with a plan for him on Monday.

Monday at school I told him he was an awesome basketball player and could make his mark on the court, but he had to keep his grades up in order to play. That seemed to be the magic he needed.

A couple of days later Julian came into class and told me he had been working on a RAP. I said, “Let’s hear it.” He told me what he had come up with and said it still needed work. I made a deal with him, if he came in and we got our lesson done, he could work on the RAP after our lesson. Well, from that point on “his game was on.”

A couple of days later, Julian had some family situations that made him have to step up his game of being the oldest child and big brother to four siblings. It was not easy, and Julian had a real hard time dealing with things. We spent many days talking over things, doing dyslexia lessons, and working on his RAP.

He finally finished the RAP in early April and performed it during the TAKS rally at school. Julian transformed from an unmotivated child embarrassed to be pulled from class to a child who came to my class every morning before school to check on things and talk.

I still hear from Julian at least once every other week. He is looking forward to going into middle school and is working on another RAP about basketball.

My Game!

By Stacy Erwin

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Friends of ALTA

The formation of Friends of ALTA is a bold new step to expand and re-energize the voice of ALTA for parents and educators who would otherwise be unable to apply for membership. The new category of membership will create a powerful force for public awareness, advocacy, and provide infinite opportunities for lifelong learning for our students, parents and friends. This is a wonderful opportunity to pull our voices together, enlarge our scope, and move toward an enlarged organization.

Friends of ALTA, the newest category of Academic Language Therapist Association membership, will enable parents to stay informed on the best practices to help children with dyslexia. With the passage of HB 461, ALTA has taken a huge step toward ensuring the families of children with dyslexia will know the level of training and professionalism of the individual working with their child. With knowledge gained from their Friends of ALTA membership, parents will become better advocates for their children.

The formation of the Friends of ALTA category enables professionals to gain knowledge of dyslexia and to collaborate with CALTs to help children. The ALTA Legislative Advisory Council met all last year to advocate in communities for children with dyslexia. Representatives from all nine training centers in Texas discussed the need to find a way to include other professionals and parents in ALTA. The Friends of ALTA formation is a result of the conversations among training center representatives.

The Friends of ALTA membership would be comprised of citizens who support and care that the purpose of ALTA is carried out by establishing, maintaining, and promoting standards of education, practice, and professional conduct for Academic Language Therapists who are teaching students with dyslexia and/or related disorders in individual or class settings. This category will include anyone who is non-certified: parents, administrators, colleagues from other groups, community supporters, and others interested in and support ALTA.

Friends of ALTA members will be non-voting members and may not be Officers or Directors, although they may serve as advisors to the organization. The new member’s expanded expertise and willingness to volunteer would be very helpful to our organization. Friends of ALTA would receive:

- Marketing in ALTA materials
- Copy of ALTA directory or access to member database
- Newsletter access
- Reduced Conference fees
- Invitations to special events
- Eligibility to serve as advisors to the organization
- Access to restricted area of web site for Friends of ALTA
- Email notices/alerts on items of interest to ALTA

Our organization would be exponentially more powerful with the enlarged membership, coupled with the ability to move forward with new membership, resources and additional educational opportunities to those not certified as therapists. The opportunity to join this group is available online.

Mary Wines
M.Ed., QI, CALT
Midwestern State University
Kim Anderson, M.Ed., CALT
Director, Reach Out and Read-TexasUT-Houston Medical School, Children’s Learning Institute
ALTA Conference Welcomes New and Returning Board of Directors and Officers

New Officers and Board of Directors include:

Helen Maclik, President (2010 - 2012)
Karen Aritt, President Elect (2010 - 2012)
Rae Cromeens, VP - Programs (2010 - 2012)
Terri Zerfas, VP - Long Range Plan (2010 - 2012)
Kay Byrd, VP—Website (2010 - 2012)
JoAnn Handy, Secretary (2010 - 2012)
Katy Farmer, Treasurer (2010 - 2012)

Margie Gillis, Board of Directors (2010 - 2012)
Kathleen Carlsen, Board of Directors (2010 - 2012)
Marilyn Mathis, Board of Directors (2010 - 2012)
Judith Bish, Board of Directors (2010 - 2012)
Linda Gladden, Board of Directors (2010 - 2012)
Nancy Cushen White, Board of Directors (2010 - 2012)

Returning Officers and Board of Directors include:

Treasa Owens, VP - Membership (2009 - 2011)
Joyce Pickering, VP - Public Relations (2009 - 2011)
Jean Colner, Board of Directors (2009 - 2011)
Jennifer Sellers, Board of Directors (2009 - 2011)
Michelle Bufkin, Immediate Past President (2010 - 2011)

Tim Odegard, Board of Directors (2009 - 2011)
Lucy Smith, Board of Directors (2009 - 2011)
Elaine Cheesman, Board of Directors (2009 - 2011)
Catherine Ghassemi, Board of Directors (2009 - 2011)

Name: Marilyn Mathis

Education: BA in Speech Pathology, M.Ed. in Special Education, CALT, QI

Family: Married 37 yrs., daughter-Kate & son-in-law John, and son-Mike

Years in ALTA: 22 yrs.

Original motivation to enter this field: My son, Mike, was struggling in school and although I was a Speech Pathologist and had a Master’s degree in Special Ed., I was unable to help my son. After going on an extensive fact-finding mission, I learned about the excellent training that had come out of the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital. I even called Aylett Cox, who encouraged me to take the training to become an Academic Language Therapist. She said, “Marilyn, you will be a pioneer in the state of Pennsylvania!” How right she was as no one in my area had training in how to help dyslexic children read, write and spell. I owe a great deal of gratitude to my mentor, Dr. Beverly Dooley, for my extensive training.

Previous ALTA Board positions: Chairman of Public Relations

In what positions have you used your training: I worked as an Academic Language Therapist at the Lewis School which is a private school for 1st through 12th grade in Princeton, NJ. In addition, I had a private practice for 10 years. For the last 11 years, I have held the position as Director for the 32° Masonic Learning Center in Allentown, PA whose mission is to:

1. Provide, free of charge, the highest quality multisensory reading and written language tutorial services for children with dyslexia, through a network of nationally recognized centers of excellence.
2. Promote and encourage education of professionals, tutorial trainees, and the public, to become resources in teaching children to read.
3. Advance scientific knowledge of dyslexia through support of clinical research, to improve today’s standards and tomorrow’s care.

I also think it is noteworthy that I was told that when they were looking for someone for position as Director, they used the ALTA Directory to find a qualified individual near Allentown, PA. This speaks to the importance of being certified by ALTA and belonging to a nationally recognized professional organization. How else would they have found someone in an area with no training programs or qualified professionals in the field of dyslexia?

Initial training at: Southwest Multisensory Training Center
Related board experience: IDA board member and served as Public Relations Chairman (dates 1995-1997)

My vision for ALTA: As Public Relations Chairman, I hope to continue to work with other members of the Board to further increase public awareness of ALTA so that our membership will continue to grow throughout the US.

Name: Nancy Cushen White, Ed.D.

Education:
Ed.D. Curriculum & Instruction—University of San Francisco
M.Ed. Specific Language Disability—Notre Dame de Namur University-Belmont, CA
B.A. Elementary Education—University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill

Family:
Husband—Bebo White—Computational Physicist
Sons—
Andrew White—Seattle, WA
Topher White—Aix-en-Provence, FRANCE

Years in ALTA: not sure—at least 12 years I think (I took the ALTA exam during the IDA Conference in San Francisco in 1998.)

Original motivation to enter this field:
As an elementary classroom teacher, I was prepared to teach only those students who would learn to read in spite of me—not because of me. I needed to learn how to teach those students who needed to be taught—most of the students in my classes.

Previous ALTA Board positions:
New Board Member

In what positions have you used your training:
• San Francisco Unified School District—
• Special Ed Teacher—Learning Disability Group
• Special Day Class Teacher—Gifted Students with Dyslexia
• Program Consultant—providing support for teachers trained to use multisensory structured language approaches

San Francisco State University—Department of Special Education
Instructor—Advanced Literacy Course
Lecturer—Reading and Language Courses
University of CA—Berkeley Extension
Founding Academic Coordinator—Educational Therapy Certificate Program
Instructor—Language and Reading Courses & Assessment Courses

Initial training:
Slingerland Intro Course-Menlo Park, CA—Director-Nick Colasanti

Related board experience:
International Dyslexia Association (IDA) Board of Directors
Northern CA Branch—IDA—Branch President, Board Member & Advisory Board Member

My vision for ALTA:
Expansion of licensure to other states

Name: Terri Zerfas

Education: Ph.D.

Family: husband, Gary, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 1 daughter-in-law, 3 grandsons

Years in ALTA: 10

Original motivation to enter this field:
My daughter is dyslexic/ADHD

Previous ALTA Board positions: CEU chair

In what positions have you used your training:
Rockwall ISD, QI at SMU

Initial training at: Texas Scottish Rite Hospital

Related board experience: Advisory Board/Legacy School of Rockwall, DBIDA

My vision for ALTA: To maintain high quality standards for our members so that individuals with dyslexia will receive effective interventions. To continue to educate school administrators and legislators at the local, state, and national level regarding the intensive training that is needed for professionals who serve the dyslexic population.
Name: Jo Ann Handy

Education:
B.S. in Elem. Education from Keuka College (NY)
MEd in Reading from Pan American University (TX)
Certificate in Supervision – Pan Am
Certificate in Mid Management – Pan Am
Certificate as a Master Reading Teacher
Academic Language Therapy from SMU
Qualified Instructor Training from SMU

Family: Husband – Gilbert Handy

Years in ALTA: 7

Original motivation to enter this field:
As both a teacher and an administrator I encountered children who could not learn to read by traditional methods. I wanted to learn a method that would reach this population.

Previous ALTA Board positions: none

In what positions have you used your training:
I created the dyslexia program at Mission CISD when I was given the position of district coordinator for dyslexia. In this position I also trained campus personnel to work with identified students and gave workshops on dyslexia characteristics, etc. I started my own private practice in 2004 and do that full time since retiring from public education in 2006. I continue to do workshops in the area of dyslexia at local school districts.

Initial training at: Southern Methodist University

Related board experience: Served on the Exhibits Committee

My vision for ALTA: I would like to see the organization continue to grow, especially with new chapters in other parts of the country. We need to become well known throughout the country and grow in numbers to meet the needs of dyslexic individuals.
Trainee Spotlight: Elizabeth Sepulveda Montez

Where are you receiving your training?
I am receiving my training at the Scottish Rite Dyslexia Center in Austin, TX.

Hometown: I grew up in Rio Grande City, TX. I moved to Austin in 1987 when I attended Saint Edward’s University.

Previous education: I received a Bachelors of Arts in Mathematics with a minor in Bilingual Education.

Why did you choose CALT training? Last year I started working as a Bilingual reading specialist. Since I was working with a lot of the students who had reading difficulties, I wanted to know what the signs were that a child was or would be dyslexic.

How do you plan on using your training? I plan on implementing everything that I have learned. My dyslexic students as well as my transition and regular students will benefit from the strategies and skills that I have learned during my training. I would also like to help teachers learn everything that I have learned. I am embarrassed to say, but as a Spanish speaker, Spanish being my first language, there was a lot that I did not know about the English language. I feel more confident and proud of everything that I have learned.

What has been the hardest part of your training? The hardest part of the training for me was the first 3 weeks of training in the summer. I was ready to quit by the end of the first week!! It was too much information to process, not to mention a lot of reading. Some things I did not see the point at the time, until I started teaching the lessons. Everything then became clear to me.

What have been the most valuable parts of your training? The most valuable parts of the training have been the videos and the feedback from my trainers. Although, everything has been valuable to me, considering I have been teaching for 15 years and there was a lot I didn’t know about teaching reading.

What areas do you feel are a struggle for trainees? I think that the biggest struggle for trainees would be to finish the lesson in 45 minutes. It gets better and faster as you do it more often, but sometimes some lessons are longer than others. Also, for me the pronunciation of some sounds and words has been a struggle at times. I just want to make sure that I am teaching it correctly to my students.

Why do you want to join ALTA? I want to join ALTA so that I can be updated on all the new research with dyslexia or reading disorders.

How has your training changed other areas of your life? It has helped me become a better teacher and mentor. I feel that every teacher should get this training. It’s not just beneficial for your dyslexic kids, but for all your students. I am really enjoying teaching the lessons to my students. My students have learned so much and are doing great. They will become stronger readers. I know that these are skills that my dyslexic students will use for the rest of their lives. This has been the best program that I have participated in. I have learned so much and I still need one more year of training. Our trainers are wonderful and are there to support us every step of the way. I’m so glad that I did not quit.
Founded by the Scottish Rite Masons in 1989, the Scottish Rite Learning Center of Austin, Inc. (SRLC) began offering the Dyslexia Training Program developed by the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas. At the beginning of our third decade, SRLC is proud to offer an International Multisensory Structured Language Educational Council (IMSLEC) accredited course, Dyslexia Therapist Training, which uses Take Flight: A Comprehensive Intervention for Students with Dyslexia (Take Flight). In June our newest offering, Language Foundations introduced its inaugural class. The center also offers psycho-educational evaluations and speech-language and emerging literacy evaluations for children age four to six. In addition to free afterschool Take Flight classes for students in second through fifth grade, the center has recently added Pre-flight: An introduction for young children to Take Flight (Pre-flight). Summer FUNdamentals was provided in June and August for students struggling with reading and study skills.

SRLC has experienced some exciting firsts this year. On February 9, 2010, five first graders began the first Pre-flight class offered by SRLC. Using some of the techniques and procedures students would encounter in Take Flight, they participated in games and activities focused on learning the alphabet, phonemic awareness, and reading comprehension. After attending three days a week through May 5th, two of the students from this class entered the afterschool program at the center this fall.

On March 30, 2010, SRLC students, parents, staff, board members and friends enjoyed a special evening at our first Barnes & Noble Book Fair at the Arboretum. Students and staff dressed up as their favorite book characters. The Best Costume award winners (Snow White, Sherlock Holmes and Brian from Brian’s Hunt) won Barnes & Noble gift cards, of course! Students had prepared presentations showcasing their reading, writing, and creativity through poetry, posters and a demonstration of how to make “Slime.” It was a proud and emotional time for the adults as they observed the children’s newfound confidence and self-esteem. The evening ended around the corner at Five Guys Famous Burgers and Fries. Barnes & Noble and Five Guys gave a percentage of the group’s purchases that night to SRLC. This highly successful event is sure to become a tradition!
On June 14, 2010, an Academic Language Practitioner, or Teaching Level, course using Language Foundations was offered at SRLC for the first time. This provided the level of training in Central Texas necessary for teachers to qualify as Certified Academic Language Practitioners (CALP). Language Foundations is an Orton-Gillingham-Childs-Alphabetic Phonics based multisensory scripted program. Following the five day class, QIs will provide the additional course work and supervise the completion of all course requirements, based on ALTA guidelines. Teachers who satisfy all requirements will qualify to take the National Alliance Exam to become CALPs, and those who pass the exam will be eligible to become Licensed Dyslexia Practitioners in the State of Texas. Our next goal is to apply for IMSLEC accreditation of the course at the Teaching Level after the first cohort completes training. As always, our ultimate goal is to provide meaningful dyslexia services to as many students in Central Texas as possible.

SRLC would like to thank San Marcos Civic Foundation for their generous support which has made this exciting undertaking available to teachers in the region.
PHOTO COLLAGE
The ALTA Awards were first presented in 2007 and are based on the 2006 Cornerstone Awards. The awards recognize individuals who represent the commitment, qualities, high standards, and spirit of Jamie Williams, Aylett Cox, and Luke Waites.

The Jamie G. Williams Founders Award is to honor an individual for dedications made to the establishment of the ALTA organization. The recipient must be a current or former ALTA member.

The Aylett R. Cox Educator Award is to honor an individual for the significant impact made on the lives of individuals with dyslexia.

The Luke Waites Award of Service is to honor an individual for a significant contribution made to improve services for individuals with dyslexia.

Future ALTA Newsletters will give details on nomination procedures.

Dr. G. Reid Lyon receives Luke Waites ALTA Award of Service

The Luke Waites ALTA Award of Service is given to someone who has made a significant contribution to improve services received by dyslexic individuals. This year’s recipient was recently appointed as a Distinguished Professor of Education Leadership and Policy at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, and a Distinguished Scientist in the School of Brain and Behavior Sciences at the University of Texas, Dallas. Over the past 30 years, he has had a wide range of professional responsibilities including his contributions as a research scientist, professor, classroom teacher, special education teacher, neuropsychologist, school psychologist, and leader in the development of evidence-based education policy at federal and state levels. From 1992 until 2005, he served as a research psychologist and the Chief of the Child Development and Behavior Branch within the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at the National Institutes of Health. While at the National Institute of Health, he worked closely with the White House, the U.S. Department of Education, and Congress on the development of evidence-based education policy. He has testified numerous times before U.S. Senate and House committees, addressing the need for scientific research to guide educational practices and policies, evidence-based teacher education, and reading development and reading disorders. In 2006, he was named one of the ten most influential people in American education for his work in ensuring that scientific research occupies a central role in educational practices and policy. He served on the faculties of the University of Alabama - Birmingham, Northwestern University and the University of Vermont School Of Medicine. He has authored, co-authored and edited more than 130 peer reviewed journal articles, books, and book chapters on developmental neuroscience, learning differences and disabilities, reading and reading difficulties, and educational policy. He has appeared on several news networks to discuss issues relevant to education, child development, and educational research and policies. From 1967 until 1970, he served as a United States Army paratrooper and in Vietnam from February 1968 to May 1969. He received the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry (Unit), among other decorations. He and his wife, Diane live in Dallas and have 3 children. It is with a great deal of appreciation and honor that we present this year’s Luke Waites ALTA Award of Service to Dr. G. Reid Lyon.

Jamie G. Williams ALTA Founders Award presented to Judy Echols

The Jamie G. Williams ALTA Founders Award was established to honor an ALTA member in good standing who has made a significant contribution to the organization. This year’s recipient is an exceptional and respected resource for the organization’s members and leadership. Her association and commitment to ALTA has helped the organization fulfill its goal of licensure. She worked for many years in the legal field. This experience made her a valuable
asset throughout the licensure process and on her subsequent committee work for ALTA. Her many hours and gifts of reading, research, discussions, and writing led ALTA to its goal of licensure. What many ALTA members don’t know is that this year’s recipient has also worked on the Governance Committee, Nominating Committee, Conference Committee, and Outreach Committee. In each of her roles on these committees she brings a depth of expertise, loyalty to ALTA and interest that has benefited our organization in immeasurable ways.

While attending an IDA Conference she happened to meet Dr. Karen Vickery and her life was changed. At that point she jumped feet first into the fire. She began her second career. She trained at the SMU Language Therapy Center and completed the qualifications to obtain designation as a Certified Academic Language Therapist and earned a Masters in Education. Prior to joining the staff at St. Monica School, she worked as a private Academic Language Therapist. She and her husband Bill have been married for 22 years and have 2 children, one a recent college graduate and the other a sophomore in college. When she is not busy working on ALTA licensure she enjoys skiing, sailing and hiking with her family. Our honoree also enjoys reading and crocheting. Those who know her well know that one of her true gifts is her warm and generous spirit and reputation for hosting the most entertaining dinner parties in town. You cannot be around her for long without smiling or laughing. It is with great appreciation and honor that we present this year’s Jamie G. Williams ALTA Founders Award to Judy Echols.

The Aylett R. Cox ALTA Educator Award is given to an educator who has made a significant impact in the lives of individuals with dyslexia. This year’s honored educator has long been an advocate for students who struggle in school. He holds 3 degrees in Special Education and has served as an adjunct professor and visiting lecturer at numerous universities. He serves as a consultant on learning disabilities to several agencies and organizations. He is one of the most sought-after speakers in the field of learning disabilities. He has served as an administrator of residential programs for children with special needs since 1972. Our honoree is probably best known for his videos “How Difficult Can This Be?: The F.A.T. City Workshop” and “Last One Picked, First One Picked On: The Social Implications of Learning Disabilities”. These award-winning films have brought his sensitive and compelling message to countless thousands throughout the world. Former First Lady Barbara Bush has stated, “I wish that every parent and teacher in the United States could see your program.” He has delivered his message to over 500,000 parents and professionals throughout North America, Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong. He has the distinction of having delivered Keynote Addresses for all three of the major special needs advocacy organizations in the United States (Learning Disabilities Association, Council for Exceptional Children, Children with Attention Deficit Disorder).

Training centers for Academic Language Therapists and Practitioners around the nation have used his videos and books to inform and inspire teachers who will be working with children with learning differences. Dyslexic students have better prepared instructors because of his methods and philosophies. He is married to Janet and has 3 grown children. He lives in the shadow of Boston’s Fenway Park. It is with a great deal of appreciation and honor that we present this year’s Aylett Royall Cox ALTA Educator Award to Richard Lavoie.
ALTA Foundation Announces
2010 I Believe in Myself Award

Sadie Rose du Vigneaud essay winner

The I Believe in Myself Award is a scholarship opportunity for students in third grade and up who are receiving academic language therapy from an ALTA member in good standing. Students with an interest in art submit an essay explaining why art is important in their life. Joan Hogge, recognized artist, CALT and ALTA member, provides a $250 scholarship towards art lessons.

The ALTA Foundation is proud to announce that Sadie Rose du Vigneaud was awarded the fourth annual I Believe in Myself Award. Sadie Rose is 9 years old and attends Saint Marks in Houston, Texas. Her family and therapist supported Sadie as she accepted the award at the ALTA Conference on May 1, 2010.

Her therapist, Marian Cisarik reports that Sadie has a positive attitude each day and is an excellent student. She is a talented artist and has used her art to enrich her education at all levels. Sadie stated that art is quiet and relaxing. She enjoys drawing 3D cubes. Sadie and her mom enjoy creating art with food while cooking.

The ALTA Foundation wishes to thank Sadie’s family and therapist, Marian Cisarik for encouraging her art and writing.

We look forward to displaying Sadie’s art at the ALTA Foundation exhibit booth during the 2011 ALTA Conference.
DDIG monthly events –
2 CEU contact hours each session
Held at Winston School,
5707 Royal Lane, Dallas, TX 75229
(7:00-9:00pm) no charge
Contact: Bob Brooks (boblb97@sbcglobal.net)
November 8, 2010
The Emotional Side of Learning Differences and ADHD (Terri Zerfas, PhD.)

STRIPES (Brain and Body Fitness) events –
3 CEU contact hours each session
Held at
908 Sandalwood Ave, Richardson, TX 75080
(12:30-4:30pm) $55 per session
Contact: Alice Redding (alice@stripesyoga.com)
October 24, 2010
November 28, 2010

Neuhaus Educational Center events -
3 CEU contact hours each session
Held at
Neuhaus Educational Center;
4433 Bissonnet, Bellaire, TX
Contact: Mary Yarus (myarus@neuhaus.org)

• From Friendship to Bullying: The Social Side of LD
  October 15, 2010 (9:00am-12:00pm) $40
• Beyond the Basics of Reading on Reading Teachers’ Network
  November 12, 2010 (9:00am-12:00pm) $40
• Navigating School Change
  January 21, 2011 (9:00am-12:00pm) $40
• Beyond the Basics of Reading on Reading Teachers’ Network
  February 18, 2011 (9:00am-12:00pm) $40
• Education and “Charismatic” Adults: To Touch a Student’s Heart and Mind
  March 3, 2011 (9:00am-12:00pm) $40
• Hot Topics in Dyslexia Assessment and Intervention
  April 1, 2011 (9:00am-12:00pm) $40
• Keys to a Happy & Productive 12 Weeks of Summer Vacation
  May 6, 2011 (9:00am-12:00pm) $50

Shelton School Events
Held at
Shelton School, 15720 Hillcrest Road, Dallas, TX 75248
Contact: Barbara Shortall (bshortall@shelton.org)

• Montessori Applied to Children at Risk
  October 2, 2010 (8:30am-4:30pm) 7 CEU contact hours - $95
• Simulations of LD
  October 14, 2010 (7:00-9:00pm) 2 CEU contact hours -no charge
• Social Skills/Choices
  October 23, 2010 (8:00am-4:30pm) 7.5 CEU contact hours - $95
• Social Skills / Organization and Study Skills
  November 4, 2010 (7:00-9:00pm) 2 CEU contact hours - no charge
• Discipline / Classroom Management
  November 13, 2010 (8:00am-4:30pm) 7.5 CEU contact hours - $95
• Oral and Written Language
  December 2, 2010 (7:00-9:00pm) 2 CEU contact hours - no charge
• Structural Math
  December 4, 2010 (8:30am-4:30pm) 7 CEU contact hours - $95
• Freedom from Chemical Dependency
  January 13, 2011 (7:00-9:00pm) 2 CEU contact hours - no charge
• History of Language
  January 22, 2011 (8:30am-4:30pm) 7 CEU contact hours - $95
• Math, Science, Social Studies
  February 2, 2011 (7:00-9:00pm) 2 CEU contact hours - no charge
• Phonological Awareness, Assessment, Analysis and Practical Application
  February 5, 2011 (8:30am-4:30pm) 7 CEU contact hours - $95
• Fluency and Comprehension
  March 26, 2011 (8:30am-4:30pm) 7 CEU contact hours - $95
• Composition
  April 16, 2011 (10:30am-4:30pm) 5 CEU contact hours - $75
• Dyslexia Law
  April 16, 2011 (8:30am-10:00am) 1.5 CEU contact hours - $25
• Math Sense and Math Nonsense
  April 23, 2011 (9:00-11:00am) 2 CEU contact hours - no charge
• Organization and Study Skills
  April 30, 2011 (8:00am-4:30pm) 7.5 CEU contact hours - $95

Dealing with Dysgraphia (sponsored by Scottish Rite Learning Center of Austin) –
1.5 CEU contact hours
Held at
Scottish Rite Learning Center of Austin
Contact: Alice Womack Marsel (512-472-1231)
September 29, 2010 (7:00-8:30pm) - $45

9th Annual Texas Dyslexia Conference
(sponsored by CESD) –
10 CEU contact hours for entire event
Held at Doubletree Hotel; 6505 N. IH-35; Austin, TX
Contact: Marianne Bates (office@rlmedlaw.com)
October 11 & 12, 2010 (8:30am-4:00pm)

Research Discussion Circle
(sponsored by Dyslexia Resources Center) –
2 CEU contact hours each session
Held at Barnes and Noble Westlake;
701 Capital of TX Hwy South; Austin, TX 78746
Contact: Pat Sekel (psekel@dyslexiaric.com)
October 16, 2010 (9:30-11:30am) - no charge

Spotlight on the Process
(sponsored by Region 10 ESC) –
12 CEU contact hours for entire event
Held at Mesquite Convention Center; Mesquite, TX
Contact: Gina Mitchell (gina.mitchell@region10.org)
November 3 & 4, 2010 (9:00am-4:00pm)
11th Annual Region 4 ESC Dyslexia Conference – 6 CEU contact hours
Held at
7145 West Tidwell Rd, Houston, TX 77092
Contact: Jennifer Brock (jbrock@esc4.net)
December 2, 2010 (8:30am-3:45pm)

Practical Aspects of Multisensory Handwriting – 1.5 CEU contact hours
Location and Sponsor:
Scottish Rite Learning Center of Austin
Contact: Alice Marsel (512-472-1231)
October 12, 2010 (7:00-8:30pm) $40
Approved Changes to CEU Requirements

In May 2010, ALTA membership approved changes to CEU requirements. These changes include moving from the previous 3 (30 contact hours) CEUs every three years to 1 (10 contact hours) annually. This requirement will be effective for all membership levels during the 2010-11 renewal period; therefore, all members should begin accumulating the 10 CEU Contact Hours required to be affirmed with the next membership renewal.

Each member is responsible for maintaining his/her personal records. Certificates of attendance do not need to be submitted unless selected for audit. Each renewing member will simply verify completion of the required 10 CEU Contact Hours on the membership renewal form. Two percent of our membership will be randomly chosen annually for audit. If chosen for audit, members submit copies of certificates of attendance or signed letters from the sponsors of events attended as well as their CEU Membership Verification Form (which can be obtained from the ALTA office or on-line). There have been no changes to the requirements for QIs or ICALPs. All instructors (QI or ICALP) must provide documentation of 10 contact hours of continuing education credit (1 CEU) each year when submitting their membership for renewal.

Events sponsored by ALTA, IMSLEC, or IDA branches are approved for CEU credit, even if they are not listed on the ALTA calendar. Events sponsored by Colleges or Universities, Public Education Service Centers (in Texas), and related professional organizations that are concerned with dyslexia and/or related learning differences are all subject to approval from the ALTA CEU Committee. Approval is based on compliance with the professional standards of ALTA.

At least 5 contact hours must be earned by attendance in person at conferences, workshops, or seminars. However, a request may be made to the ALTA CEU committee to allow for extenuating circumstances. Simply submit a letter of request describing the circumstance and the desired alternative method planned to the ALTA CEU Chairman, Lexie Barefoot (through the ALTA Office or by email lexiebarefoot@gmail.com). Alternative means of earning ALTA CEUs are listed in section III of the Procedures outlined in the Appendix of the ALTA Directory. These procedures are also listed on the ALTA Website www.altaread.org (in the Professionals area).

Alternative methods for earning CEUs include: giving presentations, completing book or journal reports, listening to audio recordings or past IDA Conferences, watching DVDs related to dyslexia, or organizing an ALTA professional group in your area. Specific details about requirements for each of these alternative methods are outlined in the CEU Procedures section of the ALTA Directory and in the Professionals/CEU area of the ALTA website.

If you have any specific questions concerning ALTA CEUs, please contact Lexie Barefoot at lexiebarefoot@gmail.com.

Conferecnes approved for CEUs are posted on the ALTA website calendar and in the ALTA Bulletin. Sponsors of events are encouraged to submit an application to ALTA for event approval to have their event posted on the ALTA website calendar and published in the ALTA Newsletter. Individual members may also request CEU credit for a non-approved event by submitting an Individual CEU Request at least two weeks prior to the event. Both sponsor and individual application request forms are available on the ALTA Website www.altaread.org or from the ALTA Office.
Welcome New Members

**Welcome, new CALP members:** Cara Avallone, B.J. Blocker, Teresa Cannon, Jodi K. Church, Michelle Cregger, Kathleen Cropp, Lena Earnest, Lynn Eastley, Patricia Gudmundsen, Julia Hall, Marcia Johnson, Sara Johnson, Alexandra Kendrick, Marsha Landis, Janet Levinson, Shelley Mansky, Laurel Mullins, Sandra Sadeghi, Jody Shike, Michelle Shupe, Constance Smart, Lorraine Spencer, Ellen Stewart and Susan Tillman.

2010-2011 EXAM DATES

Contact the ALTA office for an exam application, casey@madcrouch.com, or call 972/233-9107 ext. 208.

2010 EXAM DATES
November 9, 2010
DuBard School for Language Disorders
118 College Dr #5215
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
601/266-5223
Arrival- 11:45 AM
Exam- 12:00 PM

November 13, 2010
LEAD
11020 Audelia Rd Ste B114
Dallas, TX 75243
214-536-9046
Arrival- 8:45 AM
Exam- 9:00 AM

2011 EXAM DATES
January 8, 2011
Southwest Academy
600 S. Jupiter Rd
Allen, TX 75002
Arrival- 8:45 AM
Exam- 9:00 AM

January 22, 2011
Key Learning Center
1345 Hendersonville Rd
Asheville, NC 28803
828/274-0757 x405
Arrival- 7:15 AM
Exam- 7:30 AM

February 5, 2011
Fundamental Learning Center
917 S. Glendale
Wichita, KS 67215
316/684-7323
Arrival- 8:30AM
Exam- 9:00AM

July 1, 2011
Scottish Rite Learning Center West Texas
1101 70th St
Lubbock, TX 79412
806/765-9150
Arrival- 8:30AM
Exam- 9:00AM