

Academic Language Therapy Association®
Dedicated to the remediation of written-language skills.
 Established 1985

bulletin

SPRING 2010

Academic Language Therapy Association®
 14070 Proton Rd., Suite 100, LB 9
 Dallas, TX 75244-3601

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



There will come a time when you believe everything is finished. That will be the beginning.

Louis L'Amour, Lonely on the Mountain

Dear ALTA colleagues,

The first letter that I wrote as president of ALTA addressed the power of words and their ability to change the world and our organization. So it is perhaps fitting that in my last letter as ALTA president, I address some of the ways we have used words to promote our mission, protect those we serve, propel the field of multisensory structured language education, and plan for our own future.

Four focus areas of goals have framed the work of the past two years: membership, finance, licensure and collaborations. Our work in these focus areas has been both broad and deep. We have extended our reach to areas previously underserved or unaware of our expertise. We have built networks to sustain our current members and attract and retain new members. In the process, we have stretched our thinking to include creative ways to build ALTA and our field. I invite you to visit the article State of the Organization in this newsletter for a summary of initiatives undertaken in each of these areas.

It has been said that the critical responsibility for any generation is to help provide the shoulders, the direction, and the support for those generations who come behind. There are so many current projects underway at ALTA, including licensure implementation, national conference plans, ongoing outreach collaborations, and our web site makeover. I would be remiss if I did not extend my gratitude to those who came before this board, many of whom paved the way for the work we have been able to accomplish since 2008. Likewise, my thanks to ALTA's current board and committee chairmen for remaining focused on the importance of this obligation to future ALTA members. As for ALTA's future, the Nominating Committee has submitted the proposed slate in this newsletter, a slate representing talents and skills to carry ALTA forward. Ultimately, the strength of our organization in years to come will rest on the exceptional work you do in our communities and your continued involvement in ALTA projects dedicated to the remediation of written language skills.

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	1
Hope Literacy	3
ALTA Outreach Committee	5
The State of the Organization: 2010	6
Proposed 2010-2012 Slate of Officers and Board of Directors	9
Training Center Spotlight	10
Trainee Spotlight	12
Art Scholarship	14
Legislative Advisory Council	15
Milestones	16
Alliance Exam Dates	18
CEU Calendar	19
2010 Proposed Amendments	22
ALTA Legislative Action Fundraising Luncheon	26
Coloradans Create Local ALTA Group	27
24th ALTA Conference	28

Our upcoming national conference will be an exciting celebration of ALTA's accomplishments and collaborations. We will have an opportunity to thank many of our legislative champions for their support, honor leaders in our field, continue traditions with our sister organizations and celebrate our work with the Dallas Children's Theater. I hope you are making plans to attend the array of functions during the weekend of April 30 and May 1 as many dedicated committees are hard at work to make the weekend enjoyable for all.

I entered my term passionate about your unique qualifications to help others unlock words and ALTA's established expertise in maintaining and promoting the highest of standards in our field. From your emails, letters and testimony during the 81st Legislative Session to seeing firsthand your work at training centers, classrooms, community agencies and in private practice, I leave office even more impressed and humbled by the talents and unwavering commitment you share with those we serve, whether students, parents, colleagues or institutions. While our work has

only started in many areas, ALTA remains a vibrant and respected organization whose experience, tenure, vision and patient graciousness will see these ongoing projects to successful ends.

It has been an honor to serve as your president and to lead ALTA during this time of exciting growth. I look forward to seeing ALTA prosper in coming years as it turns each successful ending into a new beginning for our organization.

My heartfelt thanks for your service to ALTA and to those we serve.

Warmly,



Michelle D. Bufkin, MPA, CALT, QI
 President
 Academic Language Therapy Association

ACADEMIC LANGUAGE THERAPY ASSOCIATION
 MEMBER RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We want everyone to know about this ALTA committee and hope you will share news regarding both joys (new baby, an award of some sort, community recognition, engagement, etc....) and concerns (an illness, loss of a loved one, divorce, troubling times, etc...).

We want to support our ALTA Family in every way possible and this is one way to show we care...but **we need your help!** Please share news with us regarding our ALTA Membership Family so that we can reach out!

Please email your news (or questions) to:
alta.membrec@sbcglobal.net

In the Beginning There Was No Hope



Texas HOPE Literacy founder Lucy Smith

Texas HOPE Literacy began in 1997 in the Texas prison system with the intent of training offenders for reentry through peer literacy tutoring and life skills preparation. HOPE stands for *Helping Others Pursue Education*, and was named by the first group of peer educators at the Hutchins State Jail in Dallas, Texas. Its founder, Lucy Smith, received a Masters of Education with a concentration in Learning Therapy from Southern Methodist University, is a Certified Academic Language Therapist, Qualified Instructor, and Dyslexia Teacher Trainer.

The mission of Texas HOPE Literacy is to transform offenders through peer literacy education within a Christian framework in order for them to successfully re-enter society as productive and contributing members of their communities. Its vision is to be the model literacy and life skills program for all prisons.

HOPE is operative at two female facilities in Gatesville, Texas; Crain Unit Trusty Camp was the first facility HOPE opened in 1997. In 2007, HOPE opened the Crain Valley Unit. In 2003, the warden at the Dawson State Jail invited HOPE to his unit. The first three programs were classroom/chapel models. HOPE then faced a new challenge of putting the program in a dorm of 54 women. This meant a positive structure complete with discipline, accountability, consequences, leadership

opportunities, and a host of volunteers to teach life-skill classes and extra-curricular activities.

HOPE has developed, revised, and refined the HOPE Community Model. This powerful model is revolutionary in that it can effect change in the lives of offenders. The Operations Manual is nearly finished, and HOPE has been field-testing this model for seven years. The model contains a city/government and education/workplace. The clients apply for jobs and are interviewed, then trained for their positions by a volunteer Leadership Coach. Here are some observations of two former HOPE women:

The workplace provides us with positive experiences and gives meaning to our lives while doing our time here at the Dawson State Jail. HOPE Literacy provides not only an education, but also teaches the discipline we need to help with the responsibilities of finding and holding a job after we release.

– Dorothy

HOPE will try you and test you, but it will also provide for you and bless you. So, if you're ready to peel off the labels your old life has given you, give HOPE a try; you'll earn back your wings, so you can fly.

– Ava

In the Beginning There Was No Hope

A random sampling in 2008 showed that HOPE had less than 4% recidivism rate. This means that most of the HOPE population stays out of prison. Many have gone to college or trade school. Others have been reunited with their families and children.

Today, three HOPE dorms exist on the 10th floor at Dawson, offering one-on-one tutoring in literacy and math. Many need their GED, while others need college prep. The women apply for their FAFSA and receive their temporary pin numbers prior to release. Throughout their lives, they have had a myriad of struggles; education is just one of them. They love being praised for their accomplishments and getting their certificates. Their emotional and physical scars heal with the love that the HOPE volunteers bring. Yes, their stories are heart-breaking, but their transformations are amazing, and those who come to HOPE must be willing to change their lives.



2006 Community Capacity Builder Award
Recommended for this award by the Texas
Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)

Other Awards and Recognition

2000: Religious Volunteer of the Year
2005: Most Innovative Award - HOPE Community Model

Other awards include 2001 Dallas Reads Award sponsored by Verizon, and in 2005, HOPE was selected by the National Crime Prevention Council as one of the 50 Tested Strategies for Faith and Justice Collaboration in the U. S.

HOPE ALUMNI TESTIFY ON FACEBOOK

Sharron: To all the women in Hope I am proof that there is always hope. I have been out 2 years and

three months and life so far has been better for being in Hope and I will be starting to college soon. So if Duckie can do it, anyone can. Have faith, stay strong, and count your blessings everyday.

Allison: I have been home now for 16 months and am still going STRONG!!!! If I can do this, there is HOPE for all women!!! and men!!! HOPE gave my children their mother back and allowed me to be a better woman for the new child I just had. It makes me so happy to hear things like this.

Melissa: To all the women from hope. Keep your head up and stay strong. I have been out 4 years and 5 months now. I would not be where I am today if I hadn't had hope and the wonderful friends I made while in there. Things may seem challenging, but put your trust in God and all things are possible. I am now a sophomore in college and will be getting my associated in 2010. I give all praise to God and thank Mrs. Lucy for the love she showed me while I was in Dawson and since I have been out.



HOPE Family Reunion 2009

ALTA Members Go to Jail

On Friday, February 19, 2010, Joan Hogge, Dara LaForce-Skelton, and Judy Echols went to jail. Dawson State Jail is a stark-looking 10-story building, right across the street from Lew Sterrett Justice Center where many of you have probably gone for jury duty. We entered the building willingly, but not without a hint of anxiety lurking beneath the surface. To our relief, Lucy Smith and her husband, affectionately known to the residents as "Mr. Lucy," were waiting to guide us on our visit to the 10th floor where we would observe and meet the women who participate in Hope Literacy, an organization founded to train the offenders to tutor their peers.

In order to go inside the prison, a visitor must follow strict structured procedures. It is very sobering to surrender the only piece of identification you were allowed to bring. Once you pass thru security, you enter "the bubble" - that locked space between "inside" and "outside." From there we were admitted to the "inside" of the prison, and Lucy guided us to our first stop, Dormitory C.

There are three dormitories on the 10th floor, housing a total of 160 women of Hope. This is where the women live, eat, sleep, work, and play for the duration of their sentences, which can be two years or less. When they are released, they will be free... no probation or parole. It matters what we do with them while they are incarcerated. Society is married to the prison system, for better or for worse. Hope offers them a chance to change and practice education and life skills while they are locked up.

The day we visited, the women were presenting a program for Black History month. The scene was an engaging learning forum: there were prepared readings presenting biographical information, dramatic prose, poetry (some of which was written by the women), and beautiful voices raised in song. There was extemporaneous speaking on the topic of "someone who has made a difference in my life." These women supported each other, cheered each other, and challenged each other's points of view. We saw

their talents, and we heard some of their dreams and hopes for the future. The one thing that distinguished them from us was that we were free to leave and they were not.

We went to jail as part of ALTA's Outreach Committee, to see for ourselves what ALTA can do to collaborate with Hope Literacy and its focus on improving literacy for a segment of society that has great needs but few champions. No description of our experience is adequate: as Lucy will tell you, Hope has to be experienced. We left with a new appreciation for the women we met and for ALTA's opportunity to work with Hope to serve our community.



The State of the Organization: 2010

Michelle Bufkin, President

The ALTA Board of Directors and committee leadership has worked on many initiatives over the past two years. As my term as ALTA president ends, it is appropriate to highlight the work of your colleagues and look ahead to our organization's future needs. The lists below represent projects by focus area either completed since 2008 or in process at this time.

Membership Services:

1. **Membership Cards:** Membership cards were added following the renewal confirmation process in 2008. These cards provide easy access to member numbers and proof of ALTA membership, both important elements in upcoming licensing.
2. **ALTA Chapters:** To extend our influence, increase awareness and provide collegial support to professionals, ALTA formally approved and recognized two new Chapters: ALTA Arkansas and ALTA Rocky Mountain. An additional ALTA Chapter is currently in formation: ALTA Mississippi. Jean Colner and her committee now have in place an ALTA Chapter Application form to make it easier for similar groups to apply for this status.
3. **Newsletter:** To further our green initiatives, the ALTA Newsletter moved to a digital format. Laura MacDonald and her committee drastically improved the design and format of the newsletter. It now regularly features trainees, new members and training centers. Further efforts to involve trainees in the work of ALTA have included naming trainees as committee members on ALTA committees.
4. **Membership renewals:** Our membership has enthusiastically embraced online renewals. This is an area which saves ALTA money and time and should be encouraged. Tresa Owens and her committee have refined forms, letters and protocol in an effort to make the renewal process seamless for our members.
5. **Member recognition:** Juancita Petro and her committee have recognized both joys and concerns of our members with cards, notes and e-greetings and have extended hospitality to our colleagues in other organizations. These efforts have enabled ALTA to build good will within and outside of our membership.
6. **Directory:** Ramona Bailey and her committee revised the ALTA directory to be more user-friendly and contain material helpful to new

members. In coming months, plans include making the directory available online.

7. **Outreach:** This is an area of unprecedented growth due to Joan Hogge and her hard working committee. ALTA's year-long collaboration with the Dallas Children's Theater (DCT) and the Baker Idea Institute has increased awareness of our organization for a variety of constituents. ALTA's status as a production partner for the DCT play created publicity opportunities. Our students will have a chance to show off their artistic skills during the upcoming run of the play at the DCT due to a collaboration with an Eagle Scout project facilitated by this committee. The Outreach Committee has also developed collaborations with StarLit for 2011 and Hope Literacy for 2010/2011. Our outreach efforts have built awareness of ALTA in ways and in communities previously unachieved through other channels. The Outreach Committee is currently working on formal recognition of our volunteers – both members and students – through a national forum in coming months.
8. **ALTA Foundation:** The ALTA Foundation, led by Kay Peterson, continues to be a strong support advocate for ALTA and our projects. Their support enabled ALTA's participation in the DCT project. Annual scholarships for practitioner and therapist training support our work. The *I Believe in Myself Award* for students interested in art continues to grow in popularity.
9. **Web Site:** The ALTA web site is undergoing a major redesign, thanks to the efforts of Anita Bruck and her committee. The ALTA board and committee chairmen have been asked to participate in this effort with questionnaires and forms. The Web Site committee is focused on creating a web portal that is contemporary, reflective of ALTA's mission and stakeholders, user-friendly, and up-to-date. Tentative plans call for a release of the new web look at our national conference.

Membership Standards:

1. **Titles:** To create parallel titles and to align our professional credentials with those used in HB 461, the ALTA Board approved changing our teaching level membership titles to Certified Academic Language Practitioner (CALP) and Instructor of Certified Academic Language Practitioner (ICALP). These await approval by the general membership on May 1.

2. **Friends of ALTA:** To provide a bridge to non-certified supporters of ALTA's work, a new non-voting member category has been approved by the ALTA Board known as Friends of ALTA. This will enable ALTA to continue building community among parents, administrators, legislators, and community leaders for future projects. This member category, enthusiastically endorsed by many outside of our membership, awaits approval by the general membership on May 1.
3. **CEUs:** Based on requirements in HB 461, ALTA's CEU policy was revised to require 10 contact hours of CEU credit, each year, effective with the 2011 – 2012 membership renewal cycle. This requirement is in line with other professional organizations. This revision awaits approval by the general membership on May 1.
4. **Membership Application Forms:** Karen Vickery and her committee prepared membership application forms for each level of membership in ALTA. These forms will streamline the process for those interested in becoming ALTA members.
5. **Parliamentarian:** A Professional Registered Parliamentarian (PRP), Kay Crews, assisted the ALTA board with various governance issues. Her guidance has been especially helpful during licensure planning and continues to be critical for bylaws review to ensure ALTA is aligned with our governing documents.
6. **Nominating Process:** A Slating Committee was created to provide ongoing surfacing of members interested in service to ALTA. Policies and Procedures for the Nominating Committee are currently in process. These will streamline the nominating process for future committees.
7. **Dues:** ALTA dues are recommended by the Executive Committee, ratified by the ALTA board and final approval rests with the membership. In 2009 and 2010, dues remained at constant levels based on the state of the economy and to encourage members to seek licenses when made available.

Governance:

1. **Ethics and Grievances:** Both of these governing documents were updated in 2008 and 2009, respectively, thanks to Avril Greenberg and her dedicated committee. Both documents became critical pieces in our licensure initiative.
2. **Bylaws:** Changes to the ALTA bylaws approved in 2009 addressed electronic meetings, preferential voting, duties of the president, nominating committee provisions, election and installation of officers, and executive committee composition. Changes to the ALTA bylaws approved by the ALTA board in 2010 and pending approval by the general membership address CEUs, titles, board terms, and membership levels (Friends of ALTA).
3. **Electronic Meetings:** Effective April, 2009, ALTA was able to meet and transact business digitally and by conference call. With the advent of Skype and other technologies, these provisions will make it possible to hold face-to-face meetings over the internet in the future.
4. **Board of Director Requirements:** Based on Judith Birsh's work with the Long Range Planning Committee, the ALTA Board formalized the requirements for service on our board with a document which outlines the duties of board service. This also includes a Conflict of Interest document. Both of these documents help prospective board members know of their obligations prior to accepting a position on our board and will become part of the Nominating Committee process.
8. **Vice President – Web Site:** The ALTA board approved the addition of a new position to the Executive Committee which will focus on maintaining an up-to-date web portal for our organization. This will aid in online marketing projects and save members time in fulfilling membership functions.
9. **Budgeting Process:** Katy Farmer and the ALTA Executive Committee refined the annual budget review process, making it easy to follow and streamlined for the ALTA board.
10. **Minutes Approval Committee:** Based on advice from ALTA's Parliamentarian, a Minutes Approval Committee (MAC) was formed and facilitated by Sherry Malphurs, ALTA Secretary. The MAC is charged with reviewing and approving minutes for archival purposes. The MAC allows the minutes from our general membership meetings to stand approved when no future gathering of the same attendees is possible.

Programs:

1. **Conference planning:** In 2009, the ALTA conference was able to take advantage of reduced costs due to underwriting by SMU's School of Education and Learning Therapy Center. This enabled our conference registration fees to be lowered in sensitivity to economic conditions. Paula Farish and her committee graciously changed the format of our conference in order to accommodate the change in venue.

2. **2009 National Conference Speakers:** Dr. Maryann Wolfe, Dr. Tim Odegard, Rene King, Kendra Thomas
3. **2010 National Conference Speakers:** Rick Lavoie, Licensure Presentation Panel, Reid Lyon, Tincy Miller. Our conference will move back to the Hilton Lincoln Center to accommodate the expected larger attendance.
4. **ALTA/IMSLEC meetings:** Phyllis Meisel, IMSLEC Immediate Past President and ALTA member, helped facilitate the timing of the IMSLEC board meeting to coincide with our national conference. This allowed ALTA and IMSLEC board members to share lunch together and gather on an informal basis. The tradition is being repeated this year and is a wonderful way to get to know our IMSLEC colleagues.

Public Relations:

1. **ALTA DVD Presentation:** Joyce Pickering and Marilyn Mathis facilitated the creation of an ALTA DVD presentation, including PowerPoint slides and streaming video clips, to introduce others to ALTA. These presentations were distributed to IMSLEC directors, training course directors and branch presidents of IDA. The DVD will be shown at the ALTA booth each time we exhibit at conferences.
2. **ALTA Exhibit booth:** The ALTA exhibit booth underwent a major facelift this year, thanks to Janna Curry Dobbs and her committee. The heavy, expensive-to-ship board display was replaced with three retractable banners which are colorful, inviting, economical to ship and contain updated information on ALTA. Multimedia presentations run at the booth on dual DVD players, giving visitors an interactive introduction to ALTA. The ALTA exhibit booth received numerous positive comments at the IDA conference in Orlando where it was debuted. A matching table cover is currently on order to complete the booth's new look.

Licensure:

1. **Passage of House Bill 461 – Licensure for Dyslexia Therapists and Practitioners:** 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 and the ability for out-of-state

ALTA members to seek licensure as a Licensed Dyslexia Therapist or Licensed Dyslexia Practitioner through the process developed by the Department of State Health Services. To achieve passage, the ALTA membership went above and beyond during awareness campaigns, sending letters, meeting their legislators, providing testimony and increasing awareness of the need for this legislation. Congratulations to all who supported and will benefit from this landmark bill! Many thanks to Judy Echols for her exceptional dedication during the bill's planning, the legislative session and during committee development. ALTA has now entered a phase where increased accountability will be matched with increased awareness of our organization and its expertise in the field.

2. **Legislative Advisory Council:** To support ongoing efforts to build legislative bridges and let others know of ALTA's licensure success, a new committee was formed which will bring together many groups for this purpose. Linda Gladden and Gladys Kolenovsky have already spent many hours smoothing the way for licensure implementation and will be critical voices as ALTA propels this victory forward. Meetings at the Capitol and with legislators have occurred since passage of HB 461 and the Council is actively pursuing strategies to bring together parents, community leaders and training centers for increased impact during legislative initiatives. The Training Centers Advisory Council is already up and running and sharing time and expertise with ALTA. Thank you to the training center directors and others who have made this Council work a priority.
3. **Legislative Fundraising Luncheon:** As part of this year's national conference, ALTA will host an inaugural Legislative Fundraising Luncheon to raise funds for ongoing legislative action. Joyce Pickering and her committee are directing this event with lovely invitations and noted speakers (Reid Lyon and Tincy Miller). This event will enable ALTA to let others in education and community circles know of our work and need for their support.

While each listing above contains just a few sentences, the hours behind each of these projects is substantial – all on a volunteer basis. Please take a moment to thank those mentioned and their colleagues who assisted for their work on our behalf during 2008 - 2010. My personal and sincere thanks to the ALTA officers, directors, committee chairmen, committee members, ALTA national office and ALTA advisors who made all of these achievements possible.

The nominating process this year included these suggestions by some of our membership as well as nominees proposed by the Nominating Committee.

The slate listed below provides the positions that will be filled this year and the nominees proposed by this year's Nominating Committee. One of the privileges of ALTA membership is involvement in the nominating process. Some of you participated in that process by submitting names to the Slating Committee for consideration by this year's Nominating Committee. If you did not participate in the slating process and wish to nominate yourself or a colleague for a Board position, you may

do so until Friday, April 16, 2010. As provided by our bylaws, (Article IX, Section 3, (b) (ii)), 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 April 16, 2010. At the May 1st 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 April 16, 2010. Unless there are extenuating circumstances as determined by the Executive Committee, no nominations will be made from the floor.

The slate as proposed by the 2010 Nominating Committee includes:

Helen Macik, President	(2010 - 2012)	Margie Gillis, Board of Directors	(2010 - 2012)
Karen Avrit, President Elect	(2010 - 2012)	Kathleen Carlsen, Board of Directors	(2010 - 2012)
Rae Cromeens, VP - Programs	(2010 - 2012)	Marilyn Mathis, Board of Directors	(2010 - 2012)
Terri Zerfas, VP - Long Range Plan	(2010 - 2012)	Judith Birsh, Board of Directors	(2010 - 2012)
Kay Byrd, VP—Website	(2010 - 2012)	Linda Gladden, Board of Directors	(2010 - 2012)
JoAnn Handy, Secretary	(2010 - 2012)	Nancy Cushen White, Board of Directors	(2010 - 2012)
Katy Farmer, Treasurer	(2010 - 2012)		

Returning Officers and Board of Directors include:

Treasa Owens, VP - Membership	(2009 - 2011)	Tim Odegard, Board of Directors	(2009 - 2011)
Joyce Pickering, VP- Public Relations	(2009 - 2011)	Lucy Smith, Board of Directors	(2009 - 2011)
Jean Colner, Board of Directors	(2009 - 2011)	Elaine Cheesman, Board of Directors	(2009 - 2011)
Jennifer Sellers, Board of Directors	(2009 - 2011)	Catherine Ghassemi, Board of Directors	(2009 - 2011)
Michelle Bufkin, Immediate Past President	(2010 - 2011)		

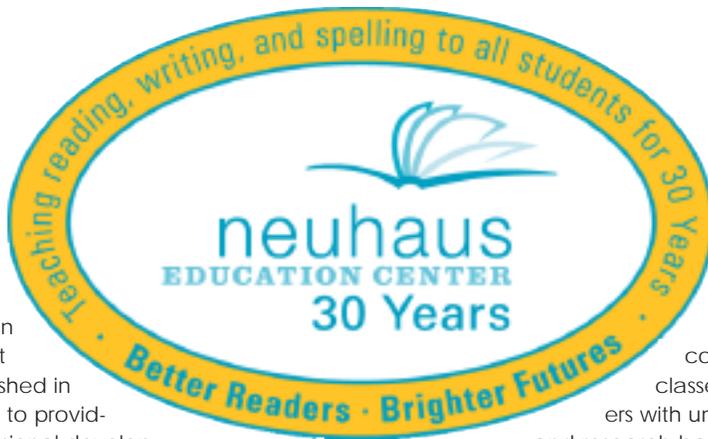
Board members who complete their terms in 2010 include:

Michelle, Bufkin, President	(2008 - 2010)	Kay Byrd, Board of Directors	(2008 - 2010)
Helen Macik, President-Elect	(2008 - 2010)	Suzanne Carreker, Board of Directors	(2008 - 2010)
Paula Farish, VP-Programs	(2008 - 2010)	Judy Echols, Board of Directors	(2008 - 2010)
Judith Birsh, VP-Long Range Plans	(2008 - 2010)	Margie Gillis, Board of Directors	(2008 - 2010)
Sherry Malphurs, Secretary	(2008 - 2010)	Kathleen Carlsen, Board of Directors	(2008 - 2010)
Katy Farmer, Treasurer	(2008 - 2010)	Lynne Fitzhugh, Board of Directors	(2008 - 2010)

The 2009 Nominating Committee members are:

- Helen Macik, chair
- Lynn Fitzhugh
- Jean Colner
- Marilyn Mathis
- Judy Echols

Trainee Center Spotlight: Neuhaus Education Center



Neuhaus Education Center, a nonprofit foundation established in 1980, is dedicated to providing teacher professional development in research-based methods of literacy instruction. We provide a structured approach to teaching the basic language skills of reading, writing, and spelling, an approach that is valuable for all students and essential for those with dyslexia. In addition, Neuhaus is a resource for parental consultation and for adults seeking literacy education.

Teacher Professional Development Program (TPDP) is the core of all Neuhaus' programmatic activities. Classes that offer comprehensive literacy instruction are available at Neuhaus, online, and sched-

uled via video conferencing. The classes provide teachers with underlying theory and research-based practices so teachers can return to their classrooms prepared to address the literacy needs of their students.

To date, more than 51,000 educators have participated in Neuhaus professional development classes – which equates to 5,700,000 students who have benefited from a more knowledgeable and skilled teacher.

Online Classes easily integrate into any school literacy plan. Preliminary research indicates that online professional development and live classrooms are equally effective.



Classes:
 Developing Accuracy & Fluency
 Developing Vocabulary for Reading Success
 Language Enrichment
 Language & Literacy for Young Learners
 Multisensory Grammar-Advanced
 Reading Comprehension
 Reading Readiness
 Scientific Spelling
 Structure of the English Language
 TAKS for Reading Success

ReadingTeachersNetwork (RTN), our interactive website, responds to the needs of teachers by providing resources that all reading teachers need for the success of their students. RTN creates a networking community of teachers by offering: *Ask an Expert, Video Library, LessonNets, Articles, Blogs, Webinars, and Downloadable Lesson Plans.*

Research – Neuhaus is committed to providing teachers with effective research-based instruction. We are gratified in our role as professional interme-

diary, making current research accessible and useful to the classroom teacher.

University Partnerships – Neuhaus has forged collaborations with the University of St. Thomas, Stephen F. Austin State University, and Southern Methodist University to provide advanced degrees for teachers who work in dyslexia, special education, and regular classroom settings.

Parent Resource Office is an ongoing, free, community service that offers parents of children with dyslexia and other reading differences, a wide range of information and resources to help their children become successful readers.

Neuhaus Education Center has devoted three decades to researching and developing comprehensive literacy solutions to prevent reading failure. We believe the book on reading problems will be closed through prevention. The best prevention is a knowledgeable and skilled teacher.

Alliance National Exam to be Offered at ALTA Conference

The Alliance National Registration Exam will be given during the ALTA Conference weekend activities. The exam will be given on Friday morning, April 30, 2010 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Hilton-Lincoln Centre, Dallas, TX.

Pre-approval through the ALTA National Office is required in order to sit for the exam. Additional information regarding the Alliance National Exam can be found at <http://www.altaread.org/becomingamember.asp>. Also at this site are links to download the Alliance National Registration Exam Application for both Associate/Teacher Level and Therapist Level exams. You may also contact the ALTA National Office for an exam application or more information at

14070 Proton Road, Suite 100, Dallas, TX 75244, (972) 233-9107 ext. 208.

ALTA Membership Renewal Notice

ALTA, the professional association that proudly provides your professional credentials (QI, IAALT, CALT, AALT), encourages you to plan to renew your membership for 2010-2011. Membership renewal forms will be mailed on March 1st, 2010. Dues are payable until April 30, 2010 without assessing a late fee.

Regrettably, the names of members who renew after May 15th may not be listed in the ALTA 2010-2011 directory due to the publishing deadline.

Please take a moment to check your contact information in the ALTA 2009-2010 directory and notify the ALTA National Office by phone (972-233-9107) or by email judy@madcrouch.com if your contact information should be updated.

If you have any comments or questions regarding your membership, please contact Treasa Owens, membership chairman. (treasa.owens@tsrh.org)

Thank you for your dedication and service to individuals with dyslexia and related learning differences!

Trainee Spotlight - Jean Bauer



Where are you receiving your training?

I am a trainee in the Dyslexia Specialist Preparation Program (DSPP) developed by the Neuhaus Education Center in Bellaire, Texas. The DSPP provides rigorous and robust preparation for teachers and therapists working with individuals with dyslexia and other related disorders. I am currently working on my 700 clinical teaching hours under the expert supervision of the Neuhaus staff.

The initial training I received at NEC was unique. Little did I know that the year I decided to pursue this endeavor, I would also have the opportunity to become part of an innovative cohort involving Neuhaus Education Center and St. Thomas University located in Houston, Texas. Under the leadership of Dr. Regina Boulware-Gooden, a professor at St. Thomas University and the Director of Research at Neuhaus, the first cohort of twelve professionals encountered the intertwined philosophy of the University's master teacher reading curriculum with the Basic Language Skills Program (BLS) developed by Suzanne Carreker, the Vice President of Research and Program

Development at NEC. While the professors deepened my understanding of theory and awareness, master instructors, like Elisa Barnes at Neuhaus, provided me with the practical, hands-on methods of how to work with my students. Because of their collaborative efforts, I now hold a Master of Education degree with a reading specialization.

Why did you choose CALT training?

I had been an elementary classroom teacher for 26 years, with the majority of those years working at St. Laurence Catholic School in Sugar Land, Texas. With the intense desire to meet the needs of their struggling readers, St. Laurence embraced the idea of adding a Reading Specialist to our staff. Initially I was hired for the position, based on my years of experience and love of teaching children how to read and write. Yet, knowing it was imperative to deepen my understanding of the best strategies and practices for children with reading disabilities, I went to the Neuhaus Education Center for help. I inquired about DSPP and it was the perfect fit! The knowledge, guidance, and support I have received and continue to receive from

the mentors of DSPP have truly enabled St. Laurence to meet the needs of our students in amazing and effective ways.

How have you used your training?

The training I have received from NEC has given me a variety of wonderful opportunities to serve both students and teachers at St. Laurence. As the Reading Specialist, I work with students who are struggling in reading or who have a diagnosed reading disability. The majority of my students are dyslexic. The intensive and comprehensive format of the BLS program has provided support and given success to my students who struggle with reading and writing.

The training I received also gave me the knowledge needed to assist the elementary grade teachers in developing a spelling curriculum based on the Scientific Spelling Program written by Suzanne Carreker. This spelling program teaches students to recognize the reliable spelling patterns, rules, and irregular words of the English language.

Many times, colleagues are intrigued by the activities they observe going on in BLS lessons. As our school has embraced the philosophy of differentiated instruction, general education teachers are realizing that many of the multi-sensory activities done in BLS, work with students in the regular classroom environment as well.

What has been the hardest part of your training?

The most challenging part of any program is learning how to implement its structure into your own school's daily routine. Initially it was difficult for me to have the confidence to rearrange, shift, blend together, or stretch out the varied components of instruction. But help was only a phone call away. The mentors of DSPP have always been there with guidance and support whenever a question arises.

What has been most valuable?

Without a doubt the most valuable part of my training has been the feedback I receive from the experts at Neuhaus. The 700 hours of clinical teaching require me to submit teaching videos, lesson plans, and diagnostic reports. The support, encouragement, and

guidance I receive from master staff members have been tremendously important to me. Their expertise has allowed me to foster a sense of confidence and worth in the students I serve. Their confidence in me has flowed out of my lessons to touch the lives of my students and their families.

How can ALTA assist new trainees?

It is clear to see that the Academic Language Therapy Association is dedicated to supporting the centers and therapists who work with individuals needing additional support with reading and writing. In supporting and recognizing the exceptional centers who train us, ALTA is benefiting the trainees as well. I am looking forward to the day when I can sit for my CALT exam and become an official member the Academic Language Therapy Association.

How has your training changed other areas of your life?

When I was young, I was also a struggling reader. I have felt the tremendous insecurities that many of my students feel as they sit in their classrooms struggling to understand the printed word. The training I have received from the Neuhaus Education Center has empowered me to truly help my students learn how to read and find the joy and wonder in the world of words and their meaning. The training I have been given is a gift I treasure, and yet passionately pass on to my incredible students.

Ethan's Three-Dimensional Year



These are the 3D pieces I made this summer. I had the chance to take a mosaics class at the SMU Youth Summer Program because of the ALTA award. Thank you! Three dimensional art is my favorite thing.

By Joan Ellet Hogge

Recently, I received a creative thank you note from Ethan Kohnle, last year's Art Scholarship award winner. He sent photos on colored paper displaying examples of his art work. One photo showed the beautiful mosaic pieces he made at the SMU Youth Summer Program, and he wrote, "Three dimensional art is my favorite thing." Clearly, his art reflects Ethan's interests and his life this past year.

Ethan's Language Therapist at Southwestern Multisensory Training Center, Peggy Brooks, reported that Ethan's reading has become strong, and he graduated from the Take Flight Program. She said he is very passionate about art, and it shows in the intricate, detailed pieces he sculpts and the

architectural designs he builds with Lego blocks.

Ethan is in the 7th grade this year, and his mother, Mary, is thrilled that his reading is strong, and that he is doing well in school. She says Architecture may be in his future, and he is working very hard on his math and writing skills. She agreed that he loves three dimensional art, and spends every Saturday at the Art House in McKinney. She says his teacher there, Sona Knox, is wonderful, and Ethan never runs out of creative ideas.

What a great year! Ethan's three dimensional work will be on display during the ALTA Spring Conference in May, and I know you will be as excited to see it as I will. Thank you, Ethan, for sharing your hard work and creative talent with all of us. We are very proud of you!

Legislative Advisory Council



Members of Legislative Advisory Council, front row, l to r: Joyce Pickering, Michelle Bufkin, Representative Donna Howard and Jessica Smith. Back row, l to r: Janet Flory, Linda Gladden, Cathy Lorino and Kay Peterson.

ALTA's licensure initiative came to a successful close on June 2, 2009, with the passage of House Bill 461. This licensure is intended to increase the number of therapists and practitioners in the field by providing an incentive for more training. Previously, there were no state guidelines detailing the amount of training or expertise for individuals working with children with dyslexia. Licensure is necessary to provide quality control criteria in the preparation of professionals who are trained to instruct and remediate individuals with dyslexia or related disorders. The bill allows the use of the titles "dyslexia therapist" and "dyslexia practitioner" for those who are licensed. It exempts school districts from a mandatory requirement to employ persons licensed by HB 461.

An ALTA Legislative Advisory Council was established to continue to build collaborative bridges and awareness among ALTA members, parents, community leaders and Texas training centers. On November 19, 2009, representatives from five training centers met at the Texas Capitol in Austin to discuss ways each Center could heighten

awareness of HB 461 with their area legislators.

Several training center representatives reported their centers had already included area legislators in center events and open houses. This provided an opportunity for the legislators to learn more about the teacher training programs available at the nationally accredited training centers in Texas.

The next meeting of the Legislative Advisory Council and Texas training center representatives was held on March 4, 2010 at the Texas Capitol.

Gladys Kolenovsky, the administrative director at the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, will be the co-chair of the ALTA Legislative Advisory Council with Linda Gladden.



The Legacy School of Rockwall and the University of Texas at Arlington Psychology Department made quite a hit host team for the recent Symposium on January 22, 2010. Featured speakers

included a keynote address delivered by Dr. Reid Lyon (former Chief of the Child Development and Behavior Branch within the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and current CEO of Synergistic Education Solutions and Distinguished Professor of the Department of Education Policy and Leadership at SMU). Dr. Lyon never ceases to amaze his audiences by his knowledge and expertise from the field of research coupled with his real world experiences and a common sense approach to teaching and learning. Also included in the distinguished group of presenters was Dr. Timothy Odegard (Professor of Psychology at UTA) who presented his latest findings from the use of neuroimaging of memory processes using EEG, NIRS, and fMRI as it pertains to the treatment of dyslexic children in the classroom. Dr. Jeffrey Black (Medical Director of the Luke Waites Center for Dyslexia at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital) discussed the importance

of a definition-based approach to the determination of dyslexia and the elements involved in a sound identification process. Anthony Pedriana, author of *Leaving Johnny Behind*, gave the audience a view of the world through the eyes of a school district administrator as they face the challenges of system changes that are required to address the growing needs of ALL students. Dr. Karen Vickery and her team of experts from the SMU-Learning Therapy Program painted a clear perspective from the classroom, providing not only strategies and tools for increasing understanding of learning differences but also strengthening our connections to learning for students who struggle with reading, attention, and memory. And rounding off the day, Diane Lyon presented a most insightful and touching kaleidoscope of the dyslexic individual through the eyes of a loving and supportive mother. Hearts were filled with courage and hope by her stories. HOPE was the theme of the day as each speaker was presented with a beautiful handmade plaque designed especially by Legacy School students, further demonstrating gifts of creativity that coexist with learning differences. Director, Jo Polk, continues to inspire everyone in the field of dyslexia with her dedication to students, parents, and community. The Legacy School of Rockwall serves students with learning differences in grades 2-6, and enrollment is now open for grade 7. More information about the school may be found at www.legacy-school-rockwall.org.

Professional Development Programs for Teachers and School Administrators



- Certification available in The Hill Center's PREP Program, a multisensory language methodology, accredited by IMSLEC
- Customized workshops and consultations
- Earn CEUs through our one- and two-day workshops and online courses
- Nationally-recognized K-12 school for students with LD/ADHD



Call (919) 489-7464 for more information
3200 Pickett Road ■ Durham, NC 27705 ■ www.hillcenter.org

ALTA CHAPTER: ARKANSAS



L to r: Cece Corley, Treasurer, Jill Sullivan, President, and Joan Holbert, Secretary (not Pictured: Barbara Land, Vice President, and Sarah Hambrice, Historian)

The ALTA-Arkansas chapter meets four times annually and attempts to provide members with continuing education opportunities as well as time to build personal relationships. Its meeting last July featured an educational examiner who came to speak to our members about reading assessment, during which she highlighted various reading assessment instruments and answered questions about reading evaluations. In September, Vicki King, QI, introduced ALTA Arkansas to the Pre-Flight materials published by the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, and several members have begun to implement that program in their therapy. For its December meeting ALTA Arkansas gathered at the home of a member to celebrate the Christmas season. Its most recent meeting was on February 27th, where members discussed plans for this year's professional development. The active ALTA Arkansas group gives Academic Language Therapists of Arkansas a great place to grow professionally and personally.

SOUTHWEST MULTISENSORY TRAINING CENTER

Peggy Brooks and Beverly Dooley of the Southwest Multisensory Training Center spent a beautiful four days in Eureka Springs, Arkansas with Karen Sykes, Certified Academic Language Therapist, while sharing a workshop on the ADHD students and

Arnie Clark, left with Lynda Laird Memorial Award honoree Carol Stoner.”] The 2009 Lynda Laird Memorial Award Winner was announced at the Southwest Multisensory Training Center certification luncheon on November 14th. This year’s winner is Carol Stoner, honored for her 183 hours of volunteer work with Arnie Clark. At 67 years old, Arnie is dedicated to learning how to read. He and Carol continue to work one day a week and Arnie is almost ready to begin the Read Naturally fluency program.

enhancing study skills. The workshop was held at the Clear Springs School and was hosted by director Phyllis Poe.

Congratulations, new Qualified Instructors: Jean DeVre and Sarah Golder.

Welcome, new CALT members: Joan Bednarek, Tessa Bisignano, Susan Brundidge, Dawn Curlee, Maria Espinoza, Irma Gonzalez, Katherine Hatch, Natalie Hoover, Catherine Lawler, Christina Lincoln, Minal Melwani, Juanita Mendez, Joy Mitchell, Sarah Moore, Alana Moser, Melissa Pulliam, Carol Stoner, Marla Treat, Jennifer Tubbs, Teri Votour, Laura Wisner, and Janet Yates.

Welcome, new AALT members: Erica Alimario, Jennifer Breslin, Carol Brock, Kelly Brooker, Angela Bryant, Ruth Corrdry, Aileen Cormier, Gillian Dorfman, Leslie Eller, Kimberly Fitzpatrick, Yvonne Larme, Holly LaVine, Karen Locke, Mary Newton, Teresa Nielsen, Mary Russell, Michelle Trahnstrom and Cheryl Ward.



2010 EXAM DATES

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

April 30, 2010

Hamilton Room at the Hilton-Lincoln Centre
(same hotel as 2010 ALTA Conference)

5410 LBJ Freeway
Dallas, TX 75240
Arrival- 8:30 AM
Exam- 9:00 AM

May 1, 2010

Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center (ASDEC)

22 West Jefferson St, Ste 307
Rockville, MD 20850
Arrival- 9:45 AM
Exam- 10:00 AM

May 22, 2010

Fundamental Learning Center

917 S. Glendale
Wichita, KS 67215
316/684-7323
Arrival- 8:30AM
Exam- 9:00AM

June 12, 2010

Neuhaus Education Center

4433 Bissonnet
Bellaire, TX 77401
Arrival- 7:45AM
Exam- 8:30AM
Phone: 713/664-7676

June 12, 2010

Scottish Rite Learning Center of Austin

12871 N US Highway 183, Ste 105
Austin, TX 78750
Arrival- 8:30 AM
Exam- 9:00AM
Phone: 512/472-1231

June 26, 2010

SMU-in-Plano

5236 Tennyson Pkwy, 4-108
Plano, TX 75024
Phone: 214/768-7323
Arrival- 8:00 AM
Exam- 8:30 AM

June 26, 2010

The Hillcrest School

3510 N. A Street, Bldg C
Midland, Texas 79705
Phone: 432/570-7444
Arrival- 8:45 AM
Exam- 9:00 AM

July 8, 2010

Scottish Rite Learning Center of West Texas

1101 70th St
Lubbock, TX 79412
Arrival- 8:30AM
Exam- 9:00AM
Phone: 806-765-9150

July 31, 2010

The Hillcrest School

3510 N. A Street, Bldg C
Midland, Texas 79705
Phone: 432/570-7444
Arrival- 8:45 AM
Exam- 9:00 AM

September 18, 2010

Fundamental Learning Center

917 S. Glendale
Wichita, KS 67215
316/684-7323
Arrival- 8:30AM
Exam- 9:00AM

2011 EXAM DATES

February 5, 2011

Fundamental Learning Center

917 S. Glendale
Wichita, KS 67215
316/684-7323
Arrival- 8:30AM
Exam- 9:00AM

The following events have been approved for ALTA CEU contact hours prior to February 15, 2010.

Check the ALTA website calendar for a complete list of the most current approved events.

DDIG monthly events for January – June 2010

2nd Monday of each month
(see list below for details)

Location: Winston School, 5707 Royal Lane,
Dallas, TX

Call: 214-351-1985

Time: 7:00-9:00pm

CEU Contact Hours: 2 each session

Apr 12, 2010 Adina Rich, Director, Rich

Educational Consulting, LLC, *The Interrelationship between Processing Speed and Fluency*

May 10, 2010 Alice Redding, CALT, Registered Yoga Therapist, *Relaxation and Focusing Tips for Students in the Classroom and at Home*

June 14, 2010 Kim Johnson, Psy.D., Neuropsychologist, *The Interrelationship between Dyslexia and ADHD*

Number Sense and Number Nonsense

Date: Thursdays: Jan 7 & 21; Feb 4;
March 4; April 8 & 15, 2010

Time: 4:00-5:00pm

Cost: free

Sponsored by: Shelton School

Event Location: Shelton School 15720 Hillcrest
Road, Dallas, TX 75248

Presenter: Joyce Pickering, Hum.D.
Executive Director of Shelton
School & Evaluation Center

Contact: Barbara Shortall, Outreach

Phone: 972-774-1772 X 223

Email: bshortall@shelton.org

ALTA CEU contact hours approved: 6 (1 per session)

Title: Research Discussion Circle

Date: March 27, 2010

Time: 9:30-11:30am

Location: Barnes and Noble Westlake;
Austin, TX

Sponsor: Dyslexia Resources Center

Cost: free

Goals and Outcomes: Article Study- Willingham, D.
(Winter 2006-07) The usefulness of BRIEF instruction in reading comprehension strategies. American Educator.

Presenters: Pat Sekel

Contact Person: Pat Sekel

Contact phone number: 512-327-5855

Contact email: psek@dslexiarc.com

CEU Contact Hours: 2

Title: Fluency and Comprehension

Date: March 27, 2010

Time: 8:30-4:30

Location: Shelton School

Sponsor: Shelton School

Cost: \$95

Goals and Outcomes: current research on fluency and comprehension techniques

Presenters: Linda Kneese, M.Ed.

Contact Person: Barbara Shortall (Outreach)

Contact phone number: 972-774-1772 X 223

Contact email: bshortall@shelton.org

CEU Contact Hours: 7

Title: College Share – Study Skills

Date: April 5, 2010

Time: 7:30-9:00pm

Location: Neuhaus Education Center –
Houston, TX

Sponsor: Neuhaus

Cost: free

Goals and Outcomes: organizational skills to be successful in college

Presenters: Julie Pitts Mount, director of
Houston Tutorial Association

Contact Person: Mary Yarus

Contact phone number: 713-664-7676

Contact email: myarus@neuhaus.org

CEU Contact Hours: 1.5

Right to Read Banquet

Time: 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Date: April 6, 2010

Cost: \$25.00

Location: Crossings Community Center

Sponsor Name: Payne Education Center

Affiliation: ALTA Affiliated

Goals and Outcome: Helping the parents and teachers of a child with learning disabilities.

Presenters: Rick Lavoie, M.A., M.Ed.

Author - "It's So Much Work to Be Your Friend: Helping the Child with Learning Disabilities Find Social Success", "The Motivational Breakthrough: 6 Secrets to Turning On the Tuned-Out Child".

Contact Email: mari@payneeducationcenter.org

Contact Info: Mari Spencer

Payne Education Center
3240 W. Britton Rd., Ste. 104
Oklahoma City, OK 73120
(405) 755-4205

ALTA CEU contact hours approved: 3

Event Title: Syllabication and Advanced Decoding: LETRS Module 10

Date: April 14, 2010
 Time: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
 Cost: No charge for currently employed teachers. Fee of \$50.00 for teachers not currently employed.
 Location: Region 10 ESC
 Sponsor Name: Region 10 Education Service Center
 400 E. Spring Valley Rd.;
 Richardson, TX 75081;
 972.348.1700

Goals and Outcome: Anglo-Saxon, Norman French, Latin and Greek historical layers to English will be reviewed. Phoneme-grapheme mapping to single-syllable words, identification, categorization, and combining the six syllable types in written English will be explored. Past-tense, plural words, inflections, a lesson for teaching recognition of big words, common roots, and a lesson routine for teaching syllabication and morphology will be practiced. LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling by Louisa Moats-LETRS Module 10-content and workbook will be used.

Presenters: Gina Mitchell B.S. Education, MLA, CALT
 Contact Email: gina.mitchell@region10.org
 Contact Info: Gina Mitchell
 Region 10 ESC
 400 E. Spring Valley Rd.
 Richardson, TX 75081
 972.348.1454
 Contact hours: 6

Title: Dyslexia Law

Date: April 24, 2010
 Time: 8:30-2:30
 Location: Shelton School
 Sponsor: Shelton School
 Cost: \$65
 Goals and Outcomes: Overview of Texas Dyslexia Law and Section 504
 Presenters: Linda Kneese, M.Ed.
 Contact Person: Barbara Shortall (Outreach)
 Contact phone number: 972-774-1772 X 223
 Contact email: bshortall@shelton.org
 CEU Contact Hours: 5

Title: Baker Idea Institute Spring Symposium

Sponsor: Baker Idea Institute
 Date: April 23-24, 2010
 Time: April 23 (6:30-9:30pm);
 April 24 (9:00-4:00)
 Location: Dallas Children's Theater, Dallas,
 TX 5938 Skillman; Dallas, TX

Cost: \$75
 Presenters: Robyn Flatt and Andy Long, DCT
 Dr. Tim Odegard, Sherry Wagner,
 Joyce Pickering, Susan Fleming,
 Ailene Pylant, Linda Daughtery
 and Mary Scuddy
 Goals: Why feelings about reading matter, find your landscape learning workshop, Learning Differences Panel: A Parent's Perspective
 Contact: Coy Covington, Administrative Assistant
 Dallas Children's Theater
 5938 Skillman Road
 Dallas, Texas 75231
 214-978-0110
 www.bakeridea.org

CEU contact hours: 10.5

Title: Plain Talk About Reading

Date: April 26-28, 2010
 Time: 9:00-4:00
 Location: Marriott New Orleans, 555 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130
 Sponsor: The Center for Development and Learning (website: learn@cdl.org)
 Cost: \$ 645 for registrations prior to September 30 (see website for late fees after this date)
 Goals and Outcomes: Implementing RtI at all levels (decoding, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, instructional leadership, resistant learners, and addressing ELLs)

Presenters: Robert Sternberg, Michael Fullan, Reid Lyon, Michael Kamil, Anita Archer, Jack Fletcher, Jan Hasbrouck, Robert Brooks, Suzanne Carreker, Judi Dodson, Lucy Hart Paulson, Susan Ebbers, Linda Farrell, Michael Hunter, Vicki Gibson.
 Contact: learn@cdl.org
 Contact phone number: 504-840-9786
 CEU Contact Hours: 18

Title: Organization and Study Skills

Date: May 1, 2010
 Time: 8:30-4:30
 Location: Shelton School
 Sponsor: Shelton School
 Cost: \$95
 Goals and Outcomes: Structure and origins of words
 Presenters: Linda Kneese, M.Ed.
 Contact Person: Barbara Shortall (Outreach)

Contact phone number: 972-774-1772 X 223
 Contact email: bshortall@shelton.org
 CEU Contact Hours: 7

Title: Math, Science, and Social Studies

Date: May 1, 2010
 Time: 8:30-4:30
 Location: Shelton School
 Sponsor: Shelton School
 Cost: \$95
 Goals and Outcomes: Overview of curriculum as it relates to LD
 Presenters: Linda Kneese, M.Ed.
 Contact Person: Barbara Shortall (Outreach)
 Contact phone number: 972-774-1772 X 223
 Contact email: bshortall@shelton.org
 CEU Contact Hours: 7

Goals and Outcome: Assessment: DIBELS (Dynamic indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) screening assessment identifies students in grades K-3, and 4-6 who are at risk for reading difficulties. Students from kindergarten through third grade are given Benchmark Assessments three times a year that measure the critical areas of early reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary. Students in 4th-6th are assessed in the areas of fluency and comprehension. For those with reading difficulties, Progress Monitoring Assessments are given as often as necessary to determine an intervention's effectiveness. This is the paper/pencil test administration training.
 Presenters: Gina Mitchell B.S. Education, MLA, CALT
 Contact Email: gina.mitchell@region10.org
 Contact Info: Gina Mitchell
 Region 10 ESC
 400 E. Spring Valley Rd.
 Richardson, TX 75081
 972.348.1454
 Contact hours: 6

Event Title: DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) Test Administration

Time: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
 Date: May 5, 2010
 Cost: No charge for currently employed public school teachers. Fee of \$50.00 for private school teachers/therapists.
 Location: Region 10 ESC
 Sponsor_Name: Region 10 Education Service Center
 400 E. Spring Valley Rd.;
 Richardson, TX 75081;
 972.348.1700



Southwest Multisensory Training Center
 600 S. Jupiter Road • Allen, TX 75002
 Phone 972.359.6646
 Fax 972.359.8291
 Email: peggy.brooks@southwestacademy.org

Associate Level Academic Language Teacher Program
 Academic Language Therapist Program
 CEU Courses
 Diagnostic Testing
 Private School, K-12th
 Summer School – June 14-July 9, 2010

<p><u>Dallas</u> June 7-19, 2010 Take Flight- Intro and Advanced Courses 8:00 am – 4:00 pm June 21-25, 2010 Multisensory Math Course 8:30 am – 4:00 pm</p>	<p><u>Odessa</u> July 19-30, 2010 Take Flight- Intro and Advanced Courses 8:00 am – 4:00 pm</p>
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2010 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

ALTA
Proposed Amendments to Bylaws 2010

Amendment # 1: Ethics and Grievances (Note overlap with #5)		Approved by ALTA BOD on November 12, 2009
Current Bylaws	Amendment	Amended as Proposed
<p>Article III MEMBERSHIP: There are five (5) categories of membership.</p>	<p>Amend by adding: There are five (5) categories of membership. See the Policies and Procedures for more detailed information, including time frames for completion of these requirements. All certified members, regardless of category, shall acknowledge compliance with the ALTA Code of Ethics on an annual basis.</p>	<p>There are five (5) categories of membership. See the Policies and Procedures for more detailed information, including time frames for completion of these requirements. All certified members, regardless of category, shall acknowledge compliance with the ALTA Code of Ethics on an annual basis.</p>
<p>Article VI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Section 9. Section 9. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors. At any regular meeting of the Board, the Policies and Procedures may be altered or repealed with subsequent notice given to the membership of such changes.</p>	<p>Substitute the following for Section 9: The duties of the Board of Directors shall be: a. to establish policies, procedures, and regulations, to be known collectively as "Policies and Procedures", provided such policies, procedures, and regulations do not conflict with these Bylaws b. to give subsequent notice to the membership of changes to the Policies and Procedures, which may be altered or repealed at any regular meeting of Board c. to revoke a Certificate of Registration for failure to register annually and remit renewal fees or if the member fails to accrue the required ALTA CEUs</p>	<p>The duties of the Board of Directors shall be: a. to establish policies, procedures, and regulations, to be known collectively as "Policies and Procedures", provided such policies, procedures, and regulations do not conflict with these Bylaws and to give subsequent notice to the membership of changes to the Policies and Procedures, which may be altered or repealed at any regular meeting of Board b. to give subsequent notice to the membership of changes to the Policies and Procedures, which may be altered or repealed at any regular meeting of Board c. to revoke a Certificate of Registration for failure to register annually and remit renewal fees or if the member fails to accrue the required ALTA CEUs</p>
<p>Article IX COMMITTEES</p>	<p>Insert new Section 5. An Ethics and Grievance Committee shall be authorized: a. to enforce and act under the Grievance Procedures b. to reprimand, place on probation, or suspend credentials of ALTA certification ("Certificate of Registration"), for violations of the ALTA Code of Ethics.</p>	<p>An Ethics and Grievance Committee shall be authorized: a. to enforce and act under the Grievance Procedures b. to reprimand, place on probation, or suspend credentials of ALTA certification ("Certificate of Registration"), for violations of the ALTA Code of Ethics.</p>
<p>Rationale: to authorize and document the role of the Ethics and Grievance Committee based on ALTA Grievance Procedures (Revised 2009)</p>		

Each numbered set of amendments will be voted on in a single vote.

2010 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Amendment # 2: Teaching Level of Membership – Title Change		Approved by ALTA BOD on November 12, 2009
Current Bylaws	Amendment	Amended as Proposed
<p>Article III MEMBERSHIP, Section 2, paragraph a:</p> <p>a. ASSOCIATE ACADEMIC LANGUAGE TEACHER (AALT) – This level of membership is open to individuals who have met the following requirements:</p> <p>Article III, Membership, Section 2, paragraph 2 (i)</p> <p>i) "Comprehensive MSLE teaching level training" shall be defined as a course under the supervision of an instructor of AALT that includes a minimum of 45 instructional hours, a minimum of 60 clinical/teaching hours, a minimum of 5 demonstrations, clinical/teaching documentation, and proof of the individual's progress and competency.</p> <p>Article III, Membership, Section 2, paragraph 2 (ii)</p> <p>ii) "Comprehensive MSLE teaching level training" shall be defined as a course under the supervision of an instructor of CALP that includes a minimum of 45 instructional hours, a minimum of 60 clinical/teaching hours, a minimum of 5 demonstrations, clinical/teaching documentation, and proof of the individual's progress and competency.</p> <p>Article III, Membership, Section 2, paragraph 2 (iii)</p> <p>iii) See Policies and Procedures for Associate Academic Language Teacher training programs and for Instructors of AALT's.</p> <p>Article I, Name and Purpose, Section 2,</p> <p>The Academic Language Therapy Association is organized exclusively for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, and promoting standards of education, practice, and professional conduct for Certified Academic Language Therapists and Associate Academic Language Teachers who are teaching students with dyslexia and/or related disorders in individual or class settings.</p>	<p>Amend by striking out and inserting:</p> <p>a. CERTIFIED ACADEMIC LANGUAGE PRACTITIONER (CALP) – This level of membership is open to individuals who have met the following requirements:</p> <p>Amend by striking out and inserting:</p> <p>ii) "Comprehensive MSLE teaching level training" shall be defined as a course under the supervision of an instructor of CALP that includes a minimum of 45 instructional hours, a minimum of 60 clinical/teaching hours, a minimum of 5 demonstrations, clinical/teaching documentation, and proof of the individual's progress and competency.</p> <p>Amend by striking out and inserting:</p> <p>See Policies and Procedures for minimum requirements for Certified Academic Language Practitioner training programs and for Instructors of CALP's.</p> <p>Amend by striking out and inserting:</p> <p>The Academic Language Therapy Association is organized exclusively for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, and promoting standards of education, practice, and professional conduct for Certified Academic Language Therapists and Certified Academic Language Practitioner who are teaching students with dyslexia and/or related disorders in individual or class settings.</p>	<p>a. CERTIFIED ACADEMIC LANGUAGE PRACTITIONER (CALP) – This level of membership is open to individuals who have met the following requirements:</p> <p>ii) "Comprehensive MSLE teaching level training" shall be defined as a course under the supervision of an instructor of CALP that includes a minimum of 45 instructional hours, a minimum of 60 clinical/teaching hours, a minimum of 5 demonstrations, clinical/teaching documentation, and proof of the individual's progress and competency.</p> <p>See Policies and Procedures for minimum requirements for Certified Academic Language Practitioner training programs and for Instructors of CALP's</p> <p>The Academic Language Therapy Association is organized exclusively for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, and promoting standards of education, practice, and professional conduct for Certified Academic Language Therapists and Certified Academic Language Practitioner who are teaching students with dyslexia and/or related disorders in individual or class settings.</p>

Each numbered set of amendments will be voted on in a single vote.

2010 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Amendment # 2: Teaching Level of Membership – Title Change		Approved by ALTA BOD on November 12, 2009
Current Bylaws	Amendment	Amended as Proposed
<p>Article III, Membership, Section 2, paragraph a subparagraph 3 Completion of three CEUs (30 contact hours) every three years. (An Associate Academic Language Teacher member is eligible to become a Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT) upon fulfilling the requirements stated in Article III., Section 2,c.)</p> <p>Rationale: Title change to CALP aligns with teaching level title provided by licensing and adds 'Certified' to the title for these members.</p>	<p>Amend by striking out and inserting: Completion of three CEUs (30 contact hours) every three years. (An Certified Academic Language Practitioner member is eligible to become a Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT) upon fulfilling the requirements stated in Article III., Section 2,c.)</p>	<p>Completion of three CEUs (30 contact hours) every three years. (An Certified Academic Language Practitioner member is eligible to become a Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT) upon fulfilling the requirements stated in Article III., Section 2,c.)</p>
Amendment # 3: Instructor for Teaching Level of Membership – Title Change		Approved by ALTA BOD on November 12, 2009
Current Bylaws	Amendment	Amended as Proposed
<p>Article III MEMBERSHIP, Section 2, paragraph b: INSTRUCTOR OF ASSOCIATE ACADEMIC LANGUAGE TEACHER (IAALT) – This level of membership is open to individuals who have met the following requirements:</p> <p>Rationale: Title change to ICALP parallels language and rationale for CALP title change.</p>	<p>Amend by striking out and inserting: INSTRUCTOR OF CERTIFIED ACADEMIC LANGUAGE PRACTITIONER (ICALP) – Instructor membership shall be open to individuals who have met the minimum guidelines for Instructor of Certified Academic Language Practitioner as defined in Policies and Procedures.</p>	<p>INSTRUCTOR OF CERTIFIED ACADEMIC LANGUAGE PRACTITIONER (ICALP) – Instructor membership shall be open to individuals who have met the minimum guidelines for Instructor of Certified Academic Language Practitioner as defined in Policies and Procedures.</p>
Amendment # 4: Annual Completion of CEUs. (Same wording, changed in two places)		Approved by ALTA BOD on November 12, 2009
Current Bylaws	Amendment	Amended as Proposed
<p>Article III MEMBERSHIP, Section 2, paragraph a(3) first sentence; Article III MEMBERSHIP, Section 2, paragraph c(3); Completion of three CEUs (30 contact hours) every three years.</p> <p>Rationale: Most professional organizations require annual submission of CEUs. ALTA's policy needs to follow this protocol in order to be consistent with the rules for HB 461.</p>	<p>Amend by striking out and inserting: Completion of one CEU (10 contact hours) annually.</p>	<p>Completion of one CEU (10 contact hours) annually.</p>

Each numbered set of amendments will be voted on in a single vote.

2010 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Amendment # 5: Friends of ALTA (Note some overlap with Amendment #1)		Approved by the ALTA BOD on February 10, 2010
Current Bylaws	Amendment	Amended as Proposed
<p>Article III MEMBERSHIP: Section 2. There are five (5) categories of membership.</p> <p>Article III MEMBERSHIP: Section 2.</p>	<p>Amend by striking out and inserting: Section 2. There are six (6) categories of membership.</p> <p>Amend by adding: (f) FRIENDS OF ALTA – Friends of ALTA shall be open to non-certified individuals who are interested in and support the programs of ALTA. Friends of ALTA are non-voting members and may not be Officers or Directors, although they may serve as advisors to the organization. Their dues and benefits shall be determined by the Board of Directors.</p>	<p>Section 2. There are six (6) categories of membership.</p> <p>(f) FRIENDS OF ALTA – Friends of ALTA shall be open to non-certified individuals who are interested in and support the programs of ALTA. Friends of ALTA are non-voting members and may not be Officers or Directors, although they may serve as advisors to the organization. Their dues and benefits shall be determined by the Board of Directors.</p>
<p>Rationale: 1. The passage of HB 461 has created a need to build community among diverse groups who support ALTA's mission and goals. 2. Ongoing legislative efforts and increasing needs of our organization require additional income streams to supplement dues from certified members. 3. This allows trainees to get involved. Over the past two years, trainees have been invited to participate in committee work in order to expose them to ALTA and begin a mentoring relationship with veteran members. Trainees have no other way to connect to the organization prior to certification.</p>		
Amendment # 6: Board of Directors		Approved by the ALTA BOD on February 10, 2010
Current Bylaws	Amendment	Amended as Proposed
<p>Article VI BOARD OF DIRECTORS Section 5. A simple majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. Included in this number must be the President or a duly appointed representative, and at least one other officer.</p> <p>Article VI BOARD OF DIRECTORS Section 2.</p>	<p>Amend by striking out: Section 5. A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. Included in this number must be the President or a duly appointed representative, and at least one other officer.</p> <p>Amend by adding a new subsection (c): (c) A director shall have been a member in good standing for one year prior to nomination. Upon completion of two full consecutive terms, a director shall be ineligible for a period of one year for re-election.</p>	<p>Section 5. A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. Included in this number must be the President or a duly appointed representative, and at least one other officer.</p> <p>(c) A director shall have been a member in good standing for one year prior to nomination. Upon completion of two full consecutive terms, a director shall be ineligible for a period of one year for re-election.</p>
<p>Rationale: The recently-adopted Board of Directors Requirements call for membership for one year prior to nomination as a Director. Information on terms, while allowed to reside in a P&P under Article VI, Section 2(b), is better placed in the Bylaws.</p>		

Each numbered set of amendments will be voted on in a single vote.

Please join the Academic Language Therapy Association
in celebrating legislation
to benefit individuals with dyslexia.

ALTA Legislative Action Fundraising Luncheon

Saturday, May 1, 2010

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Hilton Lincoln Centre

5410 LBJ Freeway

Dallas, TX 75240

Featuring

- Reid Lyon, Ph.D., President and CEO, Synergistic Education Solutions, Distinguished Professor, Southern Methodist University
- Geraldine (Tincy) Miller, Texas State Board of Educators, District 12
- Leaders in the Texas licensure effort

Tickets: \$50, payable to ALTA

RSVP by April 1 - reply below



Reaching New Heights with ALTA

Luncheon Reservation for May 1, 2010

RVSP by April 1, 2010

Please reserve _____ seats in my name.

Please reserve _____ table(s) for 8 in my name.

My Name: _____ email: _____

Number of reservations: x\$50 each = _____

Number of table reservations: x\$400 each = _____

Reservations will be held at the door. No tickets will be mailed.

Please make checks payable to ALTA*and mail to:
ALTA National Office • Attn: Casey Conway/ALTA Luncheon
14070 Proton Road, Suite 100 • Dallas, TX 75244

*Contributions or gifts to ALTA are not tax-deductible as charitable donations.
However, they may be deductible under other provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.

Coloradans Create Local ALTA Group



ALTA Mountain Chapter officers, l to r: Jill Yochim, President, Carolyn Dutton, Secretary, and Sandra Giorgetta, Treasurer.

The Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA) has announced the formation of the ALTA Mountain Chapter (ALTA-MC). The ALTA-MC is one of the first local ALTA chapters in the country, bringing the national goals of promoting and strengthening the standards of professional teachers of reading to Colorado, Utah and New Mexico.

"The ALTA Mountain Chapter will be a great place for professional support in that region," commented Jean Colner, chair of the ALTA Chapters Committee. "It's wonderful to see ALTA Chapters starting in other areas of the country. Hopefully other ALTA groups around the country will want to follow their example of adhering to the highest training standards."

Of the more than 1,000 ALTA members in 32 states, only 20 members are located in the Rocky Mountain area. ALTA membership requires successful completion in rigorous training programs, clinical supervision, and passing a national exam. Certification offers our com-

munities the assurance that a teacher of reading has proven competence.

According to Jill Yochim, founding member and president of the ALTA-MC, the following goals have been set for the local organization: providing professional camaraderie, adhering to high ethical standards in the field, promoting and sharing multisensory learning strategies and techniques, and acting as a resource for the education of the local community.

For more information about the ALTA Mountain Chapter, dyslexia, and reading services in Colorado, please contact Jill Yochim at 719.227.0026.

Reaching New Heights

24th ALTA® National Conference
Saturday, May 1st, 2010
Hilton – Lincoln Centre, Dallas, TX



Richard D. Lavoie – Keynote speaker “The Motivation Breakthrough: 6 Secrets to Turning On the Tuned-Out Child”

Rick’s presentation will be based on his latest book and PBS DVD which was featured in USA Today. Most parents and professionals know Rick through his videos “How Difficult Can This Be? The F.A.T. City Workshop”, “Last One Picked, First One Picked On: The Social Implications of Learning Disabilities” and “When the Chips are Down: Learning Disabilities and Discipline”. He is also the author of the book “It’s So Much Work to Be Your Friend: Helping the Child with Learning Disabilities Find Social Success”. To read more about Rick’s work, visit his website at www.ricklavoie.com.

Additional Conference Events

Saturday, May 1, 2010: Legislative Action Fundraising Luncheon

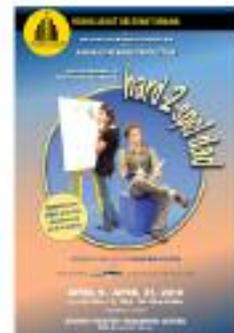
G. Reid Lyon, Ph.D. - Dr. Reid Lyon is a distinguished professor of education policy and leadership at Southern Methodist University. From 1992 until 2005 Dr. Lyon served as a research psychologist and the Chief of the Child Development and Behavior Branch within the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).



Geraldine “Tincy” Miller - Tincy Miller has served on the Texas State Board of Education since 1984, including four years of service as chair of the 15-member board. She was also the driving force behind the Texas law requiring accommodation and assistance for students with dyslexia. She is a champion for children with dyslexia and other learning difficulties. Her passion and commitment have changed the lives of many children and families in Texas.

Friday, April 30, 2010: Dallas Children’s Theater presents “hard 2 spel, dad”

This is a special performance for ALTA members and our conference guests of the new play, “hard 2 spel, dad”, a production dedicated to dyslexia and learning differences. This Friday night event at the Dallas Children’s Theater will include a moderated panel following the show and opportunities to learn about ALTA’s collaboration with the Dallas Children’s Theater. ALTA is a production partner for this play and advisor for the Baker Idea Institute. For information on both opportunities, visit www.dct.org. **Advance tickets can be ordered by calling (214) 740-0051.**



For conference registration and details, visit the ALTA website at www.altaread.org.



Reaching New Heights

24th Annual ALTA® National Conference
Saturday, May 1, 2010
Hilton – Lincoln Centre
Dallas, Texas

Conference Registration Form

(All Fields Required. Please print legibly.)

Name _____ ALTA® member Parent Professional Friend
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip code _____
Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____
Email: _____ (Conference registration will be confirmed by email.)
School District: _____ Campus: _____
Private therapists, please enter district and campus of student(s) being served. One district and campus is sufficient.

Early registration Late registration *(Limited seating for some conference events. Register early.)*
By Feb. 26th *After Feb. 26th*

ALTA® members...\$95.00.....\$115.00.....\$ _____
Non-Members.....\$115.00.....\$125.00.....\$ _____
Student:\$80.00.....\$95.00.....\$ _____

*Students must list training center or college/university. For college/university students, attach student photo ID.
For training center students, obtain instructor signature.*

Training Center/University: _____ Signature: _____

Legislative Fundraising Luncheon.....\$50.00.....\$ _____

Contributions or gifts to ALTA are not tax deductible as charitable donations. However, they may be deductible under other provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.

Please list my name as a Friend of ALTA in the program brochure..... \$10.....\$ _____

Total Payment Enclosed:\$ _____

DCT performance of hard 2 spel, dad:...Tickets for ALTA's private showing of "hard 2 spel, dad" on Friday, April 30 can be purchased directly from the Dallas Children's Theater by calling (214) 740-0051.

Check enclosed Please charge to my credit card: MC Visa Am. Ex.

Signature of cardholder: _____

Acct. #: _____ Exp. Date _____

Cancellation / Refund Deadline: Friday, March 19, 2010. (After this date no refunds will be issued.)

Payment must accompany registration. You may register online, by mail or by fax.

- ☞ Online registration at www.altaread.org (MC/Visa only accepted online for conference registration).
- ☞ Make check payable to Academic Language Therapy Association or include credit card information.
- ☞ Mail registration to ALTA® National Office, 14070 Proton Road, Suite 100, LB 9, Dallas, TX 75244.
- ☞ Fax registration to (972) 490-4219.

Questions about registration? Call (972) 233-9107, ext. 208

Hotel Accommodation Information – Hilton Hotel Lincoln Centre

To receive ALTA's special room rates at our host hotel, please reserve your room by phone or online by April 9, 2010. By phone, call 1-800-245-3304 and indicate you are attending the ALTA® conference.

To make reservations online, follow these simple steps:

1. Go to www.dallaslincolncentre.hilton.com. Go to "Check Availability".
2. Enter your arrival and departure dates. Enter your guest room preferences (Example: non-smoking).
3. Continue down the page to "Special Account". Find Group/Convention Code and type in ALT.
4. If you have questions about your hotel booking, contact the Hilton at 1-800-245-3304.

Conference updates, directions, parking information and maps are available on the home page of www.altaread.org.

“Reaching New Heights” 24th Annual ALTA® Conference

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Morning Session

- 7:45 a.m. - Exhibits Open
- 8:15 a.m. - Registration and Continental Breakfast

- 8:15 a.m. - Business Meeting and Awards
- 9:15 a.m. - Book signing - Rick Lavoie

- 9:15 a.m. - Break
- 9:30 a.m. - Keynote Address
- 11:00 a.m. - **Richard D. Lavoie**
The Motivation Breakthrough: 6 Secrets to Turning On the Tuned-Out Child

- 11:00 a.m. - **Licensure Presentation**
- 12:00 a.m. - *Celebrating Legislative Action for Dyslexia*

Afternoon Session

- 1:00 p.m. - **Keynote Address (continued)**
- 2:30 p.m. - **Richard D. Lavoie**
The Motivation Breakthrough: 6 Secrets to Turning On the Tuned-Out Child

- 2:30 p.m. - **Break**
- 3:00 p.m. - **Rick Lavoie (concluded)**
- 4:00 p.m. - **Book signing**

- 4:00 pm - **Book signing**
- 4:30 pm

- 12:00 a.m. - **Lunch (see below)**
- 1:00 p.m.

Conference Lunch

Box lunches are provided for registered conference guests. A separate Legislative Fundraising Luncheon, featuring Reid Lyon and Tincy Miller, is available by advanced reservation. See conference registration form for details.

Conference Venue and Parking Information

Hilton Lincoln Centre

5410 LBJ Freeway (@Dallas Parkway)

Dallas, Texas 75044

<http://www1.hilton.com>

Tel: 972-934-8400



YOUNG ADULT RELEVANT DRAMA
 OR
 THE TEXAS INSTRUMENTS FOUNDATION
 PRESENTS
 A WORLD PREMIERE PRODUCTION

LINDA DAUGHERTY & MARY RONDE SCUDOWY'S
hard 2 spel dad

Visualizing the difficult and often misunderstood world of dyslexia.

DEVELOPED IN CONNECTION WITH BAKER IDEA INSTITUTE
 PRESENTED BY ACADEMIC LANGUAGE THEATRY ASSOCIATION

APRIL 9 - APRIL 25, 2010
 Tuesday 7:30pm / Wednesday 1:30pm / Saturday 1:00pm & 4:00pm
 Studio Theater / Rosewood Center
 2938 S. Collins St. • Dallas
 For Tickets or Information
214-740-0051 • www.dct.org

**Save a Seat for Me!
 An Evening at the Theater with
 ALTA
 Friday, April 30, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to see the arts and ALTA in action! As the conclusion to our year-long collaboration with the Dallas Children's Theater (DCT) and the Baker Idea Institute, a special performance of the new play, *hard 2 spel dad*, will be performed for ALTA members and their guests on the evening prior to our national conference. ***This play is about students with dyslexia. The two main characters, Zak and Pamela, are students with dyslexia. It is an extremely moving and powerful expression of the world in which we strive to make a difference. Audiences who have previewed the play have been impressed by these real-life struggles played out with such passion and conviction by these talented young people and the actors who play the parts of their teachers, parents, mentors and neighbors. The post-production dialogue between audience members, the actors and professionals in the field of dyslexia has already produced wonderful results and is the highlight of these productions.***

Please join us to see how ALTA has participated in this creative process and witness the power of the post-play dialogue between cast members, professionals in the field and the audience. In addition, an art show with works by students with dyslexia will be on display in the lobby of the DCT. This art show has been facilitated by the ALTA Outreach Committee and Jeremy Cain, an Eagle Scout who is passionate about art and its power to communicate.

Tickets are available only in advance by calling 214-740-0051. A special ALTA rate is available.

**Don't be left out
 of this extraordinary event!
 Reserve your tickets to the April
 30 performance for ALTA and our
 guests by calling
 214-740-0051.**

***This event carries 2 contact
 hours of CEU credit.***

**All tickets will be held at the door.
 Bring your colleagues and friends
 who would benefit from seeing
 dyslexia through the eyes of
 students with dyslexia.**

Scottish Rite Learning Center of Austin Offers First Pre-flight Class



On Tuesday, February 9, 2010, five smiling first graders bounced into therapist Melissa Vollbrecht's classroom at the Scottish Rite Learning Center of Austin, Inc. (SRLC) to begin their first class of *Pre-flight*: An introduction for young students to *Take Flight: A Comprehensive Intervention for Students with Dyslexia (Take Flight)*. With an abundance of energy and enthusiasm, they participated in games and activities focused on learning the alphabet, phonemic awareness and reading comprehension. The students attend three days a week through May 6th and are the first group to participate in SRLC's offering of *Pre-flight*.

At the *Take Flight* Therapist Reunion on March 31, 2009, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children's Luke Waites Center for Dyslexia and Learning Disorders staff presented their draft curriculum of *Pre-flight*. Designed to address the needs of kindergarten through second grade students

who have or are at risk for dyslexia and are struggling with beginning reading skills, *Pre-flight* introduces young students to the early components of literacy associated with future reading success. The program is an appropriate launching pad for entry into *Take Flight*. Janet Flory, M.Ed., CALT-QI spent the morning of August 29, 2010 at the Center introducing *Pre-flight* and its materials to CALTs and trainees who use *Take Flight*. After attending the session, Melissa was eager to try the program. She volunteered to gather, prepare, and organize all the necessary materials in preparation for SRLC's first group of younger students.

Until now, SRLC offered only the *Take Flight* program, directed solely at students in second grade through middle school who have already been diagnosed with dyslexia. The Center is excited to have the opportunity to utilize the draft of *Pre-flight* to provide even earlier intervention to younger students in the Austin area!

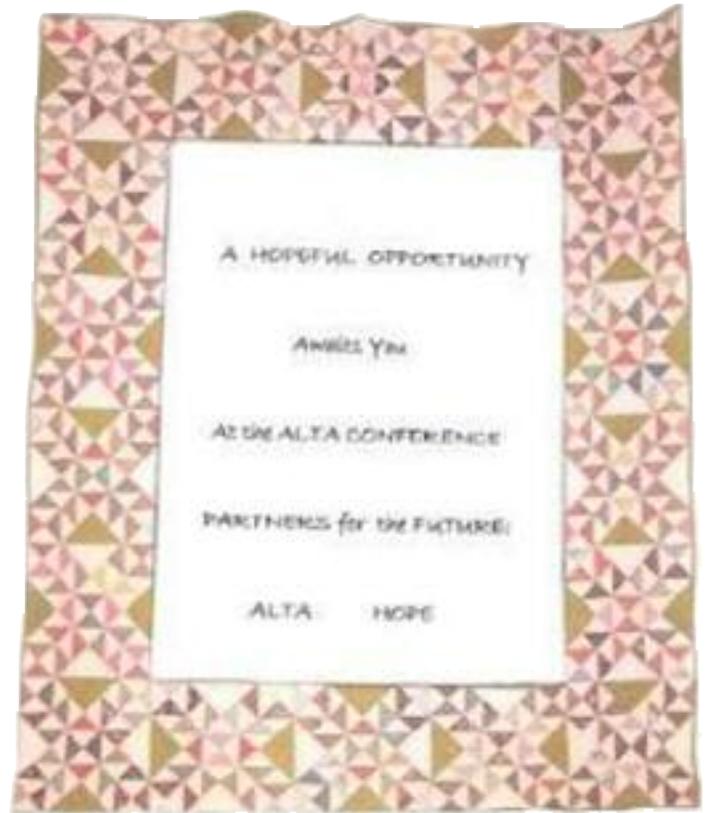
Student Art Show at the Dallas Children's Theater

I'm writing to inform you of an exciting opportunity for ALTA Therapists and their students: an art show at the DCT. Although Jeremy Cain will not be able to curate the show, ALTA looks forward to displaying the talent and creativity of our students.

The Theme of the show is *How I Deal with Dyslexia* and will be displayed in the lobby of DCT. We're excited and proud to showcase the creativity and frustrations of dyslexics through various art mediums including painting, sculpture and 3D art. The art will not be for sale, but will be an added attraction to the play *hard 2 spel dad*, a play about two teenage dyslexics and how they deal with dyslexia in their lives.

Guidelines for this show are as follows:

- 1) **AGE:** There is no age limit for a child to enter the show, as long as the child "has some relation to a learning disorder." However, the play, *hard 2 spel dad*, may only be seen by sixth graders through high school. Children younger than eleven could view the show in the lobby, but not the play.
- 2) **SIZE:** Bring your paintings matted and framed if not on canvas.
- 3) **DELIVERY:** Art work should be delivered to the DCT on Saturday, April 3rd. Art work should be picked up on May 1st.
- 4) **LABELS:** Art work will be labeled "akin to a style in professional galleries." All the information will be compounded on one or two sheets of paper which will be mass printed and available for any patron to pick up. The student should affix his name, age, therapist's name, title of the work, along with a one to two sentence explanation of the meaning of the work to his piece (i.e. I



choose to represent my dealings with dyslexia in the form of a person leaping over a stone to represent how dyslexia is not something that stops me from doing normal activities. I used a lot of blue because blue is my favorite color."

A Certificate of Participation will be given by ALTA to every child who enters.

My hope is that ALTA members will encourage their students to be thinking creatively about how to share their struggles and positive learning experiences with dyslexia. Through their artwork in this show, they can teach others how creativity can inspire and enhance learning and highlight ALTA as a bridge to literacy and lifelong love of learning.