Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers
53rd Annual Meeting

November 5-8, 2009
Charlotte, North Carolina
Marriott Charlotte City Center
Session 086
Time: 2:30 pm – 2:55 pm • Room: Salon B
Explicitly Teaching Word Attack Strategies to ELLs: Unlocking the Vocabulary Gap
Speakers:
Kendall Kiser, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Adriana L. Medina, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Abstract: This study sought to examine the impact of explicitly teaching ELLs word attack strategies to infer meanings of vocabulary words and to determine if those strategies transferred. The following strategies were explicitly taught to students over a period of five weeks: context clues, morphology, cognates, and connotation/ denotation. Among the principles underlying the intervention were that the strategies could be used across multiple contexts and students would have multiple opportunities to practice the strategies.

Session 087
Time: 2:30 pm – 2:55 pm • Room: Salon C
Perceptions of Asian Graduate Students on Transitioning to Study in the United States
Speakers:
Kanya Wittikietpaiboon, Sam Houston State University
Debra P. Price, Sam Houston State University
Abstract: American universities continue to attract the interest of foreign graduate students, particularly those interested in education issue in their own countries; however, once they arrive to study differing expectations often contribute to a less than successful experience. Because we have much to learn about global educational experiences, it benefits university faculty to understand the realities of these students and how we might all work together to insure a more successful transition and experience.

Session 088
Time: 2:30 pm – 2:55 pm • Room: Salon F
Building Literacy Communities with Online Classrooms: Using Multiple Processes to Create Collaboration and Connections
Speaker:
Mary Beth Allen, Eastern Stroudsburg University
Abstract: This session will present the nuts and bolts of implementing a graduate level reading class using an online format. In particular, the processes for building classroom community – introductions, grouping, interactions, and assignments – will be explained. Ideas for online written discussions, large and small group real-time oral discussions, and group presentations will be addressed.

Session 089
Time: 2:30 pm – 2:55 pm • Room: Salon G
Literacy on the Lap: Creating Positive, Authentic "Homework" For Young Learners
Speakers:
Jennifer P. Bailey, University of West Florida
Amy Perl-Clark, Consultant – K2 Unscripted
Rebecca Godfrey, La Ballona Elementary, Culver City Unified School District, California
Abstract: A kindergarten teacher in California was discouraged by the type of homework she and her grade level colleagues were sending home. She and the other presenters researched meaningful activities for literacy work at home and developed "Take Home Tip Sheets." She started sending them home weekly to help her students' parents understand how they could help increase their child's literacy using authentic literature and experiential learning. The presenters will share these ideas and the response from the parents and students.

Session 090
Time: 2:30 pm – 2:55 pm • Room: Salon H
A Comparison of the Personal Literacies of First Generation and Non-First Generation Preservice Teachers
Speakers:
Gina L. Stocks, Sul Ross State University
Daniel L. Pearce, Texas A & M University – Corpus Christi
Abstract: This session will examine the literacy experiences and current reading habits of first generation and non-first generation students enrolled in preservice reading education classes. Results will be shared from a survey conducted in traditional and non-traditional regional university settings in South Texas.

Workshop 091
Time: 3:00 pm – 3:50 pm • Room: Eastover
Linked Text Sets to Engage Secondary Readers
Speakers:
Linda S. Wild, Loyola University Chicago
Laurie Eichholtz-Piper, Northern Illinois University
Abstract: This session presents Linked Text Sets (Author, 2009) involving print and nonprint media as a key source for engaging secondary students in texts that promote critical thinking. By connecting media that is culturally-relevant to students' own lives but also to the content of the literary canon, students are provided access and opportunity to think strategically about the ways that texts impact their worlds. Students are also provided texts they can read with success rather than texts they cannot read or from which they cannot learn.
2009 ALER Conference Personnel

Program Chair
Laurie Elish-Piper, Northern Illinois University

Assistant to Program Chair
Lauree Harp, Northern Illinois University and Harp On It! Productions

Conference Coordinator
Barbara J. Reinken, Grand Valley State University

Conference Committee Member
Mary Beth Allen, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania

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Jean Vintinner, University of North Carolina- Charlotte

Reading Room & Exhibitors Coordinators
Tami Craft Al-Hazza, Old Dominion University
Janet L. Towell, Florida Atlantic University

New Member Luncheon Coordinators
Mary DeKonty Applegate, St. Joseph’s University
Mary Robbins, Sam Houston State University

Business Manager
John Smith, University of Texas, Arlington
J. Michael Pickle, St. Cloud State University