READING ALUMNI ARE DOING AWESOME WORK!

Reading Program Alumni are involved in teaching, leadership, publishing, writing, training, tutoring, and a myriad of other activities that we know you want to know about. Beginning with this issue of the newsletter we will be focusing on a few alumni each issue. This will help REG fulfill one of the main missions of the organization—networking!

If you would like to share what you are up to in an upcoming issue, please contact Linda Vander Wende at beasleyljj@aol.com.

ALUMNI SHOWCASE

Erin Fitzgerald (2013) Online
First grade, St. Thomas the Apostle School in Riverside

Erin and her website, www.ReadAcrossRiverside.com were recently featured in the Riverside Press Enterprise. Erin is one of the first to complete the Reading MS as a fully online student. She shared with the paper that she was able to practice everything she was learning in the MS program in her own classroom. Then as a culminating demonstration of her knowledge, she chose to create a website after conducting additional research on family literacy.

An important goal of her project was to help parents understand that there are many fun ways to help their children learn to read and write. The website is intended for parents of primary students and includes book lists in English and Spanish with suggestions for book discussion. It also includes tips for choosing books at the appropriate reading difficulty level; songs, poems and music in English and Spanish; games for language play; reading games to play in the car; and literacy websites. Erin can be reached at ekfitzge@csu.fullerton.edu.

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Ana Azevedo (2012) Paramount Cohort
Instructional Coach, Alondra Middle School, Paramount Unified School District

As an instructional coach, Ana’s goal has been to foster continuous collaboration of best instructional practices amongst teachers so all students can achieve academically. She has provided teachers with mini-professional developments such as student use of academic vocabulary, student accountability, levels of questioning, and sequencing of lessons. After observing lessons, she provides specific feedback, which will improve the delivery of lessons and result in student achievement. In addition, Ana has embarked on a co-teaching assignment so she too can create and implement lessons in the classroom that contain the key strategies and best practices designed by the staff. The co-teaching assignment has facilitated understanding of what works and what needs to be refined along with the respect of other teachers.

In preparation for the California Common Core Standards (CCCS), Alondra MS school administration has asked Ana to be part of a Common Core Lead Teacher committee. The committee is designed to build the awareness of the CCCS and assessments. She also shares practice strategies in classrooms to prepare for Common Core implementation, and assisting in the design of pilot lessons which all teachers will implement the following year. Ana feels well prepared for her new responsibilities, stating, “My Reading MS has given me the necessary tools to evaluate and construct instructional decisions with my district/school administration and school staff so students are given the opportunity to build their literacy in all content areas.” She can be reached at aazevedo@paramount.k12.ca.us.

Linda Vander Wende, 2009
Author for Teacher Created Materials (TCM)

Linda had the pleasure of working with TCM on their Language Power series as a coauthor for the kindergarten through grade 2 series. This kit targets listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills to empower English language learners. It provides rigorous instruction with 30 high-interest texts that are leveled and organized around common themes. Language Power is organized in three language proficiency levels per grade level span: beginner, intermediate and advanced.

Linda reports that the Reading MS program provided a working knowledge about current practices in reading, listening, speaking and writing. This knowledge enabled her to believe make the leap for classroom teacher to author. The staff at TCM was very supportive and helpful throughout the process. Have a great idea for a book? Teacher Created Materials and Shell Education accept submissions from educators. Interested parties can visit their website at www.tcmpub.com for more information. Linda can be contacted at beasleyljf@aol.com.

Annie (Lee) Song (2011) El Rancho Cohort
Fifth grade Teacher, Northrup Elementary, Alhambra Unified School District

Annie is currently working with the “high” reading group, encouraging critical thinking and creating opportunities for enriching, yet challenging, activities. I am also experimenting with themes curriculum in order to integrate all subjects and prepare for the CCSS.

She was recently recognized for an effective strategy used in her classroom. She was video-recorded helping to facilitate an academic conversation with her 36-homeroom students. The question was: who is responsible for finding America: Amerigo Vespucci or Christopher Columbus? Students evaluated and analyzed evidence, respected the conversation norms (previously made), supported or questioned others, and connected their knowledge to other subject areas and their own lives. This video was shared with all of the principals in the district.

She believes her Reading MS has been helpful in allowing her to understand the process of reading in her classroom. She is able to identify when and why students are having difficulty with text from any subject area and it also helps to facilitate her writer’s workshop with a more fundamental approach. It has provided truly invaluable knowledge. She can be reached at Lee_annie@ausd.us.

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Alumni Showcase (Continued from page 2)

Heather Bosworth (2009), completed some classes with the Capo Cohort and some classes on campus
First grade teacher, El Morro Elementary, Laguna Beach Unified School District

Heather just received National Board Certification in the area of Early/Middle Childhood, 
Reading and Language Arts. She was one of only 15 teachers in all of Orange County to receive certification this year.

Also she was selected by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing and Pearson to be a part of the content advisory committee for the CBEST. She spent some time up in Sacramento working with this committee developing new test questions that will be used on the CBEST exam. In addition, she serves on the Orange County Reading Associations Executive Council as the vendor coordinator.

Heather is currently teaming with the Laguna Beach Association of University Women (UAW) implementing a program called The Learning Connection. This is an afterschool program that matches community members (volunteers) with high needs students in our school. The volunteers spend two hours a week tutoring these students one on one under Heather’s supervision. She helps provide materials for the tutors to work on with the students and guide them through how to implement some interventions that help the students with their specific needs.

Heather shared, “The intervention and instructional strategies I learned in this Master’s program help me in the classroom every day. I am able to use different assessments I’ve learned about to target areas of student need. Once these needs are identified, I am able to pull from the numerous intervention strategies I learned in this program to help my students.” She can be reached at Hbosworth@lbusd.org.

Megan Sommers (2004) Tustin Cohort
Second grade teacher, Ladera Elementary, Tustin Unified School District

Megan is the current president of the Orange County Reading Association. She also is the tech lead at her site, on the School Site Council, serves as a member of the Leadership Team, and is grade level lead teacher.

Her school is implementing Writing Workshop and AR this year. She has piloted the use of an ipad in the classroom and has given a presentation to the staff on the benefits. She is also working with the principal and PTO to have an ipad for each teacher and ipad carts for student use at her school.

She values her Reading MS for giving her the tools and expertise she needed to help struggling readers. Megan can be reached at megsommers@att.net.

Vince Gonzales (2002)
First Grade Teacher, Stephen Foster Elementary, Bellflower Unified School District
Lecturer, California State University, Fullerton

This year Vince’s district embarked upon a program called DII (Direct Interactive Instruction) which is based on four basic principles: A focus on lesson structure and sequence; making students aware of and understanding the Standards and measurable Objectives; implementing a proactive classroom management system; and using effective student engagement, feedback, and correctives techniques. As a team leader for this program, Vince has had the opportunity to open discussions with teachers throughout the district as well and his own school to decide which ways of implementation will work best with each teacher and grade level. As implementation of the Common Core Standards approaches, they hope that this research-based program will propel their students to mastery of the standards.

Vince shares the following reflection about his preparation at CSUF. “I have to admit that obtaining my Reading Specialist Credential and masters has been the single most important professional decision I’ve made concerning my teaching career. Prior to getting my MS, I was very content to close the door and teach in my own little classroom and hope for the best. However, since obtaining my MS, not only have the doors opened for me, but I’ve realized how varied the learning styles, situations, and needs of our students are and how we, as a professionals owe it to the future to prepare our students linguistically, with literacy at the forefront, to be able to succeed in a globally economy. In addition, I’ve been privileged to teach at Read 507, Content Area Reading, at CSUF, for the past 10 years. This helps me keep abreast of happenings outside my own district as I interact with teachers in other districts. It also forces me to continually better my own skills and stay on top of new research related to the teaching of literacy.” Vince can be reached at MusbMrG@msn.com.
OPPORTUNITY DRAWING TO SUPPORT THE HAZEL MILLER CROY READING CENTER

The Hazel Miller Croy Reading Center endowment is approaching $45,000. That is quite an accomplishment since it was only established a little over two years ago. Each year the annual interest earned from the endowment is made available to a distribution account. Funds in the distribution account are then used to support the activities in the Center. Examples of this use of funds include the purchase of iPod Nanos for use in the Pocket Tutor Project and Center scholarships for struggling readers.

For the past few years REG has sponsored an opportunity drawing at the breakfast to raise funds for the endowment account. We will continue the tradition this year. Here is how REG members can help and have some fun.

• Purchase tickets for the drawing with your registration for the event
• Bring cash or your checkbook to purchase tickets at the event
• Donate an item for the drawing – contact Kathi Bartle Angus at kangus@fullerton.edu
• Cross your fingers so you can win the Flip Camera donated by the Reading Department!
• Have fun “shopping” with your tickets at the event

Ticket Prices:
1 ticket for $1
12 tickets for $10
25 tickets for $20

If you cannot attend the breakfast and would like to make a donation to the Hazel Miller Croy Endowment, you can do so on the web: https://www.fullerton.edu/foundation/gift/form.asp?Appeal=8GJ00/CSFPF&fund=Croy%20Endowment|85017

REG Grant Applications Due

The Reading Educators Guild grant was established in 2004 to provide financial support to an REG member. The $300 grant is intended to be a supplement to a typical classroom or professional materials budget. Applications must be submitted by March 31 to be considered for this funding round. See the REG website (http://reg.fullerton.edu) for the application form and submission information. Applications can be submitted by mail following the directions on the grant application or by email to Lesley Zorola at lzorola@acsd.k12.ca.us.

A Note from our 2012 Grant Recipient: Debbie Lombardi (2008)

I received the REG grant of $300 to purchase used college textbooks from different disciplines to use by instructors in the Reading Department at Saddleback College. The intent is to use these books as hands-on tools for instruction in previewing and using the SQ3R strategy in our developmental reading courses. I want to thank the Reading Educators Guild for giving me the opportunity to apply for the grant and equip our students using authentic Saddleback College course textbooks to provide a direct connection to the skills and concepts taught in the developmental reading classrooms.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CSUF PRESIDENT, MILDRED GARCIA

Dr. Mildred Garcia’s inauguration took place on February 1, 2013. The impressive ceremony was attended by students, faculty, staff, and administrators at CSUF as well as many community and government representatives. REG extends hearty congratulations to Dr. Garcia as she takes the reins at CSUF as its fifth board appointed president.
FACULTY FOOTNOTES

Dr. Rosario Ordonez-Jasis has received the Emma Holmes Award that will allow her release from teaching a class this spring to pursue her literacy research. Also she has been invited to be the Featured Speaker at the 2013 Nation Conference on Family Literacy. It is hosted by the National Center for Family Literacy and will be held in Louisville, KY in April.

Dr. JoAnn Carter-Wells. The Master’s degree in Instructional Design Technology headed by Dr. JoAnn Carter-Wells has been recognized as one of the top online degree programs in the country by US News and World Report. She has also been involved as a campus evaluator for WASC, specializing in online degree programs, over the last several years.

Dr. Erica Bowers has been appointed Acting Chair of the Reading Department. In addition, she has continued her work with the National Center Director Special Interest Group of the Literacy Research Association. They reported on their video reflection research that was conducted using several reading clinics across the nation. Also, Dr. Bowers, Dr. Manzo and two former graduate students, Ann Tarantine and Melissa Base, will have their chapter regarding the Pocket Tutor Project published in an upcoming volume on best practices for literacy instruction. Erica also continues to represent the area of Orange County as an Area Director on the board of the California Reading Association.

Dr. Catherine Maderazo gave a presentation in January to 300 parents during Savannah School District's annual Reach the Reader night on January 24. Her goal was to inspire parents to find ways to interact with their children around reading. Striving for authenticity and fun, she used the book Little Lost Dog a true story of a dog rescued from the Baltic Sea near Poland to model. Dr. Maderazo also presented at the California Reading Association conference in San Diego.

Kathi Bartle Angus has been working with CSUF University Extended Education in providing workshops for teachers and student teachers visiting from Shanghai and Beijing. Her workshops in Instructional Strategies to Promote Critical and Creative Thinking have been designed for international visiting teachers of pre-K through postsecondary students.

REG FACEBOOK PAGE AND WEBSITE

Facebook Page:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Reading-Educators-Guild/

Our Facebook page is a great place for current and alumni educators from California State University, Fullerton's Reading Department to participate in active and dynamic communications about reading research, strategies, and resources. The page also has links to the REG newsletters, current information on upcoming REG events, and photos of past REG events. Please visit our page and become a fan by clicking the “like” button located at the top right hand corner of the page.

For those of you who already “like” our page, make sure to hover over the “liked” button and check “Get Notifications” and “Show in News Feed” to ensure that you receive all of our posts in your News Feed.

Website:
http://reg.fullerton.edu

Our REG website is also a great resource with links to reading resources and access to the REG newsletters, grant/scholarship applications, and photos of special events. We are currently in the process of updating the website and would love your feedback. Here are few ideas we are thinking of adding to the website: making it more interactive by linking to our Facebook page; adding more reading resources such as podcasts, videos, and links to best practices; and making it more user friendly.

Please email any thoughts or suggestions to: kimberlymundala@yahoo.com
REG Spring Breakfast

with a presentation by

Dr. Catherine Maderazo
Finding our Heartbeat: Literacy Transformation through the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

And an Opportunity Drawing to benefit the Hazel Miller Croy Reading Center (purchase tickets in advance or at the door)

March 16, 2013
Mission Viejo Country Club
26200 Country Club Drive, Mission Viejo, CA
(see page 7 for map and menu)

9 a.m. check in and opportunity drawing
9:30 – 11:30 breakfast buffet & program

Please respond on or before March 5, 2013
Make checks payable to REG and return to REG, CSUF, Reading Department, PO Box 6868, Fullerton, CA 92834-6868 or use enclosed envelope.

NAME (S): _______________________________________
PHONE: ________________

Reservations ____ @ $30 per person
Opportunity Drawing Tickets (1 for $1, 12 for $10, 25 for $20) - Optional
Total

$___________
$___________
$___________

INFORMATION: Linda Cardwell at lindalcardwell@gmail.com or 949-364-3765
REG SPRING BREAKFAST BUFFET MENU

Fresh Orange and Apple Juice or Mimosa
Sliced Fresh Fruit and Berries
Bakery Basket of Assorted Mini Croissants, Danish, Muffins
Sweet Butter, Honey, Preserves
Selection of Homemade Granola, and Dried Fruit Cereal
Choice of Regular, Low-Fat, Skim or Soy Milk
Scrambled Eggs, Cheddar Cheese, Chives
Crispy Apple Wood Smoked Bacon
Country Pork Sausage
Sage Fried Potatoes
Brewed Regular, Decaffeinated Coffee, and Selection of Teas

Mission Viejo Country Club
Map & Directions

* From Los Angeles …
Travel on the I-5 (south) and take exit 88/Oso Parkway. Turn left/east and travel .6 miles. Turn right onto Country Club Drive. Travel 292 feet and enter the driveway on your right. Please announce your arrival at the gate.

* From San Diego …
Travel on the I-5 (north) and take exit 88/Oso Parkway. Turn right/east and travel .6 miles. Turn right onto Country Club Drive. Travel 292 feet and enter the driveway on your right. Please announce your arrival at the gate.

*From the Inland Empire …
Travel on the I-91 (west) to the I-55 (south) to the I-5 (south) and take exit 88/Oso Parkway. Turn left/east and travel .6 miles. Turn right onto Country Club Drive. Travel 292 feet and enter the driveway on your right. Please announce your arrival at the gate.

NAME CORRECTION – Volume 40 Issue 3, Alumni News: New alumni embracing their new roles as Reading Professionals.

Editor’s Note: On page 6 of the last issue, Sara Rawlins’s name was misspelled. My apologies to Sara. - Carlen H.

From Left to Right: Kirsten Hubbard, Katie Murray, Sara Rawlins, and Courtney Hinshaw