CSUF and Community Colleges Partner to Serve Underserved Students

By Brad Biggs

While teachers in the K-12 setting are provided with an internship before taking charge of a classroom, internships are rare for developmental reading instructors in community college settings. Approximately two-thirds of students in community colleges are not yet prepared for the rigors of college-level work in at least one subject area, so literacy education professionals must be well prepared (Bailey, Jeong, & Cho, 2010; NCCPPHE & SREB, 2010). Candidates must also learn to address the complex nature of today’s instructional terrain (Holschuh & Paulson, 2013). Many students who enroll in developmental education courses are different from those who qualify for courses that transfer to a four-year institution in terms of gender, ethnicity, first-time generation status, academic and extracurricular experiences during high school, and delayed entry (Bettinger & Long, 2005). Research has demonstrated that students who are members of a racial minority or the first of their family to attend college face substantially increased risks for dropping out of college (Chen, 2005; Crisp & Delgado, 2014).

CSUF has incorporated research-based theory and policy-grounded practice into our Master of Science in Reading to meet the needs of such professionals. In addition to providing curriculum and learning activities that prepare candidates for the demands of postsecondary literacy education, CSUF’s Department of Literacy and Reading Education collaborates with community colleges to extend candidate learning. CSUF candidates can collaborate with a seasoned developmental literacy instructor to implement relevant research, and to practice the assessment and instruction of adult learners. These internship experiences are collaboratively designed with the needs and structures in place at the individual community colleges, resulting in benefits for candidates, mentor faculty of the community colleges, and community college students. CSUF graduates report positive experiences in working with students from a wide range of ethnicities and races, socioeconomic statuses, and learning backgrounds.
Some graduates shared that employment resulted from contacts in their internship. Faculty at community colleges share that the experience is invigorating, offering them opportunities to explore curriculum, instruction, and materials through co-teaching and dialog with their interns.

References

2017 “Honor An Educator” Dinner and Ceremony

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON
TITAN STUDENT UNION
SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2017
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. DINNER AND CEREMONY

The ‘Honor an Educator’ program was created in 2006 with two primary goals – to recognize educators who have made a difference in the lives of others, and to provide scholarships for current College of Education students. Alumni, faculty, and friends of the College are invited to submit names and honorees with a brief description of why they are being honored. Honorees are sent a congratulatory letter from the Dean of the College, as well as an engraved photo frame as a permanent memento of thanks and appreciation of their outstanding contribution to excellence in education. Honoree's names will be listed on the college's website, along with donors’ names and descriptive paragraphs they wrote about the honorees.

For more registration information or to nominate an educator visit:
http://ed.fullerton.edu/alumni/awards/honor-an-educator-awards/
Working on Dear Miss Miller

By Donna Padgett

I was introduced to Cynthia Miller a little over three years ago. She captured my attention with her energy and enthusiasm for life and her heartfelt reflections on her teaching career. Erica Bowers, Chairperson, Department of Literacy and Reading Education, and Kathi Bartle Angus, Associate Director, Hazel Miller Croy Reading Center, enlisted my help to write a children's book to honor Cynthia, Hazel Miller Croy's niece.

When I began work on the book, Dear Miss Miller, I had a real interest in the lost art of letter writing. Like Cynthia, I grew up writing letters to my family and friends. Buying fancy stationary and using wax and brass stamps to seal the envelopes was a creative way to communicate in the 1950s and 60s. Most communication was done via "snail mail," unlike today.

I believe the art of letter writing has been lost in recent generations. People thank others via text, emojis, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, or a quick email. Young people often don't take the time to write letters like previous generations did. I, too, am guilty of the speedy thank you. Cynthia Miller's class lessons on letter writing touched my inner spirit of communication from the heart with a little art attached. Imagine how precious the letters must have been on primary paper with visuals drawn and colored by the children.

I thought about life in Miss Miller's classroom and her enthusiasm for letter writing. Capturing the essence of those lessons, the possible dialogue and student responses are of my imagination. However, using repetitive language, as we all know, is essential in writing for children and teaching children to read. The book became a labor of love as I had the privilege to speak on the phone frequently with Cynthia and peruse the original letters from famous people.

Cynthia Miller is a treasure, a teacher who went above and beyond the required curriculum to present life-long learning lessons for her students. Dear Miss Miller captures just one of those lessons repeated throughout her career.

In Memory of Peggy Hammer (1931 - 2016)

Reading Educators Guild founding member Peggy M. Hammer (1970) devoted her life to education—as a teacher, parent, volunteer and donor. Upon receiving her Bachelor's degree, she began a 25-year education career in Placentia, first as an elementary teacher, and later as the district’s reading supervisor, overseeing and assisting principals and teachers in implementing and fulfilling quality reading programs in 21 elementary and secondary schools. Hammer’s influence as a teacher has not been confined to her district. Her work earned her such honors as Outstanding Elementary Teacher of America, Outstanding Alumna from REG, and a Lifetime Achievement in Reading Education Award from the Orange County Reading Association. As an active Titan alumna, Hammer served on the University Advisory Board and as a member of the Music Associates and CSUF Alumni Association. In addition, as a member of the CSUF President’s Associates, Hammer served as chair of the group’s executive committee, as well as on the President’s Scholars selection committee. Also, she and her husband Joe were among the charter group of patrons for the President’s Scholars and Future Scholars Endowment Programs. In 2007, Peggy received the Ernest T. Stewart

(Continued on page 4)
(In Memory of Peggy Hammer continued from page 3)

Award for Alumni Volunteer Involvement. This is a national award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. In his nomination letter, CSUF President Milton A. Gordon said of Hammer, “As a university president, I love it when an alumni volunteer takes the time to annually review over 600 scholarship applications and personally interview almost 50 high school seniors. This activity alone can account for 300 hours in an academic year. [Peggy] personally mentors scholars throughout their four years, providing simple encouragement through cards and lunches and professional advice for those who declare teaching as their career choice.”

At the request of Peggy's son, Mike Hammer, donations in her memory can be made to the Hancock Fund, which supports scholarships for Literacy and Reading Department graduate students. Donations are accepted online at https://giving.fullerton.edu/ by selecting Specific Funds tab and then search by Fund Name: Hancock Fund. Or checks made out to the Hancock Fund can be mailed to the Literacy and Reading Department, California State University, Fullerton, PO Box 6868, Fullerton, CA 92834-6868.

THE CROY CENTER WANTS YOU!

(to consider joining the founding advisory board)

The Hazel Miller Croy Reading Center is establishing a founding advisory board. The board will assist in meeting the Center goals and in fund-raising activities. The goals are to:

- Maintain a high-quality graduate reading program.
- Deliver services to school-age children in the community.
- Advance the professional knowledge base related to literacy development and instruction.
- Provide a venue and support for faculty research.
- Offer a platform for alumni to serve the community and further their own professional development.

Fund-raising goals may include organizing events, pursuing grants, and/or outreach to the Orange County community.

It is anticipated that there would be one to three meetings each year, with additional commitment determined by interest in particular goals to pursue. A two-year commitment for founding board members is required. For their participation and service, board members will be recognized on the Department of Literacy and Reading Education website.

We hope to have a board that represents multiple areas of literacy education, administration, and the community. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Kathi Bartle Angus at kangus@fullerton.edu or 657-278-3735.
R.E.A.D Dog Visits the Hazel Miller Croy Center

Children in the Center had a special treat in November. Juneau, the Reading Education Assistance Dog (R.E.A.D.) Golden Retriever visited and listened while children shared their favorite books—many about dogs! Juneau is cared for by Suzanne Davidson, one of the alumni tutors at the Center. Juneau is a trained therapy and R.E.A.D. dog who frequently visits libraries and classrooms to hear a good story or several.

For more information about the R.E.A.D. program, visit the website [http://www.therapyanimals.org/R.E.A.D.html](http://www.therapyanimals.org/R.E.A.D.html) or check out Reading Education Assistance Dogs on Facebook.

First Annual Authors’ Brunch – SUCCESS!

The collaborative effort of REG and OCRA was appreciated by over 150 teachers, students, and community members. They enjoyed hearing book talks by four local authors, collegial interaction, and a delicious full breakfast. The authors generously joined tables for breakfast and autographed copies of their books. Authors participating in the October 15 event included:

**Jeff Hobbs**—Jeff Hobbs is award-winning author of the provocative and true story, *The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace: a brilliant young man who left Newark for the Ivy League*, and *The Tourists*, a compelling tale of a diverse group of Yale grads 10 years later.

**Neal Griffin**—A former Marine, Neal Griffin has been a police officer in California for more than 25 years. He is a *Los Angeles Times* Best-Selling author of crime thrillers, including *Benefit of the Doubt* and *A Voice from the Field*.

**Rufi Thorpe**—Rufi Thorpe received her MFA from the University of Virginia in 2009. Her first novel, *The Girls from Corona Del Mar*, was long-listed for the 2014 International Dylan Thomas Prize and the Flaherty-Dunnan First Novel Prize.

**Gwendolyn Womack**—Gwendolyn Womack received an MFA from CalArts in Directing for Theater and Film and was a semi-finalist in the Academy's Nicholl Fellowship. *The Memory Painter* is a taut thriller and a timeless love story, spanning six continents and 10,000 years of history.

In addition, event organizers raised over $600 to be used for scholarships to benefit children at the Hazel Miller Croy Reading Center.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE NEXT AUTHORS’ BRUNCH**

**October 7, 2017**

**Alta Vista Country Club in Placentia**
REG BREAKFAST EVENT
MISSION VIEJO COUNTRY CLUB
Saturday, March 18

Picture Books and Critical Thinking in K-8
Kath Glasswell, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Literacy and Reading Education, CSUF

With an Opportunity Drawing to benefit the Hazel Miller Croy Reading Center

Mission Viejo Country Club
26200 Country Club Drive
Mission Viejo, CA 92691
Saturday, March 18, 2017
9 a.m. check in, social time
9:30-11:30 a.m. buffet & program

See flyer insert to register or contact Linda Vander Wende at beasleyj@gmail.com

Opportunity Drawing to Support the Hazel Miller Croy Reading Center

Seven years ago in an effort to raise funds for the Reading Center, the Opportunity Drawing at the annual breakfast was conceived. Since then almost $2000 has been raised by having breakfast attendees purchase tickets for opportunities to win prizes donated by REG members and the Department of Literacy and Reading Education.

Please join us this year!

- Purchase tickets for the drawing with your registration for the event
- Bring cash or check to purchase tickets at the event
- Donate an item for the drawing – contact Kathi Bartle Angus at kangus@fullerton.edu
- Have fun “shopping” with your tickets at the event

Ticket Prices: 1 ticket for $1, 12 tickets for $10, or 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://giving.fullerton.edu/default.aspx
Reading Educators Guild Membership

Membership benefits include:
• three newsletters each year filled with alumni, department, and literacy news
• information about REG events (sponsored speakers, social, networking)
• directory of current members
• opportunity to apply for alumni grants
• opportunity to be included on Reading Department Tutor List

In addition your dues support:
• scholarships for Reading Center children
• scholarships for current graduate students
• Hazel Miller Croy Reading Center activities

The REG membership dues enable REG to make significant contributions to Reading Department students and the community through the Reading Center.

For more information about joining, renewing, or donating, please contact Carlen Le-Hessinger, Vice-President of Membership, at carlen.le@gmail.com or visit http://ed.fullerton.edu/reg/join-us/

Has your contact information and address changed? Please take a moment to update your information, if necessary. Contact Carlen or visit the REG website.

Reading Educators Guild Executive Board 2016-2018

President
Linda Vander Wende
beasleyljj@aol.com

1st Vice-President
Programs & Hospitality
Teri Fitz-Maurice
tfitzmaurice@cox.net

2nd Vice President
Membership & Newsletter Editor
Carlen Le-Hessinger
carlen.le@gmail.com

Treasurer
Matt Harris
Matt80s@yahoo.com

Secretary
Trish Carter-Anderson
tcarteranderson@gmail.com

Hospitality Coordinator
Denise Green
dgreen@saddleback.edu

Historian
Raquel Flores Olson
rflores@riohondo.edu

Technology Coordinator
Kimberly Mundala
kimberlymundala@yahoo.com

Faculty Liaison
Kathi Bartle Angus
kangus@exchange.fullerton.edu

Member-At-Large
Tina Costantino-Lane
Read_Run@yahoo.com

Visit REG at http://ed.fullerton.edu/reg/

Please add REGCSUF1970@gmail.com to your contacts so you don’t miss any announcements and events!