Teachers Share Literacy Education Strategies at the California Teachers Summit

By Brad Biggs, Associate Professor, Literacy and Reading Education

On July 28, 2017, Cal State Fullerton hosted teachers from across the state for the third annual California Teachers Summit, a day of learning and community support organized by teachers, for teachers. Our Reading Educators Guild sponsored a special afternoon session at this event so REG members would have a chance to learn and connect during several mini-workshops focused on literacy instruction (PK-adult). We’re grateful for the time and effort donated by the teachers who shared their enthusiasm and experience during these mini-workshops. Following are descriptions of the presenters and their topics, together with workshop stories in their own words.

Courtney Hinshaw a 5th grade teacher in Irvine, California shared about her passion for picture books in an upper grade classroom. When she is not teaching, is the proud founder of Ramona Recommends, a blog that shares about picture books, student engagement strategies, and all things 5th grade. Her session focused on building a community of readers in an upper grade classroom with picture books. She shared tips on how to use picture books to engage readers, teach readers, and grow readers. One picture book she shared was entitled The Sandwich Swap by Queen Rania of Jordan to promote teaching kindness in the classroom with her Random Act of Kindness cards. If you are interested, you can learn more inside her Teachers Pay Teachers store—“Ramona Recommends.” Lastly, she shared which picture books ignite a passion for reading and how to best organize a picture book.
collection. If you want to learn more from Courtney Hinshaw of *Ramona Recommends*, you can find her on Instagram [@ramonarecommends](https://www.instagram.com/ramonarecommends/) or on her blog at [ramonarecommends.com](http://ramonarecommends.com). She would love to open the magic with you.

**Silva Shamassian** is a teacher at Buena Park High School where she teaches college prep and honors English to freshmen and sophomores. She shared a vocabulary and writing strategy called Concept Circles that she found in Janet Allen’s book, *Inside Words; Tools for Teaching Academic Vocabulary Grades 4-12*. A Concept Circle is a circle divided into several sections, each containing a word and/or an idea. Concept Circles require students to think on these words and ideas at a higher level. They require students to define and categorize words and ideas as well as justify the connections among them. It is a flexible strategy that can match students while they are moving from a basic level of defining to a higher level of comparing and contrasting to an even higher level of explaining interrelationships. Regardless of what level of thinking the strategy is tapping into, requiring students to write is a commonality. Students can complete a Concept Circle individually or in a partner/group setting. This can be used to practice and confirm what students are learning, assess the depth of what students learned, or move students into a deeper understanding of the unit of study. Additionally, it can be used as a study guide or a springboard to a class discussion.

**Jonathan Blea** is currently an English Teacher at Buena Park High School where he teaches 9th Grade English and English Language Development 3 and 4. During his session, Jonathan shared a reading and writing strategy that focused on the story arc, or narrative, of a text. The story arc focuses on the major plot points of any given text and allows students to understand the ways that a story can develop and come to a conclusion. The main aspects of the arc are the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. Jonathan charted out these points onto a flip chart with six different flaps that hold varied uses. Jonathan noted that “while these are the simple aspects of the arc, the flip chart that I shared is able to enhance student learning in more ways, opening up the doors to higher levels of thinking. On each flap, I get to choose which definitions and levels of understanding I want students to explore.” Students using the flip chart are not only learning the main points of a story, they are analyzing characters, learning academic vocabulary, and charting story development in an aesthetically pleasing way. This flip chart also makes it easy to come back, study the information, and easily access the previously learned knowledge.

Please look for pictures of these teachers’ strategies on the REG Facebook page in the near future. Thanks, teachers!
JOIN US FOR OUR

Authors’ Brunch
Saturday, October 7, 2017

Alta Vista Country Club
777 E. Alta Vista Street
Placentia, CA
8:45am Check-in | 9:00am Program

Net proceeds from this event will fund scholarships to the HMC Reading Center at CSUF
The center serves K-12 students in the community who need support in literacy development

MEET THE AUTHORS

Britt Bennett was born and raised in Southern California and graduated from Stanford University. She later earned her MFA in fiction at the University of Michigan, where she won a Hopwood Award in Graduate Short Fiction, as well as the 2014 Hurston/Wright Award for College Writers. Her work is featured in The New Yorker, The New York Times Magazine, The Paris Review, and Jezebel. A dazzling debut novel from an exciting new voice, The Mothers is a surprising story about young love, a big secret in a small community—and the things that ultimately haunt us most.

Naomi Hirahara was born in Pasadena, California and received her bachelor’s degree in international relations from Stanford University. She later served as a Milton Center Fellow in creative writing at Newman University in Wichita, Kansas. Naomi has authored two biographies for the Japanese American National Museum and a middle-grade book, 1001 Cranes, which was recognized with an Honorable Mention award in Youth Literature. Summer of the Big Bachi, a mystery book, was a finalist for Barbara Kingsolver’s Bellwether Prize and nominated for a Macavity Mystery Award. Snakeskin Shamisen won an Edgar Allan Poe Best Paperback Original Award. Murder on Bamboo Lane was the winner of the T. Jefferson Parker Mystery Award.

Julissa Arce is a writer, speaker, social justice advocate, and author of My (Underground) American Dream. She is co-founder and chairman of the Ascend Educational Fund and serves on the board of directors of the National Immigration Law Center and the national board of directors of College Spring. Prior to becoming an advocate, she built a successful career on Wall Street as a vice president at Goldman Sachs and a director at Merrill Lynch.

RESERVE a table for your group!

Seats will be reserved for groups of two or more. Submit one check paying for all persons included in your reservation. Tables seat eight people.

For reservations, please fill out the information below and return with your check (payable to Reading Educators Guild) before September 26, 2017 to Reading Educators Guild, CSUF, PO Box 6868, Fullerton, CA 92834-6868.

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Email address (for reservation confirmation): ____________________________

Number attending: ______________________ (x $35)    Amount enclosed: ______________________

Questions? Please contact Linda Vander Wende at beasleyljj@aol.com.
CONGRATULATIONS
READING DEPARTMENT GRADUATES!

Fall 2016; Spring and Summer 2017

Shannon Anderson        Ednita Fuentes              Barbara Phillips
Maria Angwin            Tracy Gibson               Katherine Roberts
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Desiree Danielson*      Dawn Moon                  *Outstanding Graduate
Kathryn Dungan*, **     Kendra Muganzi             **Edwin Carr Fellow
Tammy Dyer*             Madeline Pesanovic
Erica Fishler

Honored Graduates (left to right): Kelly Westberg (Outstanding Student and Comprehensive Exam), Jolene Torres (Outstanding Student), Desiree Danielson (Outstanding Student and Project), Skye Gillingham (Outstanding Student), and Lynn Bensen (Outstanding Student).

Not pictured: Kathryn Dungan (Edwin Carr Fellow and Outstanding Graduate), Kimberly Bacon (Outstanding Student), Monica Roberts (Outstanding Student), and Tammy Dyer (Outstanding Student).
REG HOSTS A RECEPTION FOR THE NEW GRADUATES
CONGRATULATIONS
2017 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

Jean Carolyn Brenneman Scholarship awarded to Jolene Torres
This scholarship was established and funded by David Reid and family and friends in honor of Jean Carolyn Brenneman in recognition of her passion to teach beginning readers. The scholarship is awarded to applicants who teach in the early grades, who are pursuing an early elementary education emphasis in the reading program, and who show academic and professional promise.

Lewis and Deborah Hancock Scholarship in Reading Education awarded to Amanda Ward
This scholarship was established to recognize and honor graduate students who are single parents with financial need who have demonstrated good to excellent academic performance and the potential for future leadership.

Dorothy C. Klausner Reading Educator Scholarship awarded to Holly Parry
This scholarship was established by Deborah Hancock and her family in honor of Dorothy C. Klausner to recognize and honor graduate students who have demonstrated outstanding academic performance.

Reading Educators Guild Scholarships awarded to Catherine Dobroff and Elaine Alkhas
This scholarship was established by the alumni of the Department of Reading to recognize and honor students for outstanding academic performance and potential for future leadership.

For more information on scholarships and grants offered by the College of Education, visit http://ed.fullerton.edu/reg/alumni-and-graduate-student-resources/
Reading Educators Guild
Join/Renew/Donate!

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/or address changed?

Please take a moment to update your information, if necessary. Contact Carlen or visit or visit the REG website.

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

Please add REGSUF1970@gmail.com to your contacts so you don’t miss any announcements and events!
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