



# Fall 2007 Newsletter

## Graduate Reading Programs

September 2007

### Letter from the Director

In the end, it comes down to a book...or a digital image of a book: The black on white images of ideas. In our work, we know that children need books of their own in their homes. We know that they need time to read in school, and we know that kids of all ages need to be supported to make their own choices of what to read.

In a recent *New York Times* article, I learned that in federal prisons, during the last two years, chaplains have been ordered to “clear the shelves of any books, tapes, CDs and videos that are not on a list of approved resources.” Thousands of books, which were collected over decades, have been purged.

We live in very strange times.

Teachers are in a cross-fire of tensions. The only choice is to be strong, stay true to what the research shows us about reading and literacy development, and be an advocate.

Stay close to us in the Graduate Programs in Literacy at Towson. We are your home-base, even after you graduate. The Graduate Reading Programs are happy to announce that we are celebrating our **40th anniversary** this year! We could use your help planning a party for our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this spring. We could use your funds to match those of an anonymous donor so that we can create an endowed scholarship for the program in honor of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary (See inside this newsletter for submission information). We could use your ideas to help us create a website that alumni can use for conversation, support, and professional networking. We also could use the names of 40 needy schools where we could donate **books** –either 40 or 400 – in honor of our anniversary. Please contact me, or **Dr. Mogge—our official Co-Director of the program!—** if you would like to help on any of these projects.

Keep hoping and keep working,

B. P. Laster

#### Inside this issue:

*Grad Reading Programs Celebrates 40 Years* 4

*Grad Reading Program Scholarship* 4

*Spring Schedule* 5

*Study Abroad Opportunity* 6

*Minimester Elective Offerings* 7

*REED 726 & 729 Permit Lists* 7

*Conferences* 8

#### Important Dates

- Nov 21-25: Thanksgiving Holiday
- Nov (TBA): Registration Begins for Spring 2008
- Dec 11: Final Exams Begin
- Dec 17: Last Day of Exams, End of Term
- Jan 27: Last Day to Register for SP '08 Classes
- Jan 28: Spring Classes Begin
- Feb 15: Application Deadline for May Graduation

## Summer Reading Clinic



The Towson University Reading Clinic returned to the Cherry Hill community for the second consecutive summer. Supported by grants totaling \$36,000 from Bank of America, TU's Mid-Atlantic CIO Forum, and Dollar General, the Graduate Reading Program held three summer classes on site at Dr. Carter G. Woodson E/M School. The teachers in those graduate level courses provided reading instruction to students in grades K-8 from both Dr. Carter G. Woodson and from Cherry Hill E/M School who attended the summer school program at the Woodson location. Teachers in the two Clinic Internship classes provided one-on-one assessment and instruc-

tion to students to address their specific reading needs. Teachers in the Guided Reading class provided small group instruction to other students. The grants provided tuition support for two teachers from Woodson who completed the Guided Reading course.

Family involvement is an important part of the Reading Clinic mission. To that end, teachers in the advanced clinic class conducted workshops for the parents of students from both schools. At the conclusion of the clinic, the families joined the clinic teachers for a Reading Clinic Family Night Celebration which included dinner and activities for both students and their parents to celebrate the reading

achievements of the students. The event was held on campus and the grant support provided transportation for the families to and from the TU campus. Each child left the Family Night Celebration with a backpack full of school supplies for the coming academic year. Funds provided by the grants enabled the Woodson staff to purchase books and materials for their school. The partnership with Woodson is continuing for the fall semester with eleven students from the school and their parents participating in the reading clinic on campus.

Dr. Elizabeth Dicembre –  
Reading Clinic Director

*“I have learned so much from this excellent program, and I can definitely say it has helped me to become a more effective teacher.”*

*-M.Ed Student*

## Letter from a Student

April 5, 2007

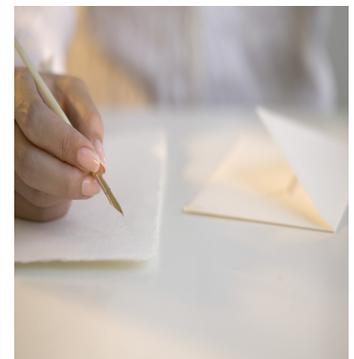
Dr. Laster,

I just wanted to thank you and the scholarship committee for choosing me as a recipient of the Graduate Reading Program scholarship. I am honored and thrilled to receive this award. It has come at such a needed time in my life. I

have learned so much from this excellent program, and I can definitely say it has helped me to become a more effective teacher. Many thanks again!

Sincerely,

Jessica Bowles



## Congratulations Graduates!!



### SPRING 2007

Amy Ashbrook  
Jon Baltrunas  
Carey Barrett  
Nicole Braunreuther  
Allison Clark  
Tara Collins  
Lisa Culler  
Dianne Dacey  
Heather Diable  
Kristina Foderaro  
Keturah Fountaine  
Katie Gjoni  
Anthea Green  
Nicole Hall  
Elizabeth Hedin  
Jennifer Hoffman

Nechama Isaacson  
Susan James  
Tamar Klein  
Molly Knowles  
Diana Kolego  
Vivian Kreller  
Erinn Manack  
Barbara Matos  
Teresa May  
Shereen Naylor  
Schoen Oakes  
Siobhan Owens  
Elizabeth Raiford  
Lee Read  
Stacey Schwink  
Cristina Smith  
Yelena Smolianski

Jaime Stoltz  
Koren Stukes  
Brandee Thompson  
Sarah Wagenknecht  
Denise Walter

### SUMMER 2007

Jessica Bowles  
Stephanie Flick  
Kara Forrest  
Maxine Forrester  
Melissa Fowler  
Lynn Killius  
Bryce Nastalski  
Cheryl Raley  
Beth Ramsey  
Kathy Sheehan

*Contemplating  
your future  
career path?  
Consider the  
Certificate of  
Advanced Study  
in Reading!!*

## Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS)

### **Certificate of Advanced Study in Reading (CAS)**

The CAS is a 30-credit post-master's program that develops advanced knowledge and leadership skills. Students may complete four of six required courses to fulfill the Administrator I Certification requirements by completing the CAS in Reading. Furthermore, many of the courses in this program can be counted toward the Ed.D. in Instructional Technology. The CAS in Reading is an outcomes-based program de-

signed to meet the standards outlined by the International Reading Association (IRA). Such reading professionals "administer literacy, bilingual, compensatory and ESL programs in schools or other institutional settings." They direct organization, management and assessment of school, district or institutional literacy programs.

For more information, visit:  
<http://wwwnew.towson.edu/colrset/reed/cas/>

### Admission Requirements:

- Completed Application
- M.Ed in Reading Education or related field
- 3 letters of professional reference, one of which must be job related
- Submission & approval of a professional portfolio

If you are near completion of your program and are contemplating your future career path, consider the Certificate of Advanced Study in Reading!!

## The Reading Program Celebrates 40 Years!!

The Master's Degree Program for reading specialists at Towson State University was initiated by Dr. Joseph Gutkoska in the Fall of 1968. The major goal of the program at that time was to offer experiences which will improve the teaching of reading at all levels. Fort years later, the program's goal remains the same.

A survey conducted in the 1960's revealed that 73% of colleges required only three credits or less in the teaching of reading for a degree in

elementary education. Dr. Gutkoska understood the need for highly trained professionals in the area of Reading when developing our Graduate Program.

Today, reading difficulties is a major concern for many children in our school systems. The need for professionals still exists, and that is why this program continues to remain strong.

Currently, the program contains over 500 students working towards their Mas-

ters of Education in Reading. Our student body is extremely diverse. Some have been teachers for several decades, others for a few years and still more are fresh out of undergraduate programs. The diversity and insight that the student body brings to this program is invaluable. This program continues to contribute significantly to the field of Reading Education and we are excited to be celebrating 40 years of success!



## How You Can Help Contribute to the Celebration

The faculty members have generated several exciting ideas to help celebrate our anniversary, but now we need your help to make these ideas a reality!!

### 40 Books for 40 Schools

We would love to donate at least 40 books to 40 needy schools in the area as a way to demonstrate or continuing commitment to reading education. For this to be successful we will need the name of 40 schools. Please contact Teresa

at [tcoffil@towson.edu](mailto:tcoffil@towson.edu) if you have a school in mind. Also, we will begin collecting books towards the end of the semester, and donations will be greatly appreciated. Look for further information on our bulletin board.

### Anniversary Celebration

We'd love to create a party planning committee to help the graduate assistants plan and coordinate a gala to be held in the spring for faculty, current students and alumni. If you

would like to get involved, contact Jodi at

[jtrumb1@towson.edu](mailto:jtrumb1@towson.edu)

### Alumni Website

Staying in contact with other professionals in your field is a great way to stay current with research and network with other reading specialists. We are hoping to create an online community website for our alumni so that we can communicate. If you have suggestions please contact Teresa at [tcoffil@towson.edu](mailto:tcoffil@towson.edu).

## Ways to Celebrate:

- **40 books for 40 Schools**
- **Anniversary Gala**
- **Alumni Website**
- **Endowed Scholarship**

## The Graduate Reading Program Scholarship

Towson University is celebrating the 40 year anniversary of the Graduate Reading program with an enormous contribution. Our program has developed a scholarship entitled the *Graduate Reading Scholarship* which will be awarded to a distinguished graduate student within our program. The Reading Pro-

gram is currently raising money for this wonderful cause. The ultimate goal is to raise \$10,000. An anonymous donor will match up to \$3000 for the scholarship. Our program is strongly encouraging donations that will add to a wonderful opportunity for one of our ambitious students. Checks should be

made out to Towson University Foundation, memo Graduate Reading Program Scholarship.

Any questions or concerns should be directed to Jodi Trumbull, [jtrumb1@towson.edu](mailto:jtrumb1@towson.edu), Graduate Assistant, Graduate Reading Program.

## Spring 2008 Schedule

Course	Course Name	Instructor	Day	Time/Location
EDUC 787	Instruction In Reading	STAFF	TBA	Baltimore City
REED 601	Reading Theory and Practice	Mogge	Monday	TBA Western H.S.
REED 601	Reading Theory and Practice	Altwerger	Tuesday	4:20-6:50
REED 609	Reading Assessment	Altwerger	Wednesday	4:20- 6:50
REED 609	Reading Assessment	STAFF	TBA	Baltimore County
REED 621	Reading Disabilities	Dolan	Tuesday	4:20- 6:50
REED 621	Reading Disabilities	STAFF	Wednesday	4:20-6:50
REED 621	Reading Disabilities	STAFF	TBA	Baltimore County
REED 626	Internship	Martinez	Tuesday	4:20-6:50 HH I 13
REED 626	Internship	McCormick	Thursday	4:20-6:50 HH I 13
REED 628	Guided Reading	STAFF	Tuesday	7:00-9:30
REED 660	Integrating Literacy and Technology	STAFF	TBA	Baltimore City
REED 663	Strategic Use of Materials	STAFF	Thursday	4:20 - 6:50
REED 663	Strategic Use of Materials	STAFF	TBA	Baltimore City
REED 663	Strategic Use of Materials	STAFF	Thursday	HEAT Center, Harford County
REED 665	Reading & Writing in the Content Areas	Martinez	Wednesday	7:00-9:30
REED 665	Reading & Writing in the Content Areas	STAFF	TBA	Baltimore City
REED 730	Second Language Literacy	Mogge	Tuesday	4:20-6:50
REED 726	Advanced Internship	Dicembre	Tuesday	4:20-6:50 HH I 16
REED 726	Advanced Internship	Dicembre	Thursday	4:20-6:50HH I 16
REED 729	Seminar in Reading	Altwerger	Monday	4:20-6:50
REED 729	Seminar in Reading	Laster	Monday	4:20-6:50



### Mark your Calendars!!!

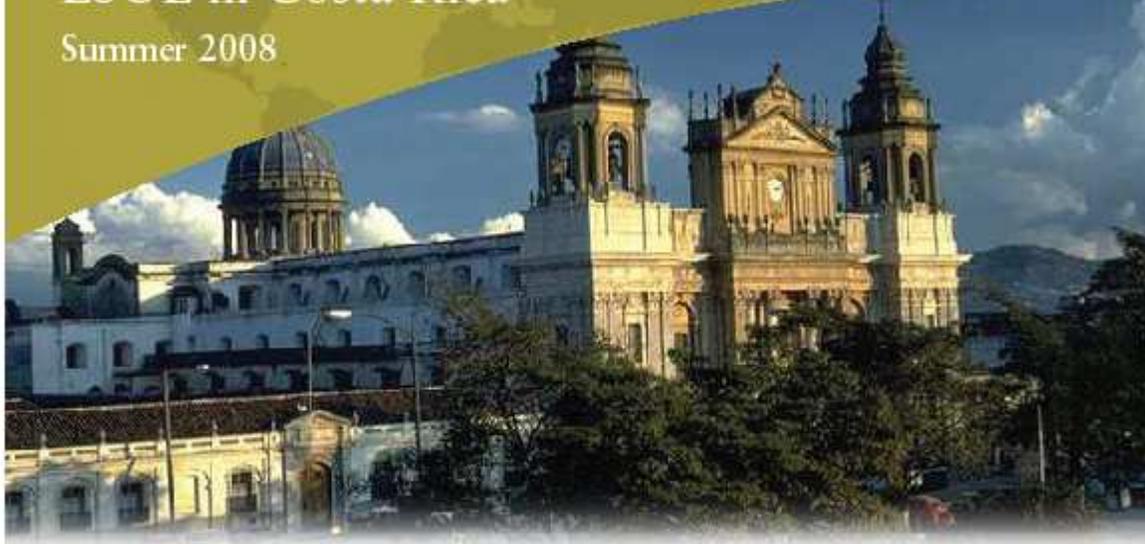
Online registration for Spring 2008 Classes begins November 7th.....

Don't Miss out on your first-choice classes!

Note: schedule is subject to change, please check online at <http://www.towson.edu/main/lacademics/coursesandcatalogs/classschedule/> for the most up to date version.

# Graduate Reading ESOL in Costa Rica

Summer 2008



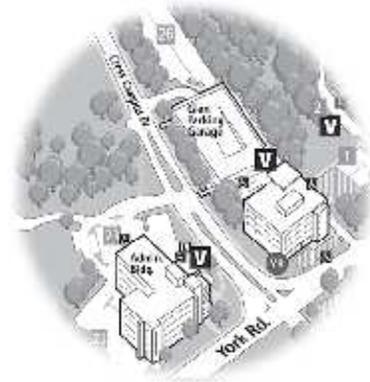
**Dates:** July 19–August 1, 2008

**Course:** REED 670 Assessment and Instruction for Second Language Literacy Learners

**Professor:** Gilda Martinez, Dept. of Educational Technology and Literacy, [gmartinez@towson.edu](mailto:gmartinez@towson.edu)

**Cost:** \$3,700 includes tuition (3 credits), health insurance, housing, daily breakfast, World Congress Conference Registration, International Reading Association membership, cultural visits and excursions.  
*All costs are subject to change.*

- ◆ Earn graduate credit studying second language literacy in Costa Rica
- ◆ Immerse yourself in the culture and language of the Spanish speaking community
- ◆ Includes attendance at the World Congress on Reading Conference in San Jose
- ◆ Highlights include visits to Arenal Volcano, Baldi Termae hot springs, and local schools



The TU Study Abroad Office is located in the Administration Building, 2nd Floor.

For more information go to:  
[www.towson.edu/studyabroad](http://www.towson.edu/studyabroad)



## Minimester Elective Offerings



The Early Childhood Education department is offering three courses over the minimester that would satisfy your one non-literacy related elective requirement. Classes run from Jan 2nd-22nd, with no class on MLK Day.

### **ECED 607: Learner Diversity & Inclusion**

*Tue/Thurs 5:00-9:30 PM*

Theory, pedagogy and related research on multiple aspects of learner diversity with an emphasis on developing ap-

propriate culturally responsive and inclusive environments for young children.

### **ECED 610 Learning Environments Curriculum and Technology**

*Mon/Wed 5:00-9:30 PM*

Research and practice on school transformations and new educational directions as a result of evolving technologies. Examine how emerging technologies can support curriculum and create new learning environments that are developmentally appro-

priate for young children.

### **ECED 670 Social Justice and Ethics**

*Tue/Thurs 5:00-9:30 PM*

Examine the nature of social justice and critical social issues. explore an in-depth study of ethical frameworks of caring, codes of conduct and moral decision-making in a diverse and democratic society. Gain practical implications for confronting ethical dilemmas and working for change.

*Check out our faculty's contribution to the Reading Education Field!!!*

A list of our faculty's most recent accomplishments.

Dr. Steve Mogge recently had an article entitled "Learning the Rules of the Road" published in *Talking Points*. He also has a contract for a book titled: *Confronting Intolerance: Adult Immigrants and Critical, Responsive Literacy Instruction*.

Dr. Bess Altwerger's book, entitled *Rereading Fluency: Process, Practice and Policy* is sched-

uled to be published by Heinemann Books in November.

Dr. Gilda Martinez published an article in Summer 2007 in the *Maryland Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Journal* entitled "English Language Learners: What Every Teacher Should Know."

A book chapter entitled, "Family Literacy: The Dynamic Roles School Librarians Can Play" written by Dr. Sharon

Pitcher and Dr. Bonnie Mackey, University of Houston at Clearlake, was published in August, 2007.

Dr. Elizabeth Dicembre was awarded 3 grants totaling \$36,000 from Bank of America, TU's Mid-Atlantic CIO Forum, and Dollar General to support the Summer Reading Clinic.

Dr. Barbara Laster has completed a proposal for a grant to the Barbara Bush Foundation called BOOKS4U.

## The 726 and 729 Permit Lists

REED 726 and REED 729 should be the final two required courses that students take in the Graduate Reading Program. We have implemented a policy by which students who need only those two courses before graduating will be given priority when registering for those courses.

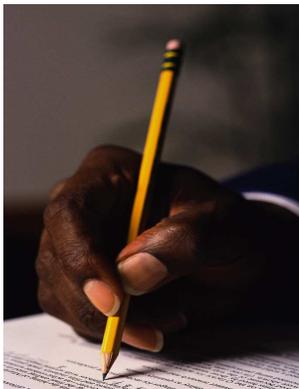
To ensure that students have completed the prerequisite courses, and to identify students who need only REED 726 and REED 729 prior to graduation,

we have created a permit list. It was formerly referred to as a "wait list;" however, this title probably contributed to the confusion regarding its purpose.

Thus, we are asking students to declare their intentions to register for REED 726 or REED 729. As soon as you have determined which semester you plan to take 726 and 729, you should contact the graduate assistants to be added to the permit lists. The sooner you

contact the Graduate Assistants the greater your chances in gaining permission to enroll in the course.

Office: 410-704-2556  
Jodi Trumbull:  
[jtrumb1@towson.edu](mailto:jtrumb1@towson.edu)  
Teresa Coffin:  
[tcoffi1@towson.edu](mailto:tcoffi1@towson.edu)



## Maryland TESOL Fall Conference

*Celebrating the Many Faces of English Language Learning*

November 3rd

8:15 am– 3:30 pm

McDaniel College

The Maryland TESOL is getting bigger every year; hence, many presenters will be sharing their expertise at this year's conference! This year the focus is on "the many faces" of English Language Learners (ELL).

Topics covered will include practical ideas and activities to work with ELL of all ages. In

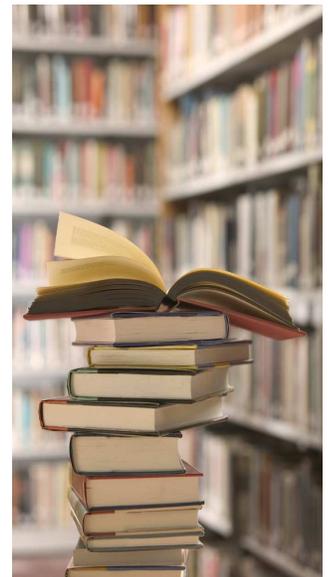
addition, research currently being conducted by faculty, administrators, and staff throughout the state of Maryland will also be presented.

Our own Dr. Gilda Martinez will be presenting a breakout session in the afternoon, which covers how to develop language skills for your ELL students in grades 3 and above, using "Speed Demos". Be sure to attend Dr. Martinez's session to find out about "Speed

Demos" and how it can be helpful for English Language Learners along with all other students in your classroom.

Attending this conference will be certain to spark your interest in the Second Language Electives that our program has to offer to help prepare teachers to meet the needs of ESOL learners. Look for further information in this newsletter on a study abroad opportunity.

*Further your knowledge and experience by attending a conference!!*



## National Reading Conference

NRC 56th Annual Meeting

Austin, Texas

Nov 28– Dec 1, 2007

Dr. Pitcher will be presenting her on-going research on adolescent literacy motivation as part of an alternate session at the National Reading Conference in December. Her research is entitled *Harmony and Disharmony: How Adolescents and Their Teachers Envision Motivation to Read*.

Dr. Laster along with Dr. Mogge will be doing a paper presentation entitled *Traversing the Social, Cultural and Political Influences on Literacy Instruction for African American Learners in Rural, Suburban and Urban Setting*.

Dr. Laster will also be the chair of an alternative session entitled *From Clinic to Mandates: The Praxis of Teaching Reading after Reading Clinic*.

*Literacy Lab* which will report research collected from ten different sites.

Dr. Altwerger will also be presenting on research that she has done in the area of fluency.

For more information on this conference, please visit: <http://www.nrconline.org/conference/>

## Upcoming Conferences

**National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention:**

Nov. 15-18, 2007

New York, New York

[www.ncte.org](http://www.ncte.org)

Dr. Altwerger will be a presenter in a session entitled *New Developments in Neuroscience and their implications for the Theory and Classroom Practice of Reading*.

**California State Library Association Conference**

Nov 15-18, 2007

Ontario, CA

Dr. Martinez will be doing a poster presentation titled *Promising Practices for Assisting English Language Learners*.

**State of Maryland International Reading Association Council Conference (SoMIRAC):**

April 16-18, 2008

The Marriott Hunt Valley Inn

[www.somirac.org](http://www.somirac.org)

**International Reading Association (IRA) Annual Conference:**

May 4-8, 2008

Atlanta Georgia

Dr. Pitcher, Dr. Dicembre, and Dr. Martinez will be presenting a symposium on *Engaging Struggling Readers Often Left Behind in Literacy*. Dr. Laster and Dr. Altwerger will be presenting a session on fluency.

[www.ira.org](http://www.ira.org)

*Don't Forget to Register Early to Ensure your Spot at a Conference!!*

## Required Portfolio Contents

The portfolio must include the following items:

**REED 601:**

- \*Autobiography
- \*Models Presentation Handout

**REED 609:**

- \*Informal Assessment Reports
- \*Comparison of Test Results
- \*Survey of School Literacy Assmt.

**REED 621:**

- \*Focused Case Study
- \*Disabled Reader or Metacognitive/Cognitive Processing Paper

**REED 626:**

- \*Final Case Report
- \*Memo to Parents

**REED 663:**

- \*Research Based Instructional Project
- \*Text Set

**REED 665:**

- \*Cross-curriculum Project
- \*Mini Case Study

**REED 726:**

- \*Reflections on Paraprofessional or Peer Coaching
- \*Parent Workshop Materials

**REED 729:**

- \*Seminar Research Paper
- \*Paper Presentation
- \*Reflective Essay

**Electives:**

\*one assignment from each of the three electives

It is recommended that students keep an electronic backup of all course work. It is now required that students create *both* an electronic copy **and** a hard copy of the Portfolio. The electronic copy will be kept for our files. The hard copy of your portfolio must be presented at the Portfolio Gala held each semester. After it has been reviewed, it will be returned to you for your personal use. Be sure that the portfolio is fully complete upon turning it in.

Mark your Calendar...  
 For the M.Ed in Reading Portfolio Gala which celebrates our graduating student's accomplishments.  
 December 10  
 6:00-8:00 PM at the Susquehanna Terrace

## Maryland Writing Project

**Write to Learn Saturday Workshops at Towson University**

*Who?* Baltimore area teachers, both new and experienced.

ATTENTION ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS: 1 MSDE credit available for attendance at 6 of the 7 sessions. Fee \$75

ATTENTION BALTIMORE CITY TEACHERS: Attendance counts toward City Professional Development Requirements

*What?* Workshops conducted by Maryland Writing Project Teacher-Consultants

*Where?* ALL SESSIONS WILL BE HELD AT TOWSON UNIVERSITY, Room 409 Hawkins Hall

*When?* Saturdays: Coffee & Refreshments 9:00-9:30 workshops- 9:30 am - 12:00 pm.

*Cost?* No charge unless taken for 1 MSDE credit. Must attend 6 of the 7 sessions to earn credit. Fee \$75.

These workshops are free, but please take the time to register so food can be purchased for the workshops. Either call the Maryland Writing Project office at 410-704-3593, or email Mary Stelzig at [mstelzig@towson.edu](mailto:mstelzig@towson.edu).

**Dates & Workshops -**

-9/29 Come to your Senses & Building a Math BCR: An Overview of Item Types and Scoring.

-10/27 This Is Government Class, So Why Do We Have To Write?

-12/1 Life Through Lines: Creating a Creative Culture of Thinkers by Working with Music & "I Have Something to Say": Writing Workshop and Free Verse Poetry

*Winter/Spring Dates- Mark your Calendars:*

January 26, February 23, March 29 and April 26



## Graduate Reading Programs

Graduate Reading Program  
Hawkins Hall 107 H  
8000 York Rd.  
Towson, MD 21252

Phone: 410-704-2556  
Fax: 410-704-2733  
Email: [blaster@towson.edu](mailto:blaster@towson.edu)



<http://www.towson.edu/coe/rset/reed/reed.asp>

## Graduate Assistants

The Masters in Reading program is lucky to have two graduate assistants to contribute to the running of the program. They are eager to help students in any way they can. They can be reached at the office at 410-704-5775 or 410-704-2556.

Teresa Coffin is completing a 20-hour per week assistantship for the Graduate Reading Program. She has been working with the program since Fall 2006. She is in her second year in the Masters in School Psychology Program. Her familiarity with the Reading program makes her a wonderful resource for answers to many of your questions.

email: [tcoffi1@towson.edu](mailto:tcoffi1@towson.edu)

Jodi Trumbull was recently hired to the 10-hour per week assistantship position. She is beginning her first year in the Masters in School Psychology Program. She is a Towson undergraduate alumni and is knowledgeable about the campus and surrounding Towson area.

email: [jtrumb1@towson.edu](mailto:jtrumb1@towson.edu)

## Conceptual Framework for Professional Education

### Mission:

Inspire, educate and prepare facilitators of active learning for diverse and inclusive communities of learners in environments that are technologically advanced

### Vision: Integrated Themes

Ensuring academic mastery

Reflecting upon and refining best practices

Preparing educators for diverse and inclusive classrooms

Utilizing appropriate technology

Developing professional conscience

Developing collaborative partnerships

Providing leadership through scholarly endeavors

### Professional, State and Institutional Standards:

Initial Preparation Standards

Advanced Preparation Standards

### Facilitators of Active Learning:

Teacher

Reading Specialist

Media Specialist

Instructional Leader

Speech Pathologist

Audiologist

School Psychologist

