In recent months I’ve been telling students in our program that this is a good time to become a Reading Specialist. It is also a great time to be part of the Towson University Graduate Reading Program!

Whether your goal is to be a classroom teacher who possesses a stronger reading background, to be a provider of pull-out services for struggling readers, to be a curriculum coordinator who designs instruction for others to teach, or to be a literacy coach who helps teachers to improve their instructional practices, the future looks promising for Reading Specialists. We are seeing many school systems turning away from rigid, programmed instruction that dominated literacy instruction for much of the decade. We are hearing from classroom teachers across the region that they are once again being called upon to make the important decisions about children’s literacy development. Our graduates are telling us that the knowledge, experiences, and abilities acquired in our program are not only critical to their students’ success but also that school administrators are recognizing the talents these teachers possess. In fact, school systems throughout the region are increasingly seeking out the Towson Graduate Reading Program to partner with them in offering graduate courses to their teachers.

The Graduate Reading Program has been meeting teachers’ interests and school systems’ needs for forty years. Yet we continue to grow and to improve what we have to offer. In recent years, we have added a collection of second language learning courses to prepare teachers to meet the needs of language minority students. We have added courses that integrate technology and literacy and are excited to be collaborating with our Instructional Technology colleagues to explore the world of New Literacies. We offered our first Study Abroad course this summer in Costa Rica and are making plans for Portugal and New Zealand in coming summers. We are partnering with three Belair Edison schools in Baltimore City to support their efforts. We are offering more of our coursework through online environments and maintaining contact with graduates through our new alumni wiki site. Finally, we are absolutely thrilled that Drs. Jessica Palladino and Pat McCarthy have joined us and will be sharing their knowledge and experiences in the areas of early literacy and adolescent literacy.

Indeed, it is a good time to become a Reading Specialist and a great time to be part of the Towson program. I am certain that, as a graduate of our program, you will be well-prepared for the challenges that are presented in schools and programs where you teach. I am confident that you will be poised and ready to assert your leadership, to push forward and put your knowledge and talents to work for the students you serve. On behalf of the Graduate Reading faculty, I wish you the very best in your course work and future efforts.

Steve Mogge
Congratulations Graduates!

**SPRING 2008**
- Elizabeth Bare
- Esther Barer
- Jennifer Battista
- Monica Boyarsky
- Alice Burke
- John Cavalier
- Kerry Chagalis
- Kendall Combs
- Tracey Comer
- Tamika Duroncelay
- Lisa Evans
- Kara Ferguson
- Nichole Fitzgerald
- Jennifer Gardner
- Teresa Harrelson
- Jeffrey Harrity
- Tina Herbert
- Tanya Jackson-Daniels
- Alisha LaPorta
- Sean Latanishen
- C. Leitzel
- Dana Little
- Shaiah McLain
- Ernest Miles
- Ashley Morin
- Tracy Naylor
- Miriam Paige
- Latoya Patterson
- Cynthia Rebbert
- Dawn Rose
- Michelle Scott
- Tayamisha Thomas
- Julie Tillman
- Gina Turner

**SUMMER 2008**
- Harry Arnold
- Erin Baker
- Stefanie Buzby
- Brandyn Carlson
- Belinda Cofield
- Kathryn Conway
- Rachel Csanadi-Schwartz
- Carolyn Davidson
- Keri Farrish
- Meredith Flynn
- Catherine Garrett-Novak
- Michelle Gentile
- Lisa Glos
- Chantelle Gordon
- Emily Harms
- Brenda Hinsdale-Dewey
- Tiffany Jenkins
- Colleen McCloskey
- Aimee Molineaux
- April Moore
- Jessica Morris
- Rayna O’Roark
- Louis Rizzi
- Carly Smith
- Keyah Spann
- Ann-Marie Thompson
- Blonda Tillman
- Lorri Wathen
- Tina White
- Deigh Young

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**The Reading Program’s New Graduate Assistant**

**Danica Draper**

Danica began her undergraduate degree in Theatre and Dance in her hometown of Boise, Idaho, and completed it at the University of Texas at Austin in December 2005. She worked for several years as an administrative assistant, and enjoyed spending her free time horseback riding and reading. Danica become interested in literacy after volunteering at an Austin women’s shelter and for LiteracyAustin, where she taught an intermediate reading class for adults.
The Reading Program traveled to the International Reading Association’s Conference in Costa Rica. In attendance were Dr. Mogge, Dr. Laster, Dr. Altwerger, Dr. Martinez, and Dr. Martinez’s study abroad class. Students in the class came from California, Washington State, and Maryland. Dr. Altwerger, Dr. Mogge, Dr. Laster, and Dr. Martinez presented at the conference on various reading topics. Their research-based presentations were well received.

Spring 2009: Electives

EDUC/REED __ Linguistics for Educators: (3), Tuesday, 4:20-6:50, Dr. Altwerger
To provide an introduction to the basic principles and concepts of the scientific study of language and its relevancy to teachers of language and literacy.

REED 670 Adolescent Literacy: (3), Wednesday, 4:20-6:50, Dr. Pitcher
Critical issues that affect the development of adolescent literacy will be examined through readings, reflections, and conversations.

REED 752 Literacy Theory and Research: (3), Wednesday, 4:20 or 7:00, Dr. Mogge
Expands insights into past and current research and theory in the literacy field. Critically analyze research findings and develop a research proposal.
Information about our Reading Clinic

MASCD Program Excellence Award

The Towson University Reading Clinic received a Program Excellence Award from the Maryland Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development at its Spring Forum in May 27. Recipients of the Program Award must demonstrate significant contributions to the development and achievement of educators and students in Maryland. The Reading Clinic was recognized for its 40 years of educational excellence as an essential component of the Graduate Reading Program as well as for its service and outreach to struggling readers throughout the Baltimore Metropolitan area, especially in the Baltimore City Public School System.

Summer Reading Clinic

The Towson University Reading Clinic returned to the Cherry Hill community for the third consecutive summer. Supported by grants totaling $26,000 from Bank of America and the Pepsi Corporation, 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-5 from Dr. Carter G. Woodson who were enrolled in the summer program at the school. Teachers in the two Clinic Internship classes provided one-on-one assessment and instruction to students to address their specific reading needs. Teachers in the Guided Reading class provided small group instruction to other students.

Family involvement is an important part of the Reading Clinic mission. To that end, teachers in the advanced clinic class conducted workshops for the students’ parents. At the conclusion of the clinic, the families joined the clinic teachers for a Family Night Reading 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 the TU campus and the Bank of America support provided the meal as well as transportation for the families to and from the TU campus.

Dr. Elizabeth Dicembre—Reading Clinic Director
Part-Time Reading Faculty Needed

The Community College of Baltimore County (CCBL), Dundalk, Catonsville, Essex, Hunt Valley, and Owings Mills campuses would like to hire a part-time Reading faculty member. College Website: www.ccbcmd.edu

Bachelor’s Degree required, Master’s Degree preferred. Preference will be given to those applicants with teaching experience at the high school or community college level in the areas of Reading and Writing.

Please send a letter of application and Curriculum Vitae to:

Debby Halperin at dhalperin@ccbc.edu (Catonsville, Hunt Valley, and Owings Mills Dundalk)
Betsy Gooden at bgooden@ccbc.edu (Dundalk)
Dr. Charlyn Cassady at ccassady@ccbc.edu (Essex)
Get to know our new faculty members!

Dr. Jessica Palladino:

Greetings!

I am pleased to join the dynamic and collegial Graduate Reading faculty as an Assistant Professor. I recently finished my doctoral degree at the University of Maryland, College Park in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Literacy. I am interested in all aspects of literacy but I am especially interested in adolescent literacy, the connection between reading and writing, and peer discussion. I taught a variety of graduate and undergraduate courses while at the University of Maryland. In addition, I taught 4th and 5th grades in Howard and Montgomery County and was a reading specialist in Fairfax County.

I live in Silver Spring with my husband and dog. I love to read (I know, how predictable) and travel. I also just completed the Iron Girl triathlon in Columbia, MD, which was such a fantastic experience that I can’t wait to sign up for my next triathlon.

I look forward to working and learning with you at Towson!

Dr. Pat McCarthy:

I come to Towson from Loyola College where I taught both undergrad and graduate courses in reading. Before that my husband and I were in upstate New York where I taught in the School of Education at the State University of New York at Geneseo. Most of my professional life was spent in Wisconsin however, where I went to graduate school and stayed in spite of the cold weather. My Ph.D. is in Educational Psychology with a focus on reading development. My dissertation topic was a longitudinal study of over 300 elementary students from Kindergarten through 3rd grade analyzing reading progress utilizing a variety of formal and informal assessment instruments.

I have three daughters, two of whom are now teachers, and my husband is a Professor of Forensic Science at George Washington University. I very much enjoy traveling and in the last year have been to Italy, the Caribbean and Alaska.
Wiki Space: reedalumni.wikispaces.com

The Graduate Reading Department is happy to announce a wiki has been created in order for alumni to collaborate, share, and stay connected. The wiki will provide links to topics related to our field. This web 2.0 technology is designed for all to be active participants and to stay connected after graduating from the program. We are grateful to our recent graduate, Jenn Chloupek, for creating this resource for all of us.

If you are unfamiliar with wikis, there is a link on the left hand side that will connect you to a video that explains how to use a wiki. There is also a link to a “sandbox” where you can explore how to add content and edit a page. We look forward to sharing and collaborating with you in this new adventure!

Sponsored by The Maryland Writing Project

The Write to Learn Saturday Workshops are Back!

The Maryland Writing Project will once again host Write to Learn Saturday Workshops at the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center (SMHEC). Upcoming topics include: Publishing Student Writing; Music, Rhythm & Poetry; and How to Handle the Paper Load.

Visit the MWP website for more information and to register:
http://www.towson.edu/mwp/mwp.html

The Maryland Writing Project at Towson University Presents:

LEARNING AND THE BRAIN: ENGAGE THEIR BRAINS-IGNITE THEIR LEARNING

The conference will be held in the Chesapeake Room in the Student Union on November 1st, 2008.

Dr. Judy Willis, a board certified pediatric neurologist and a middle school teacher, is uniquely qualified to connect brain research to classroom instruction. Dr. Willis was in private practice for 15 years before going back to school to become a teacher. She has taught in elementary, middle and graduate school.

Afternoon breakout sessions will feature Gloria Neubert, Thomas Baumgardner, Suzie Henneman, Daniel Rozmiarek, and Sharon Delgado. Check this site www.towson.edu/mwp, for session topics and further information.
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<th>Course #</th>
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<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Day/Room</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Reading Theory &amp; Practice</td>
<td>Palladino</td>
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<td>Reading Theory &amp; Practice</td>
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NEW BOOKS!!!

Confronting Intolerance: Critical, Responsive Literacy Instruction with Adult Immigrants
Author: Stephen Mogge

The Handbook of Research in New Literacies
Editors: Julie Coiro, Michele Knobel, Colin Lankshear, and Donald J. Leu

REED 726 and 729 Permit Lists

REED 726 and 729 should be the final two required courses students take in the Graduate Reading program. In order to make sure students have completed the prerequisite courses, and to identify students who need only REED 726 and REED 729 prior to graduation, we will continue to utilize our permit lists. Therefore, we ask students to continue letting the Graduate Assistants know when you plan on taking REED 726 and REED 729. The sooner you contact the Graduate Assistants the greater your chances in gaining permission to enroll in the course. Contact Jodi at jtrumb1@towson.edu, or Danica at ddrape1@towson.edu.

REED 710: Multicultural Literature for Children & Adolescents
Instructor: Dr. Theresa Adkins, Jan 5th—Jan 23rd, Tues & Thus 4:30-7:30
An in-depth critical examination of multicultural literature for young children and adolescents. Strategies for selecting and evaluating texts and resources will be explored considering issues of voice, worldviews, culture, rituals, language, and lifestyles.
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:**

Include one assignment from each of the three electives. It is recommended that students keep an electronic backup of all coursework, and it is 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.

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**Southern Maryland Corner**

Southern Maryland’s Spring Schedule will be out soon!!! Be watching for email information with a new elective for the Spring.

Students in Southern Maryland should contact Alyssa Zumpano, 301-737-2500 or azumpano@towson.edu, with any questions.
Study Abroad in Portugal

EDUC 632 Instruction and Assessment for English Language Learners will be going abroad from July 17 – July 24 to Braga, Portugal!
Course Instructor: Dr. Gilda Martinez

“Braga is one of the most beautiful cities in Portugal, with a number of impressive Baroque monuments, including one of the country’s best-known sights, the Bom Jesus Sanctuary. Today it is a modern city with a young population, bustling with commerce and industry surrounding a lively and attractive old center with a number of pedestrian streets.” http://www.golisbon.com/portugal/cities/braga.html

The schedule is as follows:
- Arrive July 17
- July 18 class from 8am-12pm
- July 19-22 International Reading Association European Conference
- July 23 - Excursion TBA
- Leave July 24

International Book Donation Project

WHAT: Please contribute to this international literacy effort as we donate books to the Blossom Street Primary School in Cape Town, South Africa.
WHERE: Please put books in the donation boxes outside of the Reading Office, or in boxes outside of classrooms.
WHEN: AS SOON AS YOU CAN. The deadline is Saturday Oct. 11 which is the Reading Program’s Anniversary Event.

If you have any questions please ask Sharon Clark Sharon.lynn65@gmail.com or Dr. Mogge smogge@towson.edu

Thank You So Much For Your Generous Support!
Fall 2008 Conference
Keynote Speaker:
John Segota

Interested in earning ESOL credits? See “Study Abroad in Portugal” on page 11! Dr. Gilda Martinez is headed to Braga in Summer 2009!

Don’t Forget to RSVP for the 40th Anniversary Party!
WHEN: Oct. 11th, 4:30-7:00
WHERE: Burdick Field
WHY: See old friends, munch snacks, listen to music, and celebrate 40 years of excellence
Call the Reading Program Office at 410-704-2556 by October 4th to join in the festivities!
Cost is free, with a cash bar

READING PROGRAM FACULTY CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Bess Altwerger  HH404C    baltwerger@towson.edu  410-704-3188
Dr. Elizabeth Dicembre HH120D   edicembre@towson.edu  410-704-4492
Dr. Barbara Laster    HH107H    blaster@towson.edu    410-704-2556
Dr. Gilda Martinez    HH107N    gmartinez@towson.edu  410-404-2480
Dr. Pat McCarthy   HH025A    pmccarthy@towson.edu  410-704-2009
Dr. Stephen Mogge    HH102K    smogge@towson.edu  410-704-5771
Dr. Jessica Palladino HH102E    jpalladino@towson.edu  410-704-2579
Dr. Sharon Pitcher   HH120B    spitcher@towson.edu  410-704-2895

Reading Program Graduate Assistants:
Danica Draper     HH107H    ddrape1@towson.edu  410-704-2556
Jodi Trumbull     HH107H    jtrumb1@towson.edu  410-704-2556

Confronting Censorship in the Classroom
For advice and strategies on how to navigate this complex challenge in today’s classrooms, visit:
The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)  www.ncte.org
The National Education Association (NEA)  www.nea.org
The American Library Association (ALA) Office of Intellectual Freedom  www.ala.org/ala/oif