

NEWS

IDAFL

News and highlights of IDA's 60th Annual conference,
Orlando, November 11-14, 2009

President's Message

I'm happy to report that our Florida Branch is now "post-Orlando conference!" We were focused on hosting the 60th Annual IDA National Conference for quite a while and it required much effort on the part of many. Thank you to all who participated in the preparations and staffing. We added around 65 new contacts from Florida who stopped by our booth!

Our branch is ready to carry the momentum of the conference forward. We know there are many people in our state who need information about dyslexia. Our goal as a branch is to provide information on best practices in the field of dyslexia. We hope our network of members will grow as we continue our strong tradition of offering outstanding state conferences for parents and professionals.

Between conferences, the main points of contact that we have with our branch members are through our website and newsletter. Karyn Kilpatrick-Snell is our new webmaster. She has done a fabulous job of updating our website and providing timely information about events

of interest to our members. Visit us at www.idafla.org.

Joyce Warner has graciously accepted the position of new editor for our newsletter. As most IDA branches have done, we are converting to an electronic format. Our ability to stay in contact with our members will be much simpler this way as well as environmentally friendly. I am grateful that Joyce will bring her experience and talent to our newsletter and look forward to working with her on future issues.



Gayle Cane

Our 60th Annual Conference – Right Here in Florida !

Many Floridians, along with several thousand others from around the world, took advantage of the opportunity to participate in the 60th Annual Conference of the International Dyslexia

FLORIDA BRANCH of the INTERNATIONAL DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION

<http://www.idafla.org/>

Winter 2009

Association, at the Dolphin Hotel at Disney in Orlando, Nov. 11th – 14th.

Conference Program Chair, Karen Dakin, and Co-Chair, Suzanne Carreker, both IDA Board Members, organized an outstanding menu of choices. To highlight a few

On Wednesday evening, conference goers were treated to a Grand Opening and Keynote Address by Fashion Designer Dana Buchman, who is the mother of a learning disabled daughter, and author of *A Special Education*, written with her daughter. This personal story of the challenges and triumphs the family shared provided an energizing experience for all attending. Dana Buchman now chairs the Advisory Council of Promise, a non-profit organization affiliated with Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City, supporting low-income children who are struggling with learning disabilities.

On Thursday morning, Hollis Scarborough, Ph.D., Senior Scientist at Haskins Laboratories and Susan Brady, Ph. D., Professor at the University of Rhode Island's Department of Psychology, presented *It's More Complicated Than We Thought: Our Growing Understanding of Requirements for Reading Success*. As colleagues at Haskins Laboratories, Drs. Scarborough and Brady have conducted research on reading and reading difficulties for the past three decades, including a focus on phonological abilities related to individual differences in reading, the relationships between oral and written language, and reading comprehension difficulties. As their work has clearly demonstrated, ". . . it is now evident that building teacher's knowledge about phoneme awareness and phonics is necessary, but not sufficient, to achieve substantial changes in reading achievement. Drs. Scarborough and Brady were awarded the Samuel Torrey Orton Award.

With over 250 presenters, there were many sessions to choose from, ranging from symposia topics such as: *Implementation of Response to Intervention (RtI) from A to Z; The Challenges and Complexities of Reading Comprehension*; research from the Florida Center for Reading Research (FCRR) on *Early Reading Development and It's Application for Teachers and Schools*, just to name a few of the multitude of presentations and several documentaries.

If you were not able to attend this outstanding conference, some of the session information will be available soon on the IDA website: interdys.org. Begin planning now to attend the 61st Annual IDA Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, Oct. 27th – 30th, 2010.

from Sandi Sopra

Highlights from our Members

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee was very pleased to provide scholarships allowing 17 parents and educators to attend IDA's 60th annual conference for one day. The feedback from these parents centered on the tremendous relief they felt that they were not alone in their battle to help their child. They appreciated receiving information on how to advocate for their child and hearing from the experts that Dyslexia is real!

The Subscriber Course

Attending the conference has rejuvenated my desire to see every dyslexic child receive the appropriate instruction. I was able to learn new and effective instructional strategies in the OG method by attending the 10 hour subscriber course presented by the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators. As a matter of fact I can't wait to continue my training and plan to become an OG certified teacher.

from Karyn Kilpatrick-Snell

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Symposia

*Early Reading Development and its
Application for Teachers and Schools*

This Wednesday symposium offered a wealth of information. The most important of which was introducing the FCRR website, an amazing source of resources, references and current facts regarding reading. There are numerous student center activities for teachers in grades K-3 that are printer ready and may be selected for specific reading components. Look on the FCRR home page to preview. FCRR (Florida Center for Reading Research), www.fcrr.org

Key points:

- Richard Wagner, It's rare for poor reading comprehension for students in grades 1, 2 and 3 NOT to be associated with primarily difficulty in decoding and secondarily with vocabulary.
- Chris Lonigan, Age difference is not a factor in pre-K vs K when predicting reading success. Additionally, alphabet (letter) knowledge and phonemic awareness is significantly more important for reading success than oral language skill. Receptive and expressive language ability IS important, but not necessarily vocabulary skill. "The pre-school period can be critical for prevention of later reading problems." Additionally, "dialogic" reading of books much more helpful than just reading the story to youngsters. So, when reading aloud, stop to orient the listener with comments, explanations, colorful visualization, questioning, and more.
- Carol McDonald and Joe Torgeson, Silent Sustained Reading (SSR) is more effective once a student has become a proficient, independent reader; use more in the spring, rather the fall of the school year once decoding skills are better developed. Until then, use Teacher Managed Instruction, like dialogic reading, in order to develop vocabulary and listening skill.
- The FCRR received a \$2.8 million grant to address school readiness for

pre-school children who are Spanish-speaking English Language Learners (ELL). The goal of the proposed project is to understand how curricula used in preschools can help promote the development of school readiness skills for children who are ELL. The center is currently looking for school sites in Florida. If you are in a Florida district interested in becoming considered as a site for this project, contact Kylie Flynn, Project Manager, kflynn@fcrr.org, office 850-645-7276

from Susan Sentell

Response to Intervention (RtI) Key points

- No need to label a student to get high quality instruction
- The concern that leads to RtI is the lack of confidence in the discrepancy formula for identifying students with LD. Whitmore says... "this (discrepancy formula) is flawed statistically, philosophically, and theoretically."
- It is extremely important to use Tier 1 PLUS Tier 2 for instructions. This means include small group intensive instruction (tier 2).
- Do not say, "Does this student HAVE a disability?" Instead say, "WHAT disability does this student have?"
- Wilson's new program "Just Words" for older students needing intervention for reading problems. This is for poor readers who have gaps in reading and/or spelling. Not designed for intensive instruction. See www.wilsonlanguage.com
- The Nation's report card from the National Center for Education Statistics, 2007, <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard> states that 70% of eighth graders are at Basic or BELOW grade level in reading. from Kathleen Whitmore, Rachel Brown -Chidsey, Linda Wernikoff and Barbara Wilson

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IDAFL Social

The FL branch of IDA held an evening dessert social at the Epcot Center's Paris pavilion on Thursday, November 12, 2009. A delicious assortment of mouthwatering desserts and coffees was shared by all. It proved to be a wonderful opportunity to network and learn more about our branch partners from across the country. The highlight

of the evening was a free drawing for a week from *Interval International*, a time share company with properties all over the world. *Interval International* has been a strong supporter of IDA donating week long trips to IDA annually at conference time. A spectacular fireworks display illuminated the somewhat "chilly" Orlando sky over Epcot culminating this very successful branch activity.

from Carole Repensek

A final word from the president

For those of you who attended the 60th Annual Conference of IDA, I hope you enjoyed the conference, had a chance to network, and learned new and useful information. I know that I did! As host branch, many of our members worked long and hard behind the scenes to make the conference memorable. I'd like to recognize them here. My apologies in advance if I miss anyone!

Sandi Soper	Local Arrangements Committee Co-Chair, Speaker Hospitality Co-Chair
Jean Schmidt	Local Arrangements Committee Co-Chair, Branch Social Chair
Cyndi Pelosi	Volunteer Coordinator
Milaura Spellman	Chair of the FLIDA booth
Mark Halpert	Host for the Beacon College Trip
Mary Bruck	Beacon College onsite host
Carole Repensek	Fundraising Chair and Speaker Hospitality Co-Chair
Karyn Kilpatrick-Snell	Scholarships and Registration
Sue Sentell	Bookstore Volunteer Chair
Jen DiRico	Silent Auction Chair
Pete Taylor	Treasurer
Linda Starr	Volunteer, FLIDA booth

Send newsletter items to Joyce Warner at jwarner@mail.barry.edu