

the educator

Summer 2009 Volume 1 Issue 2



University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Department of Reading Education

Online Hybrid MSE Program *Shaking up classrooms Fall 2009*

In this issue:



Quality education is no longer confined solely within classroom walls. Starting in fall 2009, the UW Oshkosh Reading Education Department will be offering an online hybrid reading master's degree program to address the needs of its diverse student population.

One of the program's main benefits is its increased schedule flexibility, a perk particularly helpful for non-traditional working adult students. Instructors of each course will designate required classroom meeting dates and students can complete the rest of the course requirements utilizing technology features such as wikis, blogs, and discussion

boards. Prospective students need not worry about the technology aspect, as it will be taught as part of one of the initial classes of the program.

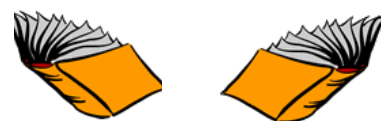
Although some course components may be completed online, the close and intimate contact between students and faculty will remain a staple in preserving the integrity of Wisconsin's only International Reading Association accredited program.

The program allows students to get the most out of their experience and uses reality-based projects to create an authentic learning environment.

Prospective graduate students may be able to complete their 30-credit MSE degree, a change from 36, in just two years. The program is also eligible for Wisconsin 316 (Reading Teacher) and/or 17 (Reading Specialist) licenses.

For further inquiries about the program, contact Dr. Joan Simmons at **(920)424-4444**.

- 1 New Hybrid Program
- 2 Hot Topics in Literacy
- 2 Research Symposium
- 3 Summer Institute
- 3 Young Writer's Camp
- 4 Welcome Dr. Alderton
- 4 Cohorts / Coaching
- 4 Scholarship Winners



"The Educator"

Published in fall/spring semesters
Reading Education Department
800 Algoma Blvd., Oshkosh, Wis.,
54901

Literacy's hottest topics back in 2009



The UW Oshkosh Hot Topics in Literacy Conference will be held again next fall on Saturday, October 10, on campus in the Nursing Education and Clow Academic Buildings. Once again this event will provide attendees with insight into the ever-changing realm of reading and writing.

The program includes a keynote speech by author Sneed Collard III, who has written over 50 books for children and young adults, and three additional breakout sessions. (For more

information on Collard's work go to www.sneedbcollardiii.com.) The topics for this conference are chosen based on the results of an annual survey conducted by the International Reading Association and published in IRA's *Reading Today*, February/March 2009.

Next fall's Hot Topics in Literacy include:

- Comprehension
- Response to Intervention (RtI)
- Adolescent Literacy
- Daily Five and CAFÉ
- Struggling/Striving Readers (Grs. 4 & above)
- Differentiation and Acceleration
- Writing

Individuals who are currently degree-seeking, have finished degrees, or simply have an

interest in literacy education are encouraged to attend.

Conference participants also have the opportunity to take a one-credit graduate course. This course is available at \$250 plus the cost of conference registration. Registration is \$30 for full-time undergraduates and \$60 for all others. Information about the conference will be regularly updated throughout the summer on the Reading Education Department website at <http://www.uwosh.edu/coehs/departments/reading-education/hot-topics-in-literacy-conference-agenda>.

SAVE the date! And come to UW Oshkosh next fall to learn more about the latest Hot Topics in Literacy!

Appleton to host annual Reading Symposium

This summer more than 100 Wisconsin educators will attend the UW Reading Research Symposium to enhance their professional development and discover new strategies for educating youth about the power of literacy.

The theme of this year's symposium is "Turning the Page: Research, Policy and Practice in a New Era." Many nationally known researchers will be making presentations, including Susan Newman, Susan McMahon, Cathy Toll, Alfred Tatum, Kathleen Glaswell, Julie Coiro

and Leigh Hall.

The symposium, now in its 28th year, is a two-day event and will be held on June 26-27, 2009. It is intended for teachers, administrators and literacy coordinators and registration is \$195.

This year, residents in the Fox Valley have the unique opportunity to attend the symposium without worrying about lodging because it will be located at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, Wis.

Attendees also have the option of taking one undergradu-

ate or graduate level credit to accompany the symposium for an additional fee.

For more detailed information about the symposium, go to <http://www.uwosh.edu/coehs/departments/reading-education/28th-annual-university-of-wisconsin-reading> or contact Dr. Mike Ford at ford@uwosh.edu.



Summer Institute has just the 'write' stuff

Long summer days can leave you lethargic. Syndicated daytime television loses its appeal. Don't let summer boredom get the best of you. If you're looking for a better way to spend your summer, look no further than the Fox Valley Writing Project's Summer Institute. Although participants for the 2009 session have already been selected, make sure to keep watching for the 2010 application that will be available early next fall.

The Invitational Summer Institute is a six-credit graduate course available to PK-12th grade teachers interested in learning new techniques to promote writing for themselves and for their students. It will be held from June 15 to July 10, 2009, on the UW Oshkosh campus.

The program brings together teachers from across the Fox Valley area to share unique ways of teaching writing. It also aims to

help participants gain insights into their own individual writing processes.

Daily writing logs, exploration of professional literature on writing, and peer response groups are all activities aimed to help teachers make their writing and their teaching shared experiences.

"Writing and teaching are often private enterprises," said Dr. Pat Scanlan, Fox Valley Writing Project Director and Summer Institute instructor. "But writing always needs an audience. And teaching improvement happens best when a community of committed educators is learning together."

The Summer Institute's goal is to encourage ongoing professional development in teaching. Teachers leave the program with a plan for a teaching inquiry project, which they implement in their classrooms at the beginning of the school year. At the group's October reunion, teachers will

share their inquiry projects and their reflections on what they have learned to further improve their teaching.

The Invitational Summer Institute has a limited enrollment, and all participants are selected through an application process. Accepted individuals receive a scholarship to cover the cost of the six graduate level education credits from UW Oshkosh.

For more information check out the Fox Valley Writing Project website at <http://fvwp.uwosh.edu>.



Photo courtesy of Fox Valley Writing Project

Young Writers Camp opportunity for kids

Young students with a love for writing are invited to cultivate their passion at the 2009 Young Writers Camp offered by the Fox Valley Writing Project.

The camp will be held from 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Aug. 3-6 and Aug. 10-13, 2009 at one of two available locations: Shattuck Middle School in Neenah, Wis., or the UW Oshkosh campus.

Students entering 6th through 10th grade who desire more time to write are encouraged to attend.

Instructors who have completed

a past Summer Institute will be available to help young writers. All campers will complete at least one piece of writing which will be published in an anthology. Each student will receive a copy of the camp anthology early in the fall.

The fee for the Young Writers Camp is \$150 per student. Scholarships are available.

For more information about scholarships and the camp itself, go to <http://fvwp.uwosh.edu/young-writer>

If you have completed a past Summer Institute and would like to help at a Young Writers Camp to keep up with your involvement in the Fox Valley Writing Project, contact Dr. Pat Scanlan at fvwp@uwosh.edu, or call (920) 424-3325

Welcome Dr. Alderton



Photo courtesy of UW Oshkosh Photobase

The Reading Education Department is pleased to welcome Dr. Elizabeth Alderton to its dedicated teaching staff.

Alderton, who was born in Neenah, WI, graduated with her doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Wisconsin in 2007.

She worked previously at UW Oshkosh from 1999-2006. She also taught at Marian University

Congratulations to McEssy Reading Education Scholarship winners

The Reading Education Department congratulates Emily Pratt and Kerstin Westcott, the two recipients of the McEssy Reading Education Scholarship for the spring 2009 semester.

The scholarship, established in 1991 by Charlotte H. McEssy, aims to recognize individuals who understand the importance of education in achieving success.

The scholarship is awarded to

from 2006-2008..

Alderton teaches content-area reading courses and language arts methods at the undergraduate level and is active in the graduate reading education program. Her current research interest is studying how the Internet and technology impacts comprehension.

Her favorite thing about teaching is the face-to-face contact.

"I like when I can see the light bulb go on and I can see they understand a new concept," Alderton said.

Alderton is constantly striving to find creative ways to teach new concepts to her students. She is passionate about education and loves her job.

"I'm extremely lucky," she said. "I wake up in the morning and I love coming to work. I'm glad to be back at Oshkosh."

part or full-time graduate students pursuing an MSE degree in Reading Education. Students must currently be enrolled in spring courses and planning on fall enrollment.

Recipients must have at least a 3.0 GPA and financial need is not considered.



Reading Cohorts

In an effort to fulfill its mission of serving diverse populations and helping school districts establish more effective reading instruction, the Reading Department at UW Oshkosh is supporting two special cohorts as part of a rural outreach to meet students of diversity.

The teachers in the cohorts are graduate students earning a master's degree and a 316 and 317 license in the field of reading. One cohort meets on the Lac du Flambeau Reservation and the other meets in Crivitz, WI, drawing teachers from Peshtigo, Marinette, Crivitz and Florence.

Literacy Coaching Summit Presenter

Lorraine Gerhart, an academic instructor from the UW Oshkosh Reading Department, will be presenting at the nation's first Literacy Coaching Summit at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi campus.

Working with a team of teachers from Wisconsin, Gerhart helped design a special set of courses for literacy coaching with three strands and a practicum. The program has been in operation for a year and the team will be presenting its design and results.

The coaching summit is sponsored by The Center for Educational Development, Evaluation and Research of Texas A&M, the Literacy Coaching Clearinghouse of NCTE and IRA.

It is being planned by Dr. Jack Cassidy, former IRA president and co-author of the annual "What's Hot" column for IRA, with cooperation from Cathy Roller of IRA and Barbara Cambridge of NCTE. It will take place April 3 and 4, 2009.

