The IMSLEC Record
Volume XI, Number 1   Spring 2008

The purpose of IMSLEC is to accredit training courses for the professional preparation of the Multisensory Structured Language Education specialist. IMSLEC is committed to quality training of the MSLE clinicians and teachers, establishing standards and criteria of excellence for the programs it accredits.

There are currently 32 accredited training courses in 90 locations throughout the United States. A full description of the Accreditation Process and an Application can be found on the IMSLEC website, www.imslec.org.

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Spring Board Meeting Held at IDA Headquarter

The 2007 – 2008 Board of Directors met for their spring meeting at the International Dyslexia Association’s new headquarters. Located in the quaint college town of Towson, MD, a suburb of Baltimore, the offices are located on the 4th floor of a condominium building across the street from Towson University. Extensive remodeling by Jeffrey Brown Contracting, LLC and R. M. Sovich Architects resulted in a Maryland Associated Builders and Contractors award-winning architectural space.

The Sylvia O. Richardson Hall of Honor greets guests immediately as they enter the offices.

Plaques honoring pioneers, IDA supporters, and benefactors fill the walls of the hall.

As you enter the library, a bronze “Reading Tree” (left) is displayed on the wall; each leaf on the tree represents a $500 donation to the capital campaign.

After breakfast and a tour of the offices, IMSLEC board members, under the leadership of newly-elected president, Phyllis Meisel, gathered to spend a day discussing current issues and future possibilities.
From the President's Desk . . .

Having been involved with accreditation and certification in the field of structured multisensory language education, I consider it an honor to serve as President of the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council. The organization and development of this accrediting body has been skillfully crafted under the leadership of Joyce Pickering and Valerie Tucker. Their shoes are indeed hard to fill and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

As this is my first report to you as President, I want you to know that we will keep this a strong organization and hopefully let it grow so that we can guide future students to quality education for working with dyslexic children. We encompass various courses that all have a common thread of being based on Orton Gillingham or a structured multisensory approach. All our courses adhere to strict standards and must uphold these requirements even after their initial accreditation. Graduates of our courses obtain Continuing Education Units so that they may stay current in their education.

IMSLEC is in a very strong position at this time thanks to all the hard work of our Board and many Committees. We have 30 accredited programs and six programs are under consideration. Our mission to accredit quality structured, multisensory language training programs is contributing to the excellence of education of the dyslexic individual. It is my hope that we will not only continue to grow but that the location of our courses will be located in many parts of the United States and beyond.

I am continually impressed by the work and motivation of our Accreditation Committee and all who spend many volunteer hours on each application and reaccreditation. The paperwork is voluminous. The details are numerous and yet necessary. Without this devotion we would not be as strong as we are. Our member courses are proud of their accreditations as they realize that we represent excellence in the field of education.

We are in the process of examining the possibility of accrediting schools that provide structured, multi-sensory instruction to children with dyslexia. This will be a valuable resource to parents as a guide for help for their children. We will also be aware of other areas where we could have a positive impact on the education of our children. We will be tuned to the needs of the field and aware of where we can grow, while keeping our standards and fine reputation.

The IMSLEC Board had its spring meeting at the new International Dyslexia Association [IDA] headquarters in Baltimore. The entire location is beautiful and it was a pleasure to meet there. All the staff was welcoming and made us feel at home. Emerson Dickman, President of IDA, came to our meeting. He spoke of his thoughts and plans for the Association and of the importance of IMSLEC for the care of the many dyslexic children.

I look forward to working with and for this organization and its many Committees.

Sincerely,

Phyllis B. Meisel

IMSLEC is proud to announce the newest additions to the Council. MSLE training at Specialized Language Development Center and Mississippi College have been recently accredited. The Specialized Language Development Center, with two locations in western Michigan, is a non-profit community service organization committed to offering one-on-one tutoring to individuals with dyslexia. Tutors receive extensive training in Phonics Fundamentals which is based on Orton-Gillingham. More information about Mississippi College’s Dyslexia Therapy Training can be found on page 10.
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The International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council

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A Message from Emerson Dickman . . .

“Those who pick the fruit give little thought to those who planted the seed from which the fruit tree sprang.”

Samuel, Anna, June, Margaret, Roger, Aylette, Paula, Jean, Diana, and so many others plowed the field and planted seed. For 60 years they labored to make a difference and have the value of structured intervention recognized. At present the ideas they developed and championed in the face of opposition, ridicule, and outright attack are not only accepted, but viewed virtually as having been self evident.

Differentiated instruction must be available to respond to differentiated need. Within the population of those in need there is a continuum of severity. IMSLEC provides an industry gold standard, which ensures that IMSLEC accredited programs provide a depth of knowledge and skill. However, a deep and broad understanding of the structure of language and the techniques necessary to effectively deliver instruction to all in need is, at this time, impossible to expect on a large scale. Therefore, scripted programs, requiring less depth and breadth of instructor knowledge to be effective, must be recognized and promoted to meet the needs of the great numbers of students with less severe language disorders in an effective and efficient manner.

To be effective, all of the elements of informed instruction have to be in place. All are necessary and no one element is sufficient to successfully meet the needs of an individual at risk for reading failure.

The challenge we all face is to insure that:

1. Differentiated instruction is appropriately matched to differentiated need. Inappropriate matching is ineffective or, at very least, inefficient.
2. The instructional approach chosen is delivered as intended by the author or creator; with fidelity to design.
3. The intensity and duration of instruction is planned to insure a meaningful rate of progress necessary to close the skill and/or achievement gap.

IMSLC, the Alliance, and IDA have to work together to police instruction that is informed on three levels:

1. The quality of approach and methodology (informed method),
2. The fidelity of implementation (informed instructor), and
3. The necessary intensity and duration of instruction (informed environment).

In order to do so we need to be inclusive, welcome meaningful innovation and embrace new ideas. By accepting those who utilize the foundation we have built, we will find success in meeting the needs of many who need our help.

Emerson Dickman
April 25, 2008

Many thanks to the following friends who have made donations to IMSLEC in this fiscal year:

Valerie Tucker
Michelle Bufkin
The Hill Center
Sylvia Richardson
Marcia Henry
Joyce Pickering
Karen Avrit
David Winters
Marjory Roth
Kay Allen
William D. Noel
Mary Farrell
Lois C. Weinberg
Nancy Cushen White
Beverly Wolf
Phyllis B. Meisel
Gayle Smith
Karen Vickery
Rai Thompson
Marsha Geller
Windward School
Kay Peterson
Claire Nissenbaum

Gifts to IMSLEC are a meaningful way to honor friends, family or colleagues. Donations may be sent to Karen Vickery, IMSLEC Treasurer, SMU Learning Therapy Program, 5236 Tennyson Pkwy, Bldg 4-108, Plano, TX 75024. IMSLEC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and all donations are tax deductible.

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Southwest Multisensory Training Center
Angela Lunde (Allen ISD), Vonda McFarling (Southwest Academy), and Sally McDonald (Southwest Academy) have completed their Introductory Take Flight training early and will be taking their exam at the end of June. Special recognition will take place in November with their other colleagues, Valerie Brimer, Mary Kohnle, Heather Williams, and Pauline Stoffels.

Intro and Advanced Teacher Training Summer 2008
Southwest Multisensory Training Center will conduct both Introductory and Advanced levels of training in the Take Flight Curriculum June 9 – 20, at the Southwest Campus in Allen, Texas, continuing with monthly workshops throughout the school year. For information, call (972)359-6646.

NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW!
Southwest Multisensory Training Center will conduct the Introductory level of training in the Take Flight Curriculum July 14 – 25, in Odessa, Texas, continuing with workshops throughout the school year. For information, call (972)359-6646.

CEU Opportunities At The Southwest Campus
September 26  Dyslexia Lecture and Region 10 Speaker 9:00 – 12:00

DuBard Association Method Offered in New Jersey
The DuBard School for Language Disorders at The University of Southern Mississippi, in partnership with Fairleigh Dickinson University, will be hosting a basic course in the DuBard Association Method on August 18-22, 2008, at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, New Jersey. This new site will give professionals in the New England area an opportunity to receive training in the DuBard Association Method, a multisensory structured language education approach that is designed for individuals with severe oral and written language disorders, severe speech disorders, and/or hearing loss.
Training Course News

FDU Offers Summer Experiences for College-Bound Students with Learning Disabilities

Teaneck, NJ. Fairleigh Dickinson University’s Regional Center for College Students with Learning Disabilities, a comprehensive support program for college students with learning disabilities will once again offer a summer school program especially designed for rising high school juniors and graduating seniors with a diagnosed learning disability. Participants are introduced to key learning strategies, time management and organizational skills and assistive technology resources that will prepare them for success in college-level studies. They also will explore different opportunities and majors. The program runs from July 7 to July 17 on FDU’s Metropolitan Campus in Teaneck. The application deadline is June 13, but interested students are encouraged to apply as early as possible because this the course fills quickly. The Regional Center, is closely affiliated with the Orton Gillingham Dyslexia Specialist Training Course – both program are under the direction of Dr. Mary Farrell.

FDU to offer Orton Gillingham Courses at Vancouver, British Columbia Campus, Summer 2008

Teaneck, NJ. This summer, teachers and graduate students from will have the opportunity to take two Project Read courses at Fairleigh Dickinson’s Vancouver, British Columbia, Campus in Canada. Vancouver, surrounded by some of the most stunning natural beauty in the world, includes mountains, the Pacific Ocean, a rainforest, parks and beaches. The course is not restricted to FDU students and teachers from across the USA and other countries are invited to enroll. The courses will be offered for either continuing education or reduced graduate fee. In “Story Form,” offered on August 11 and 12, teachers will learn multi-sensory strategies and techniques for reading narrative text. “Report Form” will be offered on August 13 and 14 and will instruct teachers in teaching multi-sensory strategies and techniques for gathering, organizing and synthesizing information when reading expository text. Each course consists of 12.5 hours of classroom time with instructor Barbara McAuliffe, an FDU-certified Orton-Gillingham Therapist and Teacher Trainer as well as a Project Read certified trainer. The University has arranged for students and their guests to have the option of staying at the Carmana Plaza in downtown Vancouver, in luxury two-bedroom apartments. For more information on the FDU-Vancouver Campus and the surrounding area, click on FDU-Vancouver on the University Web site, www.fdu.edu, or contact graceh@fdu.edu.

Mark Your Calendar!!!

IDA Conference
Sheraton Seattle Hotel
Seattle, WA

Tuesday, Oct 28, 2008
Board Meeting (6:00 – 9:00 PM)

Wednesday, Oct 29, 2008
Council Meeting (1:00 – 5:00 PM)
A number of Montgomery County, MD public schools are at-risk for take-over by the State Department of Education for failure to make the required annual gains in reading and math. Among these is a middle school with over 800 students in up-county Silver Spring. About half qualify for subsidized meals. The failure is due to the very low scores of the special education students.

For several years, a parent with two dyslexic sons in the school has urged the principal to get staff training from ASDEC. Her youngest son had earlier attended the ASDEC summer program and made significant gains. Finally, when the threat of take-over became imminent, the principal consented to meet with ASDEC representatives. Just at that time, the school system froze all staff development funds because of a budget deficit.

Seeing an unprecedented opportunity, the ASDEC director, Claire Nissenbaum, agreed to provide the training at no cost to the school or school system, to have ASDEC raise or cover the total costs. Since the School’s decision was made only in early April, relatively few sessions could be scheduled this term—none soon enough to prepare special ed students to take this year’s Maryland State Assessment exams.

A decision was made to offer the training in Multisensory Mathematics, developed by ASDEC faculty member Marilyn Zecher, based in the Orton philosophy and psychology, and modeled on the MSL program, Sounds in Syllables (Sandra Dillon). The decision was based on previous experience—the knowledge that math instruction offered the likelihood of immediate skills gains, with significant change in attitude and expectations in both teachers and students. This is proving to be the case.

The training involves lectures with hands-on materials, demonstrations and modeling; and demonstration teaching with classes of students. The training is given in full day and half-day sessions, during teachers’ planning periods and on the regular class schedules for the students. (Teachers’ rotate planning sessions during the school day.) It includes training in algebra, as well as in more fundamental skills, e.g., automatic math facts, place value.

Teachers, supervisors, and administrators are expressing delight and astonishment at how quickly students grasp concepts they had failed to understand before, and how accurately they are applying them. Students are pronouncing math “fun.”

The Hill Center to Build New Teacher Training Center

The Hill Center in Durham North Carolina publicly launched its Sharing the Solution Comprehensive Campaign on April 10, 2008 with a groundbreaking ceremony for a new teacher training center. With a $12 million campaign goal, the Board of Directors plans to share the Center’s 30 years of research-based Hill Methodology with public and private schools, after-school programs, and preschool centers across North Carolina and around the world. The Hill Center’s mission is to transform students with learning differences into confident, independent learners.

The new Kirby-Horton Teacher Training Center is scheduled to open January 2009 and will expand the Hill Center campus and programs dramatically. While the F.M. Kirby Foundation provided the $1,500,000 lead gift for the teacher training facility, fundraising continues for the new $4 million building. Over 7,000 educators have been trained in Hill Teacher Training programs in recent years and the number is expected to double over three years. “Our programs are in such demand that we have outgrown our building,” said Shary Maskel, Director/President of The Hill Center. “We have trained teachers from 80 counties in North Carolina, 17 states and 10 countries.”

The Kirby-Horton Teacher Training Facility will be constructed as a state-of-the-art, energy efficient, architecturally exciting building. An atrium-style “Commons Area” will connect the new and existing buildings. Inside, floor-to-ceiling windows and skylights will create a dramatic space with a stunning view of the Brumley Memorial Garden, waterfall and exterior terrace. Workshop participants, parents, faculty and friends will be drawn to the space for informal collaboration and social events.

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Announcing 2008 Teacher Training Dates:

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<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
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<td>San Francisco, CA (2 SESSIONS)</td>
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<td>Seattle, WA (North) (Our Lady of the Lake Parish School)</td>
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Register ONLINE: www.slingerland.org

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Web: www.slingerland.org Email: mail@slingerland.org
Tel: 425.453.1190 Fax: 425.635.7762

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Neuhaus Education Center (NEC) congratulates recent graduates of the Dyslexia Specialist Preparation Program. Twenty-two individuals received certificates of completion from NEC’s IMSLEC accredited course during its annual luncheon. The graduates represent both private and public schools as well as private practice.

NEC is collaborating with two universities to provide advanced degrees for teachers who work in dyslexia, special education, and regular classroom settings. NEC and the University of St. Thomas (UST) are offering a 36-hour Master of Education degree with a Reading Specialist emphasis. The program, perfect for the working teacher with at least two years of teaching experience, includes 12 summer class hours at NEC, online classes, and evening classes taught by UST faculty and held at NEC. NEC’s second collaboration with Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) begins this fall. The 36-hour Master of Education degree plan with a Reading Specialist emphasis also includes 12 hours of NEC classes. The other 24 hours are online classes offered by SFA. The participants in both collaborations will complete the requirements to sit for the Teaching Level of the Alliance exam.

Graduates include (Front row, from left to right): Stephanie Bennett, Stafford MSD; Mylinda D. Wilson, Conroe ISD; Cheryl Stevens, Houston ISD; Jill Bradley, Conroe ISD; Karen M. Nolen, Private Practice; Kathleen M. Olson, Georgetown ISD; Molly Kay Ellis, Huntington ISD; Allison Cattan, Houston ISD; Jill A. Radigan, Alvin ISD; Jennifer Skjonsby, Private Practice. (Back row, from left to right): Ginger Holland, instructor, Neuhaus Education Center; Christi Luhn Hohlt, Brenham ISD; Andrea Rosenbusch, Liberty Hill ISD; Danette G. Wofford, Nacogdoches ISD; Dianna Dillon Anderson, Leander ISD; Iris Guinn, Conroe ISD; Catherine Scott, Houston ISD; Johna Lowe, Private Practice; Susan Silvey, The Kincaid School; Beth Egmon, Fort Bend ISD; Angela Kellye Chandler, Nacogdoches ISD; Angelique Beckwith, Nacogdoches ISD; Mary Lou Slania, instructor, Neuhaus Education Center. (Not pictured) Elizabeth Spieldenner, Private Practice
The Mississippi College Dyslexia Therapy Training Program is a two-year graduate level course of study leading to a Master of Education degree in Dyslexia Therapy. The university, established in 1826, is located in Clinton, Mississippi.

The training program has been strongly supported by both the National and Mississippi Scottish Rite Masons. Both Mr. J. W. Fagan, past Sovereign Grand Inspector General (SGIG) for Mississippi and Mr. Howard Kerce, current SGIG for Mississippi were part of the early discussions regarding establishing the program at Mississippi College and have continued to support the training program. Martha Sibley, retired from Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children and a graduate of Mississippi College, was a significant contributor to the initial development of the program.

The Master of Education in Dyslexia Therapy at Mississippi College has been approved by the State Board of Education as a graduate degree meeting all requirements for an advanced degree by elementary and secondary teachers. The State Board of Education has established licensure requirements for holding an “AA” Teaching License in “Dyslexia Therapy.”

Although most of the cohort members reside in Mississippi, others have travelled from Alabama, Ohio, Tennessee and Texas to participate in the training.

Instructors for the training are Mitti Bilbo, Barbara Fox, and Kay Peterson. Dr. Don Locke, Dean of the School of Education, Dr. Ron Howard, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dr. Lee Royce, President of Mississippi College have been supportive of this new endeavor and were actively involved in the accreditation process.

For more information, contact Shirley Tipton, Secretary to Dean Don W. Locke, 601-925-3250 or tipton@mc.edu.

Continued from Public Schools, pg 6.

The project has been such a resounding success that after just five days, the teachers have requested that the MS Math training be continued in the fall, and that Multisensory Language training be added.

Such is the power of the Orton approach and the *Sounds in Syllables* model in the hands of a highly trained, skilled, and passionately committed instructor—in this case, Marilyn Zecher, M.A., C.A.L.T.
The Orton MSL Basic Level Teacher Education Institute was held in February at Greenhills School's Marcus Davis Teacher Education and Tutoring Center. Teachers completing the Institute were from Cape Fear Academy in Wilmington, NC, the Advanced Reading Center in Pinehurst, NC, and Greensboro, NC.

Marjory Roth instructs students at the Orton MSL Basic Level Teacher Education Institute

LEAD advanced training (therapy) graduates – April 11, 2008 (right)

front left to right: Melanie Royal (introductory instructor), Beverly Macho (Prosper ISD), Kay Peterson (advanced instructor)

back left to right: Jacque Baker (Weatherford ISD), Laura Strittmatter (Weatherford ISD), Elizabeth Nolan (Royse City ISD), Dawn Pruitt (private practice), Becki Moreland (Faith Christian School), Katie Monk (Prosper ISD), Celeste Spiers (private practice), Lesa Timmons (Weatherford ISD) and not pictured – Kim Nolan (The Hill School).

2007 - 2008 IMSLEC Board of Directors Meeting

Michelle Bufkin, Marjory Roth, Mary Farrell, Rai Thompson, Laurie Moloney, Claire Nissenbaum, Carole Wile, Karen Vickery, Kay Peterson, David Winters, Phyllis Meisel, Marty Cooley, Karen Avrit, Sylvia Richardson, Joyce Pickering, Maureen Martin, Laurie Wagner, and Kathy Rose

The International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council
Southwest Multisensory Training Center

- CEU Courses
- Associate Level Academic Language Teacher Program
- Academic Language Therapist Program
- Diagnostic Testing
- Summer School K-9th

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The mission of the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council is to accredit quality training courses for the professional preparation of Multisensory Structured Language Education specialists.

DuBard Association Method

DuBard Association Method Basic Course

Teaneck, N.J., August 18-22, 2008 (one-week)

Hattiesburg, Miss., August 26-28 and September 23-25, 2008 (two-part basic course)

The DuBard Symposium: Dyslexia and Related Disorders

Hattiesburg, Miss., February 5-6, 2009

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