Southern Miss Welcomes First Cohort for Dyslexia Therapy Program

HATTIESBURG, MS. This summer, the first cohort of The University of Southern Mississippi’s Master of Education in Dyslexia Therapy program began their first online and in-person classes. After four years of planning, this is the first program of its kind in the state of Mississippi offered by a public institution.

A collaboration between the DuBard School for Language Disorders in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences in the College of Health and the Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education (CISE) in the College of Education and Psychology, this degree program will prepare graduates to become dyslexia therapists licensed by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE).

The program is offered in a hybrid format, offering a mixture of on-campus instruction, online courses, weekend classes and supervised practicum experiences, built around a working professional’s schedule.

“It is exciting to see this program come to fruition,” said Dr. Maureen Martin, director of the DuBard School. “We’ve been working on this degree for approximately four years, ensuring we are able to provide the highest quality education in a format fitted for working professionals. These students are the future educators of children with learning differences – I look forward to seeing the impact they’ll have on our area and state as a whole.”

The DuBard School’s professional development program has been accredited by the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC) since 1998, is accredited by the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) and meets the IDA’s Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading, credentials also associated with the degree program. All instructors are highly qualified and hold a Ph.D., Ed.D., CALT, QI (Certified Academic Language Therapist, Qualified Instructor), or combinations of these credentials, therefore are experts in dyslexia. In addition, they hold credentials in literacy, communication disorders, learning disabilities, related disorders, elementary education, special education and school administration.

New cohorts begin each summer. In 2015, the program will be open to 20 new applicants. For more information about this and other educational programs, visit www.usm.edu/dubard.
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 MSLE clinicians and teachers, establishing standards and criteria of excellence for the programs it accredits.

Currently 38 accredited training courses are located 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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Dear IMSLEC Members,

I hope your summer is going well. I know that many of you are particularly busy during this time of the year with the start up of your training sessions. Hopefully, you’ve also had some time to take a break for travel, time with friends and family, or just quiet time.

I thought you would be interested in learning some statistics that our Executive Director, Marty Cooley, has put together for us. We currently have 38 accredited training courses and there are 7 new applications for accreditation in progress. IMSLEC programs have trained 8,972 teachers! We have a great diversity in our programs, with program sites all across the country; some programs are very small and others train over 100 teachers each year; some programs provide graduate credit for their training course and others do not. Just thinking of all the children who have benefited from the training provided by IMSLEC accredited programs should make us all feel very proud of the critically important work we do for children with dyslexia. Also, as more and more states are recognizing dyslexia and requiring training in multisensory strategies for teaching reading to students with dyslexia, it is good to have our certified teachers available to provide appropriate instruction.

I am looking forward to the IDA meeting in San Diego and hope to see many of you there. As you can see from the schedule Marty has listed elsewhere in the newsletter, our Board meeting will be on Tuesday morning and the Council lunch and meeting will be Tuesday afternoon. Please consider sending in nominations for the Innovator Awards presented at our Council lunch. Nominees must have demonstrated excellence in the teaching of or support of multisensory language education. Each training course is eligible to nominate one person in each of the following four award categories: Outstanding Educator in a College or University, Outstanding School Administrator, Outstanding MSLE Therapist, Outstanding MSLE Teacher, Outstanding MSLE Professional. Nominations are due September 1 and you can download the nominating forms from this link.

With warm regards,

Mary Farrell

IMSELC President
IMSLEC Annual Meetings
San Diego Hilton
2014

IMSLEC Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 11, 2014
9:00 am  Board Breakfast
9:30 am  Board Meeting

Annual Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 11, 2014
12:00 PM  Council Lunch
1:00 PM  Council Meeting

Newly-elected board members will stay after the Council meeting for a short meeting.

Board and Council members will be notified as soon as meeting room assignments are made available.

Conference Lodging
For hotel reservations, call Hilton San Diego Bayfront 619-564-3333

MULTISENSORY TEACHER TRAINING
Offering Take Flight: a comprehensive intervention for students with dyslexia developed by Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, Dallas, TX.

Dyslexia Laws & Being Dyslexic
Sept 20th, 2014

Multisensory Study Skills
March 21, 2015

Verbal to Written Expression
April 17-18, 2015

Take Flight Intro & Adv Course
June 2015

mckinneychristian.org

Meetings of Interest

Alliance Dinner Meeting
Tuesday, November 11, 2014
6:00 PM

ALTA Board Meeting
Thursday, November 13, 2014
6:00 PM

IDA Annual Reading, Literacy & Learning Conference
San Diego
November 12-15, 2014
Making an Impact in Public Schools

In the summer of 2009, Shelton Outreach entered into a contract with the two school districts in Alabama to train teachers to the therapy level in MSLE using the Shelton Academic Reading Approach based on the curriculum from Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, Take Flight: A Comprehensive Intervention for Students with Dyslexia. Over the past five years, this training has been offered to teachers across the state. As of July 2014, public school systems have funded training for 185 teachers representing 39 different school districts in Alabama.

To assess the impact of these teachers on their school communities, the first three Alabama cohorts were asked to complete a survey at the end of their second year. Teachers were asked how many students received the intensive intervention from them and how many students had received short-term support from them. We also asked if they had delivered in-service instruction to their colleagues and if they had implemented any programs on their campuses. Finally we asked how many students had received support based on those in-service trainings and programs.

First, let us consider the impact of the training on the colleagues of those trained.

- Trained teachers responding to the survey: 76
- Teachers receiving in-service training from those 76 teachers: 2,894

The results on student impact were astonishing! The 76 therapist candidates from three cohorts reported the following during a two-year period:

- Students receiving intensive intervention: 814
- Students receiving short term support: 2,936
- Students receiving support resulting from in-services provided: 10,568
- Total students receiving support impacted by MSLE training: 14,318

These numbers represent the work of 76 teachers. That investment would appear to be a solid one! Within 24 months of beginning their training, on average, each of the teachers had impacted the professional knowledge of 38 fellow teachers and impacted the learning of 188 children. The number that we will never know is the number of students who never know failure because their teachers are more informed and more knowledgeable.

In summary, intensive MSLE teacher training for a few teachers impacted the colleagues of those teachers as well as the students they served. Public school teachers are the front line of defense against illiteracy by providing quality literacy services to children across the country. The standards held by IMSLEC and by IDA ensure that teachers enrolled in IMSLEC courses have the tools needed to provide that quality instruction and prevent student failure.

Nancy Coffman, MS, LDT, CALT, QI
Director of Outreach/Training
Shelton School, Dallas, Texas
Colorado Celebrates Graduates
The Colorado Literacy and Learning Center celebrated graduates of its Literacy Intervention Specialist Program (LISP) with a Summer Celebration on July 11th following the Alliance Exam. CLLC began the training program in summer, 2007, and since that time has had over 80 individuals successfully pass the Alliance Exam, joining the Academic Language Therapy Association at both the Practitioner and Therapist Levels. In a partnership program with Colorado College, fifteen of these individuals have applied the training towards a Master of Arts in Teaching – Literacy Intervention Specialist Degree. This past spring, the Colorado Department of Education approved Reading Teacher and Reading Specialist Endorsements for LISP. Offered in Colorado Springs and Denver, CLLC plans to expand to the Central and Western slopes of Colorado in 2015. CLLC is accredited by IMSLEC at both the Teaching and Therapy Levels.

Fairleigh Dickinson University’s Regional Center for College Students with Learning Disabilities

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
• Empowering students with language-based learning disabilities to realize their full potential as successful learners through individually structured plans of intensive advisement, academic support, assistive technology and counseling services.
• One of the few university-based programs in the country to offer comprehensive LD support services all four years — at no additional charge.
• Outstanding record of student academic performance, retention and graduation rates
• A recognized national model for exemplary post-secondary education for students with learning disabilities.

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The Robert J. Schwartz Memorial Lecture, a springtime tradition at The Windward School, drew a large audience to the Red Oak Lane campus on April 30 to hear a distinguished researcher speak about dyslexia. Dr. Gordon F. Sherman, the executive director of The Newgrange and Laurel Schools in New Jersey and The Newgrange Education Center, gave an informative presentation to Windward parents, faculty, and educators from the broader community.

Established to honor the memory of Robert J. Schwartz, a dedicated member of Windward’s Board of Trustees who passed away in 1997, the Schwartz Lecture seeks to bring prominent scholars to campus to share their knowledge and expertise with the community. Dr. Sherman, who earned his doctorate in developmental psychobiology from the University of Connecticut, previously served as the director of the dyslexia research laboratory at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and was also a faculty member in neurology at Harvard Medical School. In addition, he has been a past president of the International Dyslexia Association (IDA), and is a current IDA board member. Dr. Sherman was also a key member of the New Jersey Governor’s Reading Disabilities Task Force, which was charged with studying and evaluating practices for diagnosing and educating students with reading disabilities.

Following an introduction by Dr. Russell, Dr. Sherman addressed the audience who had come to hear him speak. He praised The Windward School, calling it “absolutely wonderful,” and “one of the top schools in the country for dyslexia.” His topic for the evening, “Welcome to the Future: Where Diverse Brains Thrive,” detailed the diverse ways in which the human brain functions. Understanding the basic architecture of the brain, Dr. Sherman stated, is very important.

“Dyslexia is a difference in processing information, and affects the ability to learn to read, write, and spell,” he said. “To me, dyslexia is a specific technology disability. Before the printing press was invented, dyslexic people were happy. They had no idea what was coming down the road! Technology disabled a whole group of individuals, but now we...
know how to help these people.” Technology and the changing job market of the current century, Dr. Sher- man noted, mean that dyslexic individuals have an ever-increasing number of outlets for their talents and skill sets.

“Think about all the wonderful things people with dyslexia are capable of doing!” said Dr. Sherman, citing a number of famous artists, musicians, CEOs, and scientists who were dyslexic. “Being creative or mechanically inclined is very important. We need to talk about the strengths and talents of dyslexic children.”

Dr. Sherman also introduced his audience to the importance of cerebrodiversity in understanding the dyslexic brain. Cerebrodiversity, a term created in 2002 by Dr. Sherman in a series of talks for parents and educators, is the unique way the human brain processes information. These minute neural differences, unique to each person, produce a variety of cognitive strengths and weaknesses. Cerebrodiversity enables individuals to use their specific strengths for society’s collective success.

“It’s good that we have differences in the way we process information. It’s an adaptive advantage,” Dr. Sherman said. “We’re all different, and that’s wonderful. Our schools need to be designed for this kind of diversity. We need to change our classrooms, we need to revamp our curriculum, and we need to over-represent abilities and not disabilities.”

Dr. Sherman emphasized the importance of appropriate instruction for dyslexics. “We want to start early,” he said. “Direct, multisensory instruction is absolutely necessary, and the earlier the better. Schools like Windward are fantastic,” he added, praising the School’s research-based, multisensory curriculum. “We need to push forward in how we teach our dyslexic students, and that is what goes on at Windward in a very high-level way.”

This article originally appeared in the spring/summer 2014 issue of The Compass, The Windward School’s magazine.

**IMSLEC Innovator Awards**

Eight professionals received the IMSLEC Innovator Award at the 2013 Annual Council meeting in New Orleans. These awards have been given each year since 2003 to individuals who show outstanding professional expertise and dedication to the field of multisensory structured language education. Many of these individuals are not well known outside of their school or clinic, but they work diligently everyday teaching students and adults to read and comprehend the written word.

The 2014 award recipients will be announced at the IMSLEC Council meeting on November 11, 2014 in San Diego. Nomination forms can be found on the IMSLEC website.

**Outstanding MSLE Teacher**

Mary DiGenova
Cathy Luby

**Outstanding MSLE Professional**

Marcia Henry, Ph.D.

**Outstanding School Administrator**

Diane Milner

**Outstanding MSLE Therapist**

Amy Kelton
Chris Bedenbaugh

**Outstanding Educator in a College or University**

Dr. Denny Dowd
Helen Macik, M.Ed.

**Etoile DuBard Award**

The Etoile DuBard Award of Excellence is given annually to a person who meets the ideals, professionalism and dedication exemplified by the life of Etoile DuBard. Dr. DuBard was an unselfish mentor to many and a contributor beyond measure to the field of MSL education. Her legacy will affect untold numbers of children in the future. The Etoile DuBard award recipient in 2013 was Kathleen N. Rose.
Policy Reminders for Course Directors

An accredited training course is entitled to use the IMSLEC® logo and to refer to its IMSLEC® accreditation in published materials with reference only to the accredited MSLE training courses. Statements shall conform to the following:

"(Name of training course) is accredited for its (Teaching, Instructor of Teaching, Therapy, Instructor of Therapy) level(s) by the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC®)."

Annual Reports and Fees
Due September 1

Newsletter Publication Dates
Deadlines for Submissions

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Every gift makes a difference as we grow the organization and expand our influence in the profession of multisensory structured language education therapists and teachers.

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Fall Community Lecture
Tuesday evening, October 21, 2014
Harold S. Koplewicz, MD, Lecturer
“When to Worry About Your Child’s Worries”
www.thewindwardschool.org/lecture
Summer Training at McKinney Christian Academy

Another successful teacher training summer course is in the books! MCA’s Multisensory Teacher Training Center (MTTC) has been blessed with two outstanding groups of trainees. This year’s trainees are amazing and talented women from all over Texas and even Missouri! We worked hard and took our understanding of the Take Flight program and dyslexia to a new level. The two groups of trainees and instructors got together for a Potluck lunch the last week of training. We were able share ideas and create an even stronger bond. Joe Griffith, author of How Dyslexia Benny Became a Star and friend of the MCAMTTC was an honored guest. He surprised both groups of trainees with autographed copies of his book! What a great day!

Kathy Rose visited the Compass Learning Center for their reaffirmation visit in July. Left to right - Ginny Titus, tutor; Tammy Hayes, Director and Kathy.

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18th Annual DuBard Symposium: Dyslexia and Related Disorders

Keynote Speakers:

Dr. Louisa C. Moats
President, Moats Associates Consulting Inc. and Primary Author, LERTS® (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling)

Dr. Christopher Kaufman
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An Invitation To Alliance Members

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Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014 for
Exhibit Hall Opening Night!

Register to win a SMART Pen
Drawing Wednesday at 8:00 PM
Also, Register to win
Multisensory Teaching of Basic Language Skills,
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IMSLEC & ALTA Members
Please stop by to pick up your membership ribbons!

Additional Drawings for Smart Pens on
Thursday and Friday at 6:00 PM and
Judith's book on Thurs. & Fri. at 12:30 PM & 6:00 PM
(You don’t have to be present to win)

See you in San Diego!

Marilyn Mathis, Alliance President
&
Members of the Board of the Alliance
Our Mission:
Provide a united association of organizations concerned with the accreditation of Multisensory Structured Language Education (MSLE) training courses and the certification of graduates of these courses.

★ IMSLEC Training Locations
States with ALTA Members

Items on map may represent multiple sites. IMSLEC Site also at San Juan, PR