



Florida Developmental Education Association

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2003

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Welcome....

Welcome Yvonne McShay, FDEA's new incoming president. Yvonne is a professor of arts, letters, and social sciences at Polk Community College.

With Yvonne's warm, outgoing personality and Ruth Becker's expertise, this should be a great year for FDEA.

Yvonne's work and dedication at this year's FDEA conference helped to make it a success. She, along with the help of Kathy Riley, sent members home with gifts from businesses

across the state. Yvonne is and will continue to be a positive driving force in FDEA. Using the word LOVE as an acronym, Yvonne hopes to fulfill the following plan:

- Leadership
- Organization
- Voice
- Energy

I don't think we could ask for a better New Year's resolution.



RUTH BECKER ADJUNCT STIPEND PROGRAM

Adjuncts play a vital role in the delivery of developmental education. Often they have no access to professional development funds.

Ruth Becker has recognized the importance of professional development for this group and has worked to assure their full involvement in the profession.

FDEA recognizes the commitment of adjuncts and the efforts of Ruth Becker by establishing the Becker Adjunct Stipend Program. At the recent FDEA board meeting, approval was given for providing 10 adjunct stipends to cover 2/3 of the conference registration fee for adjuncts from member institutions. Institutions will be notified of the process of applications.

The board is pleased to honor both Ruth Becker and the work of adjuncts by the establishment of this stipend program.



Happy Holidays

FDEA'S OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR 2002

By Bonnie Hilton

Melodye Wiens, President of NADE, introduced Pat as this year's FDEA outstanding educator recipient. Pat has been active in FDEA for 17 years. During that time, she has attended, presented, and planned conferences. She has served on the board and as President of FDEA. In addition, she has been active in NADE and was Conference Chair for 2002.

At Edison, Pat has demonstrated that her first love is teaching and student success. In addressing her exceptional teaching skills, a colleague wrote, "Pat's first love is teaching and student success....She says all she wants is a blackboard and chalk....don't make her do any of that "other stuff" to get the material across to students. Anyone who knows her realizes that humor plays a large part in her success as an educator."

The Vice President of Student Services wrote: "In her role as District Director of Learning Assistance, Pat is responsible for what I have come to believe is the most valuable division of the college. Her guiding belief that all students deserve the best education possible permeates her work." Truly, Pat Newell is an Outstanding Developmental Educator. A special note: Pat has been nominated for President of NADE.



Thank you FDEA members for making the conference a success!

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

New board members were recently installed at the FDEA conference held in Winter Haven, Florida on October 16-18, 2002.

Six board members were elected and two were appointed to serve out vacated seats. It is with regret that the board accepted the resignation of Marylen Jennings, Seminole Community College who, because of personal reasons, cannot complete her second term.

From the full complement of the board, the following were elected as officers.

- President—Yvonne McShay, Polk Community College
- Past-President—Ruth Becker, Pensacola Jr. College
- Vice-President—Bonnie Hilton, Broward Community College
- Treasurer—Ken Hurley, Polk Community College

Board members serve a two (2) year term and may remain for an additional year as ex-officio board members or as an appointment on the board. Pat Newell, Edison Community College will serve an additional year as ex-officio board member, and Melanie LeMaster, Edison Community College will continue to serve as the Newsletter Editor. Dixie Lemons from Miami-Dade Community College will serve as an appointment on the board.

The following members completed their terms on the board and were recognized for their excellence in service.

- Jane Walker, Chipola Jr. College
- Elaine Elledge, Pensacola Jr. College
- Joanne Kelly, Palm Beach Community College
- Nancy Long, Bethune-Cookman College

FCRC Awards Two Cathy Denny Scholarships and Two Joseph Howland Scholarships

By Kathy Riley, PCC

This year, the Florida College Reading Council recognized two deserving students with Cathy Denny Scholarships: Sun Choo of Edison Community College and Nydia Salazar of Polk Community College. Here is a close-up look at these two winners whose applications were judged on grades, letters of recommendation and on an essay about a book that changed their lives.



Sun Choo

Reading fuels Sun Choo's passion for success. She often reads motivational books and credits her developmental reading class with teaching her the comprehension and study skills that have earned her a 4.0 average.

Sun was born in Malaysia of Chinese parents; English was her third language. After completing high school in her native country, she immigrated to Florida to join several uncles. Sun is the first member of her family to attend college. A single parent of two children, she takes classes full time and works two part time jobs.

At Edison Community College, Sun will soon enter the Dental Hygiene Program. Because she has maintained an A average in her general education courses, Sun was invited to join Phi Theta Kappa, the community college honor society. Sun also works 15-20 hours per week as a student assistant in the TRIO Success program,

which mentors at-risk students. Even her work reflects her commitment to success.

In recommending Sun, Dr. Sam Hagan, her psychology professor, cited her "excellent thinking and analytical skills and a willingness to apply herself in a diligent manner to her academic endeavors." Sun, however, attributes much of her success in college to her reading course, taught by Professor Melanie LeMaster. "I learned so much in that course—vocabulary, finding key ideas, and the SQ3R study system. All of this material helped me to communicate better in English and to do well in my college coursework."

As part of this reading class, Sun was assigned *Gifted Hands* by Dr. Benjamin Carson. "This book made a big difference to me," Sun stated. "It motivated me. I was scared, especially coming from a foreign land. I felt like a lost soul who didn't know how to do homework. But I thought, 'If he can do it, I can do it too,' so I worked triple hard." In her limited spare time, Sun reads similar books, such as *If Success Is a Game, These are the Rules* and *How to Simplify Your Life*.

When told she had won the Cathy Denny Scholarship and the Joseph Howland Scholarship, Sun replied, "I am very surprised and very grateful. This award will help me and encourage me. I am going to tell my children about this to set an example for them." True to form, Sun Choo knows this success is not for her alone. She wants to share her "secrets," that hard work can make dreams come true and that reading is the key to success.

Nydia Salazar

Reading has always been an integral part of Nydia Salazar's life. She was read to as a little girl, eagerly picked up books on her own in school and continues to read classic books like *Emma* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* as an adult. She has even chosen a career where she can pass on her love of reading to future generations. What started as a favorite pastime in her childhood has brought her recognition as one of this year's recipients of the Cathy Denny Scholarship.

Born in Winter Haven, Florida, the granddaughter of Mexican migrant farmworkers, Nydia is the first member of her family to attend college. Her parents always encouraged her to remain in school and "stay in the books." Upon graduating from Auburndale High School, Nydia worked for a few years as a nursing assistant. By the time she entered Polk Community College, she knew that she wanted to work with young children, so she entered the Childcare Program. Nydia carries a 3.26 GPA and has belonged to the college honor society, Phi Theta Kappa, for over a year. Now married to Anselmo, Nydia plans to graduate PCC in December, 2003, and hopes to enroll in elementary education at the University of South Florida. However,

(continued on page 4)

(Nydia Salazar continued from page 3)

Nydia's life involves more than just her college classes.

Since high school, when she was inspired by her band director, Mr. Jim Parker, Nydia has recognized the value of leadership. In college, when she was invited to join the honor society, she did so eagerly because it encouraged her to "grow as a person." Under the sponsorship of Professors Penny Morris and Li Zhou, Nydia is serving for a second year as vice president of Phi Theta Kappa. During this time, she has been involved in numerous projects, including a drive to collect storybooks for children in shelters and an all-day book-reading session at the PCC Fall Fest. According to Professor Morris, "Nydia drew the children to her tent like the Pied Piper."

Nydia has worked her way through school and now teaches preschoolers full time at St. John's Christian School. Her childcare instructor, Karen Greeson, stated, "Teaching for Nydia is not just a job; it's a mission!"

As a topic for her essay, Nydia chose the book *Jesus Freaks* by dc talk and *The Voice of the Martyrs*. This book inspired her with its many examples of ordinary people accomplishing extraordinary things.

Southeastern student, Emily LeMaster, sang at the opening ceremony for FDEA. Emily's fellow singers and back-up couldn't attend because of family illnesses, so Emily said she prayed that everything would be OK. She said she knew everything was OK when she heard voices joining her in the song *Amazing Grace*.

Melanie Radd

By Bonnie Hilton

Melanie Radd from Palm Beach Community College was the other winner of the Joseph Howland FDEA Excellence In Developmental Education Scholarship (\$500) award.

Melanie Radd, a returning student after four years, admitted that being placed in developmental classes was "quite a blow to my self-esteem." However, she found her prep instructors to be encouraging and motivating. She is now a member of Phi Theta Kappa, practices for the Brain Bowl, and attends student government meetings. She has a 3.5 GPA, and her goal is to become an anesthesiologist.

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

In an effort to recognize the success of developmental students, an essay contest has been initiated. Prizes of \$100, \$200, \$300 will be given each year to students who write an essay telling their own success story. These essays will be ranked by a committee of FDEA members.

The awards will be announced at the annual conference, and the stories will be shared with others who are concerned and interested in the impact of developmental courses in the lives of students.

FDEA membership will be receiving information to put this contest into place before March 1, 2003.

This will be in addition to the Joseph Howland Scholarship and the Cathy Denny Scholarship.

Note: See the FDEA website for scholarship information.



THE PHONICS

In a fight to save a proud heritage in literacy, America is finally listening to what a small corps of reading researchers have been saying for three decades. Phonics-based teaching is now the new law of the land.

Condensed from *The Phonics* by Frank Stephenson

Never in history has society been so awash in words—nor as dependent on them for economic survival—and Johnny still can't read any better than he could a quarter of a century ago.

In the wake of the Clinton administration's "America Reads Challenge," a \$2.75 billion program trotted out in 1998, last year the George Bush administration announced its plans to finally put a fire under America's sleepy public school system. Amid unsurpassed bipartisan fanfare, Bush's \$26.5 billion, "Reading First" program, in the form of No Child Left Behind Act, was signed into law January 8.

Tucked into the thicket of the law's 1,200 pages are calls for setting higher standards in classroom achievement—including mandatory testing in reading and math in grades three through eight, plus annual assessments in science—stiffer accountability and teacher-quality monitoring practices for school districts; and more aggressive rescue efforts for low-achieving students.

Also—to the great relief of a special corps of university researchers—the act puts pressure on school districts in every state to teach kids how to read using "scientifically based reading research." In classic carrot-and-stick style, if districts fail to adopt this new edict they will forfeit their share of the nearly \$1 billion per year the act sets aside for state-by-state reading improvement grants.

For Florida, the new law may be the tonic that finally saves the patient. With an embarrassing K-12 track record accurately reflecting the national educational malaise, the Sunshine State is in high gear to get aboard the new federal imperative. Taking a cue from his brother, last September Gov. Jeb Bush, through executive order, created "Just Read, Florida!," essentially his own version of Washinton's plan.

Based largely on the premise that a child's scholastic success in any subject hinges entirely on his or her ability to read, the law aims to have all Florida students reading at grade level by 2012. Less than half of the state's K-12 students now do.

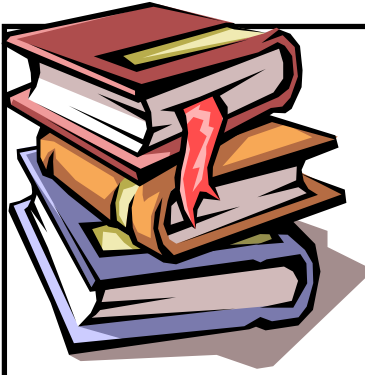
To bring Florida classroom reading instruction in line as quickly as possible with the "No Child" act's specific emphasis on scientifically based reading research," in February Gov. Bush announced creation of a \$2.5 million reading research center to headquartered at Florida State University.

Tapped to head up the center is Joseph Torgesen (Ph.D. Michigan), a developmental psychologist who specializes in the scientific study of how children learn to read.

Torgesen's team uses the words "intense" and "explicit" as technical terms, encompassing an often labor-intensive prescription for taking immediate action as soon as reading problems are discovered in an individual child. The method, which he says is easily tailored to fit most classroom dynamics, can mean teaching harder (more explicitly) for longer periods or in smaller classrooms as necessary.

The method even incorporates some techniques found in whole-language teaching. Torgesen calls phonics "hardly a panacea." He says that no informed reading specialist will ever say that one particular method of reading instruction is all a child will ever need to become a proficient reader, saying that "reading is far too complex an activity for that."

G. Reid Lyon, head of the NICHD, National Institute for Childhood Development, says, "there is no way to read if you are not very facile in the use of phonics. Especially for increasing numbers of kids falling into the direst of reading straits, phonics is non-negotiable,"—this from a neuropsychologist-turned-federal administrator whose career has spanned an era of nationwide angst over schoolchildrens' dismal reading performance.



**FLORIDA COLLEGE
READING COUNCIL
WORKSHOP**

February 28, 2003

Ft. Myers, Florida 33936

PROGRAM: Corbin Auditorium, Edison Community College

Coffee	8:30-9:00am
Reading and Journal Writing Professor James O'Neil, Edison CC	9:00-9:45am
Technology in the Classroom Karin Alderfer, Miami-Dade CC	10:00-10:45am
Legislative News State Representative	11:00-11:45am
Lunch	12:00-1:00pm
Reading and the ESOL Student Professor Roberta Hayden Edison CC	1:15-2:00pm
The Reader Through an Author's Eyes Professor Martha Ambrose, Edison CC (Professor Ambrose has published several novels)	2:15-3:00pm
FCRC Business Meeting Topics of discussion	3:15-4:00pm
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designing a syllabus that works for your program.• Establishing consistency in state cut-off scores.• Shares	

Please RSVP by February 24, 2003
Cost: \$25.00 Includes lunch, (Sandwiches, dessert, drinks)
Contact: Melanie LeMaster MLeMaster@Edison.edu

Hotel Available

Fairfield Inn
By Marriott

7090 Cypress Terrace

www.fairfield.com

Phone: (239)437-5600
\$99.00

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

**Bring something for the Si-
lent Auction to promote our
Cathy Denny Reading
Scholarship.**





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FLORIDA DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

The FDEA Newsletter is published three times a year. Articles should be kept to a maximum of 1,000 words.

Explicit guidelines are available from the Editor, Melanie LeMaster or Typesetter, Dana DeBellis.

We also encourage news items from affiliates and other organizations.

Submit: Melanie LeMaster or Dana DeBellis 8099 College Pkwy., SW, Fort Myers, FL 33919 or e-mail articles to mlemaster@edison.edu or ddebells@edison.edu

We reserve the right to edit any material submitted.

Deadlines for receiving copy are:

SPRING - April 15 FALL - August 15 WINTER - December 1

VISIT WEBSITES

FDEA: <http://tfn.net/fdea>

NADE: <http://nade.net>

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: <http://www.leg.state.fl.us>

THE FOLLOWING CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB:
FDEA's Next Conference - Executive Board Meeting Dates
FDEA Membership Application - Institutional Members
NADE Membership Application - Future NADE Conferences