

The Achiever

News & notes from the
Edward Stevens Center for the Study and Development of Literacy and Language

Volume I

Issue 3

September 2008



The Literacy Center New Website:

www.ouliteracycenter.org

The Literacy Center team has been working with designers on this website for over a year to make our website more user-friendly, more secure, and to better reflect the work we do. As you can see from the image below, we have organized our site into our five areas of focus: *professional development, resources, partnerships, research, and service.*

Much of the content from the old site remains. ABLE friends, you can click on the ABLE logo and go directly to the information you need related to ABLE.

We invite you to explore the new site and give us feedback!

Funded by Ohio Department of Education, Verizon and the Ohio Board of Regents.



Sharon Reynolds
Interim Director

Don't miss this!

**Tutor Info session on September 22
in Baker Center !**

**The Literacy Center's annual
symposium takes place
September 19, 2008!**

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Literacy Center Advisory Board to Meet

The Advisory Board of the Literacy Center will hold its next meeting on Monday, November 3, 2008, in Baker Center at Ohio University from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

During the meeting, the members of the Advisory Board will have an opportunity to

learn about new initiatives at the Literacy Center and the progress of existing work. The role of the Literacy Center and the Central/SE ABLEResource Center in the new University System of Ohio and Ohio Skills Bank will be emphasized.

Board Partners include:

- Athens County Public Libraries

- Athens County Job and Family Services
- Athens City Schools
- OU College of Medicine
- Tri-County Career Center
- WOUB
- Ohio Department of Education
- Pike County JVS—ABLE
- Franklinton Learning Center—ABLE

“Technology in Education for Literacy and Learning” - Literacy Center Symposium –2008

It is with great excitement that we announce our collaboration with community partner, WOUB, in presenting this year’s Pre-Conference and Symposium: “Technology for Education in Learning and Literacy,” on Thursday, **September 18** and Friday, **September 19**, 2008. WOUB recently received the Ohio Ready to Work (ORTW) grant for southeastern Ohio, a project focused on the unemployed and underemployed in Ohio. Part of WOUB’s ORTW mission is to provide resources to individuals and various training programs. We welcome them and their participants to our event!

Also new to our event is a Pre-Conference scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2008. Free for all participants, the Pre-Conference provides opportunity for significant hands-on training in various software programs. Sessions include:

- Life Skills: Using Microsoft Excel with the Adult Learner to Create a Budget,
- Creating Effective Learning Materials with Microsoft Word,
- Grant Writing and the Internet,

- Cyber-Tour WOUB’s Ohio Ready to Work Workforce Resources.

The Symposium on Friday, September 19, is filled with exciting speakers, fantastic workshops and ample time to network with colleagues. The day begins with three amazing student success stories, followed by a brief presentation by David Barber of Chancellor Fingerhut’s office. Morning workshop sessions include:

- Climbing the Literacy Ladder
- Beginnings: A blend of Student Writing
- PowerPoint to Enhance Literacy,
- ABLEResource Distance Learning with Blackboard.

Funded through the Literacy Center, C/SE ABLEResource, WOUB, OU College of Education, and the Little Kennedy Fund, Dr. Mark D. Milliron is the Keynote speaker at Friday’s Symposium! He is an award-winning leader, author, speaker, and consultant best known for exploring leadership development, future trends, learning strategies and the human side of technology change. A

presentation not to be missed!

Friday’s afternoon sessions are guaranteed to deliver! Topics range from

- Portraying Protagonists in Young Adult Literature
- Using a Scrapbook Website: Digitalizing the Usual Suspects
- Classroom Performance Systems.

Our day concludes with a quick wrap up and giveaway in the vendor area and an OACE-sponsored goodie bag for the ride home.

Over twelve vendors will be present this year in our newly expanded exhibit hall. They love coming to this event to reconnect with old friends and make new ones! Take time to visit the Max Way auction as well – proceeds are awarded to GED graduates.

The Symposium really is action-packed this year! Get in on the fun! Register for both the Pre-Conference and/or Symposium at www.ouliteracycenter.org. Call 740.593.4419 for further information.

Literacy Center Staff— Featured in University Outlook

The Achiever

Brian McCoy wants to do his part for the environment -- one light bulb at a time.

With support from the Office of Sustainability, McCoy had the bright idea to switch out all of the incandescent light bulbs in the College of Education -- where he works in the Literacy Center -- for compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).

"I know how much energy the university uses as an entity," McCoy says. "I am conscious about the use of energy and know that one small step can have an impact."

Indeed, while the Presidents Climate Commitment and Ohio House Bill 251 address sustainability issues on a large scale, the value of everyone doing what they can to reduce their ecological footprint cannot be underestimated, said Sonia Marcus, who leads the university's Office of Sustainability.

"The fact that Ohio University as an institution has signed on to becoming climate neutral has implications for everyone on this campus," Marcus said. "Sure, we are going to need to implement far-reaching infrastructural initiatives in order to reduce the greenhouse gas output of our campus. But that does not mean that each and every member of our campus community will not need to get involved with the effort to make Ohio University a greener place to live, work and play."

For instance, McCoy's mission in the College of Education will help Ohio University reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save more than \$1,500 in electricity costs (\$30 per bulb) over the next 10 years. That's because CFLs use just one quarter of the energy of incandescent

bulbs, and they last up to 10 times longer.

As of June 2008, 1,055 incandescent light bulbs had been replaced with CFLs across the Athens campus. The savings in a decade: \$31,650.

In fact, Ohio University administrators and staff in offices across campus are helping to minimize consumption of natural resources, promote conservation and move toward a sustainable future.

When the new printing quota system at Alden Library was being revamped this year, staff saw an opportunity to meet the needs of clients, save trees and water, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"There has been a lot of interest from students for a long time to offer double-sided printing either, one, to save money or, two, to save paper," said Wanda Weinberg, head of reference and instruction. Under the new system, patrons who choose to print on both sides of the page, or "duplex," pay 5 cents per page while those who print on just one side pay 6 cents per page.

If you're wondering when the other labs on campus will begin offering this option, much will depend on patrons' use of duplex printing at the library this fall. "Students will be the biggest pushers in switching to duplex printing in other labs on campus," said David Dudding, director of library IT.

Meanwhile, Facilities Management is exploring options for going greener in the purchase of office supplies. The department has switched to using 100 percent recycled content paper as a first



Brian McCoy, Administrative Associate at the Literacy Center, holds an energy-efficient bulb.

step toward conserving natural resources and closing the loop on recycled materials.

According to the Responsible Purchasing Network, that move can reduce energy use by 44 percent, greenhouse gas emissions by 37 percent and both solid waste emissions and water use by 50 percent -- not to mention save trees.

There's a lot of potential in this arena. In 2007, Ohio University spent \$239,295 on office paper from its primary supplier, Office Max, according to sales rep Jana Kent. Of that, \$480 went for 100 percent recycled content paper.

While the eco-friendly paper costs \$1 more per ream, that isn't enough to turn off Facilities Management Administrative Assistant Meghan Anderson. "Although there is a price difference, it is not substantial enough to outweigh the payoff for the environment." In fact, Facilities Management has committed to switching over to 100 percent recycled content paper in all of its printers.

If these stories have inspired you to investigate opportunities for greening your office, Brian McCoy would be pleased. He has issued a personal challenge to campus departments to exchange incandescents for CFLs as a first step.

For more information, free CFLs and tips on how to green your office or department, visit www.ohio.edu/sustainability or contact Marcus at marcuss@ohio.edu

PROMOTING RESEARCH & STUDY OF LITERACY & LANGUAGE
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announcements

Ohio | Ohio Skills Bank



“The future of jobs growth in Ohio is investing in our regional strengths, and in making sure we have the most educated, highly skilled workforce possible.”
 Governor Ted Strickland, June 4, 2007.

The Ohio Skills Bank is a partnership between the Ohio Board of Regents and the Ohio Department of Development with the general goal of aligning the State’s colleges, universities, and adult education and training system with its critical economic development activities. Regional implementation is in each of the state’s economic development regions and involves input from employer panels and partnerships among educators from all levels. There are currently several key activities taking place within Ohio Skills Bank.

Career Pathways are series of connected education and training opportunities and services for students and incumbent workers with coherent, articulated sequences of academic and career courses leading to an industry-recognized certificate, license, or degree. Each region is working with stakeholders from educational institutions, workforce development entities, economic development organizations, and employers to develop the Career Pathways for its counties. Every region has begun with Health Care; the other pathways are at regional discretion.

Stackable Certificates are a clear and accessible path for adults seeking to advance their education and are being designed to help adult learners connect pre-college academic work to relevant technical coursework. The Stackable Certificates chart on the next page illustrates the vision of this new system.

A Basic Skills Certificate and an Advanced Skills Certificate are the beginning of the stackable process with ABLE offering the services. Competencies for the Basic and Advanced Skills Certificates have recently been developed for these certificates in mathematics, reading, and writing. During the coming year, ABLE will be working to develop the ESOL competencies and also ensure that the current ABLE content standards are aligned with these competencies.

The College and Work-Ready Skills Certificates will be forthcoming and will address IT foundations, math/English transition skills, and study and critical thinking skills. The services for these certificates will be provided by community colleges and adult education programs.

The goal is to connect the Pre-College Certificates to credit-bearing career-technical coursework as much as possible and provide students with small educational steps with immediate

rewards.

Getting Started for Early Adopters is a pilot program funded by the Ohio Board of Regents to support regionally-based efforts to launch Stackable Certificate initiatives. Each region will receive one of these grants to build partnerships, design programmatic and operational systems, identify and overcome barriers to effective implementation, and develop needed learner support mechanisms. Each pilot will include representatives from ABLE, adult career-technical education programs, two-year colleges, and employers. The deadline for submission of the proposals is September 19, 2008.

The Integration of ABLE and Adult Career Tech from the Ohio Department of Education into the Ohio Board of Regents will formally occur in January, 2009. The complete transitions report, *Creating Opportunities: Connecting Adult Learners with Economic Success*, is available at <http://universitysystem.ohio.gov/adult-ed/index.php>

The Literacy Center at Ohio University is participating in the activities of three of the Ohio Skills Bank regions.

- Region 7 (Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton); Coordinator: Dennis Franks, Pickaway-Ross Career and Technical Center.
- Region 10 (Belmont, Carroll,

Featured Article

Columbiana, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Muskingum, Tuscarawas); Coordinator: Dr. Robin Menschenfreund, Zane

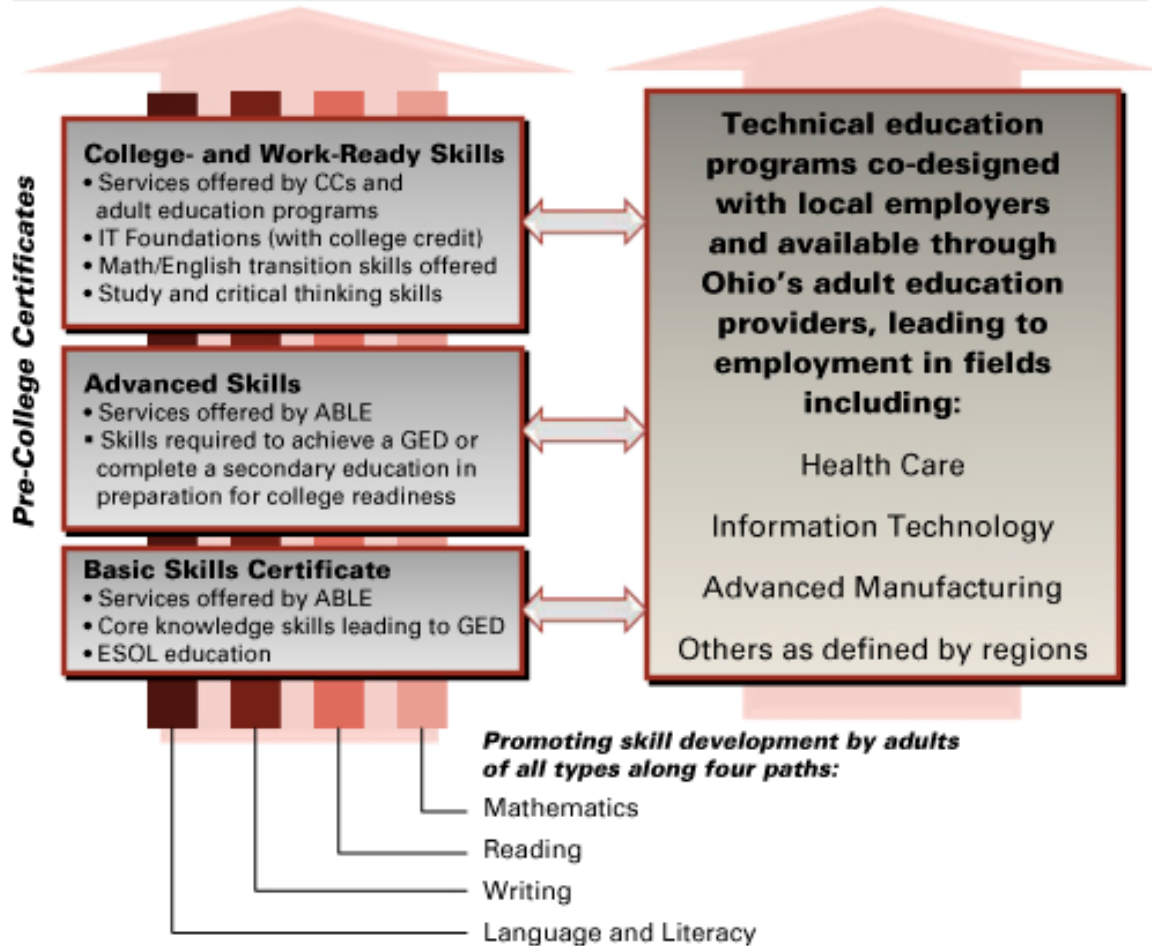
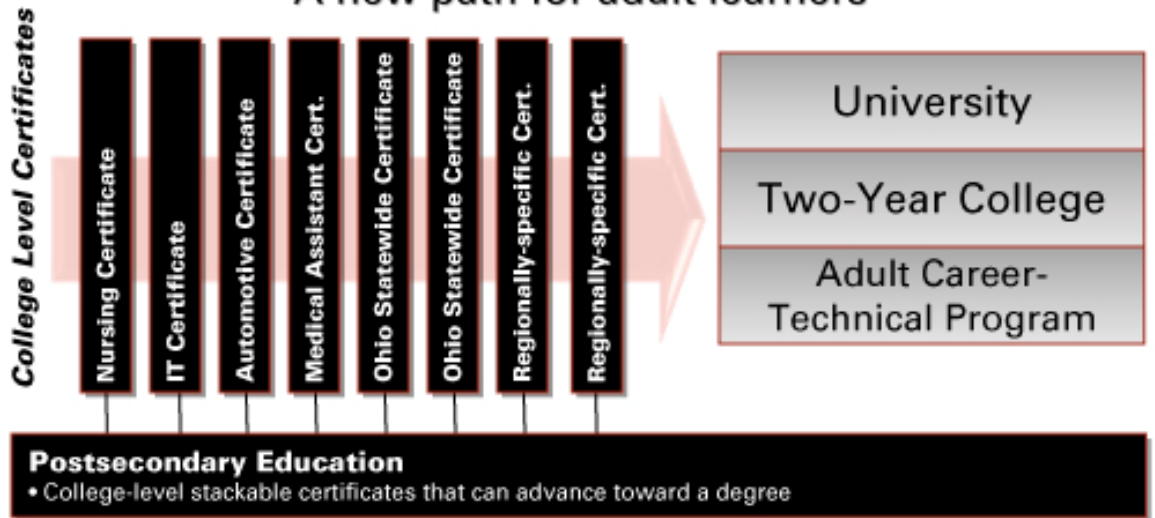
State College.
Region 11 (Athens, Hocking, Noble, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan,

Perry, Washington); Coordinator: Kim McKinley, Tri-County Adult Career Center.



Stackable Certificates

A new path for adult learners



Featured Article



Meet our New Volunteer Coordinator!

Just this past March, the spring weather brought a very special person to the Literacy Center and the Helen M. Robinson Center for Reading. Ailish O'Connor moved to Athens, Ohio from Athens, Georgia, due to her husband's job.

Friends at the Rotary Club told Ailish about the Literacy Center, as they thought it would be a

Her undergraduate degree is from Sweet Briar College in Virginia, in American History and Literature. Ailish went to graduate school at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia and received her Master's in Education.

While living in Athens, Georgia, her ears always perked up when people talked about Athens, Ohio because she loved Athens, Georgia so much.

She enjoys living in a college town. "People are very focused on education," she explains.

Ailish and her husband enjoy hiking and enjoying the abundant outdoor opportunities here

in southeast Ohio.

She has been working with the tutoring center, as coordinator since the beginning of June and has already put in approximately 120 volunteer hours. Her work is critical to the success of the center. She keeps in communication with parents, learners and tutors and also matches learners with tutors.

When talking about the growing number of Athens community and Ohio University staff volunteer tutors, she says, "People here are so generous with their time. They have families, girls scouts, school and are still willing to volunteer their time - even though they have very little of it."

She also is aware of the need for the tutoring center in the community. She says, "It is surprising that in a University town that we have adults as well as children who struggle with literacy skills."

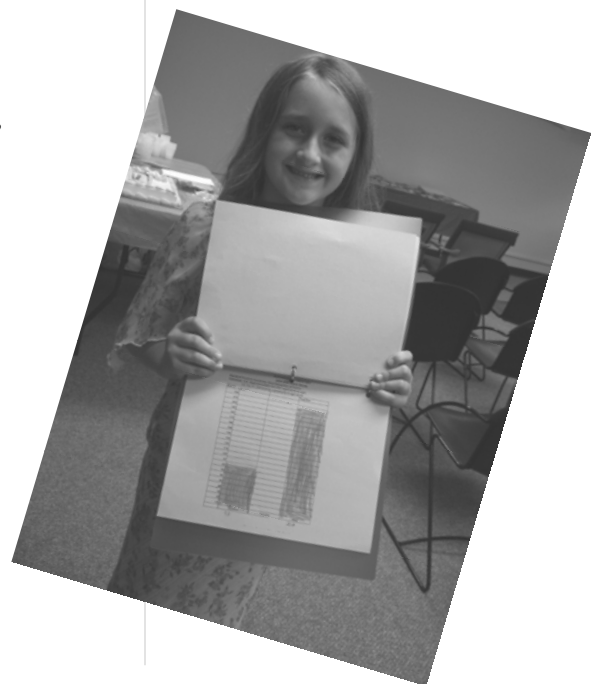
It is the mission of the Literacy Center to improve literacy in southeastern Ohio through outreach and research—so every minute of her valuable time is helping us achieve that mission.

Please say "Hi!" to Ailish if you see her in Room 003 and thank her for making a difference in southeastern Ohio!



good match. They knew she was looking for a way to help out in the community and has a strong desire to help children.

She brings with her a wealth of experience in education and a strong commitment to the residents of her new hometown. When Ailish was in South Carolina, she taught 6,7, 8,th grade History and 6th grade math. When in Atlanta, Georgia, she taught 7 and 8th grade history. As well as High School History. She also coached soccer and cross-country.



Helen M. Robinson Center for Reading—Recognizes Volunteer Tutors and Learners



Helen M. Robinson Center for Reading Volunteer Tutors and learners 2007—2008 at recognition event, June 5th



The Community Tutoring Center provides free, one-on-one tutoring for school aged children who read below grade level, and adults who read below 8th grade level. Volunteers from the Tutoring Center are also assisting in a Health Literacy and GED class through Tri County Mental Health Services.



Volunteers with the Community Tutoring Center complete a workshop, and online training in preparation for their service as a tutor. The most recent workshop was held August

4th and August 7th. The workshop was taught by Mary Barbara Totten; Curriculum and Training Specialist, and attended by volunteers including Gina Beach, Bobbi Conliffe, Karen Dahn, Andrea Gibson, Sydney Schulz, Rachel Terry and Melinda Yaskoff. The volunteers are now eligible to receive tutor certification through ProLiteracy America, so we offer congratulations to these dedicated volunteers!

The Tutoring Center also has a roster of trained and certified volunteers, and returning volunteers including Melanie Barnes, Elaine Dabelko, Tammy Keyes, Joan Kraynanski, Molly Linkenhoker, Katie Schrieber and Rachel Schwartz.

The next tutor training workshop is scheduled for Saturday, September 6th.

Tutor Information Sessions will be held on

September 22 at 12:15 Baker Center Room 233 and again at 5:30 PM in Baker Center Room 235.



| <u>Tutor Volunteer Hours for 2007-2008</u> | |
|---|----|
| Katie Schrieber | 68 |
| Molly Gilmore | 52 |
| Molly Linkenhoker | 42 |
| Allison Rice | 39 |
| Bailee Gant | 45 |
| Melanie Barnes | 24 |

Helen. M. Robinson Center for Reading



College of Education Reading Clinics— Young Learners Needed!

Parents! We are enrolling students now. Reserve a space for your child. Limited space available.

FALL QUARTER:

Book Clubs for Kids

Open to kids of all ages! Join in discussion of children's literature and participate in fun activities to build reading comprehension.

- ◆ Wednesdays
- ◆ September 24—October 29
- ◆ 5:30—6:30pm
- ◆ McCracken Hall—Room 214A
- ◆ Dr. JoAnn Dugan

WINTER QUARTER

Reading Clinic (422)

This is an opportunity for children of all ages to participate in intensive one-on-one tutoring with students working under the supervision of College faculty .

- ◆ Twice weekly
- ◆ January 7—March 22

SPRING QUARTER

Reading Clinic I (423)

- ◆ Twice weekly
- ◆ March 31—June 14

Reading Clinic II (522)

- ◆ Twice weekly
- ◆ March 31—June 14

SUMMER SESSION I

Reading Clinic (523)

There is no charge for these programs.

*Call to register:
1-800-753-1519*



Ohio University Chillicothe Campus Hosts Health Literacy Conference—Oct. 10

The Achiever

In support of Health Literacy, the Ohio University Chillicothe Campus will host a health literacy forum on Thursday, October 10, 2008, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Bennett Hall Auditorium, Chillicothe, Ohio.



According to the American Medical Association, poor health literacy is “a stronger predictor of a person’s health than age, income, employment status, education level, and race” (Report on the Council of Scientific Affairs, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Literacy for the Council on Scientific Affairs, American Medical Association, JAMA, Feb. 10, 1999). The National Center for Education Statistics echoes this sentiment and notes the health of as many as 90 million people in the US may be at risk because of the difficulty some patients experience in understanding and acting upon health information.

All health care information

providers have a responsibility to ensure that the information given to patients is communicated in a way that is understandable and truly accessible. This forum will provide clear communication strategies and information related to health literacy. The October 10th event, “*Health Literacy: Helping Patients Understand*” is geared specifically towards health care professionals, including nurses and students in the healthcare fields. The forum will focus on improving both health literacy awareness and skills for effective communication in overcoming the challenges professionals and patients encounter in local settings.

Guest speakers include

- Sharon Reynolds, Interim Director of the Center for the Study and Development of Literacy and Language, Ohio University;
- Lisa Lopez Snyder, Health Care Editorial Services, Columbia, SC; and
- Ann Rathbun, Ph.D., Morehead State University.

The forum is being sponsored by Ohio University, the American Cancer Society/Ohio University partnership, The Literacy Center and the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine/AHEC.



Continuing professional education credits are being offered.

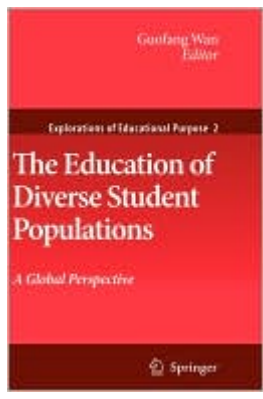
For more information on the forum, please contact Tracy McKibben or Ellen Peterson, Area Health Education Ctr., 740-593-2292.



PROMOTING RESEARCH & STUDY OF LITERACY & LANGUAGE
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Professional Development

Literacy Center Research and Publications



The following describes the latest research efforts by faculty and staff of the literacy center.

Dr. Guofang Wan had a new book, *The Education of Diverse Student Populations: A Global Perspective*, published by Springer come out in July, 2008. The book takes up the challenge of examining the thorniest educational issue from a global perspective. It contributes to the evi-

dence-based conversation among policy makers, educators, and researchers around the world about what works to improve the education outcomes and what can make a bigger difference for the education of diverse students. The eleven countries included — the United Kingdom, Austria, Canada, the United States, South Africa, Ghana, China, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, and New Zealand are unique, and yet overlap in the sense that they all face similar challenges of teaching diverse students.

Guofang also co-edited and published a special issue of *Theory into Practice*, “New Media and Education in the 21st Century.” It features four articles co-authored by College of Education faculty, students and area teachers. This issue promotes dialogue and exploration into the possibilities and challenges that new media pose for teaching and learning in the 21st Century. The journal is pub-

lished by Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group and can be accessed at: <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=g794512410~db=all>

A new project that Guofang engages in and collaborates with College of Education faculty members will address questions like: What can society do to better prepare students for a changing and challenging modern world? How to adapt schools / education systems to better meet the needs of tomorrow’s world? What skills do students need to lead successful lives and become productive citizens in the 21st Century? How can educators create learning environments that are relevant and meaningful for digital natives? How to make school curriculum more rigorous to meet the needs of the 21st Century?

Literacy Center Partners with Tri-County Mental Health and OU—Counseling and Higher Ed. Dept.

The Literacy Center is excited to begin a formal partnership with Tri County Mental Health Services in Athens, Ohio. Volunteer tutors from the Helen M. Robinson Center for Reading will be working with clients to improve their health literacy skills. The 10-week program, entitled, “*Navigating Community Resources*,” will be offered from 5:00—7:00pm on Wednesday evenings starting

on September 17. Topics include goal setting, communicating with healthcare providers, paperwork and community resources.

Dr. Yegan Pillay from the OU Counseling and Higher Education Department and Sharon Reynolds, from the Literacy Center will be looking at the class from a research perspective, asking the question: Does participation in a structured

adult literacy class impact self-esteem in mental health consumers?



Reading + Writing = Math Skills Multiplied

What began as an idea, designing a program to work with teachers which would incorporate literacy into mathematics education, first came to fruition during the summer of 2007, thanks to funding by the Ohio Board of Regents. That first workshop targeted K-3 teachers throughout 29 Ohio Appalachian counties. The goal of the project, titled **Better Mathematics through Literacy**, was to set a foundation for early development of mathematical literacy by creating a balanced K-3 mathematics program incorporating a strong literacy strand. One year later, the project has just completed training for a second cohort of teachers, totaling 91 K-3 teachers who have participated in the workshop .

scheduled throughout the 2008/2009 academic year utilizing video conferencing to connect both the Athens and Cambridge sites.

A final symposium will be held in April 2009 at which point teachers from both sites will come together to present research action projects showcasing how teachers have integrated strategies from the workshop into their curriculum.

The project team, which included faculty members from the Ohio University College of Education and administrative staff from the Literacy Center, were determined to positively influence often negative concepts about teaching math and provide teachers with the

additional training they need to feel confident in presenting math and literacy concepts to their students.

In reflecting on the implementation of the *Better Mathematics through Literacy*

program, the project instructors and leadership team felt the most far-reaching, successful implications of the project stemmed from initiating change to the way early childhood classroom teachers implement the teaching of mathematics. Through engaging activities, the use of mathematics manipulatives, and through the tools of literacy (i.e., reading, writing, speaking,

and communicating), the workshop participants came to view mathematics differently.

Rather than viewing the mathematics curriculum they taught as a series of procedures to be followed and memorized by students, teachers began to present mathematics to students through problem-solving in context, through an exchange of mathematical ideas and conjectures within a classroom community, and through the seemingly separate world of children's literature. Teachers received daily giveaways to enhance their classrooms and help them implement different teaching methods.

Here's what some teachers had to say about the conference and workshops:

"I've been told repeatedly to integrate my language arts with my math lessons, but until you see it in practice, you can't do it."

"The benefit of this workshop helped me to see that mathematics and literacy are seamless. Literacy is involved in all content areas!"

"I think the conference has completely changed the way I think and approach teaching in my classroom. Thank you!"

The Literacy Center, in collaboration with the Ohio University College of Education faculty, will submit a proposal for funding to continue and expand training for K-3 teachers in the summer 2009.



Teachers attended the professional development workshops for a one week period in July 2008. Training sessions were held on the Ohio University Athens Campus and also at the Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center, located in Cambridge, Ohio. Hosting these workshops at two locations made it possible for the project team to reach teachers located outside of Athens County. Follow-up training sessions are



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