



A Publication of the Council for Learning Disabilities December 2015

President's Message



Dear Colleagues and CLD Members,

It's hard to believe after all the months of planning that the 2015 **37th International Conference on Learning Disabilities** has come and gone! I would like to thank all of the people who made the conference a huge success, including people who came to the conference in Las Vegas.

The last count indicated that 335 people were in attendance, which is a record number of participants in recent years. We are thrilled that so many people joined us for two days of panels, round tables, and interactive paper sessions. Also, awards for teachers, leaders, and outstanding researcher of the year were disseminated. We were honored to have **Dr. Lynn Meltzer** as our **J. L. Wiederholt Distinguished Lecture** speaker and, through the work of the Leadership Development Committee, we started another Leadership Academy cohort of future leaders! Of course, there was a great deal of networking happening throughout the conference as well.

I encourage you to submit a proposal for the **38th International Conference on Learning Disabilities**, which will be held in historic San Antonio, Texas, on October 13 and 14, 2016. Go to our website (www.cldinternational.org) for the Call for Proposals. Please note that **submissions are due** via the online proposal submission system by **February 1, 2016**. Keeping the momentum going, please go to our CLD website to learn more about starting a chapter in your state or finding out about current chapters in which you can become involved.

So, what is happening with your CLD Board of Trustees (BoT) now that the conference is over for another year? The presidential "charge" for this year is a *focus on students with severe learning disabilities*. At our fall BoT meeting, work centered on activities that each committee chair will

lead this year and how chairs will work across committees to maximize how we address issues in the field of LD (with a specific focus on students with severe LD) as well as continuously meet the needs of our members. For example, our Communications Committee is busy with social media as a way to connect with members and promote the work of the other committees. Our Research Committee is concentrating on our Infosheets, with a focus on students with severe LD, and gearing up to identify next year's outstanding researcher. The Liaison Committee has been quite busy with legislative alerts, which all of us need to pay attention to considering the issues concerning funding for special education research in Congress. The Liaison Committee co-chairs will also once again be representing CLD at the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities and the National Joint Committee on Learning Disabilities, to name a few. These are just some examples of committee activities.

As I mentioned in the previous, *LD Forum*, **members matter!** A survey of the members was conducted at the

(continued on page 8)

In This Issue ...

President's Message	1
37th International Conference on LD	2
CLD Board of Trustees Elections	5
Call for Nominations: CLD Treasurer	5
CLD News & Notes	5
CLD Call for 2016 Conference Proposals	6
CLD Committees 101	7
Committee & Chapter News	7
2015–2016 CLD Board of Trustees	9

✧ 37th International Conference on Learning Disabilities ✧



Conference Report

On October 1st and 2nd, the Council for Learning Disabilities held its Annual International Conference on Learning Disabilities at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. More than 350 people attended, including our colleagues from the **Council for Exceptional Children's Division for Learning Disabilities (CEC-DLD)**, who held a board meeting to conduct business and shared their expertise as presenters and panelists during conference sessions.

Keynote Address and Conference Sessions Highlights

The conference kicked off before our Thursday morning keynote session with a brief presentation about CLD's history created by **Brian Bryant**. **CLD President Diane Pedrotty Bryant** welcomed attendees and introduced **Lynn Meltzer** as the **8th Annual Recipient of the J. Lee Wiederholt Distinguished Lecturer Award**. Dr. Meltzer, president and director of ResearchILD, delivered the Thursday morning keynote address, "Executive Function and Flexible Thinking: The Foundations of Academic Success and Resilience." She provided an overview of recent research and clinical findings regarding the role of executive function processes in academic performance.

Following the keynote address, conference attendees could choose from a variety of sessions presenting research methods and evidence-based practices for persons with learning disabilities. More sessions were also offered on Friday. A total of **100 interactive paper sessions** were offered Thursday evening at the President's Reception and Friday morning during the continental

Viva Las Vegas!

or

What Happens in Vegas ... **Should Be Widely Shared**

by

Cathy Newman Thomas, *University of Missouri*

breakfast hosted by CLD. The conference contained **40 roundtables and 24 panel sessions**. Among the highlights were the panel session "Executive Function Strategies, Effort, and Academic Performance in Students with Learning and Attention Difficulties," presented by **Lynn Meltzer, Julie Sayer, Ranjini Reddy, and Surina Basho**, and the joint panel session "The Changing Nature of Teacher Preparation: Implications for Teaching Students with LD" led by **Diane Pedrotty Bryant, CLD Vice President Deborah Reed**, and CEC-DLD colleagues **President Laurie deBettencourt** and **Publications Chair Bill Therrien**.



CLD Award Winners

CLD was proud to announce the **CLD Teacher of the Year** award winners: **Norine Green** from the **Colorado CLD Chapter** was selected because of her leadership and extensive professional development in reading and math interventions; **Araminta Sorrell** from the **Texas**

(continued on page 3)

✧ 37th International Conference on Learning Disabilities ✧

CLD Chapter was recognized for her 25-year career serving students at risk for disabilities—including students with LD—and helping them to graduate on time; and **LuAnn Morrow** from the **Virginia CLD Chapter** was honored for her teaching career of 24 years, including in metropolitan settings that serve many families who are transient and at-risk.

Anne Brawand received the **Outstanding Researcher Award** sponsored by CLD's **Research Committee**. Ann completed her doctoral work at George Mason University and is currently on the faculty at Kutztown University, where she prepares future special education teachers. Anne presented on her work, "Proportional Reasoning Word Problem Performance for Middle School Students with High-Incidence Disabilities."

Each year, the Research Committee also awards its **Must Reads**, which acknowledge outstanding work published in CLD's two journals, *Learning Disability Quarterly* and *Intervention in School and Clinic*. Congratulations go to authors **Christian Doabler, Ben Clarke, Hank Fien, Scott Baker, Derek Costy, and Mari Strand Cary** for their design and evaluation work on a Tier 2 math curriculum, and to **Shobana Musti-Rao, Gwendolyn Cartledge, Jessica Bennett, and Morris Council** for their work on technology-based literacy instruction for culturally and linguistically diverse students. The following 2015 publications by these authors were the Must Reads:

Doabler, C. T., Clarke, B., Fien, H., Baker, S. K., Kosty, D. B., & Cary, M. S. (2015). The science behind curriculum development and evaluation: Taking a design science approach in the production of a Tier 2 mathematics curriculum. *Learning Disability Quarterly*, 38, 97–111.

Musti-Rao, S., Cartledge, G., Bennett, J. G., & Council, M. (2015). Literacy instruction using technology with primary-age culturally and linguistically diverse learners. *Intervention in School and Clinic*, 50, 195–202.

The **Floyd G. Hudson Award** was presented to **Margarita Bianco**, a member of the **Colorado CLD Chapter** and an associate professor and coordinator of the Special Education Program, School of Education and Human Development, at the University of Colorado Denver. The recipient of many awards and author of numer-

ous publications, she is the developer of the Pathways 2Teaching program, a pre-collegiate program designed to encourage students of color to become teachers.

Leadership Academy Fifth Cohort

The Leadership Development Committee inducted six new members into the fifth cohort of CLD's Leadership Academy: **Lara-Jeane Costa, Laura Isbell, Benekia Kressler, Katie Miller, Belinda Mitchell, and Stephanie Morano**. The Academy provides opportunities for early career faculty to be mentored by senior CLD members, promoting opportunities for networking, collaboration, and service to the organization through the creation of professional development opportunities for all CLD members.



Thank You!

CLD wishes to offer our appreciation to **Program Chair Mary Beth Calhoon** for her leadership and dedicated service to CLD. Planning a conference is a substantial undertaking, and CLD gives its sincere thanks to **Conference Committee Co-Chairs Judy Voress and Nancy Nelson**. Without their generous service, our annual conferences would not be possible. CLD also wishes to recognize the efforts of the **Conference Committee members: Heather Haynes Smith, Maria Ahmad Peterson, Tricia Strickland, Lisa Goran, and Cathy Newman Thomas**. CLD wishes to recognize the exceptional service of members of the **Local Arrangements Committee** for its big Las Vegas welcome to all

(continued on page 4)

✧ 37th International Conference on Learning Disabilities ✧

of our participants. **Kyle Higgins** and **Joseph Morgan** from the *University of Nevada Las Vegas*, served as **Local Arrangements Committee co-chairs**. We thank all **Local Arrangements Committee members** for their hard work in making the conference run smoothly: **Bertina Combes**, *University of North Texas*; **Vita Jones**, *California State University Fullerton*; **Regina Brandon**, *San Diego State University*; **Yun-Ju Hsiao**, *Washington State University Tri-Cities*; and **Robbie Marsh**, **Dominique Tetzlaff**, **Kathy Ewoldt**, and **Nancy Brown**, *University of Nevada Las Vegas*.

Finally, CLD thanks the **Tropicana Hotel** and the **City of Las Vegas** for a rollicking good time! While CLD business was clearly accomplished, many members and conference attendees brought family members along and were seen working (and playing) by the pool and at local restaurants and shops, along with reports of taking advantage of fabulous shows and all that Las Vegas has to offer.

CLD is looking forward to seeing everyone again in **San Antonio, Texas**, for the **38th annual Conference on Learning Disabilities**, **October 13 and 14, 2016**.



Thank You to the Sponsors

CLD would like to express our sincere gratitude to the 2015 conference sponsors:

UNLV College of Education

UNLV Department of Educational & Clinical Studies

Las Vegas Charter School-Academia

University of Nevada, Reno

College of Southern Nevada

Nevada State College

Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Donald D. Hammill Foundation

PRO-ED

Texas CLD Chapter

The University of Texas at Austin

Truman State University

WPS Publishing

Your support is much appreciated, and allows us to continue to further the work of research and advocacy for students with learning disabilities.

For information on sponsorship opportunities for the 2016 CLD Conference in San Antonio, please contact:

Maria Peterson (mbpeter3@gmail.com)

or

Lisa Goran (lgoran@truman.edu)



CLD Mission & Vision

Mission Statement: The Council for Learning Disabilities (CLD), an international organization composed of professionals who represent diverse disciplines, is committed to enhancing the education and quality of life for individuals with learning disabilities across the life span. CLD accomplishes this by promoting and disseminating evidence-based research and practices related to the education of individuals with learning disabilities. In addition, CLD fosters (a) collaboration among professionals; (b) development of leaders in the field; and (c) advocacy for policies that support individuals with learning disabilities at local, state, and national levels.

Vision Statement: All individuals with learning disabilities are empowered to achieve their potential.

CLD Board of Trustees Executive Committee Elections 2016

The Council for Learning Disabilities election season is upon us! Currently we have one candidate, Dr. Sheri Berkley, running for the position of Vice President, which begins the person's three-year tenure in the presidential chain (Vice President, President, Past President). Dr. Berkley's biography is below. The Executive Committee is also seeking nominations for the position of Treasurer (see the Call for Nominations below). Elections will take place this spring.

Sheri Berkley, PhD, is an associate professor in the Division of Special Education and disAbility Research at George Mason University. She currently serves as co-chair of CLD's Leadership Development Committee and is a member of the editorial board for *Learning Disability Quarterly*. She earned her PhD from George Mason University, where she was honored with the Outstanding Achievement and Academic Excellence for PhD in Education Award for her dissertation

study that investigated reading comprehension outcomes for secondary students with learning disabilities. She was an assistant professor at The University of Georgia before returning to George Mason in 2009. Dr. Berkeley has more than 20 peer-reviewed publications; is the lead author of the 2014 textbook for beginning teachers, *Maximizing Effectiveness of Reading Comprehension Instruction in Diverse Classrooms*; and is a recipient of this year's Mason's Emerging Researcher, Scholar, Creator Award. She is currently the principle investigator on an interdisciplinary grant awarded by the National Science Foundation to investigate self-regulation of learning by students with learning disabilities in science and a supplemental Research Experiences for Undergraduates grant to foster undergraduate student interest in research careers. Dr. Berkeley believes in the important work of CLD and is interested in continuing to contribute to the organization as vice president.

Call for Nominations: CLD Treasurer

The Executive Committee (EC) of the Board of Trustees (BOT) is seeking nominations for one CLD officer: the Treasurer. The CLD Treasurer serves a 3-year term. He or she serves as the custodian of all organizational funds and is to maintain a detailed account of all receipts and expenditures, which are presented at the Annual Business Meeting held at the annual conference and at all BoT and EC meetings. The Treasurer assists the President-Elect in the preparation of the annual budget and recommends fiscal policies to the BoT for approval.

Nominations will be accepted via email to Dr. Steve Chamberlain (steve.chamberlain@utrgv.edu). To stand for elections, nominees must consent to the nomination and submit at least five signatures from current members of CLD. Nominations must also be accompanied by a biographical sketch that includes evidence of the candidate's qualifications. **Nominations must be received by January 10, 2016.**

CLD NEWS & NOTES ...

- ➡ The **Call for Proposals for CLD 2016** in San Antonio is available. See page 6 of this newsletter and this website (<http://goo.gl/Co8fdK>) for additional information. Proposals are due **February 1, 2016**.
- ➡ **Not currently a member of CLD?** Join us at cldinternational.org! **Want to be on the BoT? Consider running for Treasurer!** Nominations can be sent to **Steve Chamberlain** (steve.chamberlain@utrgv.edu).
- ➡ **LD Forum** is currently seeking manuscript submissions, including submissions for two new columns: "Point/Counterpoint" and "Issues and Trends in Learning Disabilities." For manuscript submission

guidelines, visit this webpage (<http://goo.gl/PcgWUI>). We are also **seeking individuals to serve on our review board**. Contact **LD Forum** Editor **Joseph Morgan** (ldforum@unlv.nevada.edu) for more information.

- ➡ Read the **OSEP policy guidance letter** that clarifies the use of the terms *dyslexia*, *dyscalculia*, and *dysgraphia* by state and local education agencies (<http://goo.gl/6B603G>).
- ➡ Check out the **latest issues of *Learning Disabilities Quarterly* and *Intervention in School and Clinic***! Also, consider submitting your work for publication in our flagship journals!

CLD CALL FOR 2016 CONFERENCE PROPOSALS



38th International Conference on Learning Disabilities

OCTOBER 13-14, 2016

HOTEL PALACIO DEL RIO, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION OPENED: **November 1, 2015**

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE: **February 1, 2016**

<http://www.council-for-learning-disabilities.org/cld-2016-san-antonio-proposal-submission>

The Council for Learning Disabilities' 38th International Conference on Learning Disabilities will focus on the education of persons with learning disabilities (LD) from birth through adulthood. We encourage proposals that:

- ☀ address the **construct** of LD (including assessment for eligibility and classification);
- ☀ describe **original research** on LD (including evidence-based research on intervention and assessment practices for students with LD);
- ☀ translate evidence-based research into **practitioner-oriented** practical strategies;
- ☀ examine the education of students with LD from **diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds**;
- ☀ pertain to **policy** at the local, state, and federal levels;
- ☀ address topics **relevant to higher education** (including teacher preparation, mentorship of junior faculty and graduate students, and research methodology);
- ☀ originate from **other disciplines** that focus on LD (including neuropsychology and related services).

MISSION STATEMENT

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TYPES OF EVIDENCE-BASED SESSIONS

Panel Sessions

Roundtable Session

Interactive Paper Session

TOPICS

Classification/Assessment for Eligibility

Research/Intervention Practices

Instructional Assessment and Progress Monitoring Practices

Higher Education and Research

Teacher Preparation

Legal, Policy, and Political Action

CLD Committees 101: Understanding Service Opportunities

Welcome back to CLD Committees 101, a column designed to give members of CLD more information about the work of CLD committees, their objectives, and their plans for the future. This month, the column will focus on the work of the **Diversity Committee**, chaired by **Dr. Jugnu Agrawal**. Dr. Agrawal was asked a series of questions that focus on how to provide you, our members, more opportunities for engagement with CLD. Read her answers below, and we hope that you will consider engaging with the Diversity Committee in the future!

LDF: What is the goal or objective of your committee?

JA: The Diversity Committee is committed to facilitating and promoting the integration of diversity into all aspects of CLD's mission and endeavors. We want to develop and disseminate high-quality diversity-related research and collaborate with other organizations regarding issues related to diversity of individuals with learning disabilities.

LDF: What types of work or activities does your committee do?

JA: Members of the Diversity Committee collaborate and present at the annual convention on issues related to assessment and evidence-based practices in reading, math, and content areas. The committee has conducted webinars on preparing culturally responsive teachers and the intersectionality of race, socioeconomic status, and disability in urban school settings. The committee also works with the state chapters to increase diversity of membership and encourage graduate students to present at the state conferences. We also work with diverse members to take leadership roles within the organization.

LDF: Do you have any news or updates on the work of your committee that you would like to share with members of CLD?

JA: We hope you were able to join us in Las Vegas at the annual CLD convention for two exciting presentations: "Culturally Responsive Practices of Special Education and Other Related Services Personnel" and "Preparing Culturally Responsive Teachers." These sessions have become a regular event at the CLD conference, and we hope that you will continue to engage with us in these conversations about the consideration of diversity in our organization and in the research we do relative to individuals with learning disabilities.

LDF: How does your committee connect with the mission and vision of CLD?

JA: The Diversity Committee works closely with the Professional Development, Membership, and Leadership committees to provide professional development related to the issues of diversity for individuals with learning disabilities, increase diversity among the members, and provide mentorship to the members of the leadership cohort or graduate students.

LDF: What drew you, personally, to serving as a committee chair with CLD?

JA: When I joined the Diversity Committee about six years ago, I was a student in the doctoral program. I was welcomed into the organization, and I have not missed a single conference since then. The Diversity Committee was of personal interest to me because I am from a different country. It provided me with the opportunity to work and present with some of the top-notch researchers in the field of learning disabilities. I have made some lifelong friends, and we collaborate on research projects and present internationally.

Committee & Chapter News

Liaison Committee: 40th Anniversary of IDEA

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is preparing to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. In 1975, Congress passed the Education for All Handicapped Children's Act, which guaranteed a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment for all children with disabilities in each state. Over the past 40 years, amendments and re-

authorizations have been made to this original act (reflected in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, 2004), and OSEP has built and implemented supports and services for students with disabilities. OSEP continues to work for inclusion, equity, and opportunity for all children and youth. For additional information and updates on the 40th anniversary celebration, see the website (<https://googl/016tmZ>).

(continued on page 8)

Colorado Chapter News

The Colorado Chapter of the Council for Learning Disabilities is actively focusing on raising the presence of our Facebook account (follow us there). In addition to information about the benefits of membership, we also post links to quality conferences and special interest articles for our members. We are also preparing for our board members' holiday dinner: We meet at a local restaurant and bring a gift for students at the Florence Crittenton School in Denver. These students are often teenage mothers with few resources who are trying hard to balance motherhood and schooling. CCLD board members donate new baby outfits along with other necessities for raising a little one. Finally, we are preparing for our Math on the "Planes" conference, to be held Feb. 26 and 27 of 2016. Our speaker, **Dr. Eden M. Badertscher**, will focus on *Creating a Classroom Environment That Supports Students Who Struggle with Learning Mathematics*.

Texas Student Chapter News

The student chapter of CLD (SCLD) of Texas A&M University–San Antonio was proud to help support **President Elizabeth Tambunga** and **Vice President Rebecca Pruski** in their trip so they could present at the October CLD conference in Las Vegas. Both of these outstanding undergraduates are the future of CLD and represent us well. **Maria B. Peterson**, TCLD president, accompanied them to the conference. Way to go team!



Elizabeth Tambunga



Rebecca Pruski

(President's Message continued from page 1)

2015 conference to help the Membership Committee and BoT consider ways to increase service for our members. The Diversity Committee is reaching out to international participants who attended the 2015 conference to engage them more readily in the organization. People from Canada, New Zealand, Germany, and Korea participated in the conference; we welcome them to the organization!

Do you want to get involved? There are several ways to do this. In this issue of *LD Forum*, you can find information about the upcoming election for new officers. Please note that a Call for Nominations is included for the Treasurer's position. Another way to get involved is to contact the Membership Committee about your interest in joining a committee for 2016. We are always seeking people who want to help grow the organization and actively participate on a committee. Finally, join us in San Antonio for the 2016 conference.

There are many other topics to discuss in future issues of *LD Forum*. Please stay involved, help us build membership, submit a proposal to present at the 2016 conference, and take advantage of the content in *Learning Disability Quarterly*, *Intervention in School and Clinic*, the Infosheets, and of course *LD Forum*. You can be assured that your BoT is focusing on CLD's mission and goals as we work toward the vision of "All individuals with learning disabilities are empowered to achieve their potential." Wishing you a joyous holiday season.

Sincerely,

Diane Pedrotty Bryant
2015–2016 CLD President

2015–2016 CLD Board of Trustees

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