A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Judith Wiener

In January I had an exciting moment when I opened my mail and found the first issue of the International Journal for Research in Learning Disabilities. When William Cruickshank started the academy, part of his vision included having a high level journal. We are now taking a giant step toward achieving this vision. Congratulations to David Scanlon (Editor) for getting us off the ground and producing an issue that has some very interesting and varied articles.

I am also excited about the upcoming conference in Boston (U.S.A.) – June 27th to 29th. Lynn Meltzer and the Program Committee have reviewed the submissions and have assured me that they will have a stimulating program. Click on the current conference link of www.iarld.com to find out more information, register, and book accommodations. Dr. Rosemary Tannock, Senior Scientist in the Neurosciences and Mental Health Research Program at the Hospital for Sick Children, a Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto, and Canada Research Chair in Special Education and Adaptive Technology at OISE/University of Toronto will deliver the Cruickshank lecture. Dr. Tannock will present a historical overview of the conceptualizations and definitions of Learning Disabilities, including that of Dr. Cruickshank’s, whose perspective emphasized dimensional traits rather than categories. She will highlight the scientific evidence leading to the reconceptualization, definition, and diagnostic criteria for LD in the DSM-V.

One of the changes proposed by DSM-V that is consistent with scientific evidence is to conceptualize Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder as a neurodevelopmental disorder. Learning disorders and autism spectrum disorder are also classified as neurodevelopmental disorders. The IARLD conference typically ends with a “think tank” where we discuss issues involving the Academy. One of the issues I would like to place on the agenda is a discussion of the limits of what we define as learning disabilities and whether that extends to other neurodevelopmental disorders. I would welcome the opinions of our members in that regard.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Boston in June.

Judith Wiener
COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Fellows Report: Asha Jitendra, Chair**

The Fellows’ Committee is comprised of Asha K. Jitendra (Rodney Wallace Professor for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, University of Minnesota), Lee Swanson (University of California), and C. K. Leong (University of Saskatchewan). From November 2012 to March 2013 we accepted two nominations: Christopher Murray and Bonnie Doren.

**Members Report: Janette Klingner, Chair**

The Members’ Committee is comprised of Janette Klingner (Chairperson), University of Colorado at Boulder, U.S.A.; Cesare Cornoldi, University of Padua, Italy; Linda Siegel, University of British Columbia, Canada; and Lidija Magajna, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The committee has accepted three new members since November of 2012: Shelley Shaul, Edmond J. Safra Brain Research Center for the Study of Learning Disabilities, Haifa (nominated by Tami Katzir); Devin M. Kearns, Boston University, USA (nominated by Doug Fuchs), and Monika Łodej, Holy Cross University, Poland (nominated by Leonore Ganschow).

**Student Member Report: Henry Reiff, Chair**

For the second issue in a row of the IARLD Newsletter, I am disappointed to report that we have not received any applications for student membership. As much as IARLD is a highly esteemed organization, I think it is fair to say that most graduate students do not have a particular awareness of the Academy. It is incumbent on our members and fellows to publicize IARLD, especially to doctoral candidates. As I have mentioned before, student members are the foundation for the sustainability of IARLD. Current members and fellows will not be around forever. We need to recruit the next generation of IARLD, our student members.

**Treasurer’s Report: Margaret Pierce**

Please visit our website at [www.IARLD.com](http://www.IARLD.com). Membership fees can be paid on the **Membership Dues** page via PayPal, or checks payable to the **IARLD** can be mailed to:

Dr. Margaret Pierce  
Education Department  
320 Washington Street  
Stonehill College  
Easton, MA 02357 USA

The annual dues structure is:  
Fellows/Members: $90  
Student Members: $30  
Emeritus.Retired: $15

Membership billing for 2012/2013 took place in September 2012. Prompt payment, either by check or PayPal, is appreciated. Last year, the academy collected more than $9,700 in membership fees. This year, so far, we have collected $1,455. Thank you for your diligence in remitting your payments.

As of March 2013, the balance in the checking account is $16,468.26. There are also three Certificates of Deposit with balances totaling $37,452.35.

VISIT THE IARLD WEBSITE

[WWW.IARLD.com](http://WWW.IARLD.com)
**GOALS WITHIN THE IARLD**

To increase the *visibility, impact, and sphere of influence* of the Academy by:

1) Increasing our membership through ongoing membership drive initiatives.
2) Encouraging *IARLD* Fellows and Members to list the *IARLD* as an additional affiliation on all publications in journals, books, and newspapers.
3) Encouraging *IARLD* Fellows and Members to list the *IARLD* as an additional affiliation on all conference presentations.

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**The advantages of joining IARLD for students:**

- You are joining a prestigious group of international scholars in the field.
- You will receive several publications and an insider's view of the research in the field.
- You will find the *IARLD* conferences highly stimulating and rewarding.
- You will undoubtedly develop some wonderful professional and personal relationships.
- You will put yourself in an advantageous position to join later as a full member and possibly as a fellow.
- It looks great on your resume!

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**News about our IARLD Journal - “IJRLD”**

IARLD members around the globe recently received the inaugural issue of *The International Journal for Research in Learning Disabilities*. Congratulations to the many authors and consulting editors who contributed to launching the journal. The first issue truly lives up to the journal's mission to "communicate the knowledge and perspective of members of the IARLD to individuals and institutions around the world." Please submit your own work for consideration for future issues, and encourage your colleagues to do the same. The IJRLD is our membership journal, so, also, please remember to keep your membership active to support production of the journal and ensure you continue to receive issues in the future!

*David Scanlon* (Boston, USA)
Editor of the IJRLD
Firth, Nola: IARLD Member, Education Consultant, Honorary Research Fellow, Centre for Adolescent Health, Royal Children Hospital; Murdoch Children’s Research Institute; The University of Melbourne, Australia, is pleased to announce her new publication:


Ghesquière, Pol: Dr. Ghesquière, IARLD Fellow and Professor at the University of Leuven, Belgium, proudly announces that he had 5 doctoral defences under his supervision:


In addition, recently Dr. Ghesquière has published a number of papers in the field of learning disabilities in the international journals:


Karande, Sunil: IARLD Fellow, Professor of Pediatrics & In-Charge Learning Disability Clinic, Department of Pediatrics, Seth G.S. Medical College & K.E.M. Hospital, Dr. Karande and his colleagues organized:

Two-day "Forum for Learning Disabilities - 2013" at the Citi Academy of Special Education, Mumbai (March, 1 & 2, 2013). About 125 regular classroom teachers / counselors / parents from different schools in the city and nearby towns were trained on the characteristics of learning disability, how to screen it using their validated check-list and the procedures for LD assessment and management. This training program was conducted with the aim of increasing awareness about learning disability, facilitate its early diagnosis, and optimize the rehabilitation.

Dr. Karande has recently published one Leading and two Original Articles:


Finally, Dr. Karande was:

- Scientific Committee Member of the “11th National Conference of Growth, Development and Behavioral Pediatrics Chapter of Indian Academy of Pediatrics: GDBPCON- 2012”, jointly organized by IAP (Ahmednagar) and IMA (Ahmednagar), December 1 and 2, 2012.
- Moderator (Faculty) for panel discussion on “How to Approach a Case of Developmental Delay”, at the “50th Annual National Conference of Indian Academy of Pediatrics-PEDICON 2013”, held at Science City, Kolkata; organized by West Bengal
Klingner, Janette: IARLD Fellow and Professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder, would like to announce her recent publications:


van Daal, Victor: IARLD Member, Professor of Special Education at the National Centre for Reading Education and Reading Research, University of Stavanger, Norway has moved and changed his position. Dr. van Daal is now Professor in Education at Edge Hill University, Lancashire, United Kingdom.

West, Thomas: IARLD member and the author of Thinking Like Einstein and In the Mind’s Eye, Thomas G. West is currently working on his third book. The book focuses on high level creativity, new computer information visualization technologies, and role of brain diversity (including dyslexia, Asperger syndrome and other alternative modes of learning and thinking).

More recently, Mr. West was invited to speak at a Harvard-MIT conference, Learning and the Brain, “Preparing 21st Century Minds: Using Brain Research to Enhance Cognitive Skills for the Future.” Other recent invited lectures or keynotes include: Magdalen College of The University of Oxford in England, The University of California at Berkeley, The University of Malta, The University of Trieste in Italy, The Arts Dyslexia Trust at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London, the 2012 annual conference of the International Dyslexia Association in Baltimore, Maryland, and two keynotes along with two workshops at a conference for regional educators in Dubai-UAE.

Early in 2013, West gave a talk on creative thinking, computer graphic visualization and dyslexia at Pixar Animation Studios in Emeryville, California, and presented a Director's Colloquium on the same topic for scientists and staff of NASA Ames Research Center (at Moffett Field in California’s Silicon Valley).

Wheldall, Kevin: IARLD Fellow, Emeritus Professor, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia
Professor Kevin Wheldall continues in his role as Director of the MultiLit Research Unit (MRU) and Chairman of MultiLit Pty Ltd. PreLit, an early literacy preparation program, was released by MultiLit last year. Dr. Wheldall continues to jointly edit the Australian Journal of Learning Difficulties and is keen to receive submissions on any aspect of LD from IARLD members and fellows.

His recent publications:


Instructional materials:

Conference papers:

Wiener, Judith: IARLD Fellow and President, Dr. Wiener has recently published a literature review that might be of interest to many members of the IARLD. The reference is:


This chapter, which takes a risk and resilience perspective, provides a review of key research on social and emotional functioning of children and adolescents with learning disabilities including self-perceptions, peer relationships, parenting and family relationships, and emotional and behavioral difficulties. The role of co-occurring disorders such as ADHD, anxiety and depression, and contextual factors such as special education support and teacher attitudes is addressed. The chapter also provides a review of interventions in the affective and social domain. The conclusion specifically identifies directions for future research.

Dr. Wiener has also published the following papers in the past year:


INTRODUCING NEW IARLD FELLOWS AND MEMBERS

It is a pleasure to introduce to our membership new Fellow, Dr. Bonnie Doren, and new Members: Dr. Shelley Shaul, Dr. Devin M. Kearns, Dr. Su-Jan Lin, and Dr. Monika Łodej. In the brief interviews below, we ask them to tell us about themselves.

IARLD Fellow – Doren, Bonnie

Affiliation: Assistant Professor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education

What are your current research interests?

My research interests are varied, but substantively center on issues of improving the school and post-school experiences and outcomes of adolescents and young adults with disabilities focusing on those with high incidence disabilities. My scholarship activities represent two broad areas of inquiry: a) exploration of individual factors, family factors, and transition-related instruction, experiences, and services that are associated with positive school and post-school outcomes of adolescents and young adults with disabilities, and b) development and evaluation of instructional practices and strategies to promote self-advocacy, self-determination, and career preparation of students with high incidence disabilities. A strand that connects each of these areas is a focus on further understanding and meeting the unique needs of youth with disabilities who are vulnerable to poorer outcomes including girls and young women with disabilities and those students with disabilities from poverty-backgrounds.

How did you hear about the IARLD? What made you decide to join?

I heard about IARLD through a colleague of mine, Dr. Chris Murray, as we were working on a manuscript that focused on predictors of dropout of students with learning disabilities using a national representative dataset.

Would you tell us something about your professional background and what you are doing now?

I received a doctorate in Cognitive Psychology at Temple University, after which I took a research position in the area of secondary special education and transition at the University of Oregon. Between 1996 and 2012 I was a Principal Investigator/Co-Principal Investigator on 15
research, demonstration, and outreach grants. These grant-funded projects were obtained through federal agencies. In addition, several of these projects have been collaborative efforts with state and local agencies, garnering additional direct funding of these research, demonstration, and outreach activities. In the Fall of 2012, I accepted a tenure-track position in the special education area at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I am currently directing an IES grant focusing on a secondary analysis of a national database in collaboration with the University of Oregon and Oregon Research Institute, teaching pre-service teachers on methods in secondary special education and transition, and initiating a new project that will focus on enhancing the social and emotional relationships between students, teachers, and parents in middle schools.

What are your personal hobbies or special interests?

My personal hobbies and interests include snowboarding, commuter biking, trying new restaurants, getting email alerts on online first articles in a variety of journals, and reading corollary research to inform my research agenda.

What are your current research interests?

I study reading disability, with a particular interest in how children read polysyllabic words. I hope to understand the cognitive processes involved in reading these words as a precursor to intervention development.

How did you hear about the IARLD? What made you decide to join?

Doug Fuchs told me about it. I decided to join because it seemed like an interesting and important way to communicate with other LD researchers.

Would you tell us something about your professional background and what you are doing now?

I taught 3rd grade in general education for 5 years, was a literacy coach for 2 years, and worked as a reading specialist for 2 years, all in the Los Angeles area. I completed my graduate work at Vanderbilt University in Nashville and started at Boston University in 2010.

What are your personal hobbies or special interests?

IARLD Member – Kearns, Devin

Affiliation: Assistant Professor, Boston University
I enjoy camping, traveling, and telling stories.

IARLD Member – Lin, Su-Jan

Affiliation: Professor and the Director of the Special Education Center of the National Kaohsiung Normal University (NKNU); Special Education Department, NKNU, TAIWAN

What are your current research interests?

My current research is about the curriculum adaptation of science to the students with special education needs at the elementary school level. I am also doing research about support needs in reading and writing for the LD students at the college level in Taiwan.

How did you hear about the IARLD? What made you decide to join?

I knew about IARLD from my colleague Li-Yu Hung who is the member of it. I participated in the IARLD 35th annual conference in New Zealand, which was my first experience with the IARLD. I really liked this small community of researchers, who are all involved in the study of people with learning disabilities. Later, I also attended the 36th conference in Taiwan and the 37th conference in Italy. I like this academy group very much.

Would you tell us something about your professional background and what you are doing now?

I was a middle school general education teacher, and also taught for seven years a self-contained class of students with LD and MR. After teaching for many years, I entered the graduate program at the University of Oregon, USA, to receive my doctorate degree. The focus of my graduate training was on learning disabilities. I returned to Taiwan in 1995 and took a position of a professor of special education and teacher training in the special education department, where I’ve been working since then. My teaching courses are related to the education of LD students from the theoretical introduction to practice. I am also involved in grant research examining the language learning of students with LD. As the director of special education center for nine years, I am also in charge of the in-service teacher training for the general education and special education in the South areas of Taiwan.

What are your personal hobbies or special interests?

My personal hobbies are reading novels, listening to classical music, and art. My special interests are water color painting and traveling.
**IARLD Member – Łodej, Monika**

**Affiliation:** Assistant Professor of Linguistics  
English Department, Holy Cross University in Kielce, Poland;

Nominated by Professor Leonore Ganschow  
(February 2013)

*What are your current research interests?*

My current research interests center on dyslexia in EFL learning and teaching, and transfer of reading skills and deficits in dyslexic and non-dyslexic learners of transparent L1 and opaque L2.

*How did you hear about the IARLD? What made you decide to join?*

I learned about the IARLD from my research mentor, Professor Leonore Ganschow, who is a former member of the Academy. I decided to join the IARLD to network with leading researchers in the field of learning disabilities. I hope to become better informed about recent studies in the field, as well as to share my research on reading deficits in EFL. I look forward to IARLD conferences and feedback on my own research projects.

*Would you tell us something about your professional background and what you are doing now?*

I graduated from the Institute of English Studies, University of Warsaw, where I earned my PhD in linguistics. I obtained additional professional training from the Institute of Applied Language Studies, University of Edinburgh, Scotland where I took a Trainer Development Course. Also, I am a certified therapist in diagnosis and remedial treatment of students with dyslexia. I was granted a diploma in therapy in dyslexia by the Polish Dyslexia Association. I teach courses on Methodology of TELF and Teaching English to SEN students. I am involved in the European mobility programme for higher education (Erasmus Lifelong Learning Programme) where I serve as a university coordinator. In the Erasmus program I cooperate with the Institutes of Education at the Universities of London, Cordoba, Malta and Bruges. At present, I am involved in a project of adjusting EFL test books to the needs of dyslexic students.

*What are your personal hobbies or special interests?*

My al fresco hobbies include photography, travelling and Nordic walking in the nearby forest of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains. My indoor interests are centered around intuitive and spontaneous cooking. I consider myself a master of one-time, unrepeatable recipes. This effectively helps me to pursue my full time job of a mother of two teenagers and a wife of a historical linguist.
IARLD Member – Shaul, Shelley

Affiliation: Lecturer at the department of learning disabilities and a researcher at the Edmond J. Safra Brain Research Center for the Study of Learning Disabilities, at the University of Haifa, Israel.

How did you hear about the IARLD? What made you decide to join?

I joined the IARLD because it was recommended to me by my colleagues (Tami Katzir, Michal Shani and Zvia Breznitz), who had attended several IARLD conferences and enjoyed them very much. I thought that it was the right organization for me to learn from and contribute to.

Would you tell us something about your professional background and what you are doing now?

My first degree was in psychology and my second one was in education, with the specialization on learning disabilities. I received my PhD in learning disabilities under the supervision of Professor Zvia Breznitz at the University of Haifa, together with the Brain Research Center. I did my post doctoral studies at the Bar Ilan University in Israel, at the Gonda Brain Research Center. After my Post Doc I returned back to the Haifa University to accept the position at the learning disabilities department.

What are your personal hobbies or special interests?

I am currently involved in a large longitudinal project, which follows children from kindergarten to first grade. The project aims at examining the connections between different cognitive skills and early numeracy and literacy skills in kindergarten, and which will try to predict the reading and math skills in the first grade.
The International Academy for Research in Learning Disabilities invites you to attend our

37th Annual IARLD Conference
June 27-29th, 2013
Doubletree Guest Suites
Boston, Massachusetts

Conference Chair: Lynn Meltzer, Ph.D.
President and Director of Research, ResearchILD
Fellow and Past President of IARLD
Adjunct Associate Professor, Tufts University
Associate in Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education.

William Cruickshank Memorial Lecture:
Rosemary Tannock, Ph.D.
“Learning Disabilities in DSM-5: For better or for worse?”

Early Registration Ends April 15th!
For more information, or to register online: www.iarld.com

For questions contact:
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Conference Chair

Michael Greschler, M.Ed., or
Katelyn Kurkul, Ph.D. Cand.,
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