



International Academy for Research in Learning Disabilities

IARLD UPDATES

A Newsletter of the INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY FOR RESEARCH
IN LEARNING DISABILITIES, Issue No. 18 (2)2018

FAREWELL REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Christa van Kraayenoord, Ph.D.

This is my final President's Report for the IARLD *Updates* Newsletter. It has been a privilege to be the President of the Academy from 2014 to 2017. It has been wonderful to get to know so many members of the Academy and also to work with members of the Executive Board. While some people from the Executive Board have changed over the period from 2014 to 2017 I have been very well supported by everyone on the Executive Board across that time and I have appreciated very much their work, advice and efforts undertaken on behalf of the Academy. I thank them all.

I had three goals and when I began my Presidency. The goals were:

- 1. Further development of the IARLD as a worldwide professional organisation dedicated to conducting and sharing research about learning disabilities**
- 2. Enhancing the value of membership of the IARLD**
- 3. Review and revision of the By-Laws and Constitution of the IARLD.**

It is a testament to the support and hard work of members of the Academy that the goals have for the most part been achieved. As part of achieving the first goal, a very small team conducted a research study called: *Identifying Global Priorities in Research for Learning Disabilities*. Evelyn Johnson and her Research Assistant, Brady Webb conducted the research. A number of Academy members contributed to the data. The Executive was presented with a draft of the article that Evelyn and Brady have written reporting the findings of the study and I understand that this is under review to be published. While I know that it was a challenge to maintain a

group of people who had expressed interest in the project and/or to obtain their active contributions to the project, Evelyn and her colleague Brady persevered to conduct the study together and I hope its findings will influence future priorities in the field of learning disabilities.

Recruitment by Members and Fellows of new Fellows, Members and Student members to IARLD is still one of the most important tasks of individuals who are members of this Academy and such recruitment also contributes to the promotion of the first goal above. I strongly urge you to speak to your colleagues and associates about the IARLD. We are keen to connect with researchers in a range of disciplines beyond education and psychology and we are seeking members in all categories of membership.

The second goal is perhaps the goal that has not been achieved so well and is still a work progress. I think the Executive Board will need to see whether this is a goal that is worthwhile pursuing in future years and if so to work on new initiatives so that this goal is achieved. I suspect achievement of this goal this will also require a different level of commitment from the membership.

With respect to the third goal in 2015 Dr Delinda van Garderen, who is the By-Laws and Constitution Committee Chair, and her Committee undertook a review and revision of the By-Laws and Constitution



of the IARLD. The By-laws and Constitution were updated to reflect current practice and ensure good governance practice and alignment across the two documents. In addition Delinda was able to locate the documents relating to the Articles of Incorporation.

Following the death of Janette Klinger in 2014 we were able to set up the *Janette Klingner IARLD Conference Poster Award*, which is given yearly at our conferences. Janette was one of our Fellows and former Executive Board member and Vice President for Members and Associate Members. The presentation of this Award is a feature of our conferences each year. I have been in contact at least once a year with Janette's partner Don Klingner. In addition we have continued awarding the *Marjorie Montague Award for Outstanding Doctoral Level Research*, which offered every 2nd year. Thank you to the Committees of these two awards and for the liaison with the President.

A number of our members have died, have been ill or have experienced tragic events (e.g., terrorist bombings) during my Presidency. As I became aware of these matters I have tried to communicate with partners, families or colleagues on behalf of the Academy. It is helpful when people hear of a member's passing or other news that the information is also passed on to the IARLD Office. We have also held a minute's silence, as appropriate, at the start of our Executive Board meetings to remember our members who have passed away.

As usual the Executive Board met prior to the IARLD Conference in Brisbane. Shortly after the Conference at a Special meeting and in line with the By-Laws of the IARLD the Executive Board voted to remove the Treasurer, Doug Dexter after just one year of service. This was a difficult decision made by the Executive. The Executive shortly thereafter elected Annmarie Urso to serve as Interim Treasurer. Annmarie is working diligently to contact members regarding the payment of their dues. We note that there are many people who have not paid their dues and may have left the IARLD. Individuals who wish to know whether they are paid up members should contact Annmarie Urso. Further it should be noted that membership can be reinstated to active status at the request of the member and once payment of the current year's dues are made. Further I would ask that people advise the IARLD Office when they change address, email, retire, change jobs etc.

During my Presidency I have been fortunate to attend our yearly conferences: the 38th Annual IARLD Conference in Vilnius, Lithuania in 2014, the 39th Annual IARLD Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in 2015, the 40th Annual IARLD Conference in Austin, Texas, USA in 2016, and the 41st Annual IARLD Conference in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, this year. I have always thought of the IARLD conferences as a highlight of my year!! Thank you to colleagues who have organized these conferences and to those who have attended and presented their research. At each one I have enjoyed hearing about the work being undertaken in the field of learning disabilities across the world.

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



This year I was part of the Organising Committee with Ian Hay, Holly Chen, and Angela Silanesu for the 41st Annual IARLD Conference in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. At the Conference I was delighted to be able to welcome Professor Lorraine Graham of the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, The University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia who presented the William M. Cruickshank Memorial Lecture. It was entitled: Learning about Learning Intervention. I was also thrilled that Professor Robyn Gillies took up our invitation to present the Distinguished Scholar Lecture. The title was: Pushing the boundaries: Using biometric technologies to provide insights into how students engage with others during different whole class and small group activities and the implications for the inclusive classroom. (Please see Extracts from the Final Conference Report of the 41st Annual Conference of the International Academy for Research in Learning Disabilities elsewhere in IARLD Updates.) In 2018, the IARLD Conference will be held in Ghent, Belgium from 1-3 July, and will be hosted by Annemie Desoete and her Organising Committee. I hope to see you there!!!

As indicated at the start of this Report there have been a number of changes to the Executive Board. This has been the case this year as well. I would like to thank very much the following members of the Executive Board who are stepping down at the end of the year. They include: Past President, Judy Weiner. Judy has retired from her academic career. Rasa Barkauskiene, James Chapman and Marija Kavkler are stepping down. All have the role of Executive Board, Member-at-Large. All three members have been involved in various roles in IARLD for a number of years. Delinda van Garderen, Chair of the By-Laws and Constitution Committee will step down after December 31, 2018. Editor of the IARLD Updates, Olga Jerman has stepped down. Olga was the Editor for 10 years. Brian Bryant has also stepped down as

Academy Historian. Thank you to each and every one of you. It has been a pleasure working with you.

At the time of writing this Report the whole membership is voting to fill the following roles: President-Elect 2018-2021 and to become President in 2022, the Treasurer, three positions for Executive Board, Member-at-Large, and Chair of the By-Laws and Constitution Committee (from January 1st 2019). The Executive Board looks forward to announcing the outcomes of the voting and the new members of the Executive Board in early November 2017. In addition I am delighted to announce that the new Editor, IARLD Updates is Debora Scheffel and the new Academy Historian is Joe Madaus. Debora and Joe have already started in their roles.

I was fortunate to have the support of my Heads of the School of Education at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia during my Presidency. I was also offered space for the IARLD Office. I wish to thank Angela Silanesu who worked as Assistant to the President for three and a half years, and to Dominique Minuti who will work with me till the end of the year. Angela also worked as the Webmaster for the IARLD website. I thank her for all her dedicated work with me with respect to the IARLD. She could not have been more helpful. On 31 December 2017 I will retire from the University of Queensland. I have been teaching and researching there for almost 30 years. I will take on a position of Honorary Research Associate Professor from 2018 for three years so that my PhD students can all graduate. I look forward to retirement and undertaking new activities and pursuing some new hobbies. Nevertheless I will also continue to attend the IARLD conferences for the next few years and I look forward to passing on the baton to Georgios and supporting him and the Executive Board too.

Thank you again for the privilege.

Christa van Kraayenoord, Ph.D.

President, IARLD, 2014-2017



EDITOR OF IARLD *UPDATES*

Debora L. Scheffel

Dear IARLD Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the editor for IARLD *Updates*. Having been a member of the Academy for a number of years through my association with Dr. Doris Johnson (JoAnn and Peter Dolle Professor Emerita in Learning Disabilities, Northwestern University, and former Executive Director of IARLD), I am pleased to be able to contribute to the work of the Academy. My special interests include research-based educator preparation, education policy reform, brain-behavior relationships, and higher education program improvement. I recently (January, 2017) concluded a six-year term on the Colorado State Board of Education, currently serve as the Dean of the School of Education at Colorado Christian University, and consult nationally for states on projects related to literacy, numeracy and closing the achievement gap.

I look forward to working with you to socialize the activities of the members and fellows, and expand the sphere of influence of the Academy. Since we publish *Updates* only twice a year, spring and fall, we look forward to you sharing your professional activities to render the publication relevant and a vehicle to enhance collaboration toward our mutual goals. Finally, my thanks to Olga Jerman, the previous editor, for her service to IARLD.

Debora L. Scheffel, Ph.D.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Interim Treasurer's Report

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Christa van Kraayenoord and the transition from our immediate past treasurer to the interim treasurer has brought to light the need to have two signatories in the United States on all of the Academy accounts. Much of my work the past few months has been around the establishment of signatory privileges to allow for smooth transition between treasurers, and also between our presidents.

I am currently working on digitizing all documents related to the treasury of the Academy. Having this archive will provide access to important documentation and allow for smooth transition from treasurer to treasurer. The documents will be stored on the Academy's google drive account.

Reminder: The Academy's dues period runs from January 1st through December 31st each year. Invoices for 2018 will be sent out in November. If you owe for 2017, it will be included on your invoice. Invoices are payable directly to the IARLD through the IARLD website at www.iarld.com/home/membership-dues. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at iarldtreasury@gmail.com.

Account Balances:

CDs - Bank of Walpole:

We have 3 CDs with various maturity dates.

Their value as of 24 October 2017:

\$38,092.73

Checking Account - Bank of America

Balance \$12,951.48

(as of 24th of October 2017)

Other Income: Conference Earnings

\$2814.46 (AUD)

Expenses:

DOI Indexing prorated for balance of 2017 - \$48.31

Graphic Artist (paid from Conference earnings) -

\$864.00

Wire Fees for Graphic Artist - \$37.00

Domain Hosting Annual Fee - \$15.17

Respectfully submitted,

Annmarie Urso

Interim Treasurer

Members and Associate Members Report

The Members and Associate Members' Committee is comprised of Anya Evmenova (Chair), George Mason University; Cesare Cornoldi, University of Padua, Italy; Kevin Chung, the Hong Kong Institute of Education, and Lidija Magajna, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The committee has accepted three new Members since April of 2017: Dr. Mika Karaoke, Kagoshima University, Japan (nominated by Christa van Kraayenoord); Dr. Allyson Harrison, Queen's University, Canada (nominated by Judith Wiener); Dr. Ellen Braaten, Harvard Medical School, USA (nominated by Lynn Meltzer); as well as one Associate Member: Mr. Sherwin Fraser, President's College, Guyana (nominated by Christa van Kraayenoord).

'Anna (Any) S. Evmenova, Ph.D.

Student Member Report

We have had no new inquiries from prospective student members over the past few months. Please consider nominating your graduate students who have an interest in pursuing the professional opportunities IARLD offers. I hope to have a more positive report in March 2018.

Henry B. Reiff, Ph.D.

Fellows Report

Dr Shih-Jay Tzeng is now a fellow of IARLD. (*NB - I believe that this was not shared yet formally with the IARLD membership.*) In addition, two IARLD members were nominated for fellow last year. However, in each case the application was incomplete and therefore the committee was unable to proceed. In each case key components of IARLD guidelines for nomination to Fellow were not followed. In one case the nomination came from someone who is not a member of IARLD, and in the other case the nomination from a fellow was never received, in spite of a number of reminders.

I suggest that an email be sent to IARLD members (1) encouraging them to nominate members and (2) to follow the guidelines for nominating Fellows on the IARLD website.

Esther Geva, Chair of the Fellows Committee

Editor's Report

IJRLD Turns Five Years Old: In many nations five-years old is when early childhood ends and (more) formal education begins. The International Journal for Research in Learning Disabilities was born with its first issue five years ago. Thanks to the nurturing of many members of the Academy and our peers the IJRLD has grown into a precocious young journal.

A review of past issues (posted on the academy website and mailed to those on the membership list) will confirm that the IJRLD is fulfilling its mission to be a "forum for communication of research and scholarship... communicating the knowledge and perspective of members of the IARLD to individuals and institutions around the world."

In the coming months you will receive the next issue of the IJRLD. You will find the text of Dr. Lorraine Graham's Cruickshank Memorial Lecture from last summer's conference, as well as articles reporting the scholarship of Academy members from around the globe.

Please continue to support the growth of our young journal. Submit your best work for consideration for publication and encourage your colleagues to do the

same –academy membership is not required for submitters (see the academy website for submission guidelines). Also, because we are still a young journal the Web of Science organization recently declined to provide us with an impact factor ranking and to include us in their core collection. Their rationale is that past articles are not cited frequently enough. We recently became indexed, which means IJRLD articles will be found in popular search engine searches and this will help our citation counts. You too can help by citing publications from the IJRLD whenever appropriate.

Our journal is maturing into an impressive scholarly contribution to research and scholarship on learning disabilities. As a member of the Academy family please do all you can to support its continued growth.

David Scanlon, Ph.D.

Thomas G. West

From Prometheus Books, Amherst, New York, a new book published July 2017 -- ***Seeing What Others Cannot See: The Hidden Advantages of Visual Thinkers and Differently Wired Brains*** by Thomas G. West. For over 25 years, Thomas West has been a leading advocate for the importance of visual thinking, visual technologies and the creative potential of individuals with dyslexia and other learning differences.

In this new book, he investigates how different kinds of brains and different ways of thinking can help to make discoveries and solve problems in innovative and unexpected ways. West focuses on what he has learned over the years from a group of extraordinarily creative, intelligent and interesting people--strong visual thinkers and those with dyslexia, Asperger's syndrome, and other different ways of thinking, learning and working.

West shows that such people can provide important insights often missed by experts and professionals -- as they also can prevent institutional "group think." Based on first-person accounts, West tells stories that include a dyslexic paleontologist in Montana, a special effects tech who worked for Pink Floyd and Kiss and who is now an advocate for those with Asperger's syndrome, a group of dyslexic master code breakers in a British electronic intelligence organization, a Colorado livestock handling expert who has become a forceful advocate for those with autism and a family of visual thinkers and dyslexics in Britain that includes four winners of the Nobel Prize in Physics.

This is an inspiring book that not only documents the achievements of people with various learning differences, but also reveals their great potential. This potential is especially great in our new digital age where traditional clerical and academic skills are less and less important -- while an ability to see the big picture and to understand complex patterns revealed in high-level computer information visualizations is rapidly increasing in value in the global economic marketplace.

Thomas G. West is the author of the award-winning book *In the Mind's Eye: Creative Visual Thinkers, Gifted Dyslexics and the Rise of Visual Technologies* and the highly acclaimed *Thinking like Einstein: Returning to Our Visual Roots with the Emerging Revolution in Computer Information Visualization*. *In the Mind's Eye* was awarded a gold seal and selected as one of the "best of the best" for the year by the Association of College and Research Libraries of the American Library Association. The book has been translated into Japanese, Chinese and Korean -- and West has provided presentations for scientific, medical, art, design, computer and business groups in the U.S. and 20 foreign countries.

West continues to lecture worldwide having given presentations to the Confederation of British Industry in London, the Netherlands Design Institute in Amsterdam, a meeting of 50 Max Planck Institutes in Göttingen, Germany, the Italian Dyslexia Association in Rome, the first "Diversity Day" conference for the staff of GCHQ, the code-making and code-breaking descendants of Bletchley Park (World War II code breakers), in Cheltenham, England, scientists and

artists at Green College and at Magdalen College within Oxford University, England, the Royal College of Art in London, the Glasgow School of Art in Scotland, a conference at the University of Uppsala before the Queen of Sweden, the University of California at Berkeley, an education conference sponsored by Harvard and MIT, the Arts Dyslexia Trust in London, an education conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and a meeting of visualization scientists and artists sponsored by MIT and the Getty Museum in Los Angeles.

Other presentations have included the International Symposium on Dyslexia in the Chinese Language organized by the Society of Child Neurology and Developmental Pediatrics in Hong Kong, Pixar Animation Studios in Emeryville, California, and a Director's Colloquium for scientists and staff of NASA Ames Research Center (at Moffett Field in California's Silicon Valley). In November 2014, West was invited to give five talks for the Dyslexia Association of Singapore as part of a nation-wide effort to take advantage of the distinctive talents exhibited by dyslexic children and adults. Long a leader in technological and commercial innovation, Singapore plans to lead the world with this effort as well. The second edition of *In the Mind's Eye* includes a Foreword by the late Oliver Sacks, MD, who said "*In the Mind's Eye brings out the special problems of people with dyslexia, but also their strengths, which are so often overlooked. . . . It stands alongside Howard Gardner's Frames of Mind as a testament to the range of human talent and possibility.*" According to one reviewer: "*Every once in a while a book comes along that turns one's thinking upside down. In the Mind's Eye is just such a book.*"

Selected Reviews of Seeing What Others Cannot See

"For twenty-five years Thomas G. West has been a leader in the movement to highlight the value and beauty of minds that see the world in non-typical ways. In Seeing What Others Cannot See, he presents his strongest case yet for the importance of recognizing, educating, and utilizing nonverbal strengths, and their special value in our contemporary world. Recommended for anyone interested in cognitive psychology, neuroscience, innovation and creativity, technology and education."

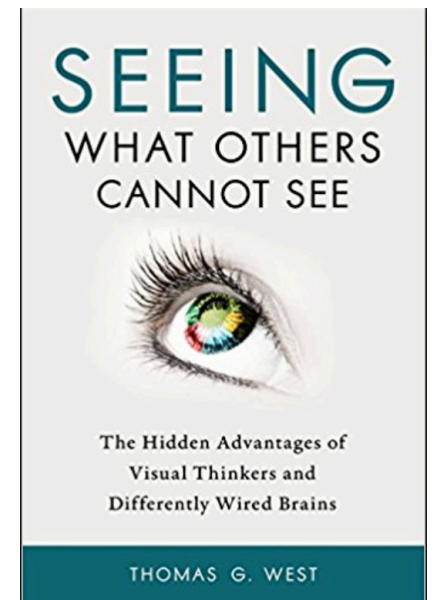
—Brock Eide, MD, coauthor of *The Dyslexic Advantage* and *The Mislabeled Child*

"People who think in pictures have contributed greatly to both scientific discovery and artistic expression. Thomas G. West carefully documents their abilities. Our education system needs to change from an emphasis on deficits to the development of a student's strengths."

—Temple Grandin, PhD, author, *Thinking in Pictures* and *The Autistic Brain*

Contact: thomasgwest@gmail.com.

Distribution for Prometheus Books is provided by Penguin Random House (www.penguinrandomhouse.com).



Publications from Timo Lüke

Lüke, T., & Grosche, M. (2017). What do I think about Inclusive Education? It depends on who is asking: Experimental evidence for a Social Desirability Bias in attitudes towards Inclusion. *International Journal of Inclusive Education*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1080/13603116.2017.1348548

Lüke, T., & Grosche, M. (2017). Implicitly measuring attitudes towards inclusive education: A new attitude test based on single-target implicit associations. *European Journal of Special Needs Education*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1080/08856257.2017.1334432

Timo Lüke, M.Ed.
Research Associate, Rehabilitation Sciences - Special Learning Needs
Institute of Educational Research
University of Wuppertal, Germany

Updates from Daniela Lucangeli

Daniela Lucangeli obtained funding from Fondazione Vodafone Italia to realise a project about Digital for social. Lucangeli and her team developed a web-app to improve children's mathematical skills, especially the acquisition and mastering of arithmetic facts. To test the Web App, thirty students between 8 and 12 years of age with math disability completed 30 training sessions with under the supervision of a trained tutor. Children also played with the web-app every day at home for 15 minutes. An age-matched group of students did not attend this training and acted as control group. The results show that students in the training group showed

an improvement in their knowledge of numerical facts compared to the control group. The training group also showed an improvement in calculation abilities. The web-app will be soon available online.

Daniela was invited as a speaker for a TEDx talk in Milan on the 15th October 2017. She focused her talk on the relation between emotions and learning. In particular, she highlighted the ambivalent effect that emotions can exert on learning. On the one hand, students show better learning when the acquisition of new information is associated with positive emotions. On the other hand, learning can be seriously compromised when it is associated with negative emotions. This detrimental association can lead students to avoid learning tout court, thereby increasing scholastic drop out. It follows that teachers should be aware of their student's abilities as well as of their feelings.

Daniela Lucangeli
Professor
IARLD VP for International Development
University of Padua

New Book from Maria Mody

Mody, M. (Ed.) (2017). **Neural Mechanisms of Language**. NY, USA: Springer

Excerpt From Springer: This important volume brings together significant findings on the neural bases of spoken language –its processing, use, and organization, including its phylogenetic roots. Employing a potent mix of conceptual and neuroimaging-based approaches, contributors delve deeply into specialized structures of the speech system, locating sensory and cognitive mechanisms

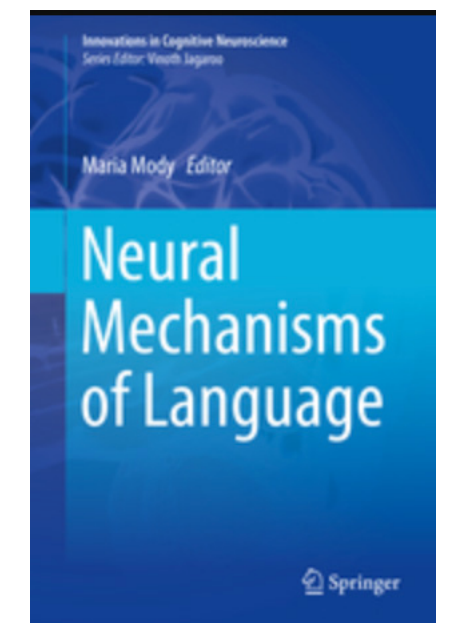
involved in listening and comprehension, grasping meanings and storing memories. The novel perspectives revise familiar models by tracing linguistic interactions within and between neural systems, homing in on the brain's semantic network, exploring the neuroscience behind bilingualism and multilingual fluency, and even making a compelling case for a more nuanced participation of the motor system in speech. From these advances, readers have a more three-dimensional picture of the brain—its functional epicenters, its connections, and the whole—as the seat of language in both wellness and disorders.

Included in the topics:

- The interaction between storage and computation in morphosyntactic processing.
- The role of language in structure-dependent cognition.
- Multisensory integration in speech processing: neural mechanisms of cross-modal after-effect.
- A neurocognitive view of the bilingual brain.
- Causal modeling: methods and their application to speech and language.
- A word in the hand: the gestural origins of language.

Neural Mechanisms of Language presents a sophisticated mix of detail and creative approaches to understanding brain structure and function, giving neuropsychologists, cognitive neuroscientists, developmental psychologists, cognitive psychologists, and speech/language pathologists new windows onto the research shaping their respective fields.

Maria Mody, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Radiology
Harvard Medical School



IN MEMORIAM



Leonore (Le) Ganschow
August 8, 1937—
May 19, 2017

Dr Leonore (Le) Ganschow, Professor Emerita of Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, the United States of America passed away on May 19, 2017. Le was a

longstanding member the IARLD. Le was the founding Editor of IARLD *UPDATES* and undertook this role from 1998 to 2004. Le was also the first Academy Historian. She volunteered to take on this role and held it from 2002 to 2006. Her connections with many IARLD colleagues, her writing skills, and her vision, energy and persistence are all qualities about which her IARLD colleagues have commented.

In addition to serving the IARLD, Le was also on the Board of the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) (1992 to 1998) and served as the Vice-President of IDA. During her academic career Le published numerous articles and books. The vast majority of these were in the area of dyslexia and foreign/second language learning. In this area, along with her long-time collaborator and co-author, Richard Sparks, Le conducted pioneering research into the foreign language difficulties of students with language learning problems. She was also the Editor of the journal, *Annals of Dyslexia*. Her research and scholarship was truly influential in the field of learning disabilities.

In her retirement to Wisconsin Le founded and was the Director of the Northwoods Literacy Taskforce. The Taskforce provided instruction for parents, teachers and community members in the tutoring of children with learning difficulties in literacy. She also was very active in the St Matthias's Episcopal Church in Minocqua, Wisconsin, and was the director of the church choir.

Her love of music and her skills as a pianist were recognised and enjoyed by her family, her friends and those in her community. She also was involved in the Rhinelander-Northwoods Branch of the

American Association of University Women who provide financial support to young women in colleges and universities in the area in which she lived.

Le is survived by her husband of 58 years, Roger Ganschow, two children and five grandchildren. On behalf of the Executive Board and membership of the IARLD our condolences are extended to the family. The IARLD remembers her many contributions to the Academy and to the field of learning disabilities.

Article Reprint Written by Le as Editor of IARLD Updates: Fall Issue, Vol. 7(2), 2005-2006

I thoroughly enjoyed my six years as editor of IARLD Newsbriefs (1998-2004). In the first couple of years, I enjoyed the privilege of serving as editor under the guidance of President Susan Vogel, who was instrumental in helping me shape the newsletter by directing it to the international interests of our readers. Then I worked with our current president Lynn Meltzer, who was highly responsive to my ideas for further elaborating the newsletter in the international arena. At the time I took over as editor, I had recently retired and was in the process of moving to the rather isolated "north woods" of Wisconsin after a 30 year sojourn in Cincinnati. Being wary of the two big changes in my life – retirement and a move – I was looking for ways to stay involved in the field. My interests have always been international, as my major field of research interest has been in foreign language learning in at-risk language learners. Also, I've always enjoyed writing and had experiences editing newsletters in the past. Here was an opportunity to connect with researchers from all over the world, maintain my professional interests, and have fun with the low-keyed nature of an informal publication at the same time. A perfect match for me! Six years as editor, however, was long enough! Now I'm moving on to other retirement activities, such as visiting our grandchildren, one of whom lives in Luxembourg. I remain loosely tied to the field, though, through serving as an editorial consultant for several journals and participating on an occasional article with my long time friend and colleague, Richard Sparks. Most recently, The International Dyslexia Association asked

me to prepare a piece on foreign language learning and learning disabilities/dyslexia as a fact sheet and for their Emeritus series. Former student – and now friend and colleague – Elke Schneider and I recently completed these informal articles.

IARLD Academy Members - Messages to Le

From Lynne Meltzer: *It has been a great pleasure to work with Le Ganschow for the past 3.5 years. Le did an outstanding job as the Founding Editor of IARLD Newsbriefs. Her vision, creativity, remarkable organization, and persistence in following up with members, has been remarkable. The entire Academy membership has benefited from the newsletter which has connected us across the world and helped us to keep in touch with one another. Thank you, Le! We will miss you!*

Che Kan Leong wrote: *Dr. Leonore (Le) Ganschow has the wonderful capacity of turning something, or anything, that she does into a thing of beauty and joy. So it was when we first met as board members of the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) some years ago. Working on the committee on student affiliates, she organized it on a very sound footing and attracted a number of graduate students to join IDA, to attend its annual conferences, and to take an active interest in dyslexia research and practice. She also did much more in her other committee activities. So it is in her active membership with the International Academy for Research in Learning Disabilities (IARLD) and in her recently relinquished role as editor of IARLD Updates, the official newsletter of IARLD. In her number of years as editor of IARLD Updates Le has turned what could be rather humdrum, matter-of-fact reporting on news of the organization into a publication which is many-faceted and a joy to read. While there is news chronicling events in the field of learning disabilities as reflected by the activities and publications of members, the Newsletter does much more. It contains mini stories of the academic and other interests of members, and enables all of us to know one another better. In pursuing her stories and subjects, Le is persistent, efficient and yet conveys a sense of good cheer. Members of IARLD are indebted to her for her dynamic leadership in Updates*

and other fields. Even though she has stepped down from the editorship she keeps busy in her many roles as Professor Emerita of Miami University, Oxford, OH, as a wife, mother and grandmother. Also, her love of languages and music (piano being her instrument) should keep her suitably occupied. Le, we extend to you our sincere thanks and best wishes.

Nancy Heath wrote: *Although I have only been the editor of the IARLD newsletter for a few months it is long enough for me to gain a sincere appreciation for all that Le did over the years! Le did a phenomenal job and made it look easy. She developed the newsletter over the years and her innovation of the "LD around the world" column was fantastic. I always felt I learned something from it and hope, as current editor, to be able to maintain this section. When I began as the editor in January 2005, Le mentored me and provided a complete file of all the tasks involved. She was endlessly patient and understanding of my confusion and always willing to help. Thank you, Le, for all you did as editor of the IARLD Updates and thank you for all your help as I continue to learn the ropes!*

Professor Richard Sparks published numerous papers with Le Ganschow. He is also a colleague of Fellow of the IARLD, Professor Ester Geva. Through Esther the IARLD has Richard's permission to use an extract from the tribute Richard read at the memorial celebration for Le in Wisconsin. It refers to her support and participation of numerous professional organisations.

.... Le's life was not only mentoring me but also mentoring students and giving her time to professional organizations. In particular, her work with Jim Javorsky and Elke Schneider come to mind. Le gave selflessly to both Jim and Elke and helped to make them into fine teachers and researchers. Likewise, her devotion to the International Dyslexia Association and the local Ohio Valley Branch were instrumental in the development of programs for reading and special education teachers. When she came to Wisconsin, she even started a program to instruct local teachers how to teach reading. [Professor Sparks can be reached at Richard_Sparks@mail.msjeu]

Christa van Kraayenoord, President, IARLD

INTRODUCING NEW IARLD MEMBERS

Dr Shih-Jay Tzeng

Professor Li-Yu Hung, from the National Taiwan Normal University nominated Professor Tzeng to the rank of IARLD Fellow.

In his nomination letter Professor Hung wrote: *[Professor Tzeng] is well-known for his work on reading remediation of Chinese reading disabled/ or disadvantaged students. He served as presidents of Taiwan Academy for Learning Disabilities, and now he serves as the president of Taiwan Reading Association and Special Education Association of Republic of China. He has published numerous articles in highly regarded journals in the field, translated several books about reading instruction into Chinese versions, and he was on the Editorial Board of the NTTU Education Research Journal. He also delivered the Cruickshank Memorial Speech in the 35th annual conference of IARLD when it was held in Taipei. I believe his work has and will continue to have a tremendous impact on our field, and that she is an excellent candidate as a fellow of IARLD.*

An examination of the supporting documents (CV, copies of publications) indicates that Professor Tzeng's has undertaken various leadership roles pertaining to education. These roles include being the current Dean of Teachers' College National Taitung President (NTTU), former Vice President, National Academy of Educational Research, and President of the Special Education Association, in Taiwan. He has a Professor position in the Department of Special Education, at NTTU. Professor Tzeng's teaching and research focus on both basic and applied topics in the general area of special education, including remedial reading interventions, reading disabilities, dyslexia, reading processing of Chinese texts, teacher preparation, and reading instruction. Professor Tzeng's publications focus on a range of topics pertaining to learning disabilities, including the study of basic cognitive processes such as phonological awareness and naming

speed and oral reading fluency on Chinese reading comprehension, remedial interventions for learning Chinese for low-achieving students, evaluating the effectiveness of Chinese remedial materials for low-achieving children in the primary levels, RTI, and the enhancement of systemic approaches to early identification and intervention concerning reading difficulties in Taiwan. His research has involved children from Chinese backgrounds in Taiwan, as well as Taiwanese aboriginal children,

I, and my fellow committee members, Professors Che Kay Leong and Lee Swanson concur that Professor Tzeng's portfolio points to the fact that he is a leading researcher in Taiwan, who is committed to the study of learning disabilities. He is recognized for his contribution to the scientific knowledge and understanding of learning disabilities, and he has achieved scholarly recognition in the field of learning disabilities in Taiwan. He has contributed to learning disabilities research in Taiwan, and has published relevant research articles in peer-reviewed journals. Moreover, his work has had an impact on the field in Taiwan. As Vice President Fellows, IARLD I am delighted to inform you that the Fellows Nomination Committee is unanimous in its decision to elevate Professor Tzeng to a Fellow rank at the IARLD.

The Fellows Committee welcomes Professor Tzeng to its ranks, and encourages Professor Tzeng to continue to contribute to IARLD. Such contributions may include presenting at future IARLD conferences, publishing his work in The International Journal for Research in Learning Disabilities (IJRLD), serving on the executive board, and/or reporting on his work in the IARLD Newsletter that is received quarterly per year as part of membership.

Professor Esther Geva
IARLD Vice President for Fellows

Sherwin Fraser

I am currently the Deputy Principal (ag.) at President's College Guyana and lecturer 1 at the University of Guyana School of Education and Humanities Department of Curriculum and Instruction. My research activities focus on the underpinnings of Inclusion and children with Learning Disabilities, Sustainable Inclusive Practices for Children with Learning Disabilities and Bullying. I have conceptualized and coordinated the first major intervention programme for children with Learning Disabilities in Guyana, which encompass a three-tier model of intervention to help students overcome their learning challenges. I am a trained teacher with over twenty years of professional experience working at the Secondary levels and four years at the higher education levels in Guyana. I am also a registered teacher in Additional Support Needs (ASN) with the General Teaching Council of Scotland. I am the founder of Alliance for Children with Special Education Needs (ACSEN), a voluntary group working to promote the interest of children with disabilities in Guyana and have conducted numerous workshops and training programmes for teachers at special schools in Guyana. My research publications include both peer-reviewed journal articles and books and my most recent book is titled Managing Risk-taking Behaviours: An Examination of Bullying.

I have been involved in several funded projects and served as facilitator for the READ project on life skills for members of farming communities in regions 3, 5 and 10. In addition, I am currently the Consultant for the revision of the Inclusion Policy for Guyana. I am a member of the International Association of Special Education (IASE) and a reviewer for the Open Access Journals. I am a 2012 graduate of the University of Queensland Australia where I obtained a Master of Educational Studies Degree (M.Ed.) in Behaviour Management and Inclusive & Special Needs. I am also an Australia Leadership Award (ALA) Alumnus.

Allyson G. Harrison

Allyson G. Harrison is currently the clinical director of the Regional Assessment & Resource Centre at Queen's University, one of two centers mandated to support postsecondary students through the provision of assessments, applied research, and professional development for psychological practitioners. She also holds an appointment as an associate professor in the Department of Clinical Psychology at Queen's University. Her research is dedicated to issues of differential diagnosis in LD and ADHD. She is also on the editorial board for the Canadian Journal of School Psychology and the Journal of Psychoeducational Assessment.

ELECTION RESULTS

The President of IARLD presented the following elections results:

President Elect (2018-2021), then
President (2022-2025)
Annmarie Urso

71 of 238 of potential voters
Yes 98.59%
No 1.41%

Treasurer (2018-2021)
Jennifer Krawec
70 of 238 of potential voters. 1 voter skipped.
Yes 97.14%
No 2.86%

Chair of the By-Laws and Constitution Committee (2019-2021)
Linda H. Mason
71 of 238 of potential voters.
Yes 97.18%
No 2.82%

Executive Board, Members-at-Large
Matthias Grünke, Li-Yu Hung and Linda H. Mason

Matthias Grünke
66 of 238 of potential voters. 5 voters skipped.
Yes 95.45%
No 4.55%

Li-Yu Hug
63 of 238 of potential voters. 8 voters skipped.
Yes 92.06%
No 7.94%

Linda H. Mason
60 of 238 of potential voters. 11 voters skipped.
Yes 90.00%
No 10.00%

*The Executive Board and incoming President Georgios Sideridis look forward
to working with these members of the Academy in 2018.*

Once again congratulations.

IARLD OFFICERS

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**Chair of the By-Laws and Constitution
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EXTRACTS FROM THE FINAL CONFERENCE REPORT

**41ST ANNUAL IARLD CONFERENCE
JULY 2017
UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA**

This information has been extracted from the Final Conference Report submitted to the Director of Conference Programs, Professor Lynn Meltzer and the Executive Board after the 41st Annual Conference held from 5-7 July 2017. The Conference was held in the School of Education at the University of Queensland on the St Lucia campus, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. The Report was written by Associate Professor Christa van Kraayenoord on behalf of the Conference Organising Committee that comprised: Associate Professor Christa van Kraayenoord, Emeritus Professor Ian Hay, Dr Holly Chen, and Ms Angela Silanesu.

We received 26 proposals. After some reorganization and reworking of submissions due to “pull outs” and

insufficient numbers for a category of presentation etc there were 2 Symposia, 4 Round Tables, and 15 Posters. Of the latter 5 were identified as eligible for the Janette Klingner Poster Award. We also received abstracts from Professor Lorraine Graham who presented the William M Cruickshank Lecture and Professor Robyn Gillies who presented the Distinguished Scholar Lecture. In all, 65 authors and discussants were represented across all presentations at the Conference.

Within the Conference guidelines some people participated in more than one presentation. The Conference Organising Committee and Professor David Evans served as reviewers for the proposals. For the record, we had the following registrations.

Registration Type	Number of Attendees
Full-Conference Early Non-members	5
Full Conference Early Members	13
Full Conference Early Retired	2
Full Conference (On-site/Full) - Retired	0
Full Conference (On-site/Full) - Member	2
Full Conference (On-site/Full) – Non-members	7
Student Early	6
Student Regular On-site	0
Student Montague Winner - paid by IARLD	1
TOTAL	36

For comparison there were 57 conference attendees at the 40th Annual Conference in Austin in 2016.

In all, 33 people attended the Conference Banquet. Two student volunteers assisted during the conference.

In 2017 there was a change to the typical Conference Schedule with the Business Meeting and Think Tank Meeting changing from Day Two to Day One and the

Poster Session and associated Wine and Cheese was the final and culminating event of the conference on Day Two. This meant the conference ended on both scholarly and social notes. The Conference Committee believed this to be a successful change.



MANUSCRIPT PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT

The International Journal for Research in Learning Disabilities is our best platform for sharing your scholarship with our entire membership and with our professional at large. Publishing your work in the IJRLD embodies your commitment as a member of the Academy. We are anxious to receive your submission. Please review submission guidelines posted on the Academy website along with our past issues. You are also welcome to contact the IJRLD Editor directly to discuss potential submissions: IJRLD@bc.edu.