

# MISSISSIPPI READING ASSOCIATION

**Newsletter**

**Conference Edition**

**November 2015**

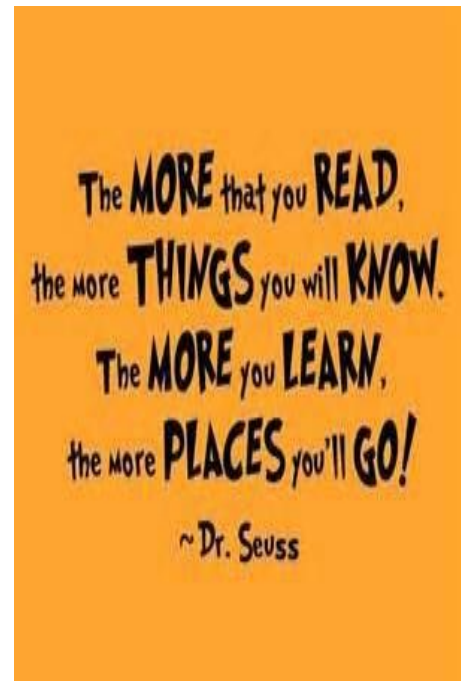
## Welcome

The Mississippi Reading Association, affiliated with the International Literacy Association, promotes and supports reading research, reading development, and advancement of literacy in the great state of Mississippi. We support our community by sharing best instructional practices and research.

## About the Conference

MRA's Annual Literacy Conference attracts hundreds of early childhood, K-1, and post-secondary learning professionals, parents and partners throughout Mississippi and the surrounding areas. The conference is an incredible opportunity to connect with colleagues and experts committed to the improvement of literacy. It is the unique gather of participants which gives this conference its energy and outreach.

Join us in Biloxi to learn new strategies, expand your network, discover new resources, and explore the quality of initiatives and best practices in the area of literacy. In addition to inspiring general sessions and enlightening concurrent sessions, a slate of exhibitors is scheduled to showcase the latest materials and products by industry leaders.



**Who Should Attend:** The general sessions and concurrent tracks have been uniquely designed to meet the diverse interests and needs of the literacy education community. This rich training experience is ideal for classroom teachers at all levels, educational administrators or directors, post-secondary faculty and students, direct service staff, literacy advocates, community partners and parents.

**Administrators and Directors:** Emerging and seasoned leaders will gain exposure to responsive, effective approaches to addressing the comprehensive literacy needs from a variety of spectrums.

**Classroom Teachers:** Pre-school, elementary, secondary practitioners will explore research-based best practices for enhancing literacy instruction in the differentiated classroom. Educators will be armed with knowledge, tools, and skills proven to improve student learning and literacy development; thereby, maximizing the impacts of their daily interaction with children.

**Post-Secondary Faculty and Students:** Staff and students from teacher preparation programs will explore critical issues and strategies in learning, teaching, and curriculum that practicing educators face daily.

## In This Issue

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December 6-8 2015 **SAVE THE DATE** December 6-8 2015

**MRA** 2015 **World-Class Literacy Connections**

Mississippi Reading Association Conference  
December 6 – 8, 2015 \*\*\* Biloxi, Mississippi

*You don't want to miss this.*

**BEAU RIVAGE**

MRA CONFERENCE 2015  
Outstanding Keynoters  
Meaningful Concurrent Sessions  
Power-Packed Exhibits  
Impactful Networking  
Insightful Presenters

CREATING WORLD-CLASS EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS THROUGH IMPACTFUL LITERACY CONNECTIONS

STAKEHOLDERS ∞ BEST PRACTICES ∞ POLICIES ∞ LOCALES ∞ STRATEGIES ∞ ORGANIZATIONS

MISSISSIPPI READING ASSOCIATION BOARD		
<b>MRA Executive Board Members</b>	<b>MRA Board Members</b>	
Janice Cate, President	Beverly Moffitt	Emily Edgar
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Jo Prather, State Coordinator		Stephanie Peets

**MRA CONFERENCE 2015 CONTACT**  
Dr. Sherry Shepard, Vice-President  
Conference Chair  
shepardsherry@hotmail.com  
www.msreading.org

## Conference Notes:

- Conference Registration opens Sunday, December 6th at 12:00 noon.
- There will be Early Morning Fitness Sessions facilitated by Coach Larry Calhoun, Scott Clements, and Move to Learn Mississippi on Monday and Tuesday from 6:00 am—6:50 am. **Bring your work-out attire and get physically FIT for the professional learning to follow.**
- Tuesday, December 8th has been designated as **MRA Spirit Day!** All conference participants are encouraged to **wear RED** in recognition of our quest to eradicate illiteracy in Mississippi and beyond.
- CEUs (1.5) are available onsite from William Carey University at \$15.00. Partial credit can be awarded.
- SEMIs (10) are available from MDE at no cost. Attendance at all instructional sessions is required. No partial credit can be awarded.



**Coach Calhoun**

## Conference Guest Appearances



With over 20 years experience in education, Coach Calhoun has taught fitness since 2002. He shares his infectious enthusiasm for a healthy, active lifestyle with his students—inspiring them to get fit and stay fit.



**Floyd Stokes**



Floyd Stokes is the founder of ALC which was designed and implemented to supplement literacy programs that promote reading to students up to fifth grade. He is the author of fifteen books, one of which was co-authored with his daughters Madison (age 11) and Olivia (age 7).

# MRA Conference Overview

<b>Sunday, December 6</b>	
11:30 pm -1:00 pm	Board Luncheon Meeting
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Exhibitor Setup
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Registration
1:30 pm – 2:20 pm	Concurrent Sessions
2:30 pm – 3:20 pm	Concurrent Sessions
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Pre-Conference Session
5:15 pm – 6:30 pm	Welcome Reception
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Vendor Reception
<b>Monday, December 7</b>	
6:00 am – 6:50 am	Early Morning Fitness Session
7:30 am – 4:00 pm	Registration
8:00 am – 9:30 am	Opening General Session
9:30 am – 4:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
9:30 am – 9:55 am	Exhibit Hall / Teaching Tips
9:55 am – 10:45 am	Concurrent Sessions
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Break / Teaching Tips / Exhibit Hall
11:00 am – 11:50 am	Concurrent Sessions
11:50 am – 12:00 pm	Break / Exhibit Hall
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	General Session Luncheon
1:30 pm – 1:40 pm	Break / Exhibit Hall
1:40 pm – 2:30 pm	Concurrent Sessions
2:30 pm – 2:55 pm	Break / Teaching Tips / Exhibit Hall
2:55 pm – 3:45 pm	Concurrent Sessions
<b>Tuesday, December 8</b>	<b>Spirit Day – Wear Red</b>
6:00 am – 6:50 am	Early Morning Fitness Session
8:00 am – 8:30 am	Registration
8:00 am – 2:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
8:30 am – 9:20 am	Concurrent Sessions
9:20 am – 9:40 am	Break / Teaching Tips / Exhibit Hall
9:40 am – 10:30 am	Concurrent Sessions
10:30 am – 10:40 am	Break / Exhibit Hall
10:40 am – 11:30 am	Concurrent Sessions
11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Closing General Session Luncheon

# Register Now!



## Attendee Registration FORM

BILOXI, MS

# 2015

Annual Conference & Exhibits  
December 6-8

MISSISSIPPI READING ASSOCIATION  
Conference Registration  
THEME  
"Creating World-Class Literacy Connections"



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (School District/School/Institution) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ (for registration confirmation)

(Information for Membership Records Only)

Home Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home or Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Fees (Please Circle)		
	Undergraduate Student	Regular
Pre-Registration (Must Be Received By November 5 <sup>th</sup> )	\$100	\$160
Late Registration (After November 5 <sup>th</sup> )	\$140	\$200
One-Day Registration (Specify /) _____ Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup> _____ Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup>	\$75	\$100
Onsite Registration	\$140	\$200

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Or Purchase Order # \_\_\_\_\_ Attach a Copy

Conference registration includes conference general sessions, concurrent sessions, conference materials, refreshments, and 2015 MRA membership. Receipts will be provided at the conference registration desk. For room reservations, contact the Beau Rivage at 1-888-567-6667 (\$99 a night plus tax and resort fee). To receive the conference hotel rate, book by November 5, 2015 and be sure to tell them that you are booking for the 2015 Mississippi Reading Association Conference. In addition, you can make hotel reservations directly at the MRA Reservation Website at [https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome\\_ei\\_new&eventID=12518181](https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=12518181). For additional conference information, contact Sherry Shepard at [shepardsherry@hotmail.com](mailto:shepardsherry@hotmail.com) or visit our website [www.msreading.org](http://www.msreading.org). For information about registration, contact Jennifer Baker at [jbaker@jackson.k12.ms.us](mailto:jbaker@jackson.k12.ms.us) or 601-987-3532 or 662-838-7412.

Remit this form with check, money order, or purchase order made payable to MRA to:

Mississippi Reading Association  
C/O Beverly Moffitt, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 2338  
Corinth, MS 38835

[www.msreading.org](http://www.msreading.org) | Ph. 662.719.4510 | F. 601-987-3719

**DYNAMIC KEYNOTERS \*\*\* INNOVATIVE \*\*\* INFORMATIVE CONCURRENT SESSIONS \*\*\* NETWORKING**