

Massachusetts Branch

Winter 2008

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President's Message

Greetings to all and a most heartfelt wish for a fruitful and successful 2008!

This is a bitter sweet time in our evolution. Isabel Wesley has ended her term as president and I am taking over with some trepidation—hers are hard shoes to fill. Isabel has been at the helm for six years (since the inception of the Massachusetts Branch) and has guided us masterfully through some great times and some troubled waters. She has created what is now a thriving and inspiring organization. I thank her for leaving us in such a strong position—it will certainly make my road much easier.

MABIDA has had an exciting and productive year! The Second Annual Reaching All Readers Conference was held last spring at Clark University in Worcester and received rave reviews. The conference focused on enhancing oral language, reading and writing skill in English Language Learners as well as students who struggle with lan-

guage learning. We are happy to announce that we will be having our third annual conference on May 3rd and 10th at Bentley College. Our theme this year is *Assistive Technology for Reading, Writing and Spelling*. The focus will be on helping parents and professionals understand what technology is available for teaching and supporting individuals who struggle with issues related to reading and writing. Please mark your calendars and watch for the mailing describing this conference. You can read more about the conference in other parts of this newsletter.

Our Annual Dinner Meeting was again held at MIT and proved to be one of the most successful ever. We had over 100 people attending including a wonderful balance of parents, professionals, and people with dyslexia. We also had a very strong response to our sponsorship of students allowing 11 graduate students from surrounding schools to attend. Steve Wilkins, Headmaster at the Carroll School, gave an

...continued on p. 2

Save the Date!

MABIDA

Conference

*Reaching All Readers,
Assistive Technology for
Reading, Writing and
Spelling*

May 3rd & 10th

(see pg 6 for details)

MABIDA on-line!

Visit MABIDA's new website at :

www.dyslexia-ma.org.

Our website is up and running featuring announcements of upcoming events, membership information and resources for parents, teachers and people with dyslexia.

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President's Message, continued

enjoyable, informative and incredibly comprehensible talk about the very complex topic of brain differences in individuals with dyslexia. One of the highlights of the Annual Dinner meeting is always the giving of the Alice H. Garside Award. The award went to Dr. Anthony Bashir who has dedicated his life to enhancing the quality of life for those who struggle with learning disabilities and differences. Thank you so much Tony! This year the Annual Dinner will be held on September 26th so, again, mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information.

On a somber note, we are sad to announce that Alice Garside passed away in August at the age of 98. She was a dear friend and colleague to so many people and she will be truly missed. There was a moving celebration of her life at the Carroll School in December.

We are pleased that our teacher training scholarship program is growing and that this year we awarded three scholarships of \$1,500 each for training in a Multisensory Structured Language approach. This is a won-

derful way not only to support the training of professionals but also to provide services to needy students. The awardees must give 20 hours of free tutoring once they finish their training.

Our Western MA region has continued to be very busy holding events to help train teachers and to disseminate information about dyslexia. A description of the activities in that part of the state is also in this newsletter.

I would personally like to thank the MABIDA Board for all of their unflagging dedication and hard work—without them these important events would not happen. We are also indebted to all of the people who have so strongly supported us through sponsoring events or through volunteering their time. If you would like to volunteer for either the upcoming conference in May or the Annual Dinner in September, please contact me at MABIDA@comcast.net

We are looking forward to another inspiring year and would love to have you involved.

Pam Hook,

Dr. Anthony Bashir Wins Alice H. Garside Award

Congratulations to Dr. Anthony Bashir, the 2007 recipient of the Alice H. Garside Award for Excellence.

As a part of the award ceremony at our Annual Dinner, Carolyn Cowen began her remarks by reminding us of the “wisdom, intellectual curiosity and passion to stay abreast of developments in our field” that characterized Alice Garside’s approach to life. In describing Alice, Carolyn quoted Dan Rather: “The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you...who tugs and pushes and leads you to the next plateau, ...sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called ...'truth'.” She continued, “The truth is ... Alice lives on through her work, which goes on ... as your presence here tonight attests. Alice touched the lives of thousands during her lifetime. And, she will touch the lives of generations to come. The Alice H. Garside Award reminds of her legacy.”

Carolyn went on to describe Anthony Bashir as “another pioneer and giant in the field, another teacher who believed in people, who tugged, pushed, and led—sometimes poking with the sharp stick of truth.” She read moving excerpts from three close colleagues filled with anecdotes highlighting the ways in which Dr. Bashir, described fondly as an “agitator,” had significantly affected their personal and professional lives.

●Charley Haynes, Communication, Sciences and Disorders Program at the MGH Institute of Health Professions;

●Chris Harris, Director of the Esther B. Clark School at the Children’s Health Council in Palo Alto,

●Lou Salza, Head of the Lawrence School in Cleveland.

Carolyn concluded with, “If the measure of a teacher is his impact on the lives of his students, and their impact on the lives of others, then Dr. Bashir is among the giants and legends. A man of courage and humanity, a teacher, mentor, scholar, and inspiration, Dr. Bashir is a most deserving recipient of the Alice H. Garside Award. Anthony, one of my heroes, on behalf of the Massachusetts Branch of the International Dyslexia Association and on behalf of all those whose lives you have touched, I am delighted and honored to present you with this award. Congratulations!”

MABIDA joins Carolyn in her celebration of the impact that Dr. Bashir has had on all who have known him.



Dr. Anthony Bashir

On March 31 and April 28, 2007, approximately 200 MABIDA members and friends gathered at Clark University in Worcester for our second annual conference: “*Reaching All Readers, From the Spoken Word to the Written Word.*”

On day one, Dr. Maria Elena Arguelles, renowned expert in the field of English Language Learners, provided a lecture on “Vocabulary Instruction and Language Development for English Language Learners.” Dr. Arguelles debunked the popular myth that reading instruction should be withheld until oral language fluency is developed, stressing that English language learners benefit from supplemental reading instruction, and it does not need to wait until they become fluent in English. She advocated for high quality instruction in all areas of reading including: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary. Dr. Arguelles gave specific examples and activities for each of the five areas of reading instruction. She stressed the importance of vocabulary development for English language learners, beginning in early childhood and continuing through formal instruction in school. Her dynamic presentation included hands-on activities for teaching vocabulary. Dr. Arguelles was a spirited and vibrant presenter, with a wealth of information to share.

On the second day of the conference we welcomed two fabulous speakers. Dr. Elsa Cardenas-Hagan, a Bilingual Speech Language Pathologist and author of *Esperanza (Hope): a Spanish language program*, addressed the group in the morning, demonstrating cross-linguistic activities for the five essential components of literacy development. Dr. Cardenas-Hagan reminded us of the importance of supportive communities for English language learners. In the afternoon Suzanne Carreker, CALT, presented *Essential Ingredients for Successful Sentence Writing*. Participants enjoyed learning how to teach the parts of speech in a concrete and multi-sensory manner, using colors to characterize the parts of speech and writing “painless paragraphs.”

Feedback from the conference was quite positive, and we look forward to presenting the 2008 conference: “*Reaching All Readers, Assistive Technology for Reading, Writing, and Spelling*” on May 3 and May 10 at Bentley College in Waltham.

Western Massachusetts Region Update

The Western Massachusetts Region will be sponsoring two presentations in the spring for the Springfield PAC. One program will be offered on May 7th. It will be an interactive LD simulation. The second program is a PowerPoint presentation about multi-sensory instruction on June 4th.

The disability simulation, “Put Yourself in the Shoes of a Dyslexic”, is a hands-on workshop designed to increase awareness of the difficulties and the frustrations dyslexics and language learning disabled individuals encounter daily. The simulation leads to greater empathy and understanding of the problems and gives insight into working effectively with these individuals. Participants of the workshop rotate among numerous learning stations which simulate various language related tasks similar to classroom tasks and situations in the workplace. The stations may cover some of the following areas of difficulty: beginning reading problems, visual-motor and writing tasks, fine motor problems, visual perception and processing problems. A leader guides the participants at each station for 10-minute periods with a 2-3 minute debriefing after each task. When all stations have been completed, participants come together for a general final debriefing led by the monitor. The simulation is designed to be stressful and some participants may become fatigued and even emotional. Although the experi-

ences represent a “worse case scenario”, in no way is it implied that teachers or parents deliberately make life stressful for these dyslexic or language learning disabled individuals. However, the experiences and frustrations experienced in this workshop are typical of those experienced by dyslexics in their life and work.

The presentation about multi-sensory instruction will provide an overview of what is needed to effectively instruct students with language based learning differences in reading. The PowerPoint was created by The International Dyslexia Association. It will provide information about dyslexia and how to best teach reading skills using a multi-sensory structured language program. The principles of instruction will be explored.

Contact us if you are interested in any of the programs mentioned. New members are always welcomed!
Email Regional Representatives pksani-eski@lindenhs.org or llussen@verizon.net.

MABIDA Continues to Offer Training scholarships

MABIDA is pleased to announce the continuing availability of a scholarship for Orton-Gillingham based multisensory structured language training.

This scholarship is open to any person with an undergraduate degree, who is interested in being trained in Orton-Gillingham or some program based on Orton-Gillingham principles. The awarding of the scholarship will be contingent upon acceptance into a recognized program. The training must include a supervised practicum.

The MABIDA Scholarship will cover the cost of training up to the value of \$1,500.

The recipient of the scholarship must sign an agreement to provide 20 hours of free tutoring, beyond the actual practicum, for a needy student.

Interested applicants should send a letter of interest to MABIDA, P.O. Box 662, Lincoln, MA 01773. The letter should include a personal statement of goals that could be achieved through this scholarship. People currently enrolled in a training program may apply for this scholarship.

Send in your nominations for the Alice H. Garside Award. Complete the ballot below.

Since 1985, NEBIDA and now MABIDA has honored individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of dyslexia and to our Branch. The Award is presented at our Annual Dinner Meeting in September.

Do you know someone who deserves recognition? We would like to hear from **you**. Please read below, complete the form and return it to the address on the bottom by **May 10, 2008**.

Selection Criteria:

Exemplary leadership, service, or achievement in the field that directly or indirectly furthers the mission of the Massachusetts Branch of the International Dyslexia Association.

I nominate _____ for the 2008 **Alice H. Garside Award**.

Information on Nominee:

Contact Information

Home Address: _____

Telephone: (H) _____ (W) _____ (Cell) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Title/position: _____

Biographical Information

Briefly describe the nominee's qualifications — exemplary leadership, service, or achievement — and the reasons you are nominating this individual for the Alice H. Garside Award.

Please return to: **MABIDA , PO Box 662, Lincoln, MA 01773 by May 10, 2008.**

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE AND TEACHING OF ALICE H. GARSIDE

Wonderful stories were told and tributes were given to Alice H. Garside in a celebration of her life held at the Carroll School in November, 2007. Alice died in August of 2007 at the age of 98. She lived a long and marvelous life, significantly affecting the lives of so many. Following are some of the remarks made by Steve Wilkins, Head Master of the Carroll School, Isabel Wesley, President of the Massachusetts Branch of the International Dyslexia Association (MABIDA), and Bob Lemire, Lexia Learning System Founder and Chairman at this moving celebration.

Steve Wilkins: Alice was instrumental in the creation of The Carroll School. In 1967, Dr. Edwin Cole convinced a group of parents that they needed to start a school that knew how to teach children with dyslexia. In order to realize this dream, Alice Garside's knowledge of Orton-Gillingham was essential. We are Alice!

Alice was from the first generation of teachers who followed the principles of Dr. Samuel Orton and Anna Gillingham. She personified the passion, tenacity, grit, judgment, and wisdom that the fledgling school needed to have a positive impact on the reading and language skills of Carroll School children. Alice ran the Language Clinic at Massachusetts General Hospital, mentored hundreds of aspiring tutors and teachers, served as a trustee at Carroll, wrote phonetically controlled readers for children, received the highest award of the International Dyslexia Association, and initiated Carroll's first teacher training programs. Today, our Orton-Gillingham and Project Read training is presented through the Garside Institute for Teacher Training. Alice was so proud of the people she trained who then shared her devotion to children and adults with dyslexia.

Isabel Wesley: It is an honor to remember the extraordinary life of Alice Hawes Garside on behalf of the Massachusetts Branch of the International Dyslexia Association. Alice was a founding member of what was then called the New England Branch of the Orton Dyslexia Society—NEBODS for short. She worked quietly and systematically to help achieve its mission of promoting knowledge of dyslexia, supporting study and research and educating people about reading disorders. This founding group of NEBODS members, would meet at Educators Publishing Service during the week, and then on Saturdays head out to train teachers in the public schools. All that was asked in return was that these teachers educate children who were struggling with reading problems in a structured, sequential and multisensory way, in other words using Orton-Gillingham.

At the NEBODS annual meeting in 1985, Dr. Edwin Cole announced the creation of the Alice H. Garside Award to acknowledge the huge contribution she had made to the field of dyslexia. Alice was its first recipient. At each subsequent Annual Meeting this prestigious award is given to an individual who has carried on Alice's work and made an outstanding contribution to field of dyslexia. The award this

year was poignant – It gave MABIDA a chance to reflect on Alice's enormous impact on so many lives.

Alice's influence will live on through generations.

Bob Lemire: Long before Lexia was founded in 1984 to explore the possibility of using technology to deliver a learning experience that would benefit dyslexic students, Alice Garside was widely recognized as a consummate Orton Gillingham teacher trainer at the MGH Language Clinic under the direction of Dr. Edwin Cole. As most of you know, Alice was the granddaughter of a 19th century whaling captain. Some of us think that Alice inherited his forceful presence. The Orton Gillingham Reading Method was Alice's North Star. She firmly believed that its content and structured architecture were effective, and that teaching deviations were not to be tolerated. Many of us believe she was correct.

Alice was deeply involved in the conceptualization of the role technology might play in the assessment and skills development process that are essential to help dyslexic kids learn to read. Alice always vetted the results for adherence to her Orton Gillingham standards.



So it was Alice and her friends who have kept Lexia on course and away from the many rocks and shoals that beckoned us away from our OG roots. We are grateful for Alice. read. As time passed, it was Alice, Sharon Marsh, Pamela Hook Angie Wilkins, and others who developed the pedagogy while Nancy Johnson turned her texts into "computereese". Alice always vetted the results for adherence to her Orton Gillingham standards.

As more time passed, Alice became a Lexia director while maintaining her focus on each individual product. Her objective was to keep Lexia on course. Alice's interest in Lexia never flagged and she always enjoyed her participation in Lexia's annual celebrations.

So it was Alice and her friends who have kept Lexia on course and away from the many rocks and shoals that beckoned us away from our OG roots. We are grateful for Alice. We are grateful for Dr. Cole. And, we are grateful for our long relationships with the Carroll School and the Learning Disabilities Network, which help us keep the memory of Alice and Dr. Cole alive.

Book Review

The Everything Parent's Guide to Children with Dyslexia

It is difficult to find a single source that answers the many questions that parents have regarding their children's learning style and needs. Every once in a while, however, a credible source emerges that deserves consideration. *The Everything Parent's Guide to Children with Dyslexia* is a comprehensive tome written for parents and lay people (and professionals as well) in an organized format that defines dyslexia, discusses appropriate strategies, and provides some good sources for additional information. Author Abigail Marshall has done her homework and presents information in a user friendly, easy to access format. She covers salient topics such as the IEP process, different types of learning situations (including home schooling), technology and tools, other academic areas that can be affected by dyslexia, and developing self-esteem and independence. She also explains different needs (fluency versus phonics, for example) and the types of reading programs that are appropriate for those needs, giving specific examples with more objectivity and clarity than is usually

seen by those of us in the field. Ms. Marshall also talks about therapies, including some that are fairly controversial, with cautionary notes for parents that are presented in a no-nonsense fashion.

Not all books written in this series have the same depth, accuracy, and coverage as this particular book. I would add that no single source is perfect. Overall, however, this book is highly recommended as an excellent reference, particularly to parents who have only recently learned about their child's needs, as it offers simple but intelligent explanations to help guide you in helping your child to learn.

Eileen Antalek, Ed.D.

Educational Consultant
Licensed School Psychologist

2008 MABIDA Conference

The Massachusetts Branch of the International Dyslexia Association (MABIDA) invites you to participate in the Third Annual Reaching ALL Readers Conference. This year's conference will focus on using assistive technology to support skill acquisition in reading, writing and spelling

Karen Janowski, M.S, Ed., OTL will present a morning workshop on each day that will help participants promote academic independence with students who struggle with reading, written expression and spelling skills. On the first day, she will discuss software tools that enhance these skills through:

Using what you know, using what is readily available in new ways, using technology to differentiate instruction, promoting Universal Design for Learning and using accommodation strategies to complement remediation/instruction

On the second day, more informal discussions will be held to allow participants to go into more depth into the use of computers to aid in reading and writing.

Participants will view software demonstrations of programs for decoding, fluency, speech-to-print, and writing, be informed about tools from low tech to high tech and learn to use free resources for developing vocabulary and comprehension.

Participants will learn how software can remove the barriers to curriculum access and help students demonstrate what they know more independently. Expand your technology toolbox with an abundance of technology tool strategies

Save the Date—Additional events

LIPS training

March 3-4 and 10-11; Needham
May 1-2 and June 9-10; Needham

Nancibell® Visualizing & Verbalizing™*

March 6-7, 2008; Andover;
June 5-6, 2008; Andover

Orton-Gillingham Introduction

March 14, 2008; Needham

Orton-Gillingham - (45 hour course)

June 26, 27, 30, July 1, 8, 9, 10, 2008 (all one training); Norwood

Executive Function Skills

March 12, 2008; Newton

Massachusetts Reading Association ;

April 10–11; Sturbridge.

For additional information and other upcoming events please visit our website at www.dyslexia-ma.org



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Conference Registration

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Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail registration form to:
MABIDA C/O Sarah Wolf,

32B Burnside Ave., Somerville, MA 02144.

Registration Deadline: April 25, 2008.

Please circle the day(s) you will be attending.

	<u>MABIDA Member</u>	<u>Nonmember</u>
May 3	\$80	\$95
May 10	\$40	\$45
Both Days	\$110	\$130

Full-time Students are \$25/day. Please include a copy of your student ID with application.

Continental breakfast both days and lunch on May 3rd are included in the registration fee.

Conference Contact Information

For registration information:

Sarah Wolf at 617 776-0461 or sarahpwolf@comcast.net

All other inquiries:

Richard Belofsky at rabelofsky@comcast.net OR

Sara Byruck at sbyruck@comcast.net

For information regarding PDP's please visit our website at www.dyslexia-ma.org