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Adult Learning Network

The Adult Learning Network is a quarterly publication of the AALRC.

The Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center provides equal access to all programs and activities.

Statewide Meeting to Discuss Literacy Issues

David Jolliffe, Brown Chair in English Literacy, is spearheading efforts to improve literacy education in Arkansas

About one hundred Arkansans who work with literacy as teachers, tutors, administrators and policymakers gathered at the University of Arkansas on Friday, Sept. 15, to draft a "state of state literacy" document for Arkansas and to participate in workshops on literacy issues offered by experts from across the country and close to home. Billed as a statewide "town hall meeting" on literacy, the event was sponsored by the Brown Chair in English Literacy at the University of Arkansas. "The town hall meeting represents an opportunity for folks from all corners of Arkansas to consider our common concerns and to plan projects to meet the literacy needs of Arkansas' citizens," said David Jolliffe in a UA press release. Jolliffe is a Fulbright College English professor who occupies the Brown Chair in English Literacy.

The morning session gave participants the opportunity to generate material that will eventually become a document that addresses four questions: What do we know about literacy in Arkansas already? What do we need to know? What are we doing about literacy in Arkansas already? What do we need to do? Each member of the Brown Chair advisory committee gave a brief presentation, after which participants wrote comments, discussed them in groups and then reported their conclusions to the group as a whole.

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GED Graduates vs. Traditional High School Graduates Comparison Study

By Janice Hanlon, Arkansas GED Administrator

The State GED Testing Office in conjunction with the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville recently completed a two-year study comparing GED graduates with traditional high school graduates. Nancy Whitmire, adult education center director at UACC Batesville, gathered the information for the project that followed the enrolling freshmen of 2004 and followed the students for two years. The study involved 57 GED graduates and 240 traditional high school graduates. The comparisons included the following:

- Full-time vs. part-time
- Ages of the traditional vs. GED grads
- Enrollment in developmental courses
- Academic probation
- Retention rate
- Grade point average

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Professional Development News



ESL News

ARKTESOL will be the host affiliate for the upcoming Southeast Regional TESOL Conference to be held in LITTLE ROCK from November 29 - December 2, 2006. This should be a very big event for the state, for ARKTESOL, and for our ESOL community!

Conference information, the registration form, and other information about the Peabody Hotel and accommodations in Little Rock are available on the ARKTESOL website:

<http://wolves.dsc.k12.ar.us/arktesol/arktesol.htm>



NOTICE:

If you are unable to attend a workshop you have registered for, please contact the AALRC as soon as possible. Participants are often placed on waiting lists because workshops fill up. If you find that you cannot attend a workshop and you call ahead, this gives us time to notify wait-listed participants that they can attend.

When a workshop has a waiting list, participants may not send substitutes from their center to attend in their place. Registrations are held for participants and not for centers.

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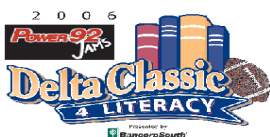
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http://www.escweb.net/ar_esc/

Please remember that the AALRC is now using ESC Web for all workshop/training registrations. Tips, tricks, and hints may be found on the AALRC web site at: <http://www.aalrc.org/profdev/ESCWeb.doc>. If you are still having trouble, you can always call the AALRC at 1-800-832-6242 or 1-501-907-2490.



What is the Delta Classic 4 Literacy?

Originally created by Dr. Fitz Hill as the Literacy Classic while he was Head Coach of the San Jose State Spartans, the event has moved to Little Rock as the **Delta Classic 4 Literacy**. The 2006 event will be the first of an annual series of football games to be played between historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

But the Delta Classic is much more than just a football game. Each year, the game will cap off a full week of [Delta Classic events](#) designed to raise awareness about literacy improvement needs in the Delta region of the South and to raise money to fund literacy programs. <http://www.deltaclassic4literacy.org/>

New Adult Education Program Advisor chosen for Department of Workforce Education, Adult Education Section



Carla Hendrix -
Adult Education Program Advisor

Carla Hendrix has been chosen as Larry Therrell’s successor for the Adult Education Program Advisor position for the northwestern section of the state. Carla lives in Joy, a community near Searcy, with her husband David, and daughter Kayla. She graduated from Harding University with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Education. She obtained her adult education, computer, vocational, and career orientation endorsements, as well. She began her career in education as an adult education instructor with Foothills Technical Institute (now ASU Searcy). She taught there five years, and then moved to Wilbur D. Mills Educational Coop in Beebe where she worked two years as a Workforce Education Evaluator. Carla worked as a junior high business teacher and dance team coach at Rose Bud High School from 1999 through 2006. She says that she is happy to be back serving in adult education.

Larry Therrell retired this past July after serving over 31 years in adult education as an instructor and as a program advisor. Larry has served on various committees over the years that have included funding, writing of program policies, and state plans.

GED Mathematics Training Institute

The GED Mathematics Training Institute was conducted in Arlington, Virginia on August 22-24, 2006. Nancy Loftis attended the institute as the Arkansas representative. Planning is underway for statewide implementation of the project. The institute was designed based on the findings of the data analysis conducted by GED Testing Service and MPR Associates, Inc. and addresses two goals.

Goal 1: To provide trainers with the tools, resources, and strategies needed to conduct professional development for GED teachers within their respective service areas.

Goal 2: To provide GED teachers with the information they need to recognize those areas of mathematics with which students are having the most difficulty and how to adapt their instructional practices to help students perform better on the GED Mathematics Test.

Calendar
All events are at the AALRC unless otherwise noted.

Professional Development Training

- October 5 - GED Examiner’s Regional Meeting - NW AR Community College - Bentonville
- October 10 - GED Examiner’s Regional Meeting - Paragould Community Center
- October 12-13 - ESL Basics
- October 16-18 - LD Comprehensive (Session 2)
- October 17 - Computer Basics
- October 18 - PowerPoint
- October 19-20 - Administrators’ Training - Ft. Smith Convention Center
- October 26-27 - AACAE - Riverfront Wyndham - NLR

- November 1 - Beginning Excel
- November 2 - Beginning Excel - (Repeat of previous session)
- November 6 - CAELA Follow-up
- November 7-8 - LD Comprehensive (Session 3)
- November 9-10 - ESL Basics
- November 14-15 - Teaching with Manipulatives - (Formerly Strategies and Accommodations)
- November 30 - December 1 - Literacy Strategies
- December 5-6 - LD Comprehensive (Session 4)

Meeting Calendar

- October 3 - AACAE Committee
- October 12 - AALRC Advisory Committee

- November 16-17 - Adult Education Advisory Council - Black River Technical - Pocahontas
- December 8 - WAGE Meeting

*Third Statewide Meeting to Discuss Literacy Issues**Continued from page 1*

In the afternoon, members of the advisory committee conducted 90-minute workshops on such topics as fostering literacy in the workplace, working with struggling readers, enriching literacy learning through community arts organizations, providing literacy instruction to speakers of languages other than English and involving families in literacy education.

Members of the Brown Chair advisory committee include Jim Allen, executive director of the Ozark Literacy Council; Deborah Brandt, professor of English at the University of Wisconsin at Madison; Jo Davis, literacy specialist for the Delta Academic Initiative; Judy Fox, literacy trainer for the Hagerstown (Maryland) Schools; Eli Goldblatt, writing program director at Temple University; Fitz Hill, president of Arkansas Baptist College; Philip Less, ESL coordinator for the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education; and Patti Williford, director of the Southwest Arkansas Migrant Education Cooperative.

Building Support for Your State Program

On October 19-20, 2006 Adult Education and Literacy Council Directors will meet at the Fort Smith Convention Center. On October 19, Lennox McClendon, Executive Director of the National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium, and Art Ellison, State Director for New Hampshire, will present "Building Support for Your State Program." The focus of the meeting will be emphasize that Adult Education and Literacy leaders must begin working together to create a shared voice for our state program.

This could not come at a better time since our legislative session will begin in January 2007. Watch for an update from the training in the next newsletter.

*GED Graduates vs. Traditional High School Graduates**Continued from page 1*

Some of the findings of the study were that the GED graduates were more likely to take developmental courses in math but fewer in reading and writing than traditional high school graduates; the age spread of GED graduates was greater than the high school graduates, and the grade point averages of GED graduates were only slightly lower. Another interesting finding was that the GED graduates were more likely to leave school before the end of two years.

GED graduates comprised 11.6 per cent of the first-time entering total enrollment of Arkansas state-funded colleges and universities in the 2005-06 academic year.

The study provides valuable information that can be used to assist our GED graduates as they transition into higher education. The study received national recognition as Janice Hanlon, Arkansas GED Administrator, and Tandra Nicholson, GED Administrative Assistant, were asked to present the information at the national GED Administrators' Conference in Portland, Maine this summer.

News from the Disabilities Project Manager

New Names for LD Workshops

The AALRC has changed the names of two learning disabilities' workshops that are offered at least annually, so look out! You may be signing up for a workshop you have already completed in the past.

The *Payne-Jordan LD Workshop* is now called the *Learning Disabilities Comprehensive Workshop Series*. So if you've been through the Payne training, be aware that the LD Comp. workshop is the Payne training with a new name.

Likewise for what was known previously as the *Strategies and Accommodations* workshop, which is now called *Teaching with Manipulatives*.

For detailed information about these and other learning disabilities workshops, please go to http://aalrc.org/resources/ld/ld_workshops.pdf.

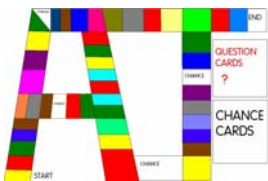
GEDTS Accommodations Brochure

The national office of the General Educational Development Testing Service (GEDTS) has developed a new brochure called [*Tips for Candidates with Disabilities*](#), which provides information for people who wish to take the GED test. The brochure lists accommodations available for people with disabilities and provides information on how to request them. Specific forms are available for people with learning and other cognitive disabilities and for people with ADHD.

This fall GEDTS will disseminate the brochure to official GED Testing Centers, and it will continue to monitor its state and local offices to ensure that they are aware of the policies and improve access for people with disabilities.

Assistive Technology for Students with Learning Disabilities, Part 3

This is the third and final article (for now) about assistive technology available for check-out at the AALRC library. The last two newsletters included information about the FM Loop, RFB&D, talking scientific calculators, and the Step Pad. For Part 3, here are two more items we would like to publicize.



The first item is similar to the Step Pad, and available for the same low price of \$39.00 from <http://tinyurl.com/nqoqk>.

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*AALRC
Advisory
Committee*

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*Harriet Branch,
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*Sharon Ellis,
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*Jennifer Hurst,
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*Billy Upson,
Texarkana*

*Nancy
Whitmire,
Vice-Chair,
Batesville*

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The Time Pad is a handheld digital recorder that you program to set off an alarm at specified times of day. For example, you could set it to 3:30 pm on days you have a GED class or a session with a tutor, and at 3:30, it will sound an alarm. Then you can listen to the recording you attached to that alarm, which may say something like, "It's time to go to class." It's like a pager that you program with your own messages! You could program times to do homework, go to work, take

medication – it's totally individualized. The AALRC has five of these available for loan to adult education and literacy programs if you have a student who would like to try using one before they purchase their own.

Another item in the AALRC assistive technology library is JAWS® for Windows® software (<http://tinyurl.com/5qxlc>) preloaded on a laptop.

JAWS® for Windows® works with your computer to provide access to today's software applications and the Internet. With its internal software speech synthesizer and the computer's sound card, information from the screen is read aloud, providing technology to access a wide variety of information, education and job related applications. JAWS also outputs to refreshable Braille displays, providing yet another means of access for the student who is blind or visually impaired.



If you have a student who is blind or severely visually impaired, he or she may already know how to use JAWS. If they have never used JAWS, it could open the doors to using a computer and the internet that they never knew was possible. The Arkansas School for the Blind offers free JAWS training in their computer lab for instructors who will be working with students using JAWS.

For more information about either of these items, please contact Klaus Neu at the AALRC at klaus@aalrc.org or call 800.832.6242.

How do you INSPIRE your student?

Built on a solid base of educational research, the Inspiration software improves the students' performance to visualize, think, organize and learn. It strengthens critical thinking, comprehension and writing. A one-day training workshop with a valuable copy of the Inspiration software for each participant will be offered at the AALRC on January 25 and 26, 2007. Please feel free to sign up - the session ID numbers are 41871 and 41872.

Adult Education Advisory Council

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*Paulette Martin,
Little Rock*

*Bobbie Sanders,
Little Rock*

*Flora Simon,
Dumas*

*Marsha Taylor,
Little Rock*

Tech**Talk**

Note: To link to any web address (URL) in this newsletter, go the AALRC's home page at <http://aalrc.org>, look up this newsletter, and then just click on the appropriate link.

Purchasing New Computers?

If you are purchasing new computers and are considering buying from Dell, please contact Rob Pollan (rob@aalrc.org or 479-649-5830) and he will check to see if we can get you a better price. In the past, we have been able to get much better pricing.

Computer Recycling

Need to dispose of old computers, monitors, and peripherals? Harkins Recycling can take care of this for free, and they're HAC certified with the EPA. Please don't throw your old equipment in the trash (there are many dangerous materials that need to be disposed of or recycled properly). If you have a pickup truck load or more, Harkins can pick up the load for you, anywhere in the state, for free. If you don't have a large load, please bring it to the AALRC and we can store it for you until there is a large enough load for them to pick up.

Harkins Computer Recycling (Doyle Harkins)
501-840-3840 Cell
501-860-7081 Office

AALRC Remote Help Program

If you haven't heard, the AALRC has a great remote control program that will allow us to connect to your computer in seconds and fix your computer problems. If you have any kind of question or problem with your computer, lab full of computers, or server, go to www.aalrc.org and click on Technology, then Remote Control (the direct address is <http://www.aalrc.org/resources/tech/techSupport.aspx>). There are complete instructions on installing the remote, and it really is easy. Once installed, it will be like we are there at your location, we can see what you see, and you will see the cursor move around as we fix your problems. You will even have the option of allowing us to connect to your computer or not, and when the problems are fixed the remote control program will be removed. Contact Rob Pollan by email at rob@aalrc.org or call at 479-649-5830.

Open CD's, drives, and folders with one easy click and without a cluttered desktop

Tired of Windows CD auto-start never working when you need it and working when you don't want it to? Or do you have to perform a bunch of clicks and wait for My Computer to populate the window with all of the drives icons, just to open up one CD drive? This little tweak puts all of your "My Computer" icons that you want in your Quick Launch toolbar.

If you don't have the Quick Launch toolbar, start here. Right-click START and select PROPERTIES.

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*Open CD's, drives, and folders**Continued from page 7*

On the Taskbar tab, place a check next to “Show Quick Launch”. Press OK. You will now see the Quick Launch icons just to the right of the Start button.

Next, right-click START and select explore. It will open up to C:\Documents and Settings\Your User Name\Start Menu. Note the user name that you are under in the Explorer tree, and navigate to C:\Documents and Settings\Username\Application Data\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Quick Launch. Leave this window open at half screen by clicking on the “Restore Down\Maximize” button (next to the big red X (close) button).

Now open up My Computer again and resize the window so you see this one and the Explorer window. Drag and drop all of the drives you want from My Computer into the Quick Launch folder. You can even put a shortcut to any folder you want by right clicking on the folder and selecting create shortcut. Then drag and drop that folder into the Quick Launch.

Elroy Chinn Wins National Award for Student Excellence

Provided by Twin Lakes Literacy Council

Arkansas literacy council student Elroy Chinn, age 87, has learned to read---and will now receive national recognition for his achievement. ProLiteracy America selected Elroy Chinn for its most prestigious student honor, the Ruth J. Colvin and Frank C. Laubach Award for Student Excellence. Chinn was nominated for the honor by Arkansas Literacy Councils, Inc., who had named Elroy as the Arkansas Student of the Year in 2004 – 2005.

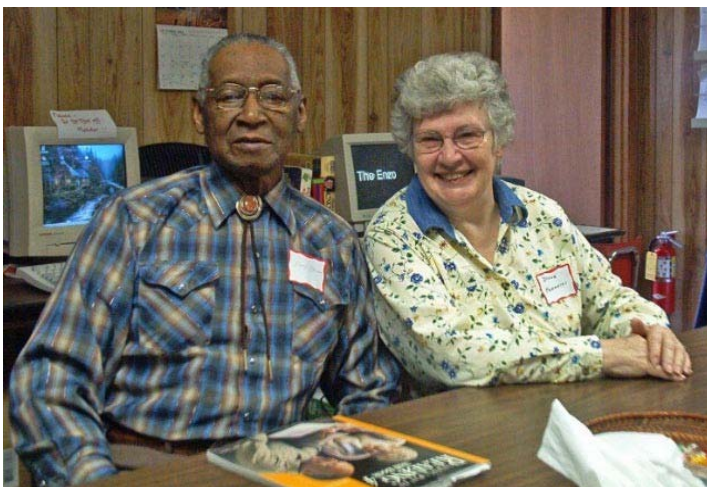


Photo: Elroy Chinn with Dianne Kemmerer, a volunteer tutor for the Twin Lakes Literacy Council

Elroy's lack of education is a result of his history—and America's. He grew up in a sharecropping family in El Campo, Texas at a time when segregation was in full force. “I lived in a prejudiced town,” Chinn said. “We had one school, and it was whites only. There was no colored school.”

Chinn began learning to read at age 84 at Twin Lakes Literacy Council in Baxter County, Arkansas. He says he was afraid that he was too old to learn to read. “I told my wife I can't go to school at my age, and she said, ‘Age ain't got nothing to do with it.’”

Elroy now studies twice a week with tutor Diane Kemmerer to practice newfound reading skills. He's progressed through Books 1 – 3 in the Laubach Way of Reading and is now working on Book 4.

Elroy, accompanied by his wife Sharron, will fly to Atlanta to ProLiteracy's Worldwide Conference on October 4, 2006 to receive his award and make a speech. An interview with Elroy will appear on the organization's website to encourage new literacy volunteers and students.

“I've really been blessed,” Chinn says. “The Lord showed me the way, and I'm taking it.”