

**2016 Annual Conference of the American Reading Forum (ARF)
Sundial Beach and Tennis Resort, Sanibel Island, FL
December 7-10, 2016**

“Disciplinary Literacy in a Connected World”

Conference chairs: Erica R. Hamilton (Grand Valley State University), Deborah Vriend Van Duinen (Hope College), Randi Stanulis (Michigan State University) & Susan Brondyk (Hope College)

In December 2016, the American Reading Forum will be entering its 37th year as a professional organization that facilitates the dissemination of ideas and research and places a high priority on providing its members opportunities for critical discussions of ideas, issues, research, emerging research interests, and paradigms.

The conference theme addresses the importance of being and staying connected in an increasingly specialized world where there is a growing emphasis on disciplinary literacy and the need for teachers and learners to understand and apply specialized literacy practices within each discipline in new ways. As we explore K-12 and postsecondary disciplinary-dependent literacy instruction and learning, we hope to engage in productive dialogue about the challenges and opportunities facing the field of disciplinary literacy, the literacy practices unique to different disciplines and levels of learning within them, as well as ways in which technology and technology integration can support disciplinary literacy instruction and learning. *Topics could include ways in which teachers and teacher educators support and extend students’ learning and literacy practices within and across disciplines; connections between standards-based education and disciplinary literacy instruction; the use of technology to support and extend students’ literacy learning and practices; how K-12 teachers help students read, write, think and talk like experts within specific fields of study; and, the preparation of pre-service and in-service teachers to address K-12 students’ literacy development and learning.*

The 2016 conference theme calls for participants to submit proposals, panels, and/or problems court sessions relating to literacy-based teacher preparation, disciplinary literacy teacher practices, or other disciplinary literacy teacher-centered topics. We extend this invitation to all members of the Reading/Literacy community to participate in the 2016 American Reading Forum Conference. A process of peer review will be utilized to review conference proposals. ARF 2016 conference proposals should be submitted to: hamilter@gvsu.edu.

Keynote speakers for this conference:

Dr. Donna Alvermann, Omer Clyde and Elizabeth Parr Aderhold Professor in Education and Distinguished Research Professor, Department of Language and Literacy Education, University of Georgia

Dr. Elizabeth Birr Moje, Associate Dean for research and community engagement and an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor in the School of Education, University of Michigan

Dr. Troy Hicks, Professor of English and Director of the Chippewa River Writing Project, Central Michigan University

Dr. William Kist, Professor, School of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Studies, Kent State University

Important Dates

July 10, 2016 – *Preferred* Deadline: Proposals for Papers, Panels, and Problems Courts due

August 1, 2016 – *Final* Deadline: Proposals for Papers, Panels, and Problems Courts due

September 1, 2016 – Feedback on proposals will be sent out via email

October 1, 2016 – Graduate student proposals must be submitted

October 1, 2016 – Early bird conference registration ends

November 1, 2016 – Feedback on graduate student proposals will be sent out

November 2016 – Attendees must make reservations at the Sundial

November 11, 2016 – Online conference registration ends

December 7-10, 2016 – Conference @ Sundial Resort, Sanibel Island, FL

General Information

Proposals for Papers, Panels, Problems Courts, and Advancing Literacy sessions will be considered for inclusion in the 2016 American Reading Forum Annual Conference Program if they are received by August 1, 2016. Conference proposals are peer-reviewed and all presenters are expected to register and attend the conference to present. *The membership of the American Reading Forum has consistently requested that people submit proposals only if they fully believe presentation obligations can be met.* Generally, a person will appear only once as a presenter in the program but could also appear as a reactor for one of the various sessions. It is our hope that all presenters will become active conferees.

All presenters are invited to submit their papers for consideration for publication in the Yearbook of the American Reading Forum. Reactors and members of the audience are invited to write reactions for such consideration. However, if the original paper is not accepted in the peer review process, related reaction papers will be dropped from consideration.

Guidelines for Submitting Proposals

Paper sessions will be limited to 30 minutes. The program committee will schedule two or three papers on related topics in a time slot. If individuals submitting the proposal have not named a reactor, the program committee will appoint a reactor who will start the sessions and facilitate a 10-minute reaction to the papers, including comments and questions from the audience. Special arrangements may be made for paper presentations that need more time, depending on schedule and availability.

Panel sessions will be limited to 60 minutes. Those proposing panel sessions should assemble a program on one topic or multiple but related topics focused on the conference theme. Panel proposers should name their own chairs, reactors, and any others who may have a specific role in the program. Novel approaches, ways of presenting, and/or ways of involving the audience are welcome in the panel sessions. If additional time is needed, please request additional time on the proposal cover sheet.

Problems Court sessions will be allotted 60 to 90 minutes. Not more than 30-45 minutes should be spent presenting a problem or problems – connected to the conference theme – that need to be resolved along with possible solutions or courses of action. The remaining 30-45 minutes should be reserved for audience participation. Panel proposers should name their own chairs, reactors, and any others who may have a specific role in the session.

Advancing Literacy sessions will be allotted 20 minutes during an all-conference round table session. An advancing literacy paper presentation describes an on-going study – work in the planning stages or theoretical work. Presenters share for 10 minutes with 10 minutes for follow-up discussion.

Materials to be Submitted with a Proposal

PLEASE, NO NAMES ON PROPOSAL DESCRIPTIONS. NAMES SHOULD APPEAR ONLY ON THE COVER SHEET.

All Proposals must be submitted electronically **by August 1, 2016** to Erica Hamilton (hamilter@gvsu.edu) and must include the following:

1. One cover sheet (include name, institutional affiliation, mailing address, cell/office telephone(s), additional presenter name(s) and their institutional affiliation, mailing address, cell/office telephone).
2. Description of proposal (including proposal type) following specific session guidelines (see next page).

NOTE: Graduate Students interested in a Graduate Student Scholarship should submit their proposals by **October 1, 2016** to Nance Wilson (nance.wilson@cortland.edu). Information about this scholarship can be found [HERE](#).

Receipt of the proposal and notification of the the program committee's decision will be sent electronically to the first author.

Paper sessions must include a two-to-three-page, double-spaced summary of the proposal including:

- Objectives
- Perspectives or theoretical framework
- Methods and/or techniques
- Data source(s)
- Results, conclusions, point of view
- Educational or scientific importance

Panel sessions should be outlined in a two-to-three-page, double-spaced summary including:

- Objectives
- Perspectives or theoretical framework
- Educational or scientific importance
- Key questions for discussion

Problems Court sessions should be outlined in a two-to-three-page, double-spaced summary including:

- Objectives
- Perspectives or theoretical framework
- Educational or scientific importance
- Key questions for discussion

Advancing Literacy sessions should be outlined in a two-to-three-page, double-spaced summary including:

- Objectives for presenting the work
- Developing Perspectives or theoretical framework
- Developing methods and/or techniques
- Key questions for discussion

Audio Visual Equipment: Data projectors will be provided; however, laptops, or other computer equipment will not be provided. Presenters are responsible for additional equipment, including adapters unique to their laptops. **NOTE: Audiovisual equipment (i.e., LCD projectors, screens) are NOT provided for the Advancing Literacy roundtable sessions.**