

## 2012 Literacy Summit: What's Hot in Literacy

On Friday and Saturday, February 3 and 4, 2012, the Texas Association for Literacy Education (TALE) had a Literacy Summit in San Antonio based on the theme "What's Hot in Literacy for 2012." This theme, in turn, was based on the annual survey "What's Hot In Literacy" which has been appearing in *Reading Today* for over 15 years.

The Literacy Summit was co-sponsored by two other groups— Specialized Literacy Professionals (A SIG of the International Reading Association) and the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW). Educators from over 15 states presented. Enthusiasm for the conference ran high, and over 200 educators from around the country attended the event.

The Summit was co-chaired by Dr. Jack Cassidy and Dr. Stephanie Grote-Garcia from UIW and both of them were also speakers at the event. Keynote speakers included former IRA President Dr. Jerry Johns of Northern Illinois University, Dr. P. David Pearson from the University of California at Berkeley and chair of IRA's

newly formed Literacy Research Panel, and Dr. Karen Bromley of State



Dr. Jack Cassidy, Dr. Stephanie Grote-Garcia, and Dr. Denise Staudt at the Literacy Summit on February 3, 2012.

University at Binghamton.

Dr. Bromley, as the IRA official representative to the conference said, "*I was thrilled and energized by the Literacy Summit held recently in San Antonio at the University of the Incarnate Word. The opportunity to hear outstanding speakers present on a range of HOT topics was a huge plus. But, it was also exciting to see over 200 people in attendance who joined and are excited about the new Texas Association for Literacy Educators (TALE).*"

At the conclusion of the Summit, Cassidy presented Dr. Bromley with the for-

mal application to be officially chartered as an IRA affiliated group. **Dr. Bromley took that application to the IRA Board on February 25th and TALE was officially chartered.**

More information about the Literacy Summit and the start of TALE will be featured in an upcoming issue of the IRA's *Reading Today!*

Visit the IRA's website at [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org)

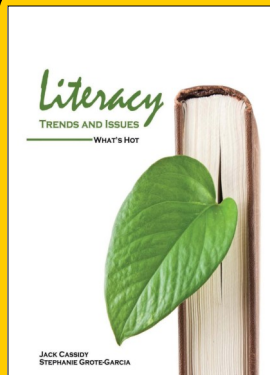


Reading Teachers enjoying the Literacy Summit at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio.

To see more pictures of the Literacy Summit, visit [www.texasreaders.org](http://www.texasreaders.org)

**Inside this issue:**

Literacy Summit	1
Literacy Trends and Issues	2
A New Association Begins	2
Meet Your President	2
Meet Your President-Elect	3
Meet Your Secretary	4
TALE Updates	4
Looking Toward the Future	5



**Literacy Trends and Issues: What's Hot**

**Edited by Dr. Jack Cassidy and Dr. Stephanie Grote-Garcia**

# Literacy Trends and Issues

*Literacy Trends and Issues: What's Hot*, a publication by Kendall Hunt, was edited by Dr. Jack Cassidy and Dr. Stephanie Grote-Garcia. The book contains brief chapters on the eight HOT issues in Literacy for 2012 (i.e., adolescent literacy, common core standards, college and career readiness, reading

comprehension, high-stakes assessment, informational text, new literacies/digital literacies, and response to intervention). Chapter authors include Dr. Jack Cassidy, Dr. Jill Lewis-Spector, Dr. Jennifer Shettel, Dr. Stephanie Grote-Garcia, Dr. Douglas J. Loveless, Dr. Evan Ortlieb, Dr. Sherrye D. Garrett, Dr.

Alan Farstrup, and Dr. Barbara Marinak.

The book was initially introduced at the Literacy Summit, but is still available through Kendall-Hunt. **Profits from this publication are shared by TALE and the Specialized Literacy Professionals, a special interest group of the IRA.**

**“Thank you to all who attended the Literacy Summit on February 3rd and 4th.”**

## A New Association Begins

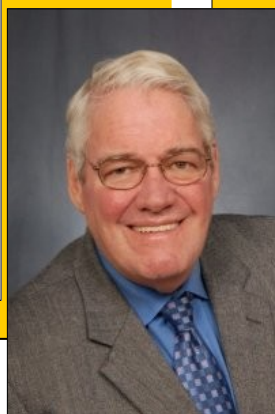
In May 2011, the Texas State Reading Association (TRSA) formally disbanded after 40 years of operation. TSRA had severe financial difficulties as well as problems recruiting and retaining officers. Many people, including former IRA President Jack Cassidy,

were dismayed that Texas would now be the only state that would not have an IRA-affiliated state association. With the blessing of some former TSRA leaders, Cassidy assembled a group of educators at his house in late August, 2011 to discuss the for-

mation of a new organization. From that group, **the Texas Association for Literacy Education (TALE) emerged.** The Literacy Summit on February 3rd and 4th was the first official gathering of TALE. Thank you to all who attended this event.

## Meet Your President

**Dr. Jack Cassidy,**  
*TALE*  
*President*



**Dr. Jack Cassidy** is a Professor Emeritus at Millersville University in Pennsylvania and is recently retired from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi where he was Associate Dean for

Graduate Studies and a Professor in the College of Education. He is known for his work on literacy trends and issues as exemplified by numerous articles and his recently released book titled, *Lit-*

*eracy Trends and Issues: What's Hot.* Jack is also the former President of the International Reading Association and the College Reading Association.

# Meet Your President-Elect

**Carolyn Hunter Denny** is an elementary Language Arts and Reading Curriculum Specialist for Northside Independent School District in San Antonio. She serves as membership treasurer for the Coalition of Reading and English Supervisors of Texas and is past president of the Alamo Reading Council.



**Carolyn Hunter Denny,**  
*TALE President-Elect*

*What to find out more about the Board of Directors?*

*Visit*  
[www.texasreaders.org](http://www.texasreaders.org)

# Meet Your Secretary

**Dr. Sheri Vasinda** is currently as Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Her research interests include critical and digital literacies, issues surrounding student engage-

ment and efficacy, and teacher action research. Findings from her technology integration projects have been published in several journals and books. She has served the public schools of Texas for almost thirty years. She has received many teach-

ing and service awards such as the Allen ISD Teacher of the Year and Bright Ideas Award, the Phi Delta Kappa Distinguished Service Award, and the Texas A&M University Distinguished Alumni Award.



**Dr. Sheri Vasinda**  
*TALE Secretary*

# TALE Updates

**TALE has a new webpage!**

[www.texasreaders.org](http://www.texasreaders.org)

TALE is on  
**FACEBOOK!**

## **Board of Directors**

**Dr. Jack Cassidy**  
*President*

**Carolyn Hunter Denny**  
*President Elect*

**Dr. Sharon O'Neal**  
*Vice President*

**Dr. Sheri Vasinda**  
*Secretary*

**Dr. Stephanie Grote-Garcia**  
*Treasurer and Webmaster*



### **Interested in joining the Board of Directors?**

*If you are interested in running for a leadership position within TALE, please email your name, contact information, and position of interest to Dr. Stephanie Grote-Garcia at the following email address:*

[grotegar@uiwtx.edu](mailto:grotegar@uiwtx.edu)

# Looking Toward the Future

## **2012**

### **April 15**

*Presenters from the Literacy Summit are encouraged to submit their presentations for publication in a Yearbook. For manuscript guidelines, please visit [www.texasreaders.org](http://www.texasreaders.org)*

### **April 29-May 2**

*The Annual Meeting of the International Reading Association will be in Chicago. More information can be found at [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org)*

### **November**

*Submit proposals for the 2013 Literacy Summit. A call for proposals will be posted in September on [www.texasreaders.org](http://www.texasreaders.org)*

## **2013**

### **May 4**

*TALE will have their second Literacy Summit in San Antonio, TX.*

### **May 5-7**

*The 2013 Annual Meeting of the International Reading Association will be in San Antonio, TX.*

*Do you have information you would like to place in the TALE Newsletter? Please send your request to Dr. Stephanie Grote-Garcia at*

[grotegar@uiwtx.edu](mailto:grotegar@uiwtx.edu)