Keynote Speakers

Katie Tonore, Ed.D.

As a specialist in K-12 literacy, Dr. Katie Tonore combines her passion for literacy and technology integration empowering teachers to provide engaging and effective instruction in their classrooms. She is an Assistant Teaching Professor in the Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education department on the University of Southern Mississippi Hattiesburg campus. Dr. Tonore also serves the department as Graduate Coordinator for the Master’s in Elementary Education program. She teaches a variety of undergraduate and graduate level literacy courses for the M Ed and Masters of Dyslexia Therapy programs. She currently serves as a board member for the Louisiana Branch of International Dyslexia Association (LABIDA). She is a literacy consultant for numerous school districts and is President of Camp Crooked Letter, a company specializing in literacy kits for pre-K - third grade teachers, assistant teachers, and pre-service teachers. With over thirty years of teaching experience, Dr. Tonore is passionate about educating parents and teachers about dyslexia, early literacy and technology integration.

Disclosure statement: Katie Tonore will receive an honorarium for her presentation. No other non-financial relationship exists.

William Van Cleave, M.A.

William Van Cleave is in private practice as an educational consultant whose specialties include morphology and written expression. A nationally recognized speaker, he has presented on effective teaching practices at conferences and schools around the country since 1995. His high level of enthusiasm and energy, his interactive style, and his passion for working with teachers make him an effective presenter. Recent projects include providing the professional development component of a school improvement grant in Oklahoma City, participation on the RtI Writing Standards Committee for the State of Pennsylvania, and incorporation of a Trainer of Trainers project with Wichita Unified School District using his sentence structure approach. The author of three books, including Writing Matters and Everything You Want To Know & Exactly Where to Find It, as well as a number of educational tools and activities, William has served as a classroom teacher, tutor, and administrator in the private school arena at various points in his career.

Disclosure statement: William Van Cleave will receive an honorarium for his presentation. No other non-financial relationship exists.
**Breakout Session Speakers**

**Daphne Cornett, MS, CCC-SLP, CALT-QI**

Daphne Cornett retired as assistant director of the Southern Miss DuBard School for Language Disorders in 2012. She holds certifications in speech-language pathology, elementary education (K-8), and academic therapy (as a therapist and qualified instructor). Currently, she is a practicum supervisor of graduate students in the Dyslexia Therapy Program at Southern Miss. Over the past 35 years, she has worked as a speech-language pathologist with clients with speech, hearing, and/or language-learning differences in a variety of settings. She has also served as a speaker at parent and professional organizations at local, state, and national levels, as well as conducted number in-service programs and teacher workshops.

**Disclosure statement:** Daphne Cornett is employed as a speech-language pathologist at the DuBard School for language disorders. No other non-financial relationship exists.

**Tara Courtney, M.S., CCC-SLP, CALT**

Tara Courtney obtained her bachelor’s degree in speech and hearing sciences and her master’s degree in speech-language pathology from The University of Southern Mississippi. She has worked in numerous settings including the Petal School District, Wesley Medical Center, First Steps Early Intervention, the Children’s Center for Communication and Development, home health, and private practice. She currently works as an enrollment teacher at the DuBard School for Language Disorders and oversees the after-school therapy program for students with dyslexia. She is a nationally-certified speech-language pathologist and a Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT).

**Disclosure statement:** Tara Courtney is employed as a speech-language pathologist at the DuBard School for language disorders. No other non-financial relationship exists.

**Anna Curtis, M.Ed., CALT**

Anna Curtis received her bachelor’s degree in speech and hearing sciences and her master’s degree in dyslexia therapy from The University of Southern Mississippi. She began working as a dyslexia specialist at Hattiesburg Public School District in 2015. She is a member of the Academic Language Therapy Association and the International Dyslexia Association.

**Disclosure statement:** No financial or non-financial relationships exists.
Scott Dossett, M.S.

Scott Dossett received his master’s degree in political science with an emphasis in American government, law, and public administration and is a Certified Public Manager with the state of Mississippi. He worked with the Mississippi Department of Mental Health for 18 years, and has been with the Office for Disability Accommodations at The University of Southern Mississippi for over 8 years. He currently serving as the director for ODA.

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

Kristen Frierson, M.Ed., CALT

Kristen Frierson is a dyslexia therapist with the Mississippi Dyslexia Centers of Hattiesburg. She earned her Master of Dyslexia Therapy from Mississippi College in 2012. She is a certified academic language therapist (CALT) and is currently training to become a qualified instructor.

Kristen graduated from The University of Southern Mississippi with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and additional certification in English. She served in the public school setting as a Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade teacher, an instructional technologist, and a dyslexia therapist. She joined the MS Dyslexia Center team in September of 2015.

Driven to inspire students to achieve personal and academic success, Kristen considers it an honor to serve her students and lead colleagues in providing dyslexia therapy. With a passion for helping students build confidence and strive for their dreams, she enjoys working with others to ensure the best possible learning situations. Kristen has always had a desire to assist others in finding their true potential.

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

Ann M. Harrington, Ph.D.

Ann Harrington is an assistant professor Music Education at Ball State University. She received her Ph.D. and Master in Music Education from the University of Kentucky and her Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Southern Mississippi. Prior to appointments in higher education, Dr. Harrington taught general music to elementary school (including DuBard School) and middle school students in Mississippi and Louisiana and served as a guest lecturer and presenter for both undergraduate music students and in-service teachers. Dr. Harrington has also presented research findings at state, national, and international music education conferences in the areas of lifelong learning, perception and cognition, and teacher preparation.
Disclosure statement: Ann Harrington previously provided music instruction to the DuBard School for Language Disorders as part of her employment with the USM School of Music. No other non-financial relationship exists.

Robin Lemonis, M.Ed., CALT, LDT

Robin Lemonis is the Director of Intervention Services for the Mississippi Department of Education, where she coordinates the implementation of policies and procedures related to Intervention, literacy, early childhood, and dyslexia. A 24-year veteran of the education field, Robin is a member of the Mississippi Reading Panel and an Adjunct Reading Professor for Hinds Community College. She is a member of the International Literacy Association, International Dyslexia Association, and serves as a panel advisory member for the Council of State Government. Robin holds a B.S. in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Reading from Delta State University, a Masters in Dyslexia from Mississippi College, and endorsement in K-12 Mild to Moderate Disabilities. She is also a Licensed Dyslexia Therapist and Certified Academic Language Therapist.

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

Cindy Peden, M.Ed., LDT, CALT

Cindy Peden serves as the Lamar County School District dyslexia coordinator. Prior to joining the Office of Academic Education, she worked as the reading interventionist at Oak Grove Lower Elementary School in Hattiesburg, MS, overseeing the school’s reading intervention program. Cindy attended William Carey University to obtain her master’s degree in dyslexia therapy to become a licensed dyslexia therapist and certified academic language therapist. She obtained a B.S. degree in elementary education from Mississippi State University and has twenty-one years of elementary teaching experience.

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

Susan Perry, M.S., CCC-SLP, CALT

Susan Perry is the Research/Data Coordinator at the DuBard School for Language Disorders at The University of Southern Mississippi. She holds licensure in speech-language pathology and education from the Mississippi Department of Education. She is a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the Mississippi Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and the Academic Language Therapy Association. She is an adjunct instructor in the master of education degree in dyslexia therapy at Southern Miss.
**Disclosure statement:** Susan Perry is employed as a speech-language pathologist at the DuBard School for language disorders. No other non-financial relationship exists.

**Keith Radley, Ph.D., BCBA-D, NCSP**
Keith Radley is an Assistant Professor in the School Psychology program at The University of Southern Mississippi. He is also a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, Licensed Psychologist, and Licensed School Psychologist. His research focuses on the application of behavior analysis in school settings, particularly for individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Disclosure statement:** No financial or non-financial relationships exists.

**Ellen Hunter Ruffin, M.L.I.S.**
Ellen Hunter Ruffin is an Associate Professor has served as the Curator of the de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection since 2006. She believes in the power of children's literature for language development, social development, as well as instilling a creative spirit in children.

**Disclosure statement:** Ellen Ruffin will receive an honorarium for her presentation. No other non-financial relationship exists.

**Amanda L. Schlegel, Ph.D.**
Amanda Schlegel is an associate professor of Music Education at the University of Southern Mississippi where she teaches undergraduate courses in secondary instrumental music methods, introduction to music education, and graduate courses in quantitative research methods, psychology of music, measurement and evaluation, and a variety of seminar courses. In addition to the undergraduate and graduate teaching, Amanda also teaches music at the DuBard school. Her research interests surround music perception and cognition as a function of instrumental music teacher/conductor effectiveness, emotional and affective responses to music, and music teacher education. She currently serves as chair of the NAfME Affective Response Special Research Interest Group (SRIG) and is the past chair of the NAfME Perception and Cognition SRIG. Amanda holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Grove City College, a Master of Music from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, and a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University.

**Disclosure statement:** Amanda Schlegel provides music instruction to the DuBard School for Language Disorders as part of her employment with the USM School of Music. No other non-financial relationship exists.
Christina I. Williams, Ph.D.

Dr. Christina Williams is a licensed clinical psychologist that provides outpatient services for children and adolescents at Pine Grove Outpatient Services. She earned her undergraduate, masters and doctorate degrees in Clinical Psychology from The University of Mississippi. Dr. Williams has done numerous professional presentations related to children and is co-author of a book chapter examining cultural issues involved in the assessment and treatment of children. She has also worked in inpatient, residential and outpatient settings with adults who have addictive disorders, disruptive behaviors, relational problems and personality issues. Dr. Williams also currently serves as the Director of Pine Grove’s doctoral internship program.

Disclosure statement: No financial or non-financial relationships exists.