

# BRIDGING THE GAP

Between Structured Literacy & Assistive Technology

**3/24/18 Dimensions of Dyslexia Conference**  
Bridging the Gap Between Structured Literacy and Assistive Technology

250 14th St NW, Atlanta, GA 30318

Agenda  
&  
Speaker Bios & Session Descriptions

# **3/24/18 IDA-GA Dimensions of Dyslexia Conference**

## **Bridging the Gap Between Structured Literacy and Assistive Technology**

**Morning or Afternoon Program:**

\$15 IDA Member; \$25 Nonmember

**Full Day (Sessions Repeat):**

\$25 Member; \$35 Nonmember

(Children under 16 may attend for free with a registered adult.)

### **Morning Program Agenda**

Room	Time	Presentation
	8:00-8:45 AM	Check-in and Visit Exhibitor Tables (open until 4 pm)
119 A & B	9:00-9:45 AM	AT Showcase
119 A & B	10:00-10:45 AM	AT Showcase
119 A & B	10:55-11:35 AM	AT Showcase
119 C	9:00-9:45AM	How Dyslexics Will Rule the Future with Assistive Technology with Tiffany Sunday
119 C	10:00-10:45AM	Technology that Supports the Dyslexic Learner with Megan Rodriguez & Maxann Wanamaker
119 C	10:55-11:35AM	Struggling Readers and Writers No More with Debbie Brineman and Joyce Derr
Auditorium	9:00-9:45 AM	Tools for Life Presentation with Carolyn Phillips
Auditorium	10:00-10:45 AM	Structured Literacy with Ellen Hill
Auditorium	10:55-11:35 AM	Word Detectives with Natalie Felix & Kelli Lunsford
Auditorium	11:45-12:00 PM	Awards Presentations

### **Afternoon Program Agenda**

Room	Time	Presentation
	12:00-12:45 AM	Check-in and Visit Exhibitor Tables (open until 4 pm)
119 A & B	1:00-1:45 PM	AT Showcase
119 A & B	2:00-2:45 PM	AT Showcase
119 A & B	2:55-3:35 PM	AT Showcase
119 C	1:00-1:45 PM	Struggling Readers and Writers No More with Debbie Brineman and Joyce Derr
119 C	2:00-2:45 PM	Technology that Supports the Dyslexic Learner with Megan Rodriguez & Maxann Wanamaker
119 C	2:55-3:35 PM	How Dyslexics Will Rule the Future with Assistive Technology with Tiffany Sunday
Auditorium	1:00-1:45 PM	Tools for Life Presentation with Carolyn Phillips
Auditorium	2:00-2:45 PM	Structured Literacy with Ellen Hill
Auditorium	2:55-3:35 PM	Word Detectives with Natalie Felix & Kelli Lunsford
Auditorium	3:45-4:00 PM	Awards Presentations

## **#1 Struggling Readers and Writers No More!**

Presenters: Joyce Derr and Debbie Brineman

In this session educators, school administrators, parents, and students will learn about valuable assistive technology solutions and practical applications. Anyone who struggles with reading and writing can use the presented tools and resources to access curriculum materials, complete assignments, and stay organized. Proven solutions that led to reading and writing success will be shared.

*Joyce Derr is an Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) and Speech Language Pathologist who is currently working in the public school setting. She has worked in both the public school and medical and rehabilitation sectors. She attended the University of Georgia and holds a Masters of Education degree in the area of Speech Language Pathology. She has a National Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC-SLP) from the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA) and National Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) credentials from the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA). Her passion is helping students communicate, learn, and succeed through the use of assistive technology.*



*Debbie Brineman is a Physical/Health Disabilities teacher for Cherokee County Schools. She has 32 years of special education teaching experience in Georgia public schools. Her passion is developing and implementing strategies to level the playing field for students with physical disabilities in the classroom. Debbie is also a RESNA certified Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) providing AT support to students with disabilities PK-12.*



## **#2 Technology that Supports the Dyslexic Learner**

Presenters: Maxann Wanamaker and Megan Rodriguez

Dyslexic Learners can greatly benefit from the integration of technology in a 21st century education. This presentation provides a structured overview of validated interventions using Web 2.0 Tools and Google Classroom. Teachers leave with specific resources and activities to promote beneficial student interaction through technology.

*Maxann Wanamaker is currently in her ninth year of teaching at the Swift School in Roswell, Georgia. A 27-year veteran in education, Maxann holds a B.S.E. in early childhood education, M.Ed. in elementary literacy, and is an AOGPE Associate. The mother of four children with dyslexia, Maxann developed a passion for dyslexic education when the first of her four children was diagnosed with dyslexia in 2000. As a teacher at Swift School, she has continued to develop her understanding of the dyslexic mind and works to develop effective teaching strategies that increase student engagement. Maxann has also presented at the National IDA conference and the annual GISA conferences in Atlanta, Georgia.*



*Megan Rodriguez is a reading intervention and ESOL teacher at Macedonia Elementary School in Cherokee County. She received her undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education from Berry College with an endorsement in ESOL. She is additionally a classroom educator in Orton Gillingham and enjoys using technology in the classroom to add to a multisensory approach to education. Furthermore, Megan has a passion for attending and presenting at collaborative conferences. She has presented at conferences such as the 2012 regional NCTM Conference and the most recent 2017 IDA Conference in Atlanta.*



### #3 How Dyslexics Will Rule the Future with Assistive Technology

Presenter: Tiffany Sunday

Attendees will learn about both sides of dyslexia: strengths and the unspoken challenges. During the presentation, Ms. Sunday will share strategies on how assistive technologies can help students focus on their strengths while mitigating the challenges dyslexia can present in the classroom.

First Learning Objective: Gain a more in-depth understanding of the five strengths of dyslexia. With the rapid advancement of technology, the World Economic Forum predicts two most in-demand skills by 2020 will be creativity and complex-problem solving. Dyslexics possess these skills. With assistive technology, individuals with dyslexia and uses these strengths for future employment.

Second Learning Objective: Gain an understanding of the unspoken side of dyslexia and how this area impacts students in the classroom. From word retrieval misfires to having difficulty with small talk and sentence sequencing. Ms. Sunday provides examples how the unspoken side of dyslexia impacts students in the classroom and while completing homework.



Third Learning Objective: Ms. Sunday provides actionable strategies to help dyslexics students use assistive technologies to focus and strengthen their talents and mitigate the dyslexia challenges to help prepare them for college and future employment.

*Tiffany Sunday is an author, professional speaker, and Director of Business Development for Southwest U.S. for Scanning Pens, Inc. Tiffany is internationally known for her book, Dyslexia's Competitive Edge and TEDx Talk Dyslexia 2.0 The Gift of Innovation and Entrepreneurial Mind. Tiffany's third book, How Dyslexics Will Rule the Future, will be published in May 2018. She is also the author of You Posted What!?*

### #4 Word Detectives: Multisensory Morphology Using Scientific Word Investigation (SWI)

Presenters: Natalie Felix and Kellie Lunsford

This session will be an introduction to Scientific Word Investigation for Orton-Gillingham/Structured Literacy practitioners. This introduction will build a foundation to help attendees gain a better understanding of the structure of words from the perspective of morphology, etymology, and phonology. Session highlights include: Aha Moments, The Four Guiding Questions, morphology across the curriculum, the Matrix, the Word Sum, and integrating multisensory activities into words chosen for Scientific Word Investigation (SWI). This interactive session will provide take-away activities for you to lead whole group, small group, and/or individual investigations. Begin your **OWN** learning journey as a Word Detective using Scientific Word Investigation (SWI)!



*Natalie Felix has over 20 years of teaching experience and is currently a Learning Specialist at The Swift School in Roswell, GA. Her education includes a B.S. in Business from Bloomsburg University and a M.A.T. in Special Education from Valdosta State University. She is a Certified Dyslexia Therapist through the International Dyslexia Association and a Fellow-In-Training with the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators which provides teacher training to professionals across the United States and abroad in the Orton-Gillingham Approach. Additionally, her passion for teaching dyslexic students and training professionals*

came about as a result of raising a very bright son who struggled to be successful in a traditional school setting. Mrs. Felix resides in Alpharetta, GA.

*Kellie Lunsford has more than 18 years of teaching experience and currently serves students through her private practice as an Educational Therapist at The Walker School and from her home office. She received her B.S. in Elementary Education from Auburn University and has continued on through years of graduate and post-graduate level training while pursuing additional certifications. As a Certified Dyslexia Practitioner through the International Dyslexia Association, an Associate of the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators and Associate of the Association of Educational Therapists, she offers professional development, testing for educational consultation and specialized intervention. She strives to meet her students' identified needs through a multimodal approach to instruction while implementing therapeutic approaches for academic, social/emotional and executive functioning requisite skills. Kellie resides in Marietta, GA.*



## **#5 Structured Literacy**

Presenter: Ellen Hill



Learn about the components of Structured Literacy and why it is so important to teach them to struggling readers. You'll acquire a bit of knowledge on the stages of Reading Development, and some tips and resources for helping dyslexic learners.

*Ellen Hill has spent 30 years at The Schenck School as a tutor, teacher, Lower School Principal, Admissions Director, and Outplacement Director. Ellen has an undergraduate and Master's degree in Learning Disabilities and is a Fellow member of the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators. Ellen is also the lucky parent of two dyslexic children.*

## **#6 Tools for Life Talk**

Presenter: Carolyn Phillips

This session will focus on a personal journey of living with learning disAbilities and the transformational power of assistive technology (AT). We will explore the collective role each of us play in promoting student success beyond the educational environment and the powerful role of AT in this process. We will examine outcomes that can occur when self-advocacy, inclusion, universal design for learning and appropriate assistive technology solutions are integrated into the lives of individuals with disAbilities. This session will provide participants with helpful tips, opportunities to explore emerging trends and identify specific AT strategies and solutions to promote success in the school setting and that can ultimately assist with smooth transitions into the workplace and community.



*Carolyn P. Phillips is national- recognized in the field of assistive technology and disabilities. Carolyn serves as Director and Principal Investigator of Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology (AT) Act Program at Georgia Tech | AMAC. In this capacity, she oversees a wide range of AT projects and programs, including the National Pass It On Center. Ms. Phillips teaches a graduate class at the University of Georgia in the College of Education. She is a frequent keynote speaker at conferences and guest lecturer at other universities. She has published articles in journals, chapters in books in AT and poetry focused on living with disabilities. Carolyn has dedicated her time and energy to promoting independence of all people, including those with disabilities through advocacy, education, assistive technology and systems change. Among other awards and recognitions, she has received the National Rehabilitation Association's Belle Greve Award for "outstanding contributions and major positive impacts" in the disability community. The Department of Labor in Georgia also gave her the Director's Award for "extraordinary*

*and diligent service on behalf of people with disabilities.” She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia, and her Master's Degree from the University of Kentucky. Carolyn lives in Atlanta, Georgia.*



## **#7 Assistive Technology Showcase**

### **Interactive Technology Sessions:**

**Presenters:** Donna Cherry, Erika Afeman, Sam Peters, Liz Persaud

Students from Swift School and Howard School will be demonstrating the technology.

Come and Play! Stop by the Technology Corner throughout the day to experience assistive technology to support reading, writing, and executive function. Tools to be showcased include Read & Write, Kidspiration/Inspiration, iHomework, Read2Go and GoRead from Bookshare and much more! MacBooks, Chromebooks and iPads are available. The Technology Corner is presented in partnership with The Howard School, Swift School, and Tools for Life.

Tools for Life, the Georgia Assistive Technology Act Program, is a program of AMAC Accessibility at Georgia Tech. Tools for Life (TFL) helps to provide more options for greater freedom by increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work, and play independently in communities of their choice. Services within the TFL Network include: access to AT lending libraries at your community Assistive Technology Resource Centers and Outreach Sites, AT assessments, device demonstrations, group and individual trainings, AT and durable medical equipment reuse, and AT funding education.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to visit the TFL Assistive Technology Solutions Lab at IDA-GA 2018! The AT Lab provides a range of assistive technologies for you to learn about and demo. The Tools for Life team will be in the AT Lab throughout the conference to answer your questions and help provide solutions on assistive technology.



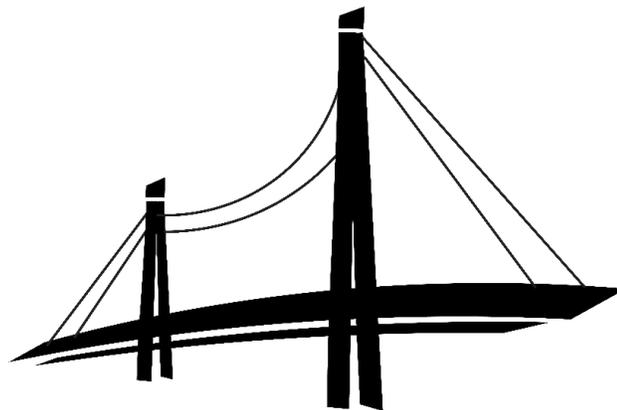
*As an educator for 30 years, Donna Cherry has witnessed the power of technology for students with dyslexia and language-based learning differences. Throughout her experience as teacher, tutor and educational consultant, technology has always played a key role in student empowerment. Now the Director of Technology and Assessment at Swift School, Donna works closely with teachers and students to integrate technology across the curriculum. Donna is a Certified member of The Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators.:*

*Erica Afeman first joined the Board of IDA-GA in 2015 and is currently a Literacy Specialist at The Howard School, where she works with high school students to improve their knowledge of specific language structures and supports the Assistive Technology use for reading and writing in the classroom. Prior to this, Erika was a Learning Specialist for non-public schools in San Diego, CA where she trained faculty on reading and behavioral interventions and monitored the IEP process schoolwide. She was also a Learning Specialist for the Birch Wathen Lenox School in New York City where she ran small intervention groups for reading and math. She has been trained in various multi-sensory approaches to teaching structured literacy and holds a Georgia Teaching Certificate in Special Education General Curriculum, Adaptive Curriculum, Language Arts and Reading.*



*Sam Peters is a graduate from Clemson University with her B.S. in Sociology. As the Program Specialist at Tools for Life, Sam assists in coordinating trainings and public awareness activities throughout Georgia. Sam enjoys getting to pursue her passion of increasing independence for people with disabilities through assistive technology in all aspects of their life. She loves TFL's mission to Live, Learn, Work and especially Play independently in the community of your choice. Sam is always eager to grow her skills in AT as technology is continuously evolving.*

*Liz Persaud is a nationally recognized keynote, public speaker, and advocate addressing the need to build bridges to solidify the gaps between individuals living with and without disabilities. Liz currently serves as the Training and Outreach Coordinator for Tools for Life (Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program) and the Pass It On Center (The National Assistive Technology Device Reutilization Coordination and Technical Assistance Center) at AMAC Accessibility Solutions and Research Center at Georgia Tech. Additionally, Liz provides online and in person training and public awareness for TechSAge, the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center focused on successful aging with a disability. She is a sought-after guest lecturer at numerous universities speaking on the power of assistive technology. Liz is an active advocate with the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Atlanta, providing outreach and raising awareness to numerous groups and organizations across the country. Her passion lies within education about generations of adults growing up and living independently and successfully with childhood neuromuscular diseases. She is also the proud recipient of the 1999 and 2005 Muscular Dystrophy Association Personal Achievement Award in Georgia. Liz has dedicated her life to increasing independence for individuals with disabilities by educating on self-determination and advocacy with a focus on technology and disabilities. Liz is a graduate of Georgia State University and lives in Alpharetta, Georgia with her hero of a husband and supportive family.*



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