

Unmasking Their Potential, 2011

Nicholls State University - Thibodaux, Louisiana

Please join The Louisiana Center for Dyslexia & Related Learning Disorders for *Unmasking Their Potential 2011*, a conference for parents, teachers, guidance counselors, and anyone else interested in making a difference in the lives of students with dyslexia. Enjoy the presentation of our wonderful keynote speaker, participate in a series of breakout sessions, and spend some time visiting with our selected group of vendors. An added bonus is the opportunity to meet other parents, teachers, and tutors who have the same challenges and enjoy the same successes as you!

Our Keynote Speaker



Carole Wills, a 1966 Phi Kappa Phi graduate of Lamar State University in Beaumont, Texas, has been an educator at **The Briarwood School** since 1986. With a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Certification in Secondary Education, Mrs. Wills has served in almost every administrative position at Briarwood. First a secondary Language Arts teacher in the high school program, Mrs. Wills then served as Guidance Advisor, Middle Upper Head, Interim Lower School Head, Interim Tuttle School Head and Assistant Principal for six years. She was appointed Head of School in 1998 and continues to teach one post high school planning class in the Upper School.

Ms. Wills is also an alumna of Lon Morris College in Jacksonville, Texas where she has served on an advisory committee to establish and assess a learning support program for students with learning differences at the college.

In the Houston educational community, Ms. Wills has served twice as President of the Houston Branch of the International Dyslexia Association and currently serves on that Board in an advisory capacity. Additionally, she served for approximately five years as President of the Houston Association of Independent School Heads.

A Bit About The Briarwood School

Founded in 1967, The Briarwood School is an independent, non-profit, co-educational day school for children with learning differences. Especially designed for children in grades K-12, the individualized educational process at Briarwood is total. Two major areas of educational needs are addressed at Briarwood:

1. Diagnosed learning disabilities or exhibited learning differences in reading, math, language, or writing which may be accompanied by attention deficit disorders and/or hyperactivity;
2. Developmental challenges such as pervasive developmental disorders.

At Briarwood, all teachers believe that every child can learn and has the right to be taught in the way that he or she learns best.

**This conference is co-sponsored by
The Giardina Family Foundation
and supported by
The Louisiana Branch of the International Dyslexia Association**

Breakout Sessions

Session A (10:15 – 11:30)

A1 – How to Help Your Child Study: Some Strategies and Techniques – Homework has become a major part of a child’s day. Parents struggle with how to best help their children complete the never-ending pile of assignments and projects. It’s not always the content the child struggle with; it is often the type of homework, the type of questioning, the steps to follow, and then the application of the content. This session will provide parents ideas on how to incorporate strategies and techniques to help their children learn “how to” complete homework and build better skills to independently complete assignments. *Presented by Mandy Songe Poche, M.S., CCC–SLP and Susan Rampp Niette, M.C.D., CCC–SLP*

A2 – Feeling Like a Struggling Reader: Three Reading Simulations – Rarely do struggling readers “just not want to learn.” However, sometimes it is difficult for effective readers to understand why students struggle with various aspects of the reading process. This interactive workshop allows attendees to feel some of the frustrations struggling readers experience on a daily basis. *Presented by Tina Osenga, Founding Partner of Readsters*

A3 – Fun With Vocabulary – Please join this interactive, idea-filled session demonstrating why vocabulary instruction is essential while you participate in vocabulary activities you can use with your children tomorrow. *Presented by Sue Grisko, Independent Reading Consultant*

A4 – Lose the Rules: Multi-syllable Words Made Easy – Learn how to teach students to easily and accurately read and spell long words. The secret is to focus on vowels, not on rules. Participants will learn to use manipulatives to teach students to break words into syllables for reading and spelling. The technique is explicit, systematic, and multi-sensory. It is also easy! See videos of real students using the strategies. This method can be used in kindergarten to help students read words such as *batman, sunset, and picnic* and in upper grades to help students read *citadel, tranquilize, and Madagascar*. *Presented by Michael Hunter, Founding Partner of Readsters*

A5 – The Why and How of Social Success – In the session the presenter will explain the concept of Social Success and why it is important for students, especially those with learning differences. She will also provide information on what parents and teachers can do to address some of the social issues some students have. *Presented by Tracy Purvis, Louisiana Center for Dyslexia*

A6 – Math for Middle School Students – Join these presenters while they provide you with tips and activities to help you middle school students succeed in math! *Presented by Patsy Keenan and Brooke Stikeleather, The Brighton School*

Session B (1:00 – 2:15)

B1 – Widely Used Tactics in CABAS Classrooms – CABAS (Comprehensive Application of Behavior Analysis to Schooling) lessons and teaching methods are used to change and create new behavior patterns in children. These methods can be used with all types of children, regardless of the learning differences. In his presentation, Dr. Gautreaux will share different techniques that may be used at home and in the classroom. *Presented by Dr. Grant Gautreaux, Professor, Nicholls State University College of Education*

B2 – Teaching High Frequency Words Using a Phonics Based Scope and Sequence – High Frequency words are traditionally taught separately from phonics. They are introduced to students in the order of their frequency or sometimes grouped by subject (colors, numbers, etc.) While this approach may work for many students, struggling readers often have difficulty reading and spelling high frequency words such as *saw, was, where*, etc. In this session, learn to organize and teach the words in the Dolch 220 list using a phonics-based instructional sequence. Also learn techniques for teaching students to read and spell the 50 or so words that don't fit into phonics instruction because of irregular spellings. *Presented by Linda Farrell, Founding Partner of Readsters*

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B4 – Receptive and Expressive Language: So What Is It? – Evaluations for dyslexia, learning disabilities, and academics as well as speech and language require an assessment of receptive and expressive language. To fully understand the deficits or disabilities the student has requires a working knowledge of language. This presentation will focus on the difference between receptive and expressive language, how they impact learning, and how they impact communication. *Presented by Susan Rampp Niette, M.C.D., CCC-SLP*

B5 – Dyslexia: What is it anyway? – Dyslexia can appear different in different children. This presenter will help you understand what to look for when trying to figure out if a child has dyslexia. *Presented by Jason Talbot, Louisiana Center for Dyslexia*

B6 – Fun With Vocabulary – Please join this interactive, idea-filled session demonstrating why vocabulary instruction is essential while you participate in vocabulary activities you can use with your children tomorrow. *Presented by Sue Grisko, Independent Reading Consultant*

Session C (2:30 – 3:45)

C1 – Solving the Mysteries of Spelling by Learning About the History of the English Language – Participants learn about the four major layers of the English language: Anglo-Saxon, Norman, French, Latin, and Greek and how each layer continues to influence our language. In essence, when we use English, we speak, read, spell, and understand four different languages. Understanding this phenomenon will help answer the question, “Why is it spelled that way?” Participants will also learn how a word’s language of origin influences meaning. Both spelling and vocabulary instruction will be enhanced with the information learned in this session. This session may sound dry, but Linda Farrell makes it entertaining and fun by starting with a silly play and showing a cartoon. She also plays audio of English as it sounded 1,000 years ago (Old English) and 600 years ago (Middle English) so everyone can hear how our language has developed. *Presented by Linda Farrell, Founding Partner of Readsters*

C2 – Tips for Motivating Struggling Readers – Motivating struggling readers to actively participate in lessons can be daunting. Students are motivated by success. The affirming teaching techniques taught and practiced in this workshop focus on telling students what they get right and making sure they always finish with saying the correct answer. Participants will learn how to help students read more accurately while allowing the student to correct his or her own errors. Immediate and positive error correction is emphasized, and participants practice giving specific positive feedback to student errors. Teachers report that when using these techniques, they see their students change from sullen to eager and active participants in lessons. These techniques work with students of all ages. *Presented by Michael Hunter, Founding Partner of Readsters*

C3 – The Why and How of Social Success – In the session the presenter will explain the concept of Social Success and why it is important for students, especially those with learning differences. She will also provide information on what parents and teachers can do to address some of the social issues some students have. *Presented by Tracy Purvis, Louisiana Center for Dyslexia*

C4 – Widely Used Tactics in CABAS Classrooms – CABAS (Comprehensive Application of Behavior Analysis to Schooling) lessons and teaching methods are used to change and create new behavior patterns in children. These methods can be used with all types of children, regardless of the learning differences. In his presentation, Dr. Gautreaux will share different techniques that may be used at home and in the classroom. *Presented by Dr. Grant Gautreaux, Professor, Nicholls State University College of Education*

C5 – Math for Elementary School Students – Join these presenters while they provide you with tips and activities to help you elementary school students succeed in math! *Presented by Patsy Keenan and Brooke Stikeleather, The Brighton School*

Louisiana Center for Dyslexia & Related Learning Disorders

Conference Registration Form

January 29, 2011

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

E-Mail: _____

Please check: Parent Teacher Student Other _____

Conference fees, **including continental breakfast and lunch**, are as follows:

- Regular Registration (on or before January 25, 2011) \$55.00
- Late Registration (after January 25, 2011; on-site registration available) \$60.00
- Full-time Student (must provide proof – copy of current ID, fee slip, etc.) \$25.00

Mail checks (**payable to Nicholls State University**) with registration forms to:

Nicholls State University
Office of Continuing Education
P.O. Box 2119
Thibodaux, LA 70310

For conference information, call 985-448-4214. For registration information, call 985-448-4444.

Conference Schedule

Please check in at the Bollinger Memorial Student Union. See <http://www.nicholls.edu/about/directions/> for directions to campus and a campus map.

7:30 – 8:15 Check-In, Refreshments, Browse Vendor Tables

8:15 – 8:30 Welcome & Introductions

8:30 – 9:45 Keynote Presentation – Carole Wills

9:45 – 10:10 Browse Vendor Tables

10:15 – 11:30 Session A – please check one Session A choice:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A1 Study Strategies | <input type="checkbox"/> A2 Feeling Like a Struggling Reader |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A3 Fun with Vocabulary | <input type="checkbox"/> A4 Lose the Rules |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A5 The Why and How of Social Success | <input type="checkbox"/> A6 Middle School Math |

11:30 – 12:45 Lunch (included in fee) & Browse Vendor Tables

1:00 – 2:15 Session B - please check one Session B choice:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> B1 Widely Used Tactics | <input type="checkbox"/> B2 Teaching High Frequency Words |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B3 Feeling Like a Struggling Reader | <input type="checkbox"/> B4 Receptive and Expressive Language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B5 Dyslexia: What is it anyway? | <input type="checkbox"/> B6 Fun with Vocabulary |

2:30 - 3:45 Session C – please check one Session C choice:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> C1 Solving the Mysteries of Spelling | <input type="checkbox"/> C2 Tips for Motivating Struggling Readers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C3 The Why and How of Social Success | <input type="checkbox"/> C4 Widely Used Tactics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C5 Elementary School Math | |

The Hampton Inn of Thibodaux is offering a conference rate for the night of Friday, January 28, 2011. Call 985-446-0900 and request the Nicholls Dyslexia Conference rate.