Unmasking Their Potential
2009

In 1993, the Louisiana Branch of the Orton Dyslexia Society (now the International Dyslexia Association) hosted that organization’s international conference in New Orleans. Its theme, *Masked Potential*, has been carried out through other conferences and presentations around Louisiana since then.

Now, The Louisiana Center for Dyslexia & Related Learning Disorders at Nicholls State University is proud to present *Unmasking Their Potential*, a one-day conference for parents, teachers, guidance counselors, and anyone else interested in making a difference in the lives of students with dyslexia.

**Our Keynote Speaker**

**Rob Langston** is chairman and CEO of For the Children Foundation and president of The Langston Company, Inc. He has conducted assemblies for more than 400,000 children in the United States, traveling 100,000 miles annually to present his powerful message of inspiration. Rob is the author of *For the Children, Redefining Success in School and Success in Life* and has been featured on popular radio and TV news shows. He developed the five steps process to overcome a personal battle with Dyslexia. He has teamed up with foundations such as The Charles and Helen Schwab Family Foundation and the Professor Garfield Foundation to make a difference for children with learning disabilities. Copies of Rob’s book will be available for purchase at the conference.

Other presenters include staff of the LA Center for Dyslexia, Members of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Branch of the International Dyslexia Association, Independent Educational Consultants, and Representatives from the Region 1 Educational Service Center and the Parent Training and Information Center.

Conference co-sponsored by
The Louisiana Branch of the International Dyslexia Association
The Giardina Family Foundation
&
Coastal Commerce Bank
Description of Breakout Sessions

Session A (9:45 – 11:15)

A1 – Elementary Comprehension – Creating mental images or “mind movies” is an integral part of reading comprehension, one that many struggling readers fail to accomplish. Learn to help your struggling readers create mental images while reading to improve understanding. (Elementary Educators, Parents, Tutors) Presented by Rachel Hebert, LA Center for Dyslexia

A2 – Elementary Phonics – Beginning readers need to understand that words are made of sounds which are represented by letters. Learn to help your struggling readers “sound out” words. (Elementary Educators, Parents, Tutors) Presented by Linda Musson, Independent Educational Consultant

A3 – Dyslexia Simulation – Step into the shoes of a person with dyslexia. In this simulation activity, you will experience the difficulties faced by students with dyslexia. (All Educators, Parents, Tutors) Presented by Members of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Branch of the International Dyslexia Association

A4 – 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. (All Educators, Parents, Tutors) Presented by Jason Talbot, LA Center for Dyslexia

A5 – LEAP/iLEAP Accommodations – Spring testing is right around the corner. This presenter will help you understand classroom/testing accommodations as they relate to LEAP and iLEAP. (Public School Educators, Parents of Public School Children) Presented by Cindy Arceneaux, Parent Training and Information Center

A6 – Kurzweil Demonstration – This session is a product presentation. The Kurzweil software helps struggling learners with reading, writing, and studying. (All Educators, Parents) Presented by Missy Tatum, Audio Optical Systems of Austin

Session B (12:30 – 2:00)

B1 – Reading Big Words – Students with dyslexia need direct instruction in decoding or sounding out words. Learn to help students in third grade and up decode “big” words. (Educators of Students in Grades 3 and Up, Parents, Tutors) Presented by Karen Chauvin, LA Center for Dyslexia
B2 – College Readiness – Anyone working with high school students will want to attend this presentation. The presenter will provide valuable information for helping your high school student prepare for and succeed in college. (High School Educators, Parents)

Presented by Ashley Munson, LA Center for Dyslexia

B3 – Intermediate/High Writing Composition – Writing composition is very complex, and it presents great challenges for many students with dyslexia. This presentation will show you how writing can be broken into manageable steps. (Middle and High School Educators, Parents, Tutors) Presented by Paula Hotard, LA Center for Dyslexia

B4 – Elementary Sentence Structure – Attend this presentation to learn how to help your student write perfect sentences. (All Educators, Parents, Tutors) Presented by Linda Musson, Independent Educational Consultant

B5 – Assistive Technology for Students Who Learn Differently – The presenter of this session will show the latest in high tech and low tech tools for helping your students succeed. (All Educators, Parents, Tutors) Presented by Katherine Shea, Region 1 Educational Service Center

B6 – 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. (All Educators, Parents, Tutors) Presented by Jason Talbot, LA Center for Dyslexia

B7 – General Classroom Accommodations – This session will focus on general classroom accommodations for students with learning disabilities. (All Educators, Parents) Presented by Cindy Arceneaux, Parent Training and Information Center

B8 – Kurzweil Demonstration – This session is a product presentation. The Kurzweil software helps struggling learners with reading, writing, and studying. (All Educators, Parents) Presented by Missy Tatum, Audio Optical Systems of Austin

Session C (2:15 – 3:45)

C1 – Reading Readiness – Children with dyslexia have a deficit in phonological processing. This session will provide suggestions for activities to help build phonological skills in young children. (Elementary and Early Childhood Educators, Parents, Tutors) Presented by Karen Chauvin, LA Center for Dyslexia

C2 – Dyslexia Simulation – Step into the shoes of a person with dyslexia. In this simulation activity, you will experience the difficulties faced by students with dyslexia. (All Educators, Parents, Tutors) Presented by Members of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Branch of the International Dyslexia Association
C3 – Elementary/Intermediate Writing Composition – Writing composition is very complex, and it presents great challenges for many students with dyslexia. This presentation will show you how writing can be broken into manageable steps. (Elementary and Middle School Educators, Parents, Tutors) Presented by Paula Hotard, LA Center for Dyslexia

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C6 – Intermediate/High Comprehension – Creating mental images or “mind movies” is an integral part of reading comprehension, one that many struggling readers fail to accomplish. Learn to help your struggling readers create mental images while reading to improve understanding. (Middle and High School Educators, Parents, Tutors) Presented by Rachel Hebert, LA Center for Dyslexia

Campus Directions

The conference will take place in Peltier Hall at Nicholls State University. For directions to the campus see http://www.nicholls.edu/about/directions.html

Registration and refreshments will be outside of the auditorium in Peltier Hall, and the Keynote Address will take place in the auditorium. Please enter Peltier Hall at the entrance on Madewood Drive near Ellendale Drive. Maps of the Nicholls campus can be downloaded at http://www.nicholls.edu/about/campus_map.html

For additional information, please contact the Louisiana Center for Dyslexia at 985–448–4214.

To register for the conference, please complete the following registration form and mail it with payment to the address listed on the form. Confirmation of registration will be e–mailed. Breakout session room assignments will be provided at the registration table.
Louisiana Center for Dyslexia & Related Learning Disorders
Conference Registration Form
January 31, 2009

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 26, 2009) $50.00
• Late Registration (after January 26, 2009; on-site registration available) $55.00
• Full-time Student (must provide proof – copy of current ID, fee slip, etc.) $20.00

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

7:45 - 8:15 Check-In & Refreshments (Peltier Hall near the Auditorium)
8:15 – 8:30 Welcome & Introductions (Peltier Auditorium)
8:30 – 9:30 Keynote (Peltier Auditorium)

9:45 – 11:15 Session A – please check one Session A choice:
☐ A1 Elementary Comprehension ☐ A2 Elementary Phonics
☐ A3 Dyslexia Simulation ☐ A4 Dyslexia: What is it, anyway?
☐ A5 LEAP/iLEAP Accommodations ☐ A6 Kurzweil Demonstration

11:15 – 12:15 Lunch in Galliano Cafeteria (included in fee)

12:30 – 2:00 Session B - please check one Session B choice:
☐ B1 Reading Big Words ☐ B2 College Readiness
☐ B3 Intermediate/High Writing Composition ☐ B4 Elementary Sentence Structure
☐ B5 Assistive Technology ☐ B6 Dyslexia: What is it, anyway?
☐ B7 Accommodations ☐ B8 Kurzweil Demonstration

2:15 - 3:45 Session C – please check one Session C choice:
☐ C1 Reading Readiness ☐ C2 Dyslexia Simulation
☐ C3 Elem/Intermediate Writing Composition ☐ C4 College Readiness
☐ C5 Assistive Technology ☐ C6 Intermediate/High Comprehension

For additional information, please call The Louisiana Center for Dyslexia at 985-448-4214.