

University of Wisconsin - La Crosse

# Graduate Reading Program



## *Notes from the Reading Room*

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Welcome to the very first issue of *Notes from the Reading Room*, the newsletter of the Graduate Reading Program at UW-La Crosse. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep *current and prospective graduate students in Reading/Literacy* informed about upcoming events and news in the program, and in professional development and literacy outreach. Plans are to send an issue *once each semester and during summer* session.

### **Director is "Recycled" ☺**

Although she officially retired from UW-La Crosse in May of this year, *Dr. Heiden is continuing to direct the Graduate Reading Program* on a part-time basis. She is generally in her office in *240C Morris Hall on Wednesdays* each week, but is

available by appointment on other days of the week. She checks her campus *email* daily ([heiden.delo@uwlax.edu](mailto:heiden.delo@uwlax.edu)).



## Plan Now for Spring 2008 Courses

### Spring 2008 Offerings for the 316 license:

- **RDG 528 Reading in the Content Areas**  
[Offered every semester, and most summer sessions.]
- **RDG 730 Assessment and Instruction of Students with Reading Difficulties** [Note: *Online* offering\*. This is a one-time occurrence for RDG 730 to be offered in spring. It is scheduled for Semester I, and will be available in Fall 2008, also.]
- **RDG 733 Advanced Assessment and Evaluation of Reading Difficulties** [Note: *Online* offering\*. Prerequisite: RDG 730. RDG 733 is offered Summer Session, odd-numbered years and Semester II, even-numbered years.]

### Spring 2008 Offering for the 17 (formerly 317) license:

- **RDG 739 Guiding and Directing the K-12 Reading Program**  
[Note: this course is offered Semester II only]

## Online Course Offerings

\*Tentative plans for spring include two online offerings:

Dr. Carol Kirk plans to teach *RDG 730 Assessment of Reading Difficulties online*; Dr. Delores Heiden plans to offer *RDG 733 Advanced Assessment of Reading Difficulties online*.

If you are new to online learning, don't worry—your *instructors* will walk you through the process and *assist you* in accessing any technical support you may need. While a high-speed Internet connection would be ideal, you won't have any trouble with a dial-up modem connection.



The big *advantage to online learning*, of course, is being able to work on your class any time of day or night, from home, or anywhere you have Internet access. Our purpose in offering online courses is to make study in the Graduate Reading Program more *easily accessible to education professionals*.

## **What are Your Summer Plans?**

Summer 2008 course offering – advance notice:

- **EDM 773 Current Trends in Literature for Children and Young Adults** with Dr. Richard Gappa, tentatively during Session #1 during late afternoon/evening hours. [Please plan accordingly. In the middle of spring semester you will be able to consult the online "searchable timetable" for details. Go to [www.uwlax.edu](http://www.uwlax.edu) (the campus home page) and click on "Class Timetable" at the bottom of the page.]



If you intend to take ***RDG 747 Reading Practicum*** (required in the 316 licensure track) this summer, please let Dr. Heiden know well in advance (ideally, by early April). The practicum is taught on-site in an area school during summer session, and arrangements need to be made in advance to coordinate with the summer session staff at the school.

## **Information about the Comprehensive Examination**

If you plan to sit for the comprehensive examination to complete your master's program, check into the information about comps on the *website* of the Graduate Reading Program at ([www.uwlax.edu/soe/reading](http://www.uwlax.edu/soe/reading)). See the link for the "Graduate Reading Program Handbook" and then scroll through the table of contents to find "Section B: Capstone Experiences" and "The Comprehensive Examination."

We are developing a *new rubric* for use by the comprehensive examination committee members as they read and evaluate graduate students' responses to the exam questions. The rubric should be approved this fall, and will be *posted on our website* so that graduate students will have access to it. Watch the site for further developments.

## **Investigate UW-L Opportunities for Grad Students**

Did you know that full or part-time graduate students who are enrolled in a program are eligible for *travel awards* for presenting at or attending professional conferences? Did you know that there are also *grants and awards for research, service and educational leadership projects*? For more information, see the website of the Office of University Graduate Studies at <http://www.uwlax.edu/graduate/>.



## **Professional Development Opportunities**

The *Midwest Wisconsin Reading Council* (MWRC) and the *Wisconsin State Reading Association* (WSRA) remain two of

your best resources for professional development in literacy. Make plans now to attend the WSRA annual convention in Milwaukee, February 7-9. Did you receive your convention program in the mail? If not, become a member today—it's a bargain and may well be the best \$32 you'll ever spend!

This year's featured presenters at the WSRA convention run the gamut from Patricia Polacco and Richard Allington to Elaine Garan, J. David Cooper, Steve Krashen, Debbie Miller, Gerald Coles, Doug Buehl, David and Yvonne Freeman, Nell Duke, Camille Blachowicz, Peter Johnston, and many, many more. All these nationally-known literacy scholars and practitioners, right in our back yard! This convention rivals anything at the national level. Go to [www.wsra.org](http://www.wsra.org) for convention highlights, WSRA membership information, and more.

Take a look at this *upcoming WSRA Institute:*

*SATURDAY JANUARY 12, 2008*

*Crowne Plaza, Madison*

*Choice Worlds: Helping children to build literate worlds*

*worth living in*

Presented by *Peter Johnston*

[Note: If you haven't read Johnston's slim but compelling book, *Choice Words*, I heartily recommend it!]

## **Feedback?**

I hope that this first issue of *Notes from the Reading Room* will prove to be useful to you. Let me know what you think, please—and what you believe should be added or changed.

*Thanks!*

--Dr. Heiden



***Best wishes to all of you for continued success in your work  
with readers of all ages!***