



MARCH 2008

WELCOME

Happy St. Patrick's Day from FOR-PD!

FOR-PD continues in its efforts to advance K-12 educators' knowledge about reading and reading instruction through effective online professional development. This semester we are servicing 2092 preK-12 educators in our state!

COMMENTARIES ON FOR-PD

"I am a chemistry teacher, but I have learned through this course that 75% or more of what I do rests on the ability of my students to read and comprehend that text. I do not think I ever really made the connection before which is kind of sad. But I sure see that connection now. I really liked that lesson on the scientific method. Thanks for the enthusiasm." – FOR-PD Participant with a Science background.

"I am very glad that I have taken this course. It has shown me the importance of bringing more literature into the content areas and how some of the same strategies that are used in reading can be advantageous to the content areas too. I don't know how good of a leader I will become, but I know this course has lead me to many new strategies to incorporate in my classroom." – FOR-PD Content Area Participant

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UCF 10th Annual College of Education Literacy Symposium

Come join us for a day of learning focused on celebrating literacy, learning more about reading in the content areas, technology and literacy, motivating students to read and learn from quality literature, improving literacy, and preparing our students for the future! This is a free professional day for all elementary and secondary educators, including literacy coaches, library media specialists, reading specialists, and administrators.

Symposium Topics include:

- Reading for K-12 grades
- Connecting Students with Literature
- Technology
- Literature Circles
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension
- Motivating Readers
- Literature
- ESOL/ELLs

The following experts are the keynote speakers:

Douglas Fisher - *Comprehension is More than Strategies: Reading and Thinking Across Content Areas*

Douglas Fisher is a Professor of Language and Literacy Education in the Department of Teacher Education at San Diego State University

Edward Bloor - *Young Adult Literature (for grades 5 and up)*

Award-Winning Novelist, Editor & English Language Teacher

Edward Bloor is the author of five critically acclaimed young adult novels: Tangerine, Crusader, Story Time, London Calling, and Taken.

For further information, please visit:

<http://education.ucf.edu/litsymposium/>

UCF 10th Annual College of Education Literacy Symposium Details

Theme: Literacy for Now and Beyond: Celebration, Inspiration, and Innovation

Location: The UCF College of Education (Gymnasium)

Date: Friday, April 4, 2008

Time: 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Register: 8:00 AM to 8:30 AM in the Education Complex Gymnasium
OR [Register Online](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration (2008)

Registration for Summer 2008 begins on March 2, 2008 and ends April 14, 2008.

Participants for the FOR-PD course can register by open enrollment or district registration.

Open Enrollment

Open enrollment allows teachers across the state to register directly with FOR-PD. Teachers are grouped with other teachers from their district or surrounding districts. This option is ideal for smaller districts who feel they cannot register a full district section. Many districts post these dates on their district professional development site or send them out directly to teachers through various district communications.

The open enrollment web site can be found at <http://forpd.ucf.edu/register/register.html>.

District Registration

Districts can register their own sections of FOR-PD at no cost to the district. For these sections, the district is responsible for recruiting teachers, completing the registration form, and sending that registration form to FOR-PD. Districts must have at least 20 teachers registered in order to start a district registration. For more information on how your district can register a section of FOR-PD, please go to our district web site at <http://forpd.ucf.edu/register/district.html>.

Registration and Calendar (2008)

Registration

Begins: March 3, 2008

Ends: April 14, 2008

Week 1	May 12 - May 17	Week 8	June 29 – July 5
Week 2	May 19 - May 24	Week 9	July 6 – July 12
Week 3	May 24 - May 31	Week 10	July 13 – July 19
Week 4	June 1 - June 7	Week 11	July 20 – July 26
Week 5	June 8 – June 14	Week 12	July 27-August 2
Week 6	June 15 - June 21	Week 13	August 3 – August 9
Week 7	June 22 – June 28	Week 14	August 10–August 16

Course Closes – August 18

Participants Denied Access: August 19

District Completion Information Sent: by September 12

Certificates Sent: by September 12

FOR-PD INSTRUCTIONAL LITERACY TOOLS AND RESOURCES

FOR-PD E-Literacy Newsletter

We have worked hard to improve this valuable publication; we hope that you will enjoy it and that you will also use it to support your professional needs.

Please read our most recent [E- Literacy Newsletter](#) ; feel free to share it with educators across the state. FOR-PD's Literacy newsletter deals specifically with literacy and learning for K-12 teachers of Florida's public schools. As you read and review our newsletter you will find information on local, state, and federal literacy news, upcoming conferences, celebrations, sources of funding, resources on the World Wide Web, and children's and young adult literature, teacher professional books, and other resources you can use with your students. The participant section answers pertinent questions participants have about the course and provides helpful tips for successful completion. We hope that this newsletter will provide educators with useful information to support their literacy development and the work they do with Florida students.

FOR-PD's Reading Strategy of the Month

Our newest [Reading Strategy of the Month](#) focuses on using the strategy of phrase-cued text to assist developing and struggling students with fluency and comprehension. Fluency is the ability to read text with automaticity, accuracy, and good prosody. Having prosody involves being able to chunk words into appropriate phrases of meaningful units based on the syntactic features of the text (Kuhn & Stahl, 2000). Students who have developed prosody have the ability to achieve greater comprehension of text.

Studies have shown that using phrased-cued texts can facilitate reading performance as it helps focus students on the phrasing and chunking of texts (Rasinski, (1994). By using phrasal units, the phrase carries the meaning within the discourse. Students who have better phrasing ability while they read increase the comprehension of the text. By understanding the context by which phrase-cued text can be utilized in the application of reading strategies, teachers may empower their students in developing their fluency and comprehension with phrasal units.

In our continuing effort to provide additional support to our teachers across the state, FOR-PD has established a [Reading Strategy of the Month](#) for educators to use. Each month FOR-PD features a different reading strategy. The research-base for the strategy is explained, directions on how to use the strategy are provided, ideas for adapting the strategy are explained, assessment tips are shared, and examples are provided from elementary and secondary levels. Check out our monthly strategies and share them with your colleagues. Let us know if you use them and how you use them. Email us at forpd@mail.ucf.edu - subject heading FOR-PD Reading Strategies.

FOR-PD'S ONLINE LITERACY FACILITATOR'S TOOLS AND RESOURCES

Facilitator E-Newsletter

We have worked hard to improve this valuable facilitator publication; please examine and see how FOR-PD continues to provide ongoing professional development for its "online literacy coaches".

Please also read the [March edition of the Facilitator e-Newsletter](#) . This newsletter is developed to support the work of our FOR-PD facilitators.

Facilitator Resource of the Month

March's facilitation resource is part of the *Best Practices in Online Teaching Course* created by Penn State University World Campus as a guide for their faculty who are new to teaching in an online environment.

[Best Practices in Online Teaching - During Teaching - Promote Active Learning](#), written by Larry Ragan, focuses on strategies that can be used to promote active student learning in an online environment.

This module addresses the what, how, and why of encouraging online learners to actively engage in the learning process. This module depicts what effective online instructors do: *Effective online instructors challenge their students' thinking and foster active, constructive participation in learning*. This module is from [The Connexions Project](#) at Rice University.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Two new professional development courses are planned! Each professional development course will be a short, two-week course.

The first course, *Personalizing Your FOR-PD Online Course*, will cover how adding the personal touch helps to engage and connect with participants. The course will also offer tools to accomplish that goal.

The second, *Managing Time Online* will provide facilitators with tips and tools for managing their courses in the most time efficient ways.

The schedule for these course offerings is as follows:

Personalizing Your FOR-PD Online Course

Registration will run May 12 – June 2, 2008. Courses will begin on June 16, 2008.

Managing Time Online

Registration will run September 29 – October 20, 2008. Courses will begin on November 3, 2008.

In order for facilitators to stay current, FOR-PD requires facilitators to participate in some form of professional development each semester (even semesters when not facilitating). Options to complete the professional development requirement include:

- Participate in a self-contained, facilitated course offered in that semester (certificate offered).
- Read the resources offered in the FFF each of the four months in a semester and respond on the discussion board in the "FFF Discussions" section (certificate offered).
- Participate in ongoing discussions on the boards in the "For Facilitators Only" section of WebCT.

HELP DESK HOURS

Help Desk hours are:

- Monday through Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM EST
 - Saturday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM EST
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Help Desk Numbers

Toll free (from Florida only): 1-866-863-READ (7323)

Local calls: 407-249-4702

Technical Support Information

Technical support is also available through AOL Instant Messenger, screen name "forpdhelp."

If teachers need technical support beyond that which their facilitator or school technology coordinator can offer, they should contact the FOR-PD Technical Support Help Desk. Please fill out the [Tech Help Form](#) or call the Help Desk.

Chat Live with the Help Desk. This requires you to have [Macromedia Flash](#) installed on your computer. First, make sure that we are online. See the following link for more information: <http://forpd.ucf.edu/helpdesk/index.html>

FOR-PD Welcomes Feedback!

Do you have comments about the course or the FOR-PD project, in general? Have you received any comments from people in your district? We are always looking for feedback, so send it our way. Email forpd@mail.ucf.edu .

Contact Us:

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