**WOLFRAM E. VERLAAN**

**Assistant Professor of Reading/Literacy**

**University of Alabama in Huntsville**

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**UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**2012 – Present University of Alabama in Huntsville AL**

**Assistant Professor for Reading/Literacy**

Assistant Professor for Reading and Literacy in the Department of Education, College of Liberal Arts, with responsibility for teaching courses in Content Area Reading for undergraduate and graduate students, Reading Assessment and Diagnosis for graduate students, and Elementary Language Arts Methods for undergraduate students. Responsibilities also include supervising final portfolio/capstone projects for graduate students and supervising student teachers.

**2010-2012 TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – CORPUS CHRISTI TX**

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Curriculum and Instruction**

Graduate Teaching Assistant in the department of Curriculum & Instruction with responsibility for teaching courses in Content Area Reading for Secondary Teachers, Literacy Methods for Secondary Language Arts Teachers, and Reading Diagnosis. Activities included delivering undergraduate instruction, assisting master’s students with design of research-based capstone projects, assisting professors with instruction in graduate level reading classes, and delivering instructional presentations to students in graduate classes. In addition, I co-authored research articles and a book chapter with different professors and assisted other doctoral students with writing and data collection. Served as a member of the TAMUCC Student Reading Council and President-Elect of the Corpus Christi chapter of the International Reading Association.

**K-12 EXPERIENCE**

**2009-2010 CORPUS CHRISTI INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TX**

**Teacher – Collegiate High School**

Taught 9th grade algebra and 10th grade world history at Collegiate High School - an Early College High School designed to accelerate students through a 4-year high school curriculum and a 2-year Associates Degree in the space of 4 years. Served on the campus PDM committee as a teacher representative. Served as a faculty representative at curriculum alignment meetings with the host college to address alignment of high school curriculum with college curriculum. Worked on departmental teams to vertically align curriculum in the areas of mathematics and social studies. Served as faculty sponsor for a media studies and social awareness club that involved students in community service projects such as a can drive for the local food bank.

**2006- 2009 CORPUS CHRISTI INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TX Teacher – Marvin Baker Middle School**

Taught 6th Grade Algebra Prep and 7th grade English Language Arts. Nominated for Teacher of The Year for the 2007/2008 School Year. Obtained my National Board Teaching Certification in 2007. Participated on two different grade-level teams charged with designing and implementing curriculum to meet the requirements for International Baccalaureate Organization certification. Presented professional development workshops on reading comprehension strategies at department meetings. Developed lessons for department use to improve writing skills required by state-wide tests. Sponsored the school’s chapter of the National Junior Honor Society, a community service organization that engaged in activities such as beach clean-ups and fundraising for a charity golf tournament to help fund cancer research.

**2004-2006 CORPUS CHRISTI INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TX Teacher – Roy Miller High School**

Taught 10th Grade English Language Arts, 12th Grade English Language Arts and 12th grade AP Literature. Assisted juniors and seniors on weekends with tutoring in various subjects. Served on a team charged with implementing a school district initiative to develop grade level curriculum and vertical alignment for English/Language Arts and Social Studies. Served as faculty sponsor for the graduating class of 2007 (each grade-level class performed community service activities). Worked with pre-service and student teachers in both the 2004/2005 and 2005/2006 school years.

**2002-2004 CORPUS CHRISTI INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TX Teacher – Cullen Place Middle School**

Taught 8th grade Language Arts, 8th grade Mathematics, 7th grade Algebra Prep, 7th grade Language Arts, and 6th grade Math. Started and served as coach of the school MATHCOUNTS team and helped the students to become competitive in regional competitions during just the second year of the program. Started and served as editor of the school’s first newspaper. Worked after school twice weekly for 2 hours each day in the Texas After School Initiative – a program designed to reach at-risk children by delivering curriculum-based activities to provide them supervision, guidance, and academic help. Served as faculty representative at a series of mathematics education seminars sponsored by the Dana Center for Mathematics Education Research at the University of Texas. Worked with consultants from the Washington D.C. based Educational Trust organization to develop a plan to align current curriculum with new educational standards. Worked with grant consultants from the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation to form an implementation plan for the classroom teaching and environment practices that had been developed as part of the foundation's Accountable Schools Program

**OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

**2011- 2012 EDUCATIONAL TESTING CONSULTANTS, INC. NC**

**Instructor – Graduate Placement Exam Preparation**

Delivered test preparation courses for various graduate school placement exams. Responsibilities included teaching classes to prepare students for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), and delivering free test-taking strategy workshops for the GRE, GMAT, and Law School Admission Test (LSAT).

**1994-2000 BELLSOUTH TELECOMMNICATIONS ATLANTA, GA**

**Network Analyst and Engineer**

Performed various roles including Project Manager and Technical Support Manager. Responsible for coordinating a multi-department project team charged with developing and implementing a design strategy to meet customer requirements for a network management solution to proactively monitor and provide fault management for BellSouth’s 50,000 node Distributed IP intranet. Duties included developing project timelines, coordinating and facilitating project management meetings, installing, supporting, and customizing network management software, developing and delivering training classes for operations personnel in the use of the network management software, interfacing with third-party software developers and associated vendors, and developing in-house network management software.

**1984-1994 BELLSOUTH SERVICES BIRMINGHAM, AL**

**Software Engineer and Programmer**

Held a highly visible position developing and supporting software critical to the functioning of a significant portion of Bellsouth’s data processing requirements. Performed various roles including lead technical analyst for in-house developed mainframe communications software. Duties included development, support, and trouble-shooting of complex mainframe operating system software, data network design and implementation, training of co-workers, development of training classes in the management of data communications software, and delivery of those classes to operations personnel. Played a key role in integrating BellSouth’s mainframe data communications network with BellSouth’s distributed IP network. Served on a team to design and implement a solution for archival and retrieval of all of BellSouth’s mini-computer data. Was selected to travel to New Delhi, India, on behalf of BellSouth International to deliver a talk as a panel member at an international electronics symposium on the subject of “Joint-Venture Companies and Software Development in India: BellSouth’s Contribution”

**EDUCATION**

2012 Ph. D., Curriculum & Instruction (Specialization in Literacy Education)

Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi

2003 M.S., Elementary Education (4.0 GPA)

             Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi

1984 B.S., Systems Science (Cum Laude)

             University of West Florida

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Relationship between oral language and reading comprehension, adolescent literacy, teacher preparation and effectiveness, instructional design

**SCHOLARSHIP**

**Publications**

Verlaan, W.E., Pearce, D.L., Ortlieb, E.T., Zeng, G., Garrett, S., Hartlaub, M. (in

Progress). The developmental relationship between listening comprehension and reading comprehension.

Verlaan, W., & O’Brien, J (in progress). Using literature in the social studies

classroom. *Social Education*, (77), 1.

Ortlieb, E., Verlaan, W., & Cheek, Jr., E. H. (in press). Content-specific

literacy practices. *Literacy Research, Practice, and Evaluation: Vol. 3.* School-based interventions for struggling readers, K-8 (pp. xxx-xxx)*.* Bingley, UK: Emerald Group.

 Ortlieb, E., Cheek, Jr., E. H., & Verlaan, W. (in press).

Vocabulary/comprehension based models. *Literacy Research, Practice, and Evaluation: Vol. 2.* Advanced literacy practices: From the clinic to the classroom (pp. xxx-xxx)*.* Bingley, UK: Emerald Group.

Verlaan, W., & Ortlieb, E. (2012). Reading while listening: Improving struggling

adolescent readers’ comprehension through the use of digital audio

recordings. In J. Cassidy, S. Grote-Garcia, E. Martinez, & R.

Garcia (Eds.), *What’s Hot in Literacy 2012 Yearbook* (pp 30-36). San Antonio, TX: The University of the Incarnate Word.

       Verlaan, W., & Ortlieb, E. (under review). Stopping the struggle: Building an

appreciation for adolescent literature through engagement.

Ortlieb, E., Perkins, D. R., & Verlaan, W. (2012). Investigating the effectiveness of vocabulary strategy instruction on content-specific word acquisition. *Elixir Psychology, 43*, 6843-6849.

Pearce, D. L. & Verlaan, W.E. (2012). Using formal assessments to guide instruction. In E. T. Ortlieb, & E. H. Cheek, Jr. (Eds.), *Literacy Research,* *Practice, and Evaluation: Vol. 1. Using informative assessments towards effective literacy instruction* (pp. 73-105). Bingley, UK: Emerald Group.

Verlaan, W. E. (2010). Making writing count: Writing as a means of improving mathematics learning. In J. Cassidy, S. Garrett, & M. Sailors (Eds.). *Literacy Coaching: Research & Practice: 2009 CEDER Yearbook* (pp. 179 - 198).Corpus Christi, TX: Center for Educational Development, Evaluation, and Research; Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi College of Education.

**Presentations**

Verlaan, W.E. (April, 2013) [Forthcoming]. *Using digital media to enhance*

*secondary ELA teachers' awareness of methods to scaffold reading*

*instruction*. SIG-Professors of Reading Teacher Educators (PRTE), 58th International Reading Association Annual Conference*,* San Antonio, TX.

Verlaan, W.E., Pearce, D.L., & Ortlieb, E.T. (December, 2012). ***The relationship***

***between reading comprehension and listening comprehension in the 21st century: Developmental or environmental?*** Literacy Research Association

Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.

Ortlieb, E.T., Cheek, E. H., Bowers, E., Dennis, D., Elish-Piper, L., Grandstaff-

Beckers, G., Rodgers, E., Verlaan, W.E., Wilson, K.M., Xu, S. (December, 2012). *Symposium: Utilizing informative assessments towards*

*effective literacy practices.* Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.

Verlaan, W.E., Pearce, D.L., & Ortlieb, E.T. (November, 2012). *Listening*

*comprehension in the digital age: What do the data indicate****?*** Association

of Literacy Educators and Researchers Annual Conference, Grand Rapids,

MI.

Ortlieb, E.T., Cheek, E. H., Johns, J., Walker-Dalhouse, D., Perkins, H., Elish-

Piper, L., Pearce, D.L., Verlaan, W.E., Mohr, K., Risko, V., Daniel, M.

(November, 2012). *Symposium: Utilizing informative assessments towards*

*effective literacy practices.* Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, MI.

Verlaan, W.E. (May, 2012). *Reading response assignments: Fostering reflective*

*practice in pre-service secondary content area teachers*. SIG-Professors of Reading Teacher Educators (PRTE), 57th International Reading Association Annual Conference*,* Chicago, IL.

Verlaan, W.E., & Ortlieb, E. T. (February, 2012). *Improving comprehension in*

*striving adolescent readers through the use of digital audio recordings*. Literacy Summit: What’s Hot in Literacy for 2012, San Antonio, TX.

Verlaan, W.E. & Pearce, D.L. (October, 2011). *Increasing student achievement through formal assessment*. 34th Annual Conference of the Society of Educators and Scholars: Ethical Leadership for a Global Perspective, Corpus Christi, TX.

## Verlaan, W. E. (April, 2010). Using ELA skills to scaffold reading/writing in the content areas. 2nd International Literacy Coaching Summit, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Verlaan, W.E. & Verlaan, S. O. (December, 2009). *Tips and strategies for writing National Board Certification entries.* Annual Texas Partnership for Accomplished Teaching State Conference, Austin, TX.

Verlaan, W.E. (June, 2009). *Using writing to scaffold math achievement*. Me by

the Sea Math Conference, Coastal Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi.

Verlaan, W. E. (April, 2009). *Making writing count: A look at writing in the mathematics classroom*. Paper presented at the 1st National Literacy Coaching Summit. Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi.

## Verlaan, W. E. (January, 2009). What can Johnny read? A statistical comparison of reading assessment tools. Paper presented at the 6th annual conference of the Center for Educational Development, Evaluation, and Research, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi.

Skinner, K., Verlaan, W., Rosales, L. (2008, April). *The teacher researcher: Grant writing and funding sources for action research in the Classroom*. 12th Annual Reading Conference, Texas A&M University, Corpus

Christi.

Verlaan, W. E. (2007, December). *Implications of students’ socio-economic status for multicultural education initiatives – what do the data say?* Paper presented at the 5th Annual Conference of the Center for

Educational Development, Evaluation, and Research, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi.

Verlaan, W. E., & Verlaan, S. O. (2007, March). *Self-selected reading texts and reading response logs as an alternative to AR at the middle school and high school level*: *Teacher experiences and student work samples.* 11th Annual Reading Conference, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi.

Flint, C., Griffith, B., & Verlaan, W. E. (2007, March). *Gifted and Talented programs: The disconnect between definition and selection matrix*. 11th Annual Reading Conference, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi.

**TEACHING CERTIFICATIONS**

Elementary Education Grades, K-8 (Texas)

English Language Arts Grades, 8-12 (Texas)

Mathematics Grades, 8-12 (Texas)

Social Studies Composite Grades, 8-12 (Texas)

**PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS**

International Reading Association

SIG: Professors of Reading Teacher Educators (PRTE)

SIG: Specialized Literacy Professionals

Literacy Research Association, formerly National Reading Conference

Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers, formerly College Reading Association

American Educational Research Association

SIG: Cognition and Assessment

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards – National Board Certified Teacher (Early Adolescence English Language Arts), 2007

Texas Association of Literacy Educators (TALE)

**SERVICE**

Reviewer – C**enter for Educational Development, Evaluation, and Research**

**Yearbook (TAMUCC) (2012)**

President-Elect – Corpus Christi International Reading Association (2011 –

2012)

Vice-President - Corpus Christi International Reading Association (2010 – 2011)

Member - TAMUCC Student Reading Council (2010 – 2012)

Member – Corpus Christi International Reading Association (2008 – 2012)

Reviewer – C**enter for Educational Development, Evaluation, and Research**

**Yearbook (TAMUCC) (2011)**

**Volunteer – 2012 Coastal Bend Regional Science Fair Safety Committee**

**Volunteer Judge – 2012 University Interscholastic League (UIL) meet**

Volunteer Instructor – PSAT/SAT test preparation tutoring at Collegiate High School (2011 – present)

Volunteer Coach – Collegiate High School Academic Decathlon Team (2011 – 2012)

Volunteer Coach – Collegiate High School Speech and Debate Team (2011 – 2012)

Volunteer – Corpus Christi Literacy Council Bowling Tournament Fundraiser (2011)

Mentor – National Board Certified Teacher Candidates (2008 – 2010)

Faculty Sponsor – Media Literacy Club, Collegiate High School (2009 – 2010)

Faculty Sponsor – National Junior Honor Society, Baker Middle School (2007 - 2008)

Volunteer Instructor – Corpus Christi Independent School District National Merit Scholars Summer PSAT Preparation Program (2003, 2004, 2006)

Faculty Sponsor – Miller High School Class of 2007 (2004 – 2006)

Former Commodore (President) – Corpus Christi Windsurfing Association (501- C3 Public Corporation) (2004 – 2005)

Assistant to Race Director – U.S. Open Windsurfing Championship (2003, 2004)

Coach and Sponsor – MathCounts Team, Cullen Middle School (2002 – 2004)

Editor – School Newspaper, Cullen Middle School (2002 – 2004)

Volunteer Instructor – Texas After School Initiative, Cullen Middle School (2002 – 2004)

Vice-President and member – Islander Association of Childhood Education

International (ACEI) (2000 – 2002)

Volunteer – BellSouth Buddies School Volunteer Program (1998 – 2000)

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Activity Date Topic Covered**

CITI Traning 2011 Research Ethics

BlackBoard Training 2010-2011 Online Course Delivery and Instruction

ELITE Grant Writing Course 2010-2011 Grant Writing Process

AVID Training 2009-2010 Helping Diverse Populations be Successful

Echalk Training 2009-2010 Online Course Delivery and Instruction

International Baccalaureate Training 2007-2009 IBO Level 1 - 3 requirements

National Board Certification Process 2006-2007 Early Adolescence English Language Arts

Gifted and Talented Training (30 hours) 2006-2007 Meeting the Needs of Gifted Learners

TELPAS Training 2005,2006 Texas ELL Student Assistance Training

Regional AP Institute 2006 Delivering English Instruction

TAMUCC Brain-Based Workshops 2005-2006 Approaches to Brain-Based Instruction

Annual Texas NBPTS State Conference 2005 - 2009 NBCT Certification/Improving Instruction

University of Texas Dana Center Seminars 2003 - 2004 Math Education/Content Delivery

NCTM National Conference 2004 Math Education