

KEYNOTE

Dr. Kenneth Kunz, board president of the International Literacy Association (ILA), will address how the sciences of reading/research align with joyful literacy instruction. Through his experiences as a literacy coach and ILA leader, Dr. Kunz will share tips for prioritizing joy while balancing the demands of a comprehensive literacy program. Participants will leave with a toolkit for immediate implementation in school communities.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

A Celebration of Diverse Classrooms: Supporting Second Language and Literacy Learning (Grades K – 12) Kimberly Moss

Classrooms are diverse spaces for a multitude of reasons. Learn how to tap into and embrace the cultural identity of your students and use their funds of knowledge to leverage literacy and language learning.

Breathing Life into Book Talks (Grades 6-8) Jaqueline Epler

Book talks have the power to improve students' speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills and they create opportunities for students to turn key texts to one another. Unfortunately, book talks can become stale when overused. This workshop offers some book talk alternatives that will reinvigorate your middle-level classroom's book discussions/recommendations.

Finding Joy with Educational Marigolds (Grades 9 – 12) Lea Margosiak

With all the pressures that come with literacy instruction, how do we find and hold tight our own Educational Marigolds? This workshop will introduce attendees to important names in literacy instruction and their corresponding works.

Leveraging the Power of Literature to Promote Diversity, Multiculturalism, and Inclusivity (Grades K – 5) Colleen Starke

As educators, we must embrace the diverse community in our classrooms. Authentic, quality literature is a powerful tool that can promote student identities, build connections, and encourage empathy. This workshop will provide resources to engage students in rich reading experiences, designed to value students' identities and develop their understanding of people and our world.

Multisensory Madness (Grades K – 5) Stacy Davies

Did you know that multisensory instruction is more than just a sand tray and phonics? Or that Orton and Gillingham are people not a program? In this session, learn how a multisensory approach extends beyond literacy instruction and is capable of increasing student success through relevant joyful experiences.

Reading Aloud in the Middle (Grades 6-8) Joe Pizzo

Reading aloud makes the text come alive, especially in middle school! We're going to breathe even more life into some very lively texts that include a diversity of writers including Shel Silverstein, Billy Collins, Jane Yolen, and more.

Reading like "Victims burnt at the stake, signaling through the flames":

Discovering Moral Urgency in the Language Arts Classroom (Grades 6 – 12) Robert Battistini

Media and popular culture tell our students that literature is somewhere between trivial and snobby. So let's remind them every day that the artistry of worthwhile writers is always in the service of moral engagement. Our topics will be Follow the Money/Power/Violence, Track the Tears—Sentimentality is Serious, and Every Page is Stained with Histories of Oppression—no need to wait for a 'diversity unit'! To demonstrate this is possible with even the least likely texts, our examples will come from 17th-century American Puritan writing.

Superheroes and Society: Engaging Readers Through Comics (Grades 9 – 12) Erica McCrystal

Comics and graphic novels have been used in classrooms for reading motivation, especially for reluctant readers. Superhero comics, especially, can be used in classrooms as historical and cultural artifacts. This workshop will examine the history of superheroes and their vast array of narratives that provide commentary on politics, social justice, and social dynamics in America.

Why Do We Always Go to Extremes? (Grades K – 5) Holly Guido

Without a doubt literacy instruction is trendy. In this session learn how educators can integrate best teaching practices already being used with current research to enhance instruction. We can increase our body of knowledge about high-quality literacy instruction and improve our practice without making extreme changes or replacing what we already know as effective literacy practices that support a child-centered approach.

Agenda: April 21

8:30 - 8:50 a.m.	Welcome & Check In
8:50 - 9:10 a.m.	Welcome: Sitnik Theatre
9:10 - 9:50 a.m.	Keynote Speaker
9:55 - 10:50 a.m.	Breakout Session I
10:55 - 11:50 a.m.	Breakout Session II
11:50 - 12:45 p.m.	Lunch: Cafeteria
12:50 - 1:40 p.m.	Breakout Session III
1:50 - 2:40 p.m.	Breakout Session IV
2:45 - 3:00 p.m.	Closing: Door Prizes & Certificates

Special Thanks

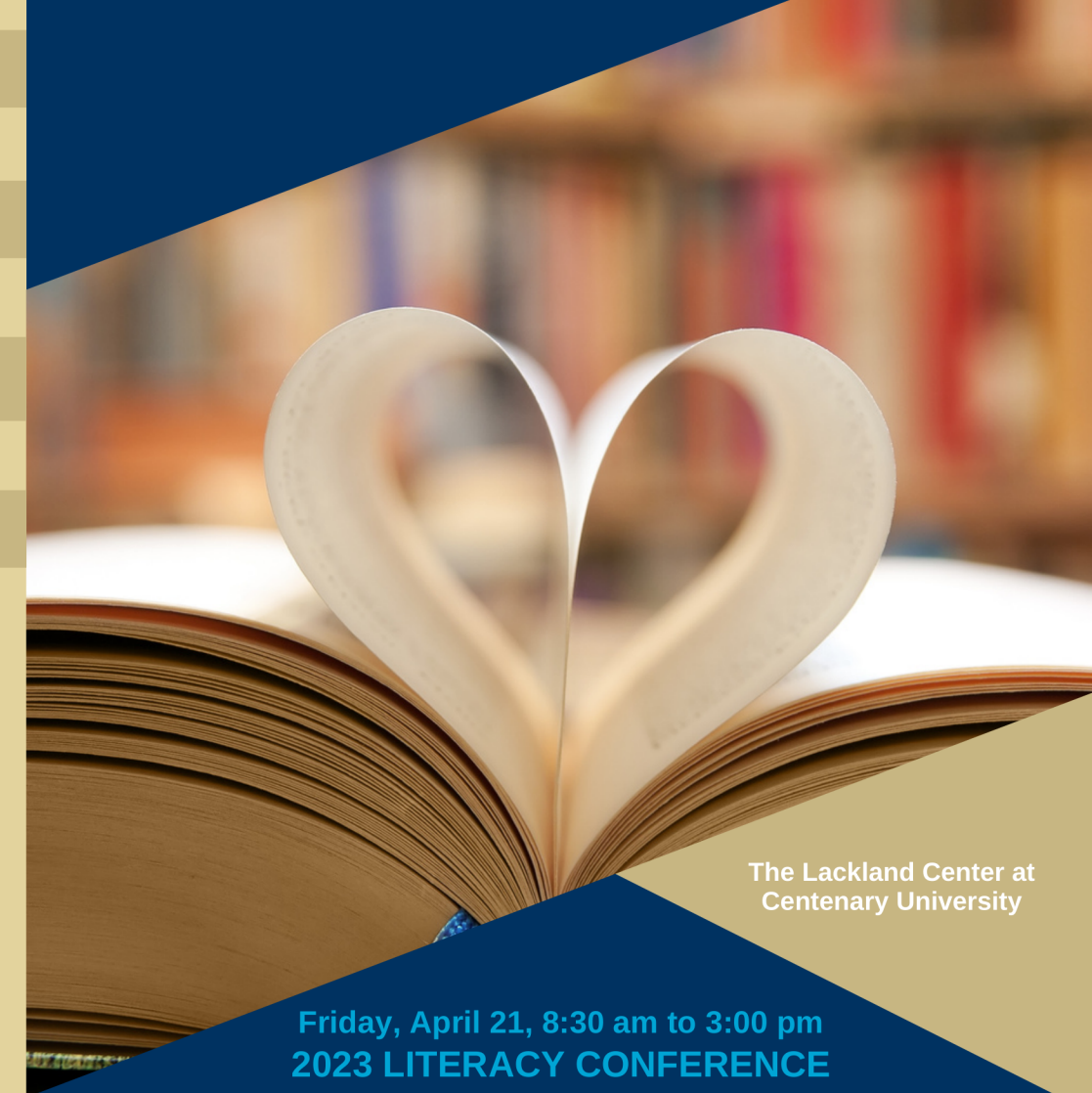
SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE/ORGANIZATIONS FOR SUPPORTING THE SUCCESS OF THIS CONFERENCE:

- The International Literacy Association (ILA) for providing us with the research that guides our practice
- Dr. Kenneth Kunz, Board President, ILA
- Our brilliant, dedicated presenters
- Dr. Bruce Murphy, President, Centenary University
- Dr. David Dauwalder, Interim VPAA
- Simona Scalisi, Assistant Director of Graduate Enrollment
- Dr. Robert Battistini, Dean, School of Education and Humanities
- Dr. Timothy Frederiks, Graduate Director, School of Education and Humanities
- Kappa Delta Epsilon (KDE) Honor Society Volunteers
- Wendy Flanagan, Director of Marketing
- Maxinne Spann, Assistant Technical Director/Production Coordinator
- All of the participants who have brought so much knowledge and experience to our sessions!

Contact

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The Lackland Center at
Centenary University

Friday, April 21, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm
2023 LITERACY CONFERENCE

Spring into Joyful Literacy Instruction

Research-based best practices to
invigorate your literacy instruction
and enhance student motivation.

Sponsored by: Centenary University School of Education and
Humanities Master of Education in Literacy Instruction Program



KEYNOTE

Kenneth Kunz, EdD, is the Founder/Director of For the Love of Literacy and is a literacy teacher-leader, author, and consultant. He is the Board President of the International Literacy Association and actively serves on the Board of Directors for Little Free Library, New Jersey Literacy Association, and Learning Ally. Dr. Kenneth Kunz received his bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and English from Kean University and received recognition as an outstanding teacher through the New Jersey Governor's Teacher Recognition Program. In 2014, Dr. Kunz received the Edward Fry Endowed Fellowship in Literacy at Rutgers University. Passionate about literacy instruction, Dr. Kunz holds a master's degree in Reading Specialization and a doctorate in Teacher Leadership from Rutgers University. He has presented professional development centered on literacy instruction in classrooms across New Jersey and at both state, national, and international conferences. He is co-author of *Breaking through the Language Arts Block: Organizing and Managing an Exemplary Literacy Day*, *Literacy Changemakers*, and *The Early Leader's Guide to Early Childhood Settings*.

Robert Battistini, PhD, is Dean of Education, Humanities, and General Education, as well as Associate Professor of English, at Centenary University. Robert teaches Centenary's Children's & YA Literature course. He has published articles on "Images of the Muslim World in Early American Periodicals" and early American novels, and he is co-editor of a scholarly edition of *Charles Brockden Brown's Literary Magazine*. Robert's administrative work at Centenary focuses on student success through multi-faceted support of the whole student.

Stacy Davies, MEd, teaches in Centenary University's Master of Education in Literacy Instruction Program. She holds a master's degree in special education from West Chester University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in Reading from Centenary University. Stacy also completed her Reading Specialist and English as a Second Language certifications at Centenary University. In addition to teaching degrees in Special and Elementary Education, Stacy is a licensed NJ School Supervisor. She is a Dyslexia Teacher certified through the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC) and the International Dyslexia Association (IDA). She is currently employed as a Special Education teacher and Reading Interventionist working toward her Orton-Gillingham Teacher Trainer and Dyslexia Specialist certifications. Stacy believes there is never a one-size-fits-all solution in education and enjoys sharing her love of teaching children with her graduate students.

Jackie Epler, MEd, teaches in the Master of Education in Literacy Instruction Program at Centenary University. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in English, Language, and Literature from Fairleigh Dickinson University, a Master's Degree in Elementary and Secondary Teaching from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and a Master's Degree in Reading from Centenary University. She also earned her Reading Specialist and Supervisor certifications at Centenary. She has been an elementary teacher, a middle school language arts teacher, an instructional coach, and an Elementary Supervisor. Jackie is a TFA alumna, a former Associate for the Educator Collaborative, and a former CEL Emerging Leader. Jackie believes in student-centered classrooms which foster student voice and choice. Her favorite educational quote is, "The fire of literacy is created by the sparks between a child, a book, and the person reading" by Mem Fox.

Holly Guido, MEd, is the owner of the Dragon Tree Reading Center in Washington, New Jersey, where she helps parents, who have children with learning differences, navigate school and life. Holly also provides professional development workshops to schools across the state. She works with the New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education (NJCIE) to provide training to help teachers successfully implement inclusive education in our public schools. Holly earned her master's degree in Reading and Education from Rider University and her Supervisor certification from Centenary University. She is a certified Reading Specialist and PACE Cognitive Trainer. Holly teaches at Centenary University in the Graduate Literacy Program as well as a Clinical Supervisor for the undergraduate teaching program. She is a long-time member of the International Literacy Association and supports its initiatives to help all children develop a love of reading.

Lea Margosiak, MEd, completed both her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Centenary University. She is a certified reading specialist and has taught high school ELA for a number of years. Lea is currently the Acting Principal of Sandshore Elementary School and Instructional Supervisor of ELA for grades 6-12 at the Mount Olive School District. Lea also teaches in the Master of Education in Reading Program at Centenary University teaching Content Area Literacy and supervises the reading specialists' practicum experience. She believes that it is possible for all students to have a continued love of reading regardless of their age or ability.

Erica McCrystal, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Education and English at Centenary University. She teaches Superheroes and Society, a course that she created offering a comprehensive study of superheroes and the ways in which they convey messages about American society. A former high school English teacher, Erica earned her PhD in English from St. John's University where she focused her research on nineteenth-century British fiction and popular culture studies. She formerly hosted the podcast *Villains101*, and her book, *Gotham City Living: The Social Dynamics in the Batman Comics and Media*, was published in 2021. This monograph analyzes the people depicted throughout the history of the Batman franchise through a variety of social lenses.



Kimberly Moss, MA, is spearheading the English as a Second Language Certificate Program at Centenary University, writing curriculum and teaching graduate level courses. She has a Master of Arts in Teaching English as a Second Language from Fairleigh Dickinson University and is certified as a NJ Principal, Supervisor, ESL teacher and general education teacher. English as a Second Language students have been Kimberly's focus for the past 18 years as she has actively worked in grades K-12. Kimberly currently teaches in Jefferson Township and is the district ESL specialist. She is passionate about helping her students reach their potential and gaining confidence while learning English. She also enjoys being able to support mainstream teachers by increasing their knowledge base of best practices for ELL students.

Joseph Pizzo, MEd, is a middle-school English teacher in his 49th year teaching at the Black River Middle School in Chester. He has served as an Adjunct Professor at Centenary University since 1992. Pizzo has been the Educator of the Year for AMLE, NJCTE, NJAMLE, and NJ S.H.I.N.E and a member of the WWOR-TV Ch. 9's A+ for Teachers Hall of Fame. This former NCTE Historian, present member of the NCTE Children's Poetry Book Award Committee and AMLE's Early Career Educator and Teacher Leader Committees is the former president and current Executive Board member of NJCTE, NJAMLE, and the NJ Autism Think Tank. Pizzo has taught at Union County College and College of St. Elizabeth, is a NJ Schools to Watch Core Leadership Team member, and is a podcaster of *A Writer's Journey*, *A Spot of Poetry*, and *We Have Issues*.

Colleen Starke, MEd, is a Centenary University graduate with her Master of Education in Reading, Reading Specialist Certification, and Supervisor Licensure. Colleen is a special education teacher certified to teach literacy in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Colleen values progressive education as she was among the initial cohort to be trained in New Jersey's Implementation Guidelines which focuses on creating cognitively engaging classrooms in our public schools. Colleen believes in providing all students access to authentic literature in order to build connections and promote acceptance as they become young citizens.



About the International Literacy Association

The International Literacy Association (ILA) is a global advocacy and membership organization dedicated to advancing literacy for all through its network of more than 300,000 literacy educators, researchers, and experts across 146 countries. With over 60 years of experience, ILA has set the standard for how literacy is defined, taught, and evaluated. ILA's Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals 2017 provides an evidence-based benchmark for the development and evaluation of literacy professional preparation programs. ILA collaborates with partners across the world to develop, gather, and disseminate high-quality resources, best practices, and cutting-edge research to empower educators, inspire students, and inform policymakers. ILA publishes *The Reading Teacher*, *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, and *Reading Research Quarterly*, which are peer-reviewed and edited by leaders in the field. For more information, visit literacyworldwide.org