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From the Editors...

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From the Editors...

by **Kathryn L. Roberts, Ph.D.** and **Poonam Arya, Ph.D.**

Welcome to the spring issue of the *Michigan Reading Journal*! We were so excited to see and meet so many of you at the annual conference and have returned to the University and our students refreshed, inspired, and ready to double down on our efforts to support Michigan students and teachers in all things literacy. We hope that those of you who presented at the conference will continue your efforts to do the same by considering submitting your work to the journal—you can find information on how to do so near the end of this issue.



**Kathryn L.
Roberts, Ph.D.**



Poonam Arya, Ph.D.

As we are writing this, April has just barely begun. It's the time of year when we look outside and see bare branches and brown grass, but envision wildly blooming trees and flowers, green blades of grass pushing their way through. The first pointed leaves of tulips pushing through and the sounds of birds back from their winter vacations feed our imaginations and optimism in all the best ways. We know the wild beauty of a Michigan spring is on the way because the seeds and bulbs were planted long ago, and just beneath the surface, the roots are holding strong and doing the hard work of bringing us spring.

In this issue of the journal, we focus on a variety of ways in which educators can help students and families build literacy roots—the knowledge, habits, and practices that provide solid foundations and connections to literacy learning and make it possible for our students to bloom. We have included two *Bridging Research and Practice* articles. The first one is by Jamilee Baroud (doctoral student, University of Ottawa, Canada) about how educators can engage girls' diverse identities through critical video production activities in school; and the second is by Dr. Terry Husband (Illinois State University) on using multicultural literature to build critical racial consciousness in elementary classrooms. For the *Voices from the Region* section, we have an article detailing how reciprocal teaching can be used to support literacy development across content areas by Amy Niklasch (Reeths-Puffer Intermediate School, Muskegon), as well as a piece that uses examples to highlight how certain factors affect the reading motivation of English Language Learners by Dr. Selena Protacio (Western Michigan University). For the popular *Critical Issues* section, we have an article on how educators can collaborate with families in order to develop children's literacy skills in culturally and contextually relevant ways by Dr. Patricia Edwards (Michigan State University), Dr. Kristen White (Northern Michigan University), and Lori Bruner (doctoral student, Michigan State University). The other piece is by Dr. Catherine Compton-Lilly (University of South Carolina), in which she shares a case study that highlights the development of literacy and literate ways of being over time for an immigrant child as an example of the importance of educators seeing the whole child, well beyond scores and grades.

In this issue, we also provide reviews of three professional texts for teachers in a column titled, *Must Read Texts* by Dr. Meghan Block (Central Michigan University), Dr. Tanya Christ (Oakland University, MI), and Angela Harris (doctoral student, Wayne State University, MI). This section also includes reviews

of children's books that disrupt stereotypes and single stories, led by Dr. Kristin McIlhagga (Oakland University, MI), and reviews of books from the Great Lakes Great Books Award list, written by Lynette Suckow (Peter White Public Library in Marquette, MI).

We encourage our readers to keep up with the journal by liking the Michigan Reading Association page on Facebook, following @michiganreading on Twitter, and searching and following Michigan Reading Association on Pinterest. Also, we hope to see you at the Summer Literature Conference on July 30-31, 2019 at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire, Michigan. The conference theme is *Amplifying Student Voices*.

Our journal email address is mrj@wayne.edu. We invite you to join the conversation by contributing to MRJ. Please email article submissions that are appropriate for any of the sections in our journal to our email address. We look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks to our Wayne State University editorial team of Angela Harris and Sarah Schrag, who have done a fantastic job of supporting the work for this issue. We would also like to thank LaShan Mabry and Charissa Elmer from the Michigan Reading Association office; our MRA president, Carol Paul; and the MRA board for all of their hard work.

We hope that you enjoy this issue of MRJ, and that you will continue to tell your friends and colleagues about us.

Happy Reading!

Kathryn L. Roberts and Poonam Arya

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