

Rita Patricia Seawell, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Education

Curriculum Vitae

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Date of Birth: 3/23/42
Place of Birth: Robstown, Texas
Citizenship: American
Gender: Female
Marital Status: Married
Spouse's Name: John P. Seawell

EDUCATION:

Doctor of Philosophy, The University of Texas, Austin, TX, 1985
Department of Curriculum & Instruction
Specializations: Early Childhood Education & Bilingual Education

Master of Arts, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C., 1979
Major: Education & Human Development
Specialization: Reading Education (K-12)

Bachelor of Arts, The University of Texas, Austin, TX, 1964
Majors: English & Spanish
Minor: Secondary Education

ACADEMIC HONORS:

Kappa Delta Pi (Education)
Phi Kappa Phi (All Discipline)

TEXAS TEACHING CREDENTIALS:

- Reading Specialist (K-12)
- Elementary (1-8) General
- Secondary English
- Secondary Spanish
- English As A Second Language (K-12)
- Kindergarten
- Generic Special Education (K-12)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

2009 Fall Semester - present Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX

Duties have included:

- coordinating Master of Education Reading Specialist Program
- teaching six graduate reading courses - ED 5308 Foundations of Reading; ED 6311 Emergent Literacy & Language Development; ED 6313 Teaching Reading in the Content Areas; ED 6314 Diagnosis & Correction of Reading Disabilities; ED 6318 Literacy Through Literature; ED 7312 Practicum in Reading
- developing curriculum - revising/upgrading six graduate reading courses; revising/upgrading one undergraduate teacher education course - ED 3302 Developmental & Learning Theories
- converting reading specialist program to online delivery in response to the volume of inquiries and the support of the Director of Teacher Education and SRSU OIT personnel
- contributing to a Dyslexia Module for online delivery
- advising Reading Specialist Candidates
- initiating measures to increase TExES Reading Specialist Test pass rate
- supervising ED 7312 Practicum in Reading interns
- teaching ED 3302 Developmental and Learning Theories, an undergraduate teacher preparation course
- supervising student teachers
- advising and mentoring McNair-Tafoya student
- mentoring SRSU Freshmen-Sophomore student
- supervising two Independent Study students
- initiating Alpine ISD Field Experience Partnership Program and collaborating with Jeanne Qvarnstrom as she brought it to fruition
- serving on committees - Comprehensive Examination; Graduate Fellowship; Outstanding Teacher Award; Professor of Education Searches; Director of Teacher Education Search; Master's Thesis Oral Comprehensive Examinations; TEA Audit; SACS Accreditation; McNair-Tafoya Symposium Selection

- writing Reading Specialist Handbook
- writing initial SACS report and yearly updates
- building and maintaining Reading Specialist web page
- participating in recruitment and retention efforts
- initiating development of streamlined enrollment/registration for Maryland Cohort (graduate students taking ED 7312 Practicum in Reading)
- attending Honors Convocation yearly
- participating in SRSU Commencement Spring & Fall yearly
- assisting with annual Teacher Job Fairs
- assisting colleagues with writing/editing projects
- assisting colleagues with club and other student-related activities
- initiating Community Outreach Program (international literacy initiative - littlefreelibrary.org - presentations to local organizations)

2002-2006 San Vicente ISD, Big Bend National Park, TX

Duties included teaching PK-3rd multi-level classes; serving as ESL coordinator; attending workshops and seminars related to early childhood, including ASCD Early Childhood Regional Conference, April 2006; organizing and coordinating (with help from park botanists and SRSU Environmental Science Technician) the Cottonwood Project, a hands-on science experience in riparian restoration for K-8th; preparing K-3 students to participate in video conferences, including a statewide conference organized by Region 13 IT specialists

1991-1994 San Felipe Del Rio CISD, Del Rio, TX

Duties included teaching 9th Reading Improvement; grant writing; in-service presentations

1988-1991 Brackett ISD, Brackettville, TX

Duties included teaching 7th, 11th and 12th English; directing UIL One-act play; writing and being awarded grant to develop curriculum for and initiate district's first PK program; coordinating Elementary School ESL program; grant writing; teaching community-based parent education program; organizing and conducting cross-peer reading program

1986 Fall Southwest Texas Junior College, Uvalde, TX

Adult Basic Education Program, Del Rio Campus
Duties included teaching ESL for full-time adult students and incorporating a parent training component into the program

1985-1986 San Felipe Del Rio CISD, Del Rio, TX

Duties included teaching PK and 1st (bilingual)

- 1978-1982 Prince William County Schools, Woodbridge, VA
Duties included serving as reading specialist for 1500 6th-8th students in year-round middle school; evaluating and placing incoming students; supervising maintenance of individual reading records; coordinating curriculum for and supervising teachers of developmental reading; working with county reading supervisor to create county developmental reading program and conducting county-wide in-service training for its implementation; developing writing program for gifted and talented students and conducting county-wide in-service training for its implementation; serving as ESL teacher
- 1977 Summer Central Texas College, Killeen, TX
Duties included teaching GED classes for Ft. Hood GI's
- 1977 Spring Burnet CISD, Burnet, TX
Duties included teaching 10th-12th English and health; sponsoring girls' drill team
- 1972-1973 Indianapolis City Schools, Indianapolis, IN
Duties included teaching 9th-12th English and Spanish; chairing committee participating in city-wide English Department curriculum revision; sponsoring Spanish club
- 1969-1970 Baltimore County Schools, Edgemere, MD
Duties included teaching 3rd; developing curriculum for and supervising teenage classroom aids participating in a cross-peer tutoring research study
- 1968-1969 Cotulla ISD, Cotulla, TX
Duties included teaching students all of whom were repeating 3rd because of limited English proficiency; developing curriculum; involving parents as classroom volunteers and home instructors
- 1967-1968 Department of Defense Schools, Frankfurt, Germany
Duties included teaching 7th and 8th English; teaching ESL; serving on parent-teacher advisory board
- 1966 Summer Seoul American Kindergarten, Seoul, Korea
Duties included teaching ESL and preparing Pre-K students from twelve linguistic backgrounds to enter American kindergarten; involving parents as classroom volunteers and home instructors
- 1966 Spring/Summer/Fall Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea
Duties included instructing post-graduate students in conversational English; working with program director developing curriculum for oral communication; instructing teachers in oral language teaching techniques

1965 Fall Brazosport ISD, Freeport, TX
Duties include teaching 7th and 8th English and Spanish; developing curriculum for and teaching Enrichment English; sponsoring Spanish club

INVITED PRESENTATIONS:

2015 Fall Alpine Lion's Club
Title: Little Free Libraries & Literacy

2015 Spring Friends of Alpine Public Library
Title: Establishing Little Free Libraries

2009 Fall Alpine Rotary Club, Alpine, TX
Title: Strategies for Promoting Literacy

1993 Fall Bilingual Staff Workshop, San Felipe Del Rio CISD, Del Rio, TX
Title: Developing Language through Literature and Puppet Play

1992 Spring Reading Workshop, San Felipe Del Rio CISD, Del Rio, TX
Title: We're Reading at the Freshman School

1992 Summer In-service, Del Rio Freshman School, San Felipe Del Rio CISD, Del Rio, TX
Title: We're Reading at the Freshman School

1991 Fall Community Council of Southwest Texas, Inc., Child Care Management Services, Uvalde, TX
Title: Helping Them Make Magic: Enriching the Environment of Young Children

1990 Spring Education Service Center, Region 20, Annual Bilingual/ESL Symposium, San Antonio, TX
Title: Brackett Early Enrichment Program: A Cross-Peer Project

1987 Summer Dallas ISD Workshop for ESL Teachers, Dallas, TX
Keynote Address Title: Language Learners As Explorers

1987 Summer Dr. James Clark, Texas Education Agency, Austin, TX
Title: ENRICH-PLUS, A Parent Education Project

1987 Spring Kinney County Child Welfare Board, Brackettville, TX
Title: Educating Children By Educating Parents

1987 Spring St. James Episcopal School, Del Rio, TX
Title: The Importance of the Bedtime Story

1984 Summer Dr. Teresa Escobedo's ESL Class, UT Austin
Title: Using Puppet Play in the ESL Classroom

1984 Fall Dr. Judith Lindfors Language Acquisition Class, UT Austin
Title: Strategies for Encouraging Interactive Language Among Young Children

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

Alpine ISD Field Experience Partnership Program, 2012-2014
Collaborative Program with Dr. Jeanne Qvarnstrom

Contributed video to presentation by Dr. Jeanne Qvarnstrom, 2013
Critical Questions in Education Conference, San Antonio
"The Elements of a Quality Teacher Education Program"

Collaborative papers with Dr. C. L. Rasmussen, 2010; 2011
34th Annual Southwest Educational Research Association Conference
"Designing Student-centered Web Courses"

Big Bend Schoolhouse A Surprise in the Park, 2009
Memoir of Teaching Experiences, Print on Demand,
Dog Ear Publishing

Wrote proposal and was granted \$34,000 by the Meadows Foundation, Dallas, Texas -
1988-89 Brackett ISD (Developed and taught program to assist parents in preparing pre-
school children for school success; developed and taught Pre-Kindergarten Program)

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Professional Associations - International Literacy Association; Kappa Delta Pi

Continuing Professional Education - TEA Student Teacher Supervising Training;
Blackboard 9 Training Sessions; SLOAN Online Seminars; Magna Online
Seminars; SRSU IT Presentations; Professional Reading

Merit Ranking 2010

Meritorious Ranking 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

Promotion from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor - Fall 2015

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Museum of the Big Bend
Friends of the Alpine Library
Big Bend Natural History Association
Friends of McDonald Observatory
Little Free Library Organization
Texas Adopt-a-Highway Keep Alpine Beautiful