

## ABOUT OUR PRESENTERS

**Susan Burgess**, M.A. CCC-SLP, is a Lecturer/Staff Speech-Language Pathologist and Clinical Educator in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Maine. Sue supervises a graduate practicum in the Conley Speech Language Hearing Center. She has a wealth of knowledge and experience working with clients for whom English is a second or other language.

**Amanda Cost** is the Community Response Program Manager for the Spruce Run-Womancare Alliance and has been involved in efforts to end domestic violence for many years. Among other public service commitments, she is currently the Co-Chair of the Bangor Area Community Partnership for Protecting Children and a member of the City of Bangor's Public Health Advisory Committee. Amanda has a BS from the University of Maine in human development and family relations.

**Meredith Eaton** (Moderator) is the Service Coordinator at Literacy Volunteers of Bangor. She had volunteered with the organization for more than seven years, most recently as president of the Board of Directors. Meredith has a Bachelor of University Studies from the University of Maine with a focus in public administration. She is an AmeriCorps alumna and was previously Director of the Maine VISTA Project at the Maine Commission for Community Service.

**Courtney E. Evans**, M.Ed., LCPC-C, has a master's in counselor education with a concentration in mental health counseling from the University of Maine. Building on 10 years of work with families and children who have developmental or behavioral challenges, she is currently a clinician in the Narcotics Treatment Program (NTP) at Acadia Hospital, working with new parents.

**Mary Folsom** has been an ELL tutor for Literacy Volunteer for five years and is a member of the Tutor Support Team. Her professional background includes teaching and counseling in elementary schools, teaching education courses at the college level, and mental health counseling.

**Annaliese Jakimides'** poetry and prose have appeared in journals, anthologies, magazines, and other media, including Utne Reader, GQ, Bangor Metro, NPR, and MPBN. Her work has been cited in national competitions and nominated for the Pushcart Prize. She has taught numerous writing workshops, and for many years has been a facilitator in several programs for the Maine Humanities Council, including New Books/New Readers.

**Diane Jackson** teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in special education at the University of Maine. For over 30 years, she has been teaching learners who struggle. Early interests were in elementary school level issues; over time, she has shifted her attention to the learning of adults who are in need of skill improvement in literacy and mathematics.

**Mary Marin Lyon** is the Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers of Bangor. She and her coworkers have been incorporating Dr. Donna Beegle's work on understanding poverty to make Literacy Volunteers a more poverty-informed organization. Low literacy and poverty are strongly linked, and the staff is taking steps to reduce misunderstandings caused by social class.

**Brandi Meservey**, a single mother with a GED, grew up in generational poverty. She now has a Literacy Volunteer tutor and a mentor to help her navigate middle class cultural systems. She is an AmeriCorps member serving at Literacy Volunteers of Bangor as a Student Recruitment and Retention Specialist.

**Alice Openshaw** is a Literacy Instructor at Mid-Maine Regional Adult Community Education and is a certified adult education English teacher. A former tutor, she chairs the Tutor Training and Support Committee of Literacy Volunteers of Bangor and serves on the Board of Directors.

**JoAnne V. Rollins** has a bachelor's degree in special education with certification in moderate special needs and a master's degree in elementary education from Fitchburg State University. She is recently retired from Chelmsford Public Schools after 27 years of teaching special education and third grade and lives in Lowell, Maine.

**Erin-Kate Sousa** is the Senior Teacher at the Intensive English Institute at the University of Maine. Erin-Kate, a UMaine alumna, has been teaching at the IEI since 2006, where she endeavors to prepare students for academic success.

**Judy Stickles**, M.A. CCC-SLP, is the Clinic Director in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Maine. She has over 30 years of experience working with clients with language and literacy disorders.

**Erin Wight** teaches at the Intensive English Institute at the University of Maine. She has been a teacher overseas in Japan as part of the JET Program. As part of AmeriCorps, she has been an ELL class coordinator for immigrants studying in Quincy, MA.