

Remembering Dr. Anne E. Fowler Editor, *Annals of Dyslexia*, 1994–1999

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Dr. Anne Elizabeth Fowler, developmental psychologist, psycholinguist, and reading specialist was a gifted researcher and inspired teacher. A senior research scientist at Haskins Laboratories in New Haven, Connecticut, she conducted developmental studies of language and reading acquisition, and pursued her passion for helping teachers improve the effectiveness of reading instruction. She passed away on March 27, 2004, after a long courageous battle with cancer.

Anne Fowler, who lived in Madison, Connecticut, was born in Dedham, Massachusetts, on April 15, 1953. She grew up in Pembroke, New Hampshire, a daughter of the late Charles and Katherine (O'Donnell) Fowler. Anne began her undergraduate education at Connecticut College, transferred to Rice University in Houston, Texas, and graduated in 1975 with a dual major in Russian and linguistics. She earned a master's degree in linguistics from Yale University in 1977. There, Professor Alvin

Lieberman introduced her to Haskins Laboratories, and she met her future husband, Michael Schmidt, now a professor of physics at Yale. In the meantime, Anne's interests had moved in the direction of language development both in normal children and in children with genetic abnormalities. She transferred her studies to the University of Pennsylvania Psychology Department, earning her Ph.D. in 1984 in developmental psychology with a thesis on language acquisition in children with Down syndrome.

Returning to New Haven to do research at Haskins Laboratories on reading and its disorders with an NICHD National Service Award in hand, Anne became a member of the Laboratories' research staff in 1987. She also taught psychology at Bryn Mawr College from 1990 to 1994 and at Wesleyan University from 1994 to 1997, and was editor of *Annals of Dyslexia* from 1994 (Volume 44) to 1999 (Volume 49). During Anne's tenure, *Annals* became a well-recognized outlet for publication of research on intervention, and she expressed a good deal of pride in the quality of research and writing that it was attracting. Anne's research focused on the relations between language development, children's cognitive awareness of speech segments, and the development of reading skill in normal, genetically disadvantaged and environmentally disadvantaged children. Her experimental studies, her theoretical contributions, and her wise and skillful editorial work have had a wide and continuing influence.

During the last years of her life, Anne devoted her formidable energies toward helping schools succeed in their most important task of teaching children to read. She was one of the principal architects of the *Connecticut Blueprint for Reading*, which brought researchers and reading practitioners to the table to find commonalities in how children learn to read and to work out the implications for teaching practice. Anne's contributions did much to change educators' understanding of what children need to know to learn to read well and what teachers need to know to help them most effectively.

Beginning in 2000, Anne co-directed the Early Reading Success Initiative at Haskins Laboratories, a school outreach program she worked tirelessly to create with others at the Laboratories. This program seeks to place the best scientific research at the disposal of teachers and reading specialists. This has been achieved by training and guiding highly knowledgeable reading experts to mentor teachers in kindergarten and elementary school classrooms throughout Connecticut and Rhode

Island. Initially a demonstration project funded by various state and federal grants, the Early Reading Success Initiative emanating from Haskins Laboratories has taken root. It has succeeded in bolstering teacher and pupil performance and in building new hope in priority schools in urban neighborhoods.

It can truly be said of Anne Fowler that she left the world a better place. She was a person on whom many people depended for inspiration and guidance. We, her colleagues at Haskins Laboratories, treasured her for her buoyant vitality, her wit and intellect, and her generosity. She is sorely missed by her family, her colleagues, and her friends throughout the world.

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