

**Benita Rutanya Brooks**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Language, Literacy and Special Populations**  
**College of Education**

**Degrees Earned**

Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, Literacy Education, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2009

M.A. in English, Murray State University, 1999

B.A. in English, Johnson C. Smith University, 1996

**Professional Licensure and Certifications**

Nevada Teacher Certificate:

Secondary (Grades 7-12)

**Peer-Review Publications and Artistic Performances/Exhibitions Articles**

**Articles** (underlined represents student contributions)

**Brooks, B.R.** (2017). Mathematics preservice teachers are literacy educators too: Learning how to administer and use data from the Texas Middle School Fluency Assessment to plan instruction. *Texas Journal of Literacy Education* (5), 2, 175-184.

**Brooks, B.R.**, Miller, M., & Votteler, N.K. (2016). A recipe for an almost disaster: Families writing and sharing stories around a kitchen table. *Florida Reading Journal*, (51) 2, 28-35.

**Brooks, B.R.**, Myers, N., & Stoll, A. (2016). The California reading and literature project: Helping teachers raise the academic language and literacy levels of California's K-5 student population. *Journal of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education*, (1) 1, 1-23.

**Brooks, B.R.**, Bennett, B., Brangers, K., Pursley, K., Doak, L., & Peters, T. (2015). Preservice teachers developing cultural competency: "We are more connected than we think." *Global Education Journal*, (3) 3, 131-147.

Kemp, A., Preston, J., Page, S., Harper, R., **Dillard, B.**, Flynn, J., & Yamaguchi, M. (2014). Technology and teaching: A conversation among faculty regarding the pros and cons of technology. *The Qualitative Report* 19, (6), 1-23.

Myers, N. & **Dillard, B.** (2013). An action research project's impact on teachers' leadership attitudes and perceptions. *Journal of College Teaching & Learning* 10, (1), 69-74.

**Dillard, B.** (2010). African American women's voices: Using primary sources to introduce students to the Civil War. *Black History Bulletin* 73, (2), 16-20.

**Dillard, B.** (2006). NAACP: Helping African Americans confront social injustices for more

than a century. *Black History Bulletin* 69, (1), 4-8.

**Dillard, B.** (2005). Afterthought: Cultural Congruity in African American Art, History, and Music. *Black History Bulletin* 68, (2), 33-35.

Moore, A. L., & **Dillard, B.** (Writer) (2006). *Multimedia DVD addition. Lesson plans written to compliment Association for the Study of African American Life and History Annual Theme Magazine, 2*, Washington, D.C.: Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

**Dillard, B.** (1996). It bees that way sometime: A paradigm analysis of the Black English 'Be' verb system. *Johnson C. Smith University Undergraduate Research Journal*, 31- 43.

### **Peer-Reviewed Article Under Review**

Jones, B.E., Bustamante, R.M., Gray, P., & **Brooks, B.** (under review). Rural White principals and African American readers: Perceptions of culturally relevant practices. *Journal of School Leadership*.

### **Book**

Walker, N., Bean, T., & **Dillard, B.** (2010). *When Textbooks Fall Short: New Ways, New Texts, New Sources of Information in the Content Areas*. Pasadena, CA: Heinemann.

### **Blind Peer-Reviewed Book Chapter In Press**

**Brooks, B.R.**, Votteler, N.K., Erasmus, M., & Price, D. (in press). Broadening horizons: American and South African teacher candidates engage in an ABCs online intercultural exchange. In N. Diko, C. Ndebele, & L.M. Hove (Eds.), *The Dynamics of Teacher Education*. Potchefstroom, South Africa: Ivyline Publishers.

### **Chapters**

**Brooks, B. R.**, Ates, B., Berg, H., & Cox, D. (2017). Preparing teacher candidates to become culturally responsive and competent educators: Recommendations for literacy teacher educators. In R.D. Johnson, J.J. Araujo, & N. Cossa (Eds), *Literacy: The Critical Role of Teacher Knowledge, The 39<sup>th</sup> Yearbook: Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers* (pp. 27-43): ALER.

**Dillard, B.** (2012). A cautionary tale: Online school book clubs are no panacea for

African American adolescent females' coming to voice. In B. Guzzetti and T. Bean (Eds.), *(Re)constructing Gender through Global Literacy Practices and Policies*. New York: Routledge.

Bean, T. W., Walker, N.T., Wimmer, J.J., & **Dillard, B.** (2009). How does creative content-area teaching work with adolescents? In J. Lewis (Ed.), *Essential Questions in Adolescent Literacy: Teachers and Researchers Describe What Works in Classrooms* (pp.201-214). New York: The Guilford Press.

### Newsletters

**Brooks, B.R.** & Miller, M. (2016). Tips for parents to write with their children. *Texas Association for Bilingual Education eNewsletter*, 23 (3), 7-8.

**Brooks, B.R.** (2016). Opt-in. *College of Education Torch*, 15 (1), 10.

**Brooks, B.R.** (2016). The importance of recognizing brilliance in a child's passion. *Texas Voices*, 29 (1), 4.

### Proceedings

**Brooks, B.**, Myers, N., & Stoll, A. (2014, August). *The California reading and literature project: Helping teachers raise the academic language and literacy levels of California's K-5 student population*. Paper presented at the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Academic Forum Conference at Berkeley. Retrieved January 15, 2016.

Walker, N., Bean, T., & **Dillard, B.** (2005, November). Two experienced content teachers' use of multiple texts in economics and English. In B. Maloch, J.V. Hoffman, D.L. Schallert, C.M. Fairbanks, & J. Worthy (Eds.), *54<sup>th</sup> Yearbook of the National Reading Conference* (pp.416-427). Oak Creek, Wisconsin: National Reading Conference, Inc.

### Invited Keynote Address

**Brooks, B.R.** (2017, November). *There's a place for cultural diversity in every content area classroom*. Invited keynote presented at the TSTA District 3 Conference, Houston, Texas. 18, November 2017.

**Brooks, B.R.**, Berg, H., & Ates, B. (2016, November). *From misconceptions to realities: Preparing pre-service teachers to teach culturally and linguistically diverse students*. Invited research presented

at the annual Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers (ALER) conference, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. 5, November 2016.

**Brooks, B.R.,** Votteler, N.K., & Erasmus, M. (May, 2016). *An Online Study Abroad Exchange between Teacher Candidates in the United States and South Africa*. Invited research seminar presented at North West University. Mafikeng, South Africa. 12, May 2016.

**Brooks, B.R.** (October, 2015). *Taking a fieldtrip: Preservice teachers traveling across the globe to expand cultural competence to better serve culturally diverse students*. Keynote address presented at Kappa Delta Pi's Induction Ceremony. The Woodlands, TX. 10, October 2015.

### **Invited Academic Scholar**

**Brooks, B.R.** & Votteler, N.K. (November, 2016). *Online study abroad: A project in South Africa*. Invited academic scholar at An Evening in Education at Sam Houston State University. Huntsville, TX. 3, November, 2016.

### **Invited Academic Workshop**

**Brooks, B.R.,** Votteler, N.K., & Erasmus, M. (May, 2016). *South African preservice teachers discovering voice and passion through a multigenre and multimodal writing workshop*. Invited workshop at North West University, Mafikeng, South Africa. 10-12, May 2016.

### **Funded Internal Grant**

**Brooks, B.R.** Joan Prouty Conference on Early Literacy Keynote Speaker. Submitted March 2016. Funded Total Award \$500.00.

**Brooks, B.R.** & Votteler, N.K. Online Study Abroad Exchange. Submitted January 2016, College of Education Faculty Research Grant, Funded Total Award: \$2500.00

**Brooks, B.R.** Joan Prouty Conference on Early Literacy Keynote Speaker. Submitted March 2015. Funded Total Award \$500.00.

**Brooks, B.R.,** Votteler, N.K., Miller, M. Family Writing Project. Submitted March 2015, College of Education Faculty Research Grant, Funded Total Award: \$1,330.00.

### **Peer-Review Presentations**

### National/International

**Brooks, B.R. & Ates, B.** (2017, October). *Developing teacher candidates' cultural competency through*

*an online intercultural exchange*. EdTalk Session. Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education 51<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convocation, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

**Brooks, B.R. & Votteler, N.K.** (2017, November). *Breaking the "School-to-Prison" Cycle: Teacher*

*Candidates Mentoring At-risk Youth in an After School Tutoring Program*. Roundtable session.

Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers 61st Annual Conference, St. Petersburg, Florida.

**Brooks, B.R. & Votteler, N.K.** (2016, November). *Opt-in: At-risk African American adolescents gaming,*

*coding, and learning*. Roundtable session at the annual National Council of Teachers of English

(NCTE) conference, Atlanta, Georgia.

Votteler, N, K., **Brooks, B. R.**, Price, D. P., Ingram, J. (2015, July). A systematic change: Teachers'

perceptions of writing to learn strategies in content area classrooms. European Literacy Conference. Klagenfurt, Austria.

**Dillard, B., Jackson, A., & Stokes, A.** (2013, February). *Taking writing breaks to assess middle grades students' comprehension in mathematics*. Paper presented at the Association of Teacher Educators 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Dillard, B.** (2012, November). *A cautionary tale: Online school book clubs are no panacea for African American adolescent females' coming to voice*. Roundtable session at the Literacy Research Association Conference, San Diego, California.

**Dillard, B.** (2010, April). *When Textbooks Fall Short: New Ways, New Texts, New Sources of Information in the Content Areas*. Book talk at the International Literacy Association Conference Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois.

**Dillard, B.** (2009, December). *African American adolescent girls use an online high school book club to talk about boys, religion, and pop culture*. Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM.

Wimmer, J.J., **Dillard, B.**, Walker, N.T., & Bean, T.W. (2007, November). *The influence of new literacies and teacher creativity in two content area teachers' use of multiple texts and multimedia resources to promote students' comprehension*. Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Conference Annual Meeting, Austin, TX.

Walker, N. W., Wimmer, J. J., **Dillard, B.** & Bean, T. W. (2007, May). *Teaching with multiple texts in a hybrid model high school*. Paper presented at the International Literacy Association Conference Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Walker, N. W., Bean, T. W., **Dillard, B.**, & Wimmer, J. J. (2007, April). *Challenges and possibilities of implementing new literacy practices in a traditional and hybrid model high school: How the Internet, multiple text resources, and project-based learning impact pedagogy*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

**Dillard, B.** (2007, January). *Culturally responsive teaching in an online high school English course*. Paper presented at the Culturally Responsive Teaching and Counseling Symposium, Colorado Springs, CO.

**Dillard, B.** (2006, November). *Virtual body meets textual body in Ben Mikaelson's novel Touching Spirit Bear*. Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Conference Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.

Walker, N., Bean, T., & **Dillard, B.** (2006, May). *Using multiple texts in your content area classroom*. Paper presented at the International Literacy Association Conference Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Walker, N., Bean, T., & **Dillard, B.** (2006, April). *Epistemology and reflection in teacher discourse: The role of craft knowledge and activity theory in talking about teaching secondary teachers' views of multiple texts in English and economics in classroom settings*, Paper presented at the American Education Research Association Conference Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Walker, N., Bean, T., & **Dillard, B.** (2005, December). *Two experienced content teachers' use of multiple texts in economics and English*, Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Conference Annual Meeting, Miami, FL.

**Dillard, B.** (2005, October). *Conference Keynote Address at the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Association for the Study of African American Life and History Conference*, Paper presented at the African American Life and History Conference Annual Meeting, Buffalo, NY.

Walker, N., Bean, T., & **Dillard, B.** (2005, May). *Sociocultural dimensions of multiple texts in two experienced content teachers' classrooms*, Paper presented at the International Literacy Association Conference Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX.

## Regional

**Brooks, B.R.**, Votteler, N.K., (2016, February). *Guilty of assigning writing rather than teaching it: Three secondary language arts teachers take a unit of study approach to teach writing*. Presented at Texas Association for Literacy Education, Literacy Summit, San Antonio, Texas.

**Dillard, B.** (2012, September). *Reading across the curriculum in the era of Common Core Georgia Performance Standards*. Presented at the Georgia Reading Association Fall Forum, Macon, Georgia.

**Local** (underlined represents student contributions)

**Brooks, B.R.**, Opp, P., Chio, A., Bullock, T. & Carter, G. (2016, October). *How to get a manuscript, column, or book review published in the READ journal for literacy educators*. Presented at the annual Joan Prouty Conference on Early Literacy, Huntsville, Texas.

**Brooks, B.R.**, Votteler, N.K. & Erasmus, M. (2016, March). *Different doesn't mean wrong: Teacher candidates in the United States and South Africa participate in an online study abroad exchange*. Paper presented at the annual Universality of Global Education Issues Conference, The Woodlands, Texas.

**Brooks, B.R.**, Bennett, B., Brangers, K., Pursley, K., Doak, L., & Peters, T. (2015, September). *Preservice teachers developing cultural competency: "We are more connected than we Think."* Paper presented at the annual Joan Prouty Conference on Early Literacy, Huntsville, Texas.

**Brooks, B.R.**, Miller, M., Votteler, N.K. (2015, September). *A Recipe for an almost disaster: Families writing and sharing stories around the kitchen table*. Paper presented at the annual Joan Prouty Conference on Early Literacy, Huntsville, Texas.

Berg, H., **Brooks, B.R.** Sandles, S., Cole, C. (2015, September). *Microaggression: A conversation about race and ethnicity among the Language, Literacy, and Special Populations faculty*. Presented at the Department of Language, Literacy and Special Populations faculty meeting, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas.

**Dillard, B.** (2012, March). *Conducting undergraduate research in education*, Paper presented at the Annual Impact on Student Learning Conference, Augusta, Georgia.

## **Work or Professional Experiences**

Assistant Professor – Reading Program, Department of Language, Literacy and Special Populations, Sam Houston State University, 2014- present.

Literacy Consultant, Graduate School of Education, California Lutheran University, January 2013-June 2014.

English Instructor, Department of Languages, Literature, and Composition, University of South Carolina Upstate, August 2010-July 2011.

English Instructor, Adjunct, English Department, College of Southern Nevada, August 2004-July 2010.

Graduate Assistant, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, August 2005-August 2007.

Founder, Writing Teacher—9<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts, KIPP Northeast College Preparatory, Houston, TX, 2013-2014.

Classroom Teacher—9<sup>th</sup> Grade, Language Arts Teacher, Odyssey Charter School, Online High School, Las Vegas, NV, 2005-2010.

Classroom Teacher – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Language Arts Teacher, Mojave High School, Las Vegas, NV 2003-2004.

Classroom Teacher – 9<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Grade, Language Arts Teacher, Language Arts Teacher, South High School, Bakersfield, CA, 2001-2003.

Classroom Teacher – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Language Arts Teacher, Language Arts Teacher, Dunbar High School, Fort Worth, TX, 2000-2001.

### **Honors and Awards**

Recipient of the College of Education Outstanding Civic Engagement Award Year 2017-Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas

Nominated for the College of Education Outstanding Award in Teaching Year 2016-Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas

Nominated (by Dean Edmonson)-First Runner-Up 2016 –Quest for Quality Teacher Preparation in Texas

Recipient of the Neuhaus Reading Center Research Scholarship 2014—Neuhaus Reading



Center, Houston, TX

Recipient of the Education Pioneers Fellow 2014—Education Pioneers, Houston, TX

Recipient of the Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Research/Scholarship 2012-Literacy Research Association Annual Conference

Recipient of the Thomas E. Wilson Award for Civic and Community Service 2010—University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Recipient of the GREAT Scholarship 2005—University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Recipient of the Department of Languages and Literature Most Outstanding Senior Investigative Paper Award 1996—Johnson C. Smith University

### **Other Competencies**

### **Conference Proposal Submissions**

**Brooks, B.R.** (Accepted). “No one cares about us”: Listening to the voices of the racially and economically disadvantaged. Proposal submitted to the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), November, 2018, Houston, TX.

**Brooks, B.R.** (Accepted). Intercultural communicative competence outside the classroom. Proposal submitted to the annual Universality of Global Education Conference. March, 2018.

**Brooks, B.R.,** Votteler, N.K., & Gerber, H.R. (Accepted). Opt-In: At-risk African American adolescents gaming, coding, and learning. National Association of Teachers of English, November, 2016.

Haas, L. Cox, D. & **Brooks, B.R.** (Accepted). Empowering Students as Leaders through Service Learning. Kappa Delta Pi Conference, July, 2016.

**Brooks, B.R. ,** Votteler, N.K., Price, D., & Erasmus, M. (Accepted). South African preservice teachers discovering voice and passion through a multigenre and multimodal writing workshop. 3<sup>rd</sup> Baltic Sea Finnish Reading Association Conference, August, 2016.

### **IRB Submissions**

**Brooks, B.R. (P.I.),** Young, C. Reading assessments for grades 5-8. Submitted, Protocol number 2017-08-36169. Sam Houston State University. Exempt from IRB Review, October 2017.

**Brooks, B.R., (P.I.),** Votteler, N.K., & Gerber, H.R. Opt-In: At-risk African American adolescents gaming, coding, and learning. Submitted, Protocol number 28483. Sam Houston State University. Full Board Approved, April 2016.

**Brooks, B.R. (P.I.)**, Votteler, N.K., & Erasmus, M. An online study abroad experience for preservice teachers in the United States and South Africa. Protocol number 25644. Sam Houston State University. Full Board Approved, October 2015.

**Brooks, B.D. (P. I)**, Votteler, N.K., & Miller, M. Rural families write together: Sam Houston Writing Project's impact on student writing and parent involvement in their children's writing development. Protocol number 21706. Sam Houston State University. Full Board Approved, March, 2015.

### **Doctoral Dissertation Committees**

#### **Chair of Dissertation Committee**

Ulysses Brian Mack	African American Adolescent Males Examining the Intersectionality of Race, Gender and Class in an Online Book Club
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#### **Co-Chair of Dissertation Committee**

Kim Athans	Magic of Poetry Circles: High School Students' Perceptions of Poetry
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#### **Member of Dissertation Committee**

Sekineh Nasiri	Adult Refugee Language Learners' Perceptions of Participation in Literature Circles to Support Reading Comprehension and Reduce Foreign Language Anxiety
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Alana Morris	Processes, Practices, And Policies As Potential Pathways Toward Literacy Achievement Among Eighth Grade Students
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Lauren Thorpe	The Effects of an After-school Book Club on Third-grade Boys' Reading Achievements, Attitudes, and Preferences: An Intervention Mixed Methods Study (Graduated, 2017)
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Brandolyn Jones	Rural Elementary School Principals' Influence on School Cultures that Support African American Student Development in Reading (Graduated, 2015)
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### **Service**

#### **University**

Who's Who Selection Committee (2017-present)

IRB Committee, alternate member (2016-present)

Women's Advisory Committee (2016-present)

**College**

Visited Ball State University with Dean Edmonson and Associate Dean Stewart (2016)

Advocacy Candidates (2016-present)

Faculty Affairs Candidates (2016-present)

Principles of Inclusion and Equity (2016-present)

Undergraduate Professional Concerns, chair-elect (2016-present)

Center for International Education Committee (2016-present)

Equity in Action Committee (2016-present)

Undergraduate Scholarship Committee (2014-2015)

**Department**

Search Committee for LLSP (2018)

Curriculum Committee (2016-present)

Professional Concerns Committee, chair (2017-present)

Search Committee for Chair of LLSP (2016-2017)

Co-Director, Sam Houston Writing Project (2014- present)

Joan Prouty Committee on Early Literacy (2014-present), co-chair (2014-2016)

Undergraduate Recruitment Committee (2014-2015)

Research Committee (2015-2016)

Student Appeals Committee (2015-present)

**Service Learning**

**Conroe**

Conroe ISD Teacher of the Year (2018)

Conroe ISD Teacher of the Year (2017)

Sam Houston Writing Project (2016)

**Huntsville**

Huntsville Immersion Partnership (HIP), partnership coordinator (2017-present)

Opt-in After-school Tutoring Program, lead faculty (2015-present)

Weekly Writing Workshops at the Boys & Girls Club of Walker County, primary-investigator (2015)

**Houston**

Ronald McDonald House, The Center for Community Engagement (2014)

**Consulting Editor**

Founding Editor, *READ: An Online Journal for Literacy Educators* (2014-present)

Co-Editor, *English in Texas*, Texas Council of English Language Arts (2016)

**Ad Hoc Reviewer**

Reviewer for the *Georgia Journal of Reading*, College of Education, Georgia Southern University (2012-2014)

**Professional Memberships**

American Educational Research Association (AERA) (2018)

American Educational Research Association (AERA) Service-Learning and Experiential Education Sig (2018)

Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) (2016-present)

Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts (TCTELA) (2016)

International Literacy Association (ILA) (2014-present)

Literacy Research Association (NRC/LRA) (2014-2017)

National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) (2014-present)

Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) (2014-2015)