

Arkansas Tech University  
Professional Development Grant  
Final Report

Oxford Round Table  
Childhood Education and Issues  
Oxford, England  
July 19 – 22, 2015

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## B. Restatement of Professional Enhancement Opportunity

The conference titled “Childhood Education and Issues” was held July 19 – 22, 2015, at Harris Manchester College of the University of Oxford in Oxford, England. My presentation entitled “Digital decisions: Educators, caregivers and parents must be well informed when making decisions about children’s use of technology and media” was presented to other conference participants and guests. Through attendance and presentations, I gained the opportunity to interact with fellow educators and policy makers to explore and discuss issues important to children, their education, and their care.

## C. Brief Review

My attendance at the Oxford Round Table served to enhance my professional experience. My increased responsibilities as a reviewer of scholarly publications, a member of both the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) Planning and Credential Committees, and a reviewer of Early Childhood Programs for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) require me to remain abreast of current trends in education and the expectations of national and international university Teacher Education Programs. Additionally, as a newly appointed member of ATU’s Interdisciplinary Committee, I feel that my attendance proved beneficial to our university. Furthermore, my interaction with others who are devoted to the field of education served to help keep me well informed about current initiatives, both on the national and international stage.

## D. Summary of Experiences

The topics discussed at this 2015 Childhood Education and Issues Round Table allowed me to meet professionals from many diverse cultures – each with distinct strengths and challenges. Thus, upon reflection, I feel that my attendance at this international conference vastly increased my global awareness, pedagogical knowledge, and professional skills, and significantly contributed to my becoming a more effective faculty

member, reviewer of journal articles, program reviewer, mentor and disseminator of information. My increased global awareness allows me to strengthen ATU's Education Department, all the while adding to my store of ideas to use with my students - increasing their level of professional and pedagogical knowledge, learning how to teach within a diverse culture. Ultimately, I hope to have a positive impact on students within the Curriculum and Instruction Department.

#### E. Conclusion

The theme of the Oxford Round Table proved to be informative, allowing for interesting discussions. One of the highlights of the conference was participating in a ceremony celebrating the unity we all enjoy as educators. The location allowed for tours of historic sites steeped in tradition. As always, when attending conferences, I attend with a broad purpose: first, seeking new information to enhance ATU's Teacher Educator Program and; second, striving to increase my level of professional involvement within the international academic community. In closing, I feel that my attendance provided me with tools to keep ATU's education curriculum abreast of current initiatives to maintain parity between ATU's programs and those of other universities – both nationally and internationally.



# Oxford Round Table



Childhood Education and Issues

Harris Manchester College

in the University of Oxford

July~19 - July~22, 2015

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7:30 - 8:30 am BREAKFAST

Harris Manchester College Dining Hall

SESSION II Old Dining Room, Harris Manchester College

Facilitator: Judith McConnell-Farmer

8:30 - 9:00 am Title: Lewis Carroll and 'Alice': His Life and

Works in Oxford

Presenter: Judith McConnell-Farmer, Professor,

Washburn University, Kansas, United States

9:00 - 9: 15 am GENERAL ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

9:15 - 9:45 am Title: Digital Decisions: Educators, Caregivers and

Parents Must be Well Informed When Making

Decisions about Children's Use of Technology and

Media

Presenter: Stephanie Pepper, Assistant Professor,

Arkansas Tech University, Arkansas, United States

9:45 -10:00 am ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Discussion Leader: Robert Galin, Assistant  
Professor of English and Communication,  
University of New Mexico, United States

10:00 - 10:30 am TEA & COFFEE

10:30 - 11:00 am Title: I Matter: The Revelance of Inclusion in  
Community

Presenter: Robert Stack, President/CEO,  
Community Options Inc., Princeton, New Jersey,  
United States

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(Above: A copy of the page from the Program Schedule for the day that I presented.)