Updated: Fall 2025

Curriculum Vitae

John M. Ponder, Ph.D.

Department Chair and Associate Professor College of Education University of West Georgia

Education:

Ph.D.	Reading Education	University of Georgia	1992
Ed.S.	Reading Education	Louisiana Tech University	1989
M.A.	Elementary Education	Louisiana Tech University	1985
B.A.	Elementary Education	Louisiana Tech University	1983

Administrative Appointments:

University of West Georgia

July 2023-Present	Department Chair, Department of Early Childhood Through Secondary Education and Reading Instruction
July 2016 – June 2023	Department Chair, Department of Literacy and Special Education
July 2011 – June 2016	Director of Graduate Studies, College of Education
January – July, 2010	Interim Department Chair, Department of Collaborative Support & Intervention
August 2008 – July 2010	Director, Teaching Fellows Program
August 2008- July 2009	Director, Professional Development School Program, Department of Curriculum & Instruction
August 2003 – July 2006	Program Coordinator, M.Ed. in Reading Instruction, Department of Curriculum & Instruction

Arkansas State University

August 2000 - July 2002 Assistant Department Chair,

Department of Teacher Education

Main responsibility: Coordination of student admission processes at external degree sites

Academic Appointments:

2016-Present	Associate Professor	University of West Georgia Department of Literacy and Special Education
2009-2015	Associate Professor	University of West Georgia Department of Learning and Teaching
2003-2008	Assistant Professor	University of West Georgia Department of Curriculum and Instruction
1992-2003	Assistant Professor	Arkansas State University Department of Teacher Education
1989-1992	Graduate Teaching Assistant	University of Georgia Department of Reading Education
1984-1989	Fifth Grade Teacher	Lincoln Parish Public Schools Simsboro Elementary (Simsboro, LA)
1983-1984	Title I Remedial Reading	Lincoln Parish Public Schools Grades 2 - 6 Simsboro Elementary (Simsboro, LA)
Spring 1983	Fourth Grade Teacher	Lincoln Parish Public Schools Simsboro Elementary (Simsboro, LA)
Fall 1982	Teacher Intern, 2nd Grade	Lincoln Parish Public Schools Cypress Spring Elementary (Ruston, LA)

Professional Service:

Editorships/Review Boards:

Literacy Research and Instruction, Editorial Review Board, 2009-2024 Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA), Best Paper Award Selection Committee, 2014-2015

- Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers (ALER) Yearbook, Editorial Review Board, 2009
- College Reading Association Yearbook, Peer Review Board, 2004-2008
- Georgia Reading Consortium journal, *Literacy Lens*, Editorial Review Board, 2008
- Concern for Affect in Reading Education Journal, Editorial Board, 2004-06
- Allyn and Bacon Publishers, Textbook Reviewer, *Creating Literacy Instruction for All Children* (Gunning, 2003).
- Standards for Reading Professionals, International Reading Association, Reviewer, 1998
- The Reading Teacher, Volume 45, Guest Reviewer
- Forty-Third Yearbook of the National Reading Conference, Editorial Advisory Review Board, 1994
- Forty-Second Yearbook of the National Reading Conference, Editorial Advisory Review Board, 1993
- The Reader...IRA in Arkansas, Associate Editor, Spring Edition, 1993 The Reading Teacher, Volume 44, Editorial Assistant, 1990

National Service:

- Literacy Teacher Educational Research Grant Selection Committee, Association of Literacy Educators (ALER), 2014 & 2015
- Conference Program Committee, Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers (ALER), 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014
- Chair, Professional Affairs Committee, Association of Literacy Educator and Researchers (ALER), term: 2008-2010
- Membership Officer/Treasurer, Concern for Affect in Reading Education (CARE), 2005-2009
- Special Events Committee, 49th Annual Meeting of the College Reading Association, Savannah, GA, November 3-6, 2005

State Service:

- University System of Georgia Reading Consortium, UWG Representative 2005-2009
- Professional Standards Commission Content Review Panels: August 2, 2004; May 25, 2004; September 27, 2004, June 26, 2006, February 3, 2006
- University System of Georgia Higher Education Literacy Summit, UWG Representative, July 27-28, 2006, Athens, GA.
- West Georgia RESA School Improvement Team, Site Visit and Report, Mt. View Elementary School, Manchester, GA, March 16-17, 2005
- Team Member, North Central Association/ACSIP (Arkansas Consolidated School Improvement Process, 30+ school site visits and participation in writing reports submitted to schools and state Charlie May Simon Children's Book Award Selection Committee (AR)

University Service:

International Programs Advisory Committee
Faculty Senator
Senate Rules Committee, 2010-2011
FASP Committee, 2008-09
Student Travel Awards Committee, 2004-2009
Intercollegiate Athletic Committee, 2005-2008
Disciplinary Appeals Review Committee, 2005-2006

College of Education:

Represented COE at Georgia Association of Educational Leaders Conference, UWG Exhibit, July 11-13, Jekyll Island, GA

Chair, COE Honor's Convocation, (Chair, 2008-09) 2005-2011

COE Admissions Appeal Committee, 2009-2011

Ed.D. in School Improvement Program Director Search Committee, 2009

Ed.D. in School Improvement Advisory Committee, 2009-2015

COE Assessment Advisory Committee, 2005-2006

COE Field Experiences Ad-Hoc, 2005-2006

COE Intern Handbook Revision Committee, 2005-2008

Department Committee Membership:

Teaching Centers Steering Committee, 2007-2008 C&I Community Advisory Committee, 2003-2006 Reading Clinic Advisory Board, 2006-2011 Student Handbook Revision Committee, 2006-2008

Search Committees:

Literacy Education Position, Chair 2015 & 2016 Early Childhood Language Arts Position, 2007 Department Chair, Curriculum and Instruction 2006, 2008 Early Childhood Education Generalist Position, 2006, 2009 Early Childhood Education Instructor, 2004

Local School Districts:

Chaperone, Carrollton Junior High Educational Spring Break Trip to France and Spain, 04/04/2015 - 04/14/2015

Grill Master, Carrollton Elementary School Honors Luau, May 14, 2008 Chaperone, Carrollton Elementary School, fieldtrip to World of Coke Museum, Atlanta, GA, April 25, 2008

Spelling Bee Judge, Sharpe Creek Elementary, January 20, 2006, January 19, 2007, January 15, 2008

Building Affective Aspects of Literature Project, Sharp Creek Elementary School, Special Education Class of Ms. Patti Braswell. Tuesdays, 11:30 - 12:05, Fall – Spring, 2005-06

Literacy Program Consulting work for Mr. James Stocks, Principal, Villa Rica Middle School, May 2006

- Created and tutored in after-school developmental reading program, Mt. Zion Middle School, Thursday afternoons, 3:30-4:30, Fall 2003 Spring 2004
- Instructional Management System Evaluation, Sharpe Creek Elementary School, February 11, 2004
- In-Service Workshop (half day), Carrollton Elementary School, *Strategies Which Build Literacy Skills Across the Curriculum*, July 27, 2004
- Chaperone, Mt. Zion Elementary 5th Grade fieldtrip to Tennessee Aquarium, Chattanooga, TN, October 23-24, 2003
- Hillcrest Elementary School, Jonesboro, AR, Site-based Management Team
- Jonesboro Public Schools (AR), Reading Textbook Adoption Committee Social Studies Fair Judge, University Heights Elementary School, Nettleton Public Schools (AR)

Service to Community:

- Board of Directors, *Literacy is for Today and Tomorrow* (LIFT), Carrollton, GA, 2007-2015
- Coweta County (GA) Fall Literacy Emphasis, UWG Representative, Sum-Fall, 2010
- Carroll County (GA) Family Connections Task Force, 2006-2009

Other Selected Service Activities:

Dissertation Committee Chair, Elizabeth McMichael, Summer 2019 Dissertation Committee of Jeylene Jenkins (Defended on 12/02/15); John Wallace (Defended Fall 2010); Kiley Thompson (Defended on August 13, 2010); Karen Kirby (Defended on July 10, 2008)

Ed. S. Thesis Committee of Danielle Dennis (Defended on March 11, 2004)

Awarded \$5,000.00 mini-grant from USG Reading Consortium to purchase new materials for Diagnostic and Developmental Reading Clinic, 2007

- Presenter, Family Literacy Night at the Diagnostic and Developmental Reading Clinic, October 18, 2004 and April 16, 2005.
- C&I Representative at UWG Preview Day: November 9, 2003; February 8, 2004; April 17, 2005
- Ferst Foundation Early Literacy Program, Program Evaluation Team contracted by the UWG Evaluation Center, 2009-2010.
- Program Assessment of the Coweta County Year-Long Internship Program, 2009
- Grant of \$2,500.00 (with T. Ponder) for Trumann Public Schools (AR) to purchase equipment needed in student oral history project.

 Awarded by M. Jordan Fundamentals Grant Program.

Arkansas State University -- Selected Service:

Intercollegiate Athletic Committee College of Education Faculty Senator

Academic Calendar Committee Faculty Grievance Committee

Scholarship:

Publications:

- Ponder, J. M. & Doheny, C. (2007). If not for points, then why read? Exploring the grandest purpose of literature. *Affective Reading Education Journal*, 24, 1-5.
- Wallace, F. H., Many, J. E., Stanley, B., Howrey, S., Ponder, J., Fisher, T., & Aoulou, E. (2007). Literacy and literacy teacher education in grades 4-8. *Georgia Journal of Reading* (30), 20-25.
- Ponder, J. M. (2006). Focus on reading -- the university system of Georgia's reading consortium. *Becoming*, (17), 13
- Harkins, D., Reigner, R., Ponder, J., & Gregg, G. (2004). Dialogue with caregivers:
 Perceptions of a reading clinic. In J. R. Dugan, P. E. Linder, M. B. Sampson, B.
 A. Brancato, & L. Elish-Piper (Eds.), *Celebrating the Power of Literacy* (pp. 343-353). Commerce, TX: College Reading Association.
- Ponder, J. M. (2004). Book Review: Teaching and using document-based questions for middle school. *Current Issues in Middle Level Education* (10) 67-68.
- Stange, T. & Ponder J. M. (2003). Inclusive reading strategies for the classroom teacher. *The Reader*, 27, 22-29.
- Stange, T. & Ponder J. M. (2000). *Literacy scaffolding strategies for diverse learners: A bridge for tomorrow*. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service no. ED440363).
- Ponder, J. & Whittingham, J. (1997). A review of empowerment as a major emphasis in the training of teachers, *ASU Goal 2000 Teacher Preparation Monograph*.
- Ponder, J. & McJunkin, M. (1995). Journal writing in the science classroom. *The Reader...IRA in Arkansas*, 19, 9.
- Ponder, J. (1995). Review of multicultural book for children. Multicultural Education, Fall, 39.
- Ponder, J. (1990). Monsters to magic: Folklore for children, *Georgia Journal of Reading*, 16(2), 48-50.
- Ponder, J. (1989). Children's book reviews. Georgia Journal of Reading, 15(1), 32.

Conference Presentations (Since 2000):

- Ponder, J. (2015). *Literacy is for today and tomorrow: The impact of a community-based literacy program*, roundtable session, ALER 59th Annual Conference, Costa Mesa, CA.
- Ponder, J. & Harkins, D. (2014). *An analysis of the literature inclusion practices during content area study by pre-service elementary teachers*, session, ALER 58th Annual Conference, Delray Beach, FL.
- Layton, K. & Ponder, J. (2014). *Through the eyes of Thomas Barrett: A historical perspective on close reading*, roundtable session, ALER 58th Annual Conference, Delray Beach, FL.

- D. Hoff, J. Ponder, & P. Hoff (2013). *Embracing the Future: A decentralized model of graduate education and its potential impact on advanced teacher preparation*. session, AACTE 65th Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Ponder, J. & Harkins, D. (2013). Exploring the world of literacy: What teachers have to say about selecting books for read-alouds, session, ALER 57th Annual Conference, Dallas, TX.
- Robinson, R., Harkins, D., & Ponder, J. (2012). *Reading aloud with a purpose in mind: How do teachers select book?*, session, ALER 56th Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, MI.
- Harkins, D., Ponder, J., & Robinson, R., (2011). *Voice matters: Effects of oral reading on four-year olds' comprehension*, session, ALER 55th Annual Conference, Richmond, VA.
- Bucholz, J. & Ponder, J. (2011). *Response to intervention*, technical session #2, 7th Annual Conference on Dyslexia and SLD, New Delhi, India.
- Ogletree, T., Mertler, K., Doheny, C., & Ponder, J. (2011). Who's on Ferst? Exploring the effects of a preschool book giveaway program on children's literacy development, session, Eastern Educational Research Association 34th Annual Conference, Sarasota, FL.
- Doheny, C., & Ponder, J. (2010). *Comprehensive oral exams: Perceptions of graduate students*, Session, EERA 33rd Annual Conference, Savannah, GA.
- Ponder, J., Harkins, D., Metcalf, K., & Layton, K. (2010). *The development and implementation of a year-long internship: Lessons learned and implications for the future*, Session, AACTE 62nd Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- Ogletree, T., Ponder, J., & Doheny, C. (2010). *Who's on Ferst?*, session, ALER 54th Annual Conference, Omaha, NE.
- Reigner, R., Ponder, J., Harkins, D., & Robinson, R. (2010). PreK and first grade children's awareness and articulation of theme in literature, session, ALER 54th Annual Conference, Omaha, NE.
- Ponder, J., Harkins, D., Reigner, R., & Robinson, R. (2009). *Exploring literature with children: What four year olds can tell us*, Session, ALER 53rd Annual Meeting, Charlotte, NC.
- Ponder, J. (May 6, 2008). *Patterns and trends in the selection of literature and materials for use by tutors in a reading clinic*, Session sponsored by Concern for Affect in Reading Education (CARE), International Reading Association 53rd Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.

- Ogletree, T., Ponder, J., Brown, E., & Hawkins, K. (April 11, 2008). *Role Switching: A powerful approach in preparing professionals*, Session, 2008 Professional Development Schools National Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Doheny, C., Pendergraft, B. & Ponder, J. (December 1, 2007). *How are teachers in Georgia prepared to teach reading in grades P-5?*, Symposium: Learning about literacy and the teaching of reading: A state-wide examination of literacy teacher preparation, 57th Annual Meeting of National Reading Conference, Austin, TX.
- Ponder, J. (June 7, 2007). *Higher order thinking and metacognition*, Session, University of West Georgia Summer Learning Festival, Carrollton, GA.
- Ponder, J. (November 2, 2007). *Collaborating with our colleagues in the field: Two exciting models of reading teacher preparation*, Session, the 51st Annual Meeting of the College Reading Association, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Ponder, T. & Ponder, J. (October 19, 2007). *I am not a reading teacher! Comprehension strategies in the social studies classroom*, Session, Georgia Council for the Social Studies, Athens, GA.
- Rogers, K., Saxon, C., Gainey, S., Davis J., Parker, S., Ponder, J. & Layton, K. (March 31, 2007). *Growing our own peaches: A collaborative partnership*, Session, 2007 Professional Development School Conference, Las Vegas, NV.
- Reigner, R., & Ponder, J. (May 3, 2006). *The reading motivation of students with mild disabilities: The impact of teacher read-alouds and story prediction activities*, Session sponsored by Concern for Affect in Reading Education (CARE), International Reading Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Ponder, J., Reigner, R., & Harkins, D. (October 27, 2006). *Reflecting on tutoring: Undergrad clinicians gain confidence and expertise*, Session, 50th Annual Meeting of the College Reading Association, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Doheny, C. & Ponder, J. (September 11, 2006). *Teaching vocabulary in the middle school classroom*, Session, 2006 Leadership Forum, Macon, GA. (Invited to repeat presentation from the State Reading Conference)
- Doheny, C. & Ponder, J. (February 13, 2006). Teaching vocabulary in the middle school classroom, Session, 27th Annual State Reading Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Reigner, R., Ponder, J., & Harkins, D. (November 5, 2005). *A reading clinic and the affective domain*, Roundtable, The 49th Annual Meeting of the College Reading Association, Savannah, GA.

- Ponder, J., Reigner, R, & Harkins, D. (November 5, 2005). Working within a reading clinic: Comparing the Achievement of home-schooled and public-schooled children, Session, College Reading Association 49th Annual Conference, Savannah, GA.
- Ponder, J. & Ponder, T. (October 21, 2005). *Life Interrupted: The Japanese American Experience in World War II*, Session, Georgia Council for the Social Studies State Conference, Athens, GA.
- Ponder, J, Harkins, D., Reigner, R. & C. Doheny (June 17, 2005). UWG's reading program, presentation, Reading Forum, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA.
- Ponder, J., Reigner, R, & Harkins, D. (November 8, 2004). *Dialogue with caregivers: Perceptions of a reading clinic*, Session, 23rd Southeast Regional Conference of the International Reading Association, Savannah, GA.
- Reigner, R., & Ponder, J. (October 30, 2004). *Professional journals: Available, Utilized, or Ignored,* roundtable, 48th Annual Conference of the College Reading Association, Delray Beach, FL.
- Harkins, D., Ponder, J., Reigner, R., & Gregg, G. (October 29, 2004). *Assessing children's potential for growth in a reading clinic program: Helping caregivers develop realistic expectations*, Session, 48th Annual Conference of the College Reading Association, Delray Beach, FL.
- Towery, R. & Ponder, J. (April 16, 2004), *Integrating Content Methods Into A Senior Level Field Experience*, Session, ACEI Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Prince, D., Ponder, J., Maness, D., & Bradley, M. J. (November 21, 2003). *An NCATE challenge: Addressing diversity at off-campus degree sites*, Session, 50th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators, Savannah, GA.
- Harkins, D., Reigner, R., Ponder, J., & Gregg, G. (Nov. 2003). *Designing reading clinic assessment: Utilizing feedback from clients and their parents*, Session, 47th Annual Conference of the College Reading Association, Corpus Christi, TX.
- Ponder, J., Maness, D. & Bradley, M. J., (Nov. 2002). *Meeting diversity standards at off-campus degree centers*, Session, Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators 49th Annual Conference, Hot Springs, AR
- Ponder, J., Towery, R., & McClain, V. (2002, March). *The challenges and the rewards: Building a comprehensive literacy program*, Session, IRA Southwest Regional 29th Annual Conference, Arlington, TX.
- Ponder, J. & Ponder, T. (Nov. 2002). *Incorporating literacy skills in a content classroom*, Session, Arkansas Reading Association Fall Conference, Little Rock, AR.

- Ponder, J., Towery, R., Prince, D., Owens, L., & Weaver, R. (Nov. 2002). *Linking field experiences and methods courses in early childhood teacher education*, Session, Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators 49th Annual Conference, Hot Springs, AR.
- Ponder, J., Towery, R., Prince, D., Owens, L., & Weaver, R. (Nov. 2002). *Performance assessment in an integrated field experience*, Session, Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators 49th Annual Conference, Hot Springs, AR.
- Ponder, J., Maness, D. & Bradley, M. J., (Nov. 2002). *Meeting diversity standards at off-campus degree centers*, Session, 49th Annual Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators, Hot Springs, AR.
- Ponder, J. & Ponder, T. (Nov. 2002). *Incorporating literacy skills in a content classroom*, Session, Arkansas Reading Association Fall Conference, Little Rock, AR.
- Ponder, J., Towery, R., Prince, D., Owens, L., & Weaver, R.(Nov. 2002). *Linking field experiences and methods courses in early childhood teacher education*, Session, 49th Annual Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators, Hot Springs, AR.
- Ponder, J., Towery, R., Prince, D., Owens, L., & Weaver, R.(Nov. 2002). *Performance assessment in an integrated field experience*, Session, 49th Annual Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators, Hot Springs, AR.
- Ponder, J., Towery, R., & McClain, V. (March, 2002). *The challenges and the rewards: Building a comprehensive literacy program*, Session, 29th IRA Southwest Regional Conference, Arlington, TX.
- Ponder, J., & Smith, D., (Nov., 2001). *Prepackaged reading programs: Their limits and possibilities*, Session, Arkansas Reading Association Fall Conference, Little Rock, AR.
- Ponder, J., & Campbell, C. (Feb., 2000). *Public school teachers speak out: Assessing the impact of one partnership,* Session, 5th Annual National PDS Conference, Kansas City, MO.
- Ponder, J., & Bradley, M. J. (Feb., 2000). *The governance structure of one university's professional development schools*, Session, 5th Annual National PDS Conference, Kansas City, MO.

Professional Memberships:

Membership and Offices in Scholastic Honoraria:

Phi Delta Kappa, West Georgia Chapter Historian, 2008-2009 Vice President for Membership, 2005-2008 Vice President for Programs, 2004-2005

Memberships and Offices in Professional Societies:

Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers (ALER)
International Reading Association
SIG: Concern for Affect in Reading Education
Georgia Reading Association