

# Thanks for the Memories!!

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As a teacher for more than two decades, I have attended many conferences on many interesting educational topics. In October 2001; however, I attended a conference I will long remember: the 52nd Annual Conference of the International Dyslexia Association in Albuquerque New Mexico. It was unforgettable not only for the overwhelming amount and quality of information I gained, but for the opportunity to rub elbows with hundreds of other people – parents, educators, researchers, and other professionals – who are working to understand and assist individuals who learn differently.

I want to express my deep appreciation to the Inland Empire Branch of the International Dyslexia Association for their generous scholarship that allowed me the opportunity to attend all four days of the conference including all special events such as luncheons and dinners. There was nearly continuous opportunity for participation in some type of activity.

As a teacher of special education students and a graduate student myself, I was especially impressed by the amount and high quality of research presented on a myriad of topics from brain functioning to vocabulary instruction. I was fascinated to hear about the variety of research and practice in the field. I was introduced to topics and materials that I will be reading and using throughout the rest of my career.

After one day at the conference, my head was spinning with information. By the fourth day, I felt as if I were swimming in a vast sea of knowledge about learning differences.

The experience was exciting, inspiring, exhausting, fun, and especially unforgettable.