Congratulations to Dr. Brenda Hannon, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology, Sociology, and Criminology who has just been awarded $410,000.00+ four-year grant from the National Institute of Health to study illiteracy. To date, although numerous studies suggest that inefficient word decoding skills are a source of poor reading and illiteracy it is clear that even if children do have efficient word identification-decoding skills they can still score poorly on assessments of reading because of weak or inefficient processes that are used for comprehending text. The goal of Dr. Hannon’s research is to assess both work-level and comprehension processes in preschoolers and then determine whether these assessments predict their future reading performance (i.e., when children are 7-8 years old). The results of the present study will provide a strong foundation of knowledge for identifying potential problems in reading comprehension before a child begins to read. Moreover, such knowledge should allow us to reduce illiteracy because it can be used to create intervention programs that foster the development of comprehension processes in pre- and beginning readers (identification intervention).

Dr. Hannon is currently looking for children to participate in her study!! If you have a child or children who are 4.5 to 6 years old and have no learning disabilities she would love to have them participate in her study. The child will receive a $15.00 gift package for completing the 2.25 hour study. Please contact her at Brenda.hannon@tamuk.edu and leave your name and phone number. She will answer all of your questions.