

# Alabama Council of Teachers of English 2016 Conference



April 23, 2016

Vestavia Hills  
Library in the Forest

## Keynote Speaker: Heather L. Montgomery

I'm fascinated by bugs and rocks and things that seem gross, but I wasn't always...

As a child, I climbed trees, caught crabs and played sports, but was petrified of spiders and did not like getting dirty. Now I let spiders crawl up my arm, paint my face with dirt and dig through scat (you can learn lots from animal poop). Why am I now fascinated instead of freaked out? Knowledge. The more you learn, the less you fear.

My interest in nature led to a B.S. in Biology and a M.S. in Environmental Education. After college, I developed and directed the McDowell Environmental Center. One of my favorite things is to stand knee-deep in a stream and catch bugs with kids. I still do that, when I'm not writing, speaking to students or leading teacher workshops.

Now, I live in beautiful Alabama with my husband, a cat (shy Annie) and a dog (hyper Piper). During my free time, I climb trees, collect fossils, stand under waterfalls, nature journal, explore the Sipsey Wilderness or lay in a hammock and read a good book!

### A Note from Katie Ray, ACTE Vice-President

*Welcome to the 2016 ACTE Conference!*

*I truly believe today will be a day full of building relationships, sharing ideas, and growing as professionals. Thank you for being here, especially on a Saturday, to participate and to hone your craft as an English teacher.*

*This is an election year. I'd like to encourage you to stick around after the closing and door prizes to nominate a worthy colleague, vote on the candidates, and even run for an office! We have several positions opening this year, and would love to have more representation. Let me know if you have any questions—we would love for you to become more involved in the organization!*

*Finally, the officers and conference organizing committee have worked tirelessly to bring you a well-planned conference, so a huge "thank you" goes out to all of those who assisted with its design and implementation.*

## Today's Schedule

**8:30-9:00** Registration and Breakfast

**9:00-10:30** Keynote Speaker

**10:40-11:40** Breakout Session #1

**11:45-12:15** Lunch

**12:20-1:20** Breakout Session #2

**1:30-2:30** Breakout Session #3

**2:40-3:40** Breakout Session #4

**3:45-4:00** Closing and Door Prizes  
(All Attendees)

**4:00** Officer Elections



ACTE 2016  
Keynote Speaker  
Heather L. Montgomery



## ACTE Officers

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ACTE Web Site:  
[www.acte.weebly.com](http://www.acte.weebly.com)



### Breakout Session #1 (10:40-11:40)

**Natural Conversations: Peer Tutoring Techniques**

*Christina McGovern and Megan Hastings*

**Treehouse Room (Lower Level)**

**A Walk in Her Shoes: Creating Nature-Based Poetry Inspired by *The Diary of Anne Frank***

*Jessica S. Mitchell, PhD and Rachel Sweigard*

**Children's Room (Lower Level)**

**Journey of Growth: Perspectives in Motion (YA Lit)**

*Janie Parson, Christal Seay, Jonathan Beaudrie, Kristen Gardner, Wendolyn Martin*

**Community Room (Main Level)**

### Breakout Session #2 (12:20-1:20)

**Close Reading: Real Writers Do It Too**

*Heather Montgomery*

**Treehouse Room (Lower Level) (May move outdoors)**

**Survive Another Day: From Figurative to Literal (YA Lit)**

*Jessica Swann, Johnathan Nelson, Virginia Shelton, Matt Seidel, Christen Hughes*

**Children's Room (Lower Level)**

**Writing the Landscape**

*Denise Trimm*

**Community Room (Main Level)**

### Breakout Session #3 (1:30-2:30)

**Write It WILD!**

*Heather Montgomery*

**Treehouse Room (Lower Level) (May move outdoors)**

**Through the Tunnel: Overcoming Obstacles through Struggle (YA Lit)**

*Spencer White, Joseph Jablonsky, Sara Rishell, Laura Kenders, Susanne Ray*

**Children's Room (Lower Level)**

**Wild, Deep, and Teaming: Nature and English Pedagogy**

*Niko Tsivourakis*

**Community Room (Main Level)**

### Breakout Session #4 (2:40-3:40)

**Reluctant Writers Write!**

*Heather Montgomery*

**Treehouse Room (Lower Level) (May move outdoors)**

**A Woman's Self Discovery: A Journey to Acceptance in Young Adult Literature**

*Lexi Waldon, Shae Carter, Jane Ault, Courtney Broussard, Alexandra Lockhart*

**Children's Room (Lower Level)**

**Stop the Insanity: Helpful Strategies with Grading**

*Debbie Simms*

**Community Room (Main Level)**