

# A Method to His Mastery

By Charlene Hankinson

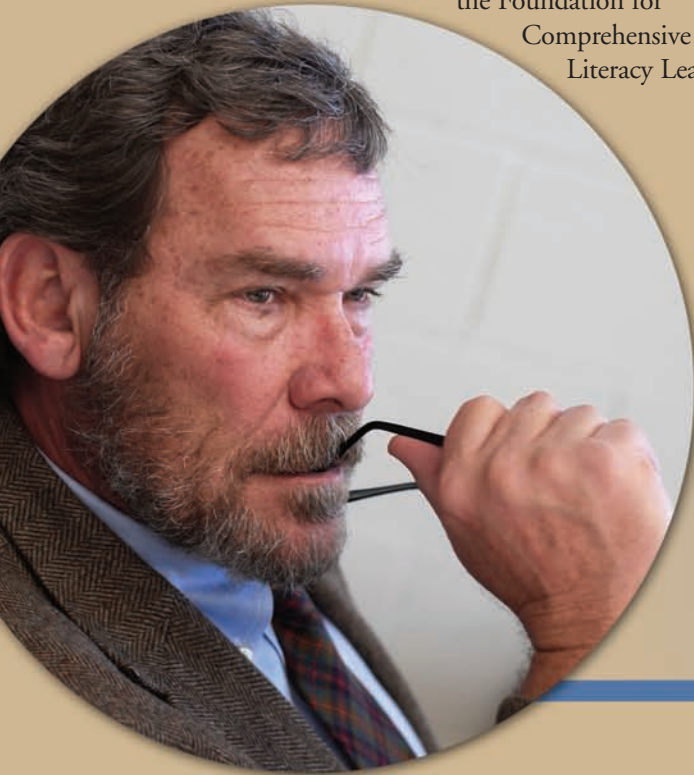
Stanley L. Swartz, Ph.D., '70 is an educator who has a passion for helping children learn to read and for training teachers to be more effective in the classroom, especially as related to children who are struggling learners and have various disabilities.

His groundbreaking work has impacted teachers and students across the United States and in several Spanish-speaking countries. He has received more than \$30 million in grants to fund his research of teaching methods.

A professor of education at California State University, San Bernardino, since 1989, Swartz teaches graduate courses in special education and educational administration. His outreach includes serving as a consultant concerning literacy acquisition, teaching children with learning disabilities and behavior disorders, and educational administration in states spanning from the Midwest to Hawaii. Swartz generously credited what he termed "a large group of collaborators" as playing vital roles in his achievements.

Among his many accomplishments, one of his major efforts is serving as the founder and director of the Foundation for

Comprehensive Early  
Literacy Learning.



The foundation provides professional development opportunities to help educators improve their teaching of reading and writing by using scientific, research-based methods.

He also has focused much of his research on working with autistic children and their families. His work is directed toward modifying behaviors to allow autistic children to integrate into mainstream classrooms.

As president and owner of the Redlands School in Mexico City, Swartz has implemented his literacy programs in a bilingual setting, with his former graduate students now serving on the faculty. Swartz also restructured his programs in Spanish for a Chilean government-funded pilot program that was developed to improve literacy achievement in the lowest-performing schools in Santiago. "Our program had the best results in terms of student achievement," he said, resulting in the six-year experimental program being refunded for an additional four years.

A native of Fostoria, Ohio, Swartz followed his sister, Darla (Swartz '65) Ritchey to Findlay College, where he met his future wife, Janet Maule '70. He recalled the important impact that professors such as Raeburn Wallen and Jack Borckardt at Findlay made in his life and the kindness of Jerry Gebhardt in the Business Office. He also remembered his struggle to pay for his education by working full-time on second shift at Cooper Tire & Rubber Co.

"The decision to become a professor began at Findlay College," he noted, saying that he found the faculty at Findlay interesting people who were excited

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**Professor of Education,**  
**California State University, San Bernardino**

Chrissy Watkins

about their fields. After graduation, he went to Bowling Green State University, where he earned master of education and doctor of philosophy degrees.

He gained experience in elementary, secondary and special education classrooms as a teacher and supervisor in Fostoria, Lima and Ottawa, Ohio, and went on to teach at universities in Illinois, Kentucky and Ohio before locating in California. He also has served as a visiting professor to universities in Chile, Cuba, Mexico and Spain.

Swartz said he is very proud of his profession and his family's legacy of teaching. His father was an elementary school teacher and a principal in Fostoria. His sister and brother-in-law, Lowell Ritchey '64, of Harriman, Tenn., both became teachers. His wife is a teacher who currently is a school counselor working with troubled children. His sons, Philip and Daniel, both are teachers. In order to further recognize and encourage the work of teachers, Swartz has founded a scholarship for education majors at The University of Findlay in his wife's name.

Swartz called his career as an educator "exciting and fulfilling," saying, "There is a real sense of accomplishment seeing others using the methods you're advocating, another country following your recommendations and children using your books. What drives you is that this kind of impact is possible."

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## **Publications & Honors**

- Author, co-author of 20 books on literacy, learning and educational administration
- Author, co-author of more than 50 children's books, published internationally
- Editor of two children's book series encompassing 290 titles
- Author of more than 35 published articles and 123 papers and presentations
- 2005 Distinguished Alumnus, The University of Findlay
- 2005 Distinguished Professor, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California
- 1999 Distinguished Teacher Educator, Association for Teacher Educators
- 1997 Distinguished Service Award for funded research projects, California State University
- 1988 Community Service Award, Illinois House of Representatives

*For more information, see*  
<http://www.stanswartz.com>