



Pennsylvania/ New Jersey Chapter

College Reading & Learning Association

Fall 2011

PA/NJ Current

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<http://crlapanj.50webs.org/>

Our Mission

The *PA/NJ Chapter of the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA)* is dedicated to furthering the goals of the National Chapter of the CRLA. We are a network of higher education professionals who educate and disseminate information on reading, learning, and tutoring to its members in the Northeastern United States.

This year, the chapter plans to provide low-cost professional development and networking opportunities for administrators and faculty in the Pennsylvania/New Jersey area. Our newsletter, which is distributed three times per year, will contain information about helpful resources and announcements for upcoming educational events, such as conferences and webinars.

Please visit our website, <http://crlapanj.50webs.org/>, for information about the chapter and upcoming events. We look forward to serving the needs of our members and to a successful year!

Fall Cluster Meeting

This year, we are excited to offer two locations for the Fall Cluster Meeting on Friday, October 14th from 11:00am – 3:00pm. For those in Eastern PA and NJ, come join your colleagues at Bucks County Community College in Newtown, PA. For those in Western PA, a second meeting will be held at St. Francis University in Loretto, PA. Please note that registration will be limited to the first 14 people at the Western PA site. It is our hope to connect both meetings in the morning using an online forum so Chapter plans for the year can be shared with both sites.

For both locations, each institution is invited to share a “best practice” with the group in a five to ten minute presentation. You may also display and share printed materials from your program. The cost, which includes lunch, is \$10.00 for members and \$15.00 for non-members (\$10.00 fee plus \$5.00 membership fee).

For Newtown, please RSVP by September 30th to Nicole Tracey at traceyn@bucks.edu. For directions to the Bucks, please go to <http://www.bucks.edu/about/campus/>. For Loretto, please RSVP to Nicole Tracey by Tuesday, October 4th. For directions to St. Francis, please go to <http://www.francis.edu/DirectionsSFU.htm>. If you have any questions, please contact Nicole via email or at 215-968-8218. For additional information or to join the Chapter, please go to <http://crlapanj.50webs.org>

This event is a great opportunity to meet learning professionals from the PA/NJ region. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Events

2012 PA/NJ Annual Spring Conference

Please join us on Friday, March 16, 2012 at Montclair State University in Montclair, NJ for the Chapter's annual conference. This conference provides an opportunity for professionals to meet others in their field and to share best practices and strategies for student success.

A call for proposals will be coming soon, but we hope to have sessions that address our administrative and faculty members' diverse areas of responsibilities, including tutoring, developmental education, and TRiO programs. Sessions especially dedicated to tutors are planned for this conference as well. Recognizing the financial limitations on budgets this year, every effort will be made to keep costs to a minimum. Please consider submitting a proposal to present practices or ideas from your institution that may benefit others in the field.

As more information becomes available, it will be posted on the Chapter's website: <http://crlapanj.50webs.org/>.

The officers would like to extend a special thanks to Larisa Poznahovska, our President-Elect and the Director of the Center for Academic Development and Assessment at Montclair State University, for hosting the 2012 Spring Conference.

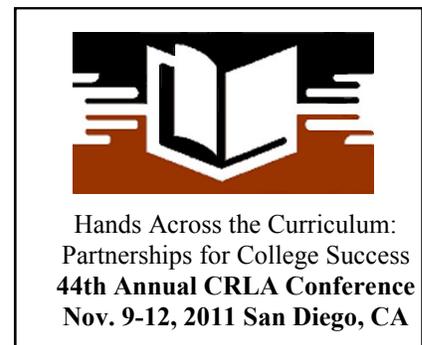
CRLA Conference – San Diego, CA

If you plan to attend the National Conference in San Diego this fall, Nicole Tracey would like to extend a personal invitation to our PA/NJ Chapter regional meeting on Thursday, November 10, 2011 from 11:30am-12:30pm.

For further information on the conference, please go to:

<http://crla.net/conference/index.htm>.

Early registration ends October 15th.



Have a suggestion?

Do you have a great idea for the next issue?

Do you know of a great resource, such as books, articles, or websites?

Do you have an effective strategy that has really helped you to reach your students?

Email any suggestions or feedback to our editors: Lauren Humphries at

humphrie@bucks.edu, Gina Martino at deda@aol.com, or Verna Fisher

at vfisher@lccc.edu.



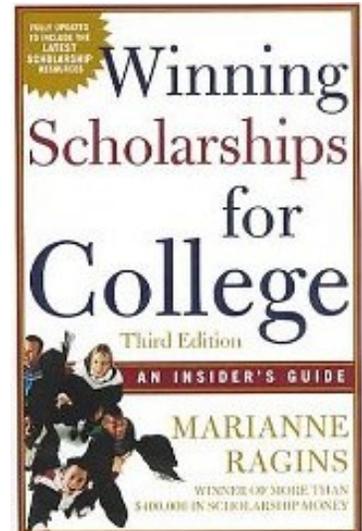
Book Review: *Winning Scholarships for College* by Marianne Ragins

By Verna Fisher, Perkins/CTE Writing Integration Specialist, Lehigh Carbon Community College

Here's a book that will benefit the tutoring department and those of us with kids in high school.

Winning Scholarships for College answers every possible question about scholarships. The author, Marianne Ragins, amassed \$400,000 in winnings on her own while in high school. If that isn't impressive enough, Ragins' motivation was to take the financial burden away from her single mother. Excuse me while I wipe a tear.

The book is thorough, dividing different types of scholarships (\$50-500; \$1,000+; major companies, obscure—left-handed, ethnic, etc) into chapters, along with a game plan for applying for multiple ones. Ragins' writing is clear, drawing the reader in with her personal stories sprinkled throughout the text. Ragins shares her winning methods that allowed her to pursue a B.A. and M.B.A. completely FREE! Her website, www.scholarshipworkshop.com, offers workshops, scholarship opportunities, her book, and other resources to help students squirrel away their own college funds.



Book information: SBN-10: 0805075216, ISBN-13:978-0805075212



Welcome to our new Membership Coordinator—PA

Please welcome Nichole Bennett-Bealer, Director of the Learning Center at Northampton Community College, as the Chapter's new PA Membership Coordinator. If you have questions about becoming a member or being added to our distribution list, please feel free to contact Nichole at

nbennett-bealer@northampton.edu.

Helpful Links and Tips for Student Success

By Gina Martino

Study Guides and Strategies: <http://www.studygs.net/learning/learning/>

This website describes the SMART acronym for success in college. SMART is defined as goals that are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Rewarding, and Timely. This website gives good advice for the new college student to achieve success and overcome obstacles in what can often be a strange and overwhelming first year experience.

The Khan Academy: <http://www.khanacademy.org/>

The Khan Academy, created by MIT graduate Salman Khan, creates and compiles hundreds of mini-lectures on a variety of science topics. The lectures are delivered through YouTube videos and mimic the lecture component of a college course by using a digital whiteboard. The extensive library provides free quality instruction for students at any time of the day.

How to Study.org: <http://www.howtostudy.org/>

This excellent website deals with time management skills for college students. Areas discussed are creating assignment calendars, making a schedule, planning, creating a course chart, evaluating a schedule, etc. Overall, this site can be very helpful for students looking to develop their study skills.

Academic Tips.org: <http://www.academictips.org/>

This website contains many study tips to help students navigate their time in college. The topics range from note-taking and study skills to improving memory and managing stress.

What's on Your Book Shelf?

On your professional book shelf, what volume do you go to often, recommend, or use in your work that colleagues may find helpful as well?

Tell us the title, ISBN, and a sentence or two about why you treasure this book for our next issue. Please send an email to Lauren Humphries.

Book Review: *The Bedford Handbook* by Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers

By Verna Fisher

Don't let the hot pink cover of *The Bedford Handbook* frighten you—it's filled with loads of great info that tutors and students will love! Whether it's used as a reference tool, a handbook for revising, editing, or general writing advice, this tome will see some heavy handling. The website offers interactive exercises covering writing, grammar, and research with a student score card to keep track of progress. Online registration is free.



As a professional courtesy, Lehigh Carbon Community College requested permission from Marianne Ragins and The Bedford Handbook to have their links appear on the tutoring portion of the LCCC website. They were thrilled to participate.

Book information: ISBN 10: 0312652690, ISBN 13: 978-0312652692

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A Road Map for Linear Equations



By Patrick Shields, Assistant Director, Tutoring Center,
Bucks County Community College

Students beginning algebra study often struggle to solve linear equations of the form $Ax+B=C$, which permeate the very idea of algebra. The inability to tackle abstraction at the nascent of their math study and the anxiety intrinsic to learning mathematics in a pressure filled environment stifle students' natural problem solving abilities, which would allow them to dispatch problems of this kind under normal circumstances. A tutor must awaken this ability already present in a student. Modern technology has provided a natural outlet for this.

Attempt this exercise with students struggling with this algebraic concept. Have them type two addresses into Google driving directions and print the results. Ask the students to now write down directions for getting home from the destination that they have chosen. Most students are intimately familiar with this process. Have the students explicitly state what steps they took. Once they explain to you their process of reversing steps, you now must draw the comparison to the algebraic equation.

Explain to the students how the equation $Ax+B=C$ gives driving directions starting at x and terminating at C . It is the students' job to simply reverse these directions as they have just done with their real driving directions. Using the order of operations, one can translate this statement into directions in a natural way: Begin at x . Proceed to multiply by A . Next, add B to that total. Arrive at C .

Now a problem, which formerly intimidated students with its strange notation and isolation from familiar procedural actions, has found an easy analogue in an area recognizable to students.

Have a helpful strategy to share?

Do you have a great tip or a go-to strategy that you've used to explain a confusing concept?

If so, share it!

Email your strategies and tips to Lauren

Humphries at humphrie@bucks.edu

We'd love to include more helpful tips in future issues!

