



Pennsylvania/ New Jersey Chapter

College Reading & Learning Association

Spring 2011

PA/NJ Current Officers

President
Suzanne McCarthy
mccarthys@centenarycollege.edu

President-Elect
Nicole Tracey
traceyn@bucks.edu

Treasurer
Cliff Woodward
cwooward@cse.edu

Secretary
Gina Martino
Deda616@aol.com

Communications
Coordinator
Lew Cohen
lcohen@ucc.edu

James Stewart
Membership
Coordinator – PA
JamesStewart@kings.edu

Danielle Boeninghaus
Membership
Coordinator – NJ
boeninghausd@centenarycollege.edu

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

2011 PA/NJ Annual Spring Conference



The 2011 Annual Conference is approaching fast! The Conference will be held at Northampton Community College in Bethlehem, PA on Friday, March 18, 2011 and will include sessions on meta-cognitive thinking, tutoring center assessment, English Language Learners (ELL), peer tutoring, reading strategies, math tutoring, social networking, writing workshops, center resourcefulness, and more.

Following the morning session, two special colloquium sessions are planned, one geared toward managers, supervisors, and trainers and the other geared toward tutors. Dr. Perfetti, who is the Director of the Faculty Center for Teaching at Muhlenberg College, will present “At the Heart of it: Engaging Students (and Ourselves) in the Big Questions that Matter” for administrators and trainers.

Concurrently, Chris Selena, who is the Director of Disability Services at Centenary College, will present “Practical Strategies to Identify and Mitigate Learning Weaknesses” for the tutors. These two extended sessions aim to provide an opportunity for participants to delve deeper into strategies for engaging and assisting students.

Tutor Track

In addition to the special session intended for tutors, other sessions, such as ones on peer tutoring, math resources, ELL, and meta-cognitive thinking, will be specifically geared toward tutors. While the sessions also have relevance for administrators, faculty, and trainers, many tutors have attended the conferences in the past, so the Officers wanted to ensure a track of sessions to enrich the tutors’ professional development experience.

Registration Information

Registration for the Conference ends on *Tuesday, March 15th*. We hope you can join us for the day as we strive for student success. For further information on the conference and the registration form, go to <http://crlapanj.50webs.org/>.

“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.”

~Aristotle

Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence.

~Robert Frost

“Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and diligence.”

~Abigail Adams

Article Review

“Colleges Need to Re-mediate Remediation” by Mike Rose, Professor, Graduate School of Education and Information Sciences, UCLA



Reviewed by Gina Martino

This article discusses a student who comes from a poor neighborhood and from a high school with few resources that do not enable him to learn the skills necessary for a successful college life. The student entered college through a special admissions program where he was part of the population that was supported by remediation courses that the school offered. His writing was not up to college level, but through hard work and support in remediation, he did well.

The main focus of this article is not just offering remediation at colleges and universities for incoming students but how the approach to remediation can make all the difference in retention and success rates. At UCLA, the focus was on a unique form of remediation called “re-mediation,” which occurs on many levels and is defined as “changing the environment and the means through which students are taught material they had not mastered before” (Rose).

Remediation occurs in many ways and on many cognitive levels and needs to be geared to the specific student. Colleges have a student population that have many challenges, such as English not being a first language, the need to revisit certain basic skills, a lack of basic skills as a result of an unsuccessful elementary and high school career, etc. This article focuses on the many tiers to remediation and the formulas for success in this area!

Article Featured in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, August 3, 2009



More Articles of Interest

Suggested by Gina Martino & Verna Fisher

“College Persistence of Readers on the Margin – A Population Overlooked” by Kimberly Pinkerton in *Research and Teaching in Developmental Education*, October 10, 2010

This article explores a study conducted at a community college, comparing students who are on the borderline of scoring into or out of the highest developmental reading course. Their findings showed an increased retention for the students placed into the reading course and discussed the placement test methods used to place students. Finally, this article explores strategies and solutions for addressing the needs of marginal readers.

“On a Mission to help Students Pass Math” by Sara Lipka, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, February 14, 2010, www.chronicle.com

Those of us in the tutoring field know that math can be a particularly challenging subject for many students. Often the frustration of a failing grade can mean the end of a college career for some students. Jeffrey Knapp of Florida International University (FIU) saw an opportunity to change that. After winning a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation and the Institute for Higher Education Policy, he implemented “Wal-Mart classes” which included combined tutoring and extended class time for first-generation college students. FIU is already seeing progress and renewed student enthusiasm. Check out the full article at *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, <http://chronicle.com/article/On-aMission-to-Help-Students/64149/>.

Wal-Mart offers generous grants through the American Association of Community Colleges, American Council on Education, The Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), and Foundation for Independent Higher Education. Learn more about Wal-Mart Foundation grant opportunities for your institution and individual student scholarships at <http://walmartstores.com>.

“Focus on Accent: A Sociolinguistic Perspective of Diversity in the Classroom” by Neeman Rafowsky Behrens in the *Journal of Developmental Education*, Spring 2010

This article discusses the responses elicited from people’s accents and how an increased awareness can improve teaching and learning in the college classroom.



More Articles of Interest (con't)

Suggested by Gina Martino & Verna Fisher

“Software for Those who Learn Differently” by Christopher R. Caldwell in *Research and Teaching in Developmental Education*, October 1, 2011

In this article, the author briefly discusses his own disability, but he mainly recommends software programs that have helped him in his personal and academic life.

“One Stop Tutoring Shop” by Ann McClure, *University Business Magazine*, May 2009, www.universitybusiness.com

Although it's becoming more common for colleges to have tutoring centers in one location, it's still not the norm nationwide. In this quick-read article, *University Business Magazine* takes a look at six U.S. colleges and the advantages of support services under one roof along with the challenges of getting there.

“Matters of the Brain: Research Looks at Neurology, Dyslexia, and Giftedness” by Kathy Mayer, *Take Note*, Fall 2009, www.education.purdue.edu

An ongoing three-year study at Purdue University is the topic of discussion in the school's student publication, *Take Note*. The article “Matters of the Brain: Research Looks at Neurology, Dyslexia, and Giftedness” covers the initial grant research posed by Jeffrey Gilger, Associate Dean for Discovery and Faculty Development at Purdue University. Gilger asked, “How can prenatal neurodevelopment lead to both gifts and disabilities in the same individual?”

During a study of 38 Purdue students identified in four categories—dyslexic, gifted, gifted & dyslexic, non-gifted, non-dyslexic, tests were conducted with magnetic resonance brain imaging. Early findings, Gilger says, are “The same genes that put people at risk for dyslexia may also put them at risk for unique ways of processing nonverbal/spatial information” (Mayer 6).

Educational

PA/NJ CRLA Webinars

In an effort to provide low-cost professional development opportunities, the chapter plans to offer two webinars throughout the year.

If you have a special interest or expertise in an area and would be willing to help us plan one or to present one of the webinars, please contact Suzanne McCarthy or Nicole Tracey to discuss. Any suggestions for topics of interest are also welcome. We appreciate any assistance with these educational endeavors.

The first webinar, titled “Doing More with Le\$\$ But with More Resourcefulness and with an Accountable Management System” presented by Frank L. Christ, has been rescheduled for Friday, April 1st from 2:00pm-3:00pm. The PA/NJ chapter will be the first to offer a free webinar to its members. We hope you can join us!

E-mail Suzanne McCarthy at mccarthys@cetenarycollege.edu to register.



Webinars

Innovative Educators®

Innovative Educators.org is offering a complimentary webinar, titled “Creating Successful Partnerships with Parents of First Generation College Students” on Tuesday, April 5th from 1:00-2:30.

The speaker for this webinar is Alexandra Duran, the Director of the Career & College Connections Office at Foothill College-Middlefield Campus in Palo Alto, California and the organizer of Silicon Valley Community Collaborative (SVCC).

This webinar is recommended for administrators in Student Services or Student Affairs, faculty, counselors, or anyone who works with first generation college students.

To register and to find other helpful articles and links, go to the innovativeeducator.org website. The link to the recording of the webinar and any posted documents is available for up to one year, and you are permitted to e-mail it to anyone in your College.

Have a Suggestion?

Newsletter Feedback

Have a great idea for the next issue?

Have helpful tips or strategies?

Know a great article or resource?



Know a Great Book?

Book Recommendations

On your professional book shelf, what book do you find indispensable 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.

E-mail suggestions to our editors: Nicole Tracey at traceyn@bucks.edu, Gina Martino at deda@aol.com, or Verna Fisher at vfisher@lccc.edu.

**National College
Reading & Learning
Association**

President
Karon Mathews
ksmathews@tamu.edu

Past-President
Jane McGrath
janemcgrath@cox.net

President-Elect
Ann Wolf
annwolf@hotmail.com

Treasurer
Joe Barnhill
joe.barnhill@avila.edu

Secretary
Linda Russell
linda.russell@minneapolis.edu

Executive Assistant
Gretchen Starks-Martin
gastarks@stcloudstate.edu

Membership Coordinator
Vicki Papineau
papineau@hamilton.net

NewsNotes Editor
Lindley Workman Alyea
lindley@txstate.edu

Incoming President-Elect &
2011 Conference Chair
Norman Stahl
stahl@niu.edu

Incoming Treasurer
Rosemarie Woodruff
woodruff@hawaii.edu

CRLA Member Services
2900 Finfeather Road
Bryan, TX 77801
crla.net

A Special Thanks...

The Officers would like to extend their gratitude to the following individuals for their efforts in helping with the organizing of this year's conference and with the upcoming elections. They have all played a crucial role, and the Officers greatly appreciate the time they have taken to participate in these worthwhile events!



Our Conference Committee

Nichole Bennett-Bealer
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Upcoming Events

PA/NJ Conference
Friday, March 18, 2011 at
Northampton Community College,
Bethlehem, PA:

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



Free Webinar

Rescheduled to Friday, April 1, 2011 from 2:00pm-3:00pm

“Doing More with Le\$\$ But with More Resourcefulness and with an Accountable Management System” presented by Frank L. Christ

E-mail Suzanne McCarthy at mccarthys@cetenarycollege.edu to register.