



Pennsylvania/ New Jersey Chapter

College Reading & Learning Association

December 2012

PA/NJ Current

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

2013 PA/NJ CRLA Conference Quickly Approaching!

The PA/NJ CRLA Board Members invite you to King’s College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania to attend our next PA/NJ CRLA Conference on March 8, 2013 from 8:30am—3:30pm. The theme of our Conference is:



***“Strategies for Student Achievement:
Embracing New Paths for Active
Learning.”***

More information will be shared as it becomes available. Please refer to the PA/NJ CRLA web-site:

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

Proposal Deadline Extended to January 25, 2013

The PA/NJ CRLA Chapter invites you to submit a proposal for our upcoming annual Spring 2013 Conference on Friday, March 8, 2013 at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA as we continue our tradition of accomplishments, success, and leadership. This is an opportunity to present on active learning practices and/or to facilitate a special interest group.

PA/NJ CRLA Conference Theme: ***Strategies for Student Achievement:
Embracing New Paths for Active Learning”***

Link to submit proposals: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RFQ3JR2>

We welcome returning and new presenters to participate as we prepare for sharing and exchanging the best practices and connecting with our colleagues at our Spring 2013 Conference. Please share this invitation with your fellow colleagues.

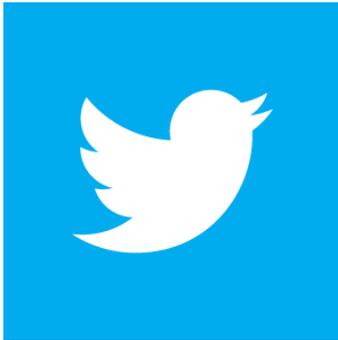
Best Wishes and Happy Holidays!
Larisa Poznahovska



2012-2013 PA/NJ Online Chat Discussions

By Rachel Heiser

On November 16th, PA/NJ CRLA hosted *Engaging Faculty and Academic Departments*, another successful Lunch-Time Chat. Colleagues were offered the opportunity to discuss their personal successes and challenges while engaging faculty, as well as brainstorm new ideas. We hope that you are able to join us for the next Lunch-Time Chat on Friday, April 12th.



National CRLA Twitter Tuesdays returns!

Tuesday, January 22nd at 12:00 (CST)

Topic: Marketing Your Learning Center
Guest Tweeter: Mason Tudor, Academic Support Coordinator
West Kentucky Community and Technical College

To see transcripts of previous Twitter Tuesday chats click <http://www.crla.net/ProfDev/index.htm>

Spring Webinar to be held April 12, 2013

By Larisa Poznahovska

Dr. Daniel Jean, Executive Director of EOF and Academic Development at Montclair State University, will be our presenter at the next Webinar on April 12, 2013. He was our Keynote Speaker at the last PA/NJ CRLA Conference at Montclair State University.

More information will be posted on the Chapter's website as it becomes available!



Dr. Daniel Jean,
Montclair State

Interested in getting more involved with the PA/NJ CRLA? Coordinator positions available!

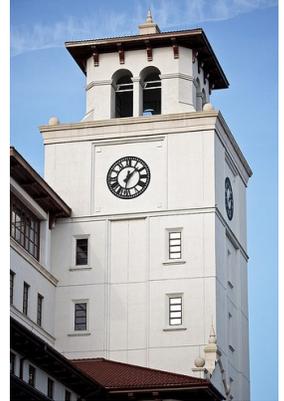
Coordinators for Pennsylvania and New Jersey are responsible for numerous outreach efforts to increase the membership of the region. They also assist with the distribution of promotional materials, invitations to conferences and meetings, as well as other Chapter announcements.

If you are interested, please contact Larisa: poznahovskal@mail.montclair.edu

Successful Cluster Meeting at Montclair State University



On Friday, October 19, 2012, nearly 40 of us gathered at Montclair State University to share best practices during the PA/NJ Cluster Meeting. There were eleven presenters, along with a guest address from Tara Lynn Rienecker, Academic Advisor for Athletics, Intercollegiate Athletics at Montclair State University, who shared with us the details of the Academic Support Program for Athletes. Thank you to Larisa and Montclair State University for hosting



this wonderful event, and thank you to presenters and participants for sharing your knowledge and experiences. We look forward to continuing our conversations this Spring at King's College!

Book Review: *A Pocket Style Manual (6th edition)* by Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers

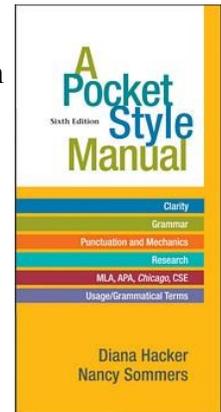
By Meg Eubank, Bucks County Community College

When asked about their favorite Tutoring Center resources, tutors at Bucks County Community College raved about *A Pocket Style Manual* by Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers (ISBN-13: 978-0-312-45275-9), a small grammar and citation manual that sits in an easily accessible (and often visited) place on my desk. The slim volume is a quick and easy go-to reference guide for tutors and students. The clear, simplified table of contents makes it easy to find the topic in question quickly, and color coded sections help save time in accessing information during a tutoring session.

The first half of the book covers grammar and stylistic concerns, providing clear definitions and examples. Each concept follows a simple format that presents the title, a definition, and charts or examples, with any exceptions listed underneath. For example, under the heading "Tense," verb tenses are defined, with an overview of past, present and future tenses and their simple, perfect, and progressive forms. A chart of simple past, present, and future tense examples are outlined under the definition, then charts with the perfect and progressive forms, followed by special uses and exceptions to the rule.

The second half of the reference manual covers research and citation, with color coded sections for MLA, APA, and Chicago-style citations. This section provides notes on supporting a thesis, avoiding plagiarism, integrating sources and quotations, and then reviews documentation. The documentation section outlines easy to view information on in-text citations and the list of works cited with clear headings and visual models of how to find identifying information in a source and pages from a sample of student writing.

These easily accessible features make this manual user friendly for tutors and students alike, providing a helpful reference for questions on grammar or citations.



Student Corner:

By Loveena Williams, Engineering Major at Bucks County Community College

“Teachers are like the candles, which consume themselves to brighten the lives of others.”

- Author Unknown



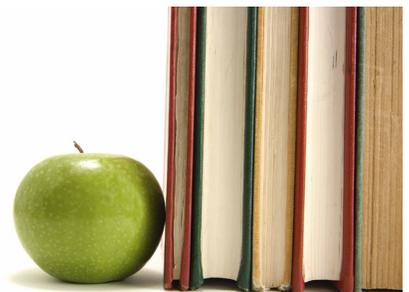
I was one of those students who dreaded writing classes. Hence, writing always remained a challenge for me. I was apprehensive of how I would overcome this fear. This is when the Tutoring Center proved to be the one of the best aids that Bucks offers. The Bucks Tutoring Center provides one on one role model tutors and is tailored to each student's individual needs. As I walked in to the room, the front desk administrative assistants guided me to an ESL tutor which was really helpful because I am an International Student from Qatar where English was my second language. My tutor is inarguably one of the best tutors I have worked with. She helped me to develop a style of writing that I had always been searching for but had never been able to accomplish. I have realized that my essays always end with a message to convey. This was further enhanced by the Tutoring Center staff who took several strides in shaping and molding my writing style.

My tutor adopted several strategies that helped me in my writing process. Asking several questions in order to develop a clear thesis was one of the most useful methods. She made use of this method whenever I was exposed to a new topic. She asked me several questions about the topic, and this of course enlarged my knowledge about the subject and narrowed down my ideas. This provided me another benefit as well. I learned to research extensively, gather credible information and cite sources in the right format (a pet peeve for every writing student). My tutor made every session a learning and entertaining process. Something different that I observed in her was how she would teach from a student's perspective, especially when I had to deal with complex concepts and had trouble constructing them. She would assist me in phrasing the complex concepts into simplified statements, thus making it much easier to follow and comprehend.

Truly, I am grateful to the Tutoring Center staff for all the relentless efforts that they have taken in assisting each student. The tutors are so dedicated, patient and understanding of every individual's weakness and help students overcome them. They possess strong faith and belief in every student which is where the journey to success in not just writing, but every field begins.

Have a successful learning experience you would like to share? Let us know!

Email humphrie@bucks.edu for our next Student Corner!



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The Newsletter needs your help!



Please consider submitting or encouraging others to submit something for one of the segments mentioned below.

Please send submissions to editors
Lauren Humphries: humphrie@bucks.edu or Verna Fisher: vfisher@lccc.edu

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 humphrie@bucks.edu.

Student Corner

Do you know a student who has had a great experience with the Support Services at your institution? Invite them to tell us about it! We hope that these stories will provide a student view of the work we do to help us better understand what we are doing well, and what can be done better!

Tutor Corner

As the title suggests, this will be an area for tutors to share successful strategies, insightful observations, and challenging experiences. It is our hope that tutors can use this as an opportunity to share learning experiences and to offer an opportunity for readers to learn from them.

Math Corner

Do you have a helpful, math-specific tip to share? This area is meant as an opportunity for Math area professionals and tutors to share valuable resources, technology ideas, and educational strategies.

Learning Center Chat

Is there an issue affecting your Learning Center that you'd like to open for discussion? Perhaps later in the year, you'd like to continue one of the conversations started in one of the Online Chats or Chapter gatherings. Submit your conversation starter to Verna Fisher: vfisher@lccc.edu. We will collect the responses and post them in the next issue.