



NewsNotes

College Reading & Learning Association

May 2009

Volume XXXIII, Issue 2



President's Corner: Challenges and Solutions

By President Jane McGrath

EDUCAUSE, the nonprofit association whose mission is to advance higher education by promoting the intelligent use of information technology, has posted the results of a months-long, spirited discussion to identify 2009's [top five challenges in teaching](#) and learning with technology.

1. Creating learning environments that promote active learning, critical thinking, collaborative learning, and knowledge creation.
2. Developing 21st century literacies (information, digital, and visual) among students and faculty.
3. Reaching and engaging today's learner.
4. Encouraging faculty adoption and innovation in teaching and learning with IT.
5. Advancing innovation in teaching and learning with technology in an era of budget cuts.

If we deleted “with IT” in #4 and “with technology” in #5, I believe these are the top five challenges in teaching and learning for any year in any venue!

Of course, identifying challenges without identifying solutions isn't productive.

If we are to find solutions to overcome these challenges we all — you, me, and our colleagues — must gather virtually and in-person to brainstorm and dialog and network. We must write informally and professionally about strategies that are working in our classrooms and labs, research we are conducting, and resources we have discovered. We must find ways to contribute to and participate in professional development activities such as our October conference in Richmond, Special Interest Groups, and State/Region/Chapter groups.

In this issue

<i>President's Corner</i>	1
<i>Keynote Speakers</i>	2
<i>Richmond's History</i>	4
<i>CAS Symposium</i>	5
<i>CAS Standards New Edition</i>	5
<i>CRLA Journal in HEA</i>	6
<i>CRLA Leadership Opportunities</i>	7
<i>Who's That Woman?</i>	8
<i>CRLA Member Discount</i>	9
<i>Call for Manuscripts</i>	10
<i>WGBH Media Library Archives</i>	11
<i>How Important ARE Evaluations?</i>	12
<i>New Reporting Process</i>	12
<i>Leader Discount</i>	13
<i>Meet Ann Wolf</i>	13
<i>Meet Linda Russell</i>	15
<i>Scholarship and Award Opportunities</i>	16
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	18
<i>Discount Form</i>	19

President's Corner: Challenges and Solutions, *continued*

As members of CRLA, our commitment to finding innovative ways to improve student achievement, promote quality teaching, and motivate students will ensure the field has solutions to not only meet 2009 challenges, but those in the years ahead.

“Extraordinary individuals take one step back and two steps forward with most every challenge—and sometimes two steps back to one step forward. They harvest useful lessons and knowledge from what doesn't work, and they display a remarkable resiliency.”

Jerry Porras. *Success Built to Last: Creating a Life that Matters*, page 9.

Keynote Speakers Set for CRLA National Conference

By Peggy Samson

Your conference planning committee has been working hard to prepare an outstanding program for the 2009 National Conference in Richmond, Virginia, October 28 – 31. This year's schedule, developed around the theme of “Foundations for Success in Times of Change,” will include leadership teams and general membership meetings, institutes, sessions, and informal networking. If you haven't yet done so, mark your calendars now and make plans to attend. Reconnect with colleagues and enjoy Virginia's warm hospitality and colorful fall foliage—all guaranteed to leave you refreshed and reenergized!

The conference program will focus on the current challenges for higher education within a dramatically altered economic climate, and how higher education educators can manage change in facilitating student success. Highlighting the program to discuss these challenges are two keynote presenters scheduled to address the CRLA membership.

Principal keynote speaker for the conference is Dr. Constance Staley, Professor of Communication at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, who will present at the first general session and breakfast on Thursday, October 29 starting at 8 a.m. This event will be a plated breakfast included in registration fees. Holding B.S., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in Communication, Dr. Stanley was a 1995-96 Fulbright Scholar and a 1998 recipient of her institution's *Outstanding Teacher Award*. She spent several years in management with a Fortune 500 company and is the author of several books, including three just-published first-year seminar textbooks. Dr. Stanley's address to CRLA, “Charting the Course: Navigating the Winds of Change in Higher Education,” will discuss how we, as college educators, must do more than *adapt* in moving forward in the midst of shrinking budgets, shifting enrollments, and mounting anxiety about higher education.

“A goal without a plan is just a wish.”

—Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Keynote Speakers, continued

Supporting keynote speaker for the conference is Dr. Daniel J. LaVista, Executive Director for the Virginia State Council of Higher Education, who will speak during the third general session on Saturday, October 31, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. This session is a ticketed event in addition to general registration fees, and will include a preview of the CRLA 2010 National Conference in Salt Lake City and installation of new officers.

Dr. LaVista's presentation, "Foundations for Success—the Higher Education Road Map" will offer his insights from both a "Virginia" and a national perspective about the most current issues in higher education—a unique viewpoint derived from his working knowledge of the Virginia General Assembly and the federal programs he oversees for the state. As Executive Director, Dr. LaVista coordinates Virginia's public two- and four-year institutions, the Virginia Community College System, and over 100 private and out-of-state institutions. Prior to his current appointment in 2004, he served as Executive Director for the Illinois Board of Education and held executive posts with community college systems. He also served as Associate Professor of Theater at Illinois State University. He holds a Ph.D. in Speech and Dramatic Arts from Syracuse University.

Dr. Staley and Dr. LaVista will headline an impressive lineup of sessions and activities, for a conference that promises "inspiration, information, and motivation." Complete details and registration information will be available on the [CRLA website](#) in coming weeks. Your CRLA Board looks forward to seeing you in Richmond!

"Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire, you will what you imagine and at last you create what you will."

—George Bernard Shaw

Robert Griffin Award for Long and Outstanding Service

***Know a CRLA member who has given exemplary service to CRLA?
Nominate someone by August 1, 2009 online at
<http://www.crla.net/scholarships&awards.htm>***

For more information, email Gretchen Starks-Martin at gastarks@stcloudstate.edu

Robert Griffin Award for Long and Outstanding Service. This prestigious award goes to a current CRLA member with at least ten years of membership and sustained service in a state/regional/chapter group, Special Interest Group, committee, or at the annual conference. Self-nominations are encouraged. Nominations should be sent on-line by **August 1st**. The CRLA Board of Directors makes the final decision.

Richmond: Rich in US History

By Jack Trammel, On Site Co-Chair

Welcome to Richmond for CRLA 2009. Richmond, the current capital of Virginia and home to many of America's earliest stories, was not always central to life in Virginia. Situated on the fall line between the piedmont and tidewater geographic regions, the hills that now comprise Richmond were originally the site of small native villages and deep forests, largely inhabited by white tailed deer and other local wildlife. John Smith was one of the first Europeans to scout the area when he traveled up the James River from the Jamestown settlement.



Today, CRLA members will be visiting a city that was a birthplace of the American Revolution; your hotel room will be a few blocks away from the church where Patrick Henry delivered his famous "Give me liberty, or give me death" speech (St. John's Church, pictured at right). From your window, you will look down the same hills leading to the river that were consumed by flames as the Confederate army left near the end of the Civil War. Just a few blocks away is the famous equestrian statue of George Washington and capitol building designed by Thomas Jefferson. Come to Richmond this fall, and visit the CRLA conference website for more information!



CAS Assessment Symposium in Fall 2009

By Karen Agee and Becky Johnen, CRLA's Representatives to CAS

Whether you are preparing for an accreditation visit, conducting a self-study, justifying the effectiveness and efficiency of your program, or assessing program components, the upcoming CAS symposium can help you become an expert in program assessment.

The Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS) has announced an upcoming National Symposium, November 15-17, 2009, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Washington, DC: CAS Standards, Self-Assessment, and Student Learning Outcomes in Higher Education. The goal of the national symposium is to strengthen the higher education community's understanding of CAS standards and guidelines.

In addition to a pre-workshop on "CAS Basics," this symposium will offer nationally recognized speakers, roundtable discussions, and "hands on" learning opportunities. One topic of particular interest is likely to be the new CAS student learning and development outcomes, now organized into six "domains" with multiple "dimensions." Other topics will include finding the right assessment tools, training staff to conduct assessment, writing learning outcomes, and organizing a division-wide assessment. To maximize learning outcomes for participants, symposium registration will be limited to 300.

For more information about the symposium or to register, visit the [CAS website](#), or contact CAS Executive Director Phyllis Mable at (202) 862-1400.

New Edition of CAS Standards: August 1

By Karen Agee and Becky Johnen

Phyllis Mable, Executive Director of the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS), has announced that CAS will suspend all sales of its old publications effective June 1, 2009, and will start taking orders for its new publications to be released on August 1. In the interim, if colleagues want to purchase current publications, they should realize the 6th edition of the *CAS Professional Standards for Higher Education* will be replaced with a 7th edition.

The 7th Edition will contain the complete set of 39 functional area standards and guidelines, the Statement of Shared Ethics, and the Characteristics of Excellence to guide all professionals. In addition, the new edition will include standards and guidelines for Masters Degree Student Affairs Preparation Programs.

"Teachers open the door. You enter by yourself."

~Chinese proverb

New Edition of CAS Standards, continued

Additions since the 6th edition will be standards and guidelines for Auxiliary Services, Adult Learner Programs, Graduate and Professional Student Programs, Dining Services, and Undergraduate Research Programs.

Of particular interest to CRLA members, the functional area standards and guidelines for **Learning Assistance Programs** and for **TRIO and Other Educational Opportunity Programs** have been updated from the previous edition of the Book of Standards. Other updated standards are those for Assessment Services, Campus Activities, International Student Programs, Registrar, and Recreational Sports. Each updated standard now includes a technology section.

Version 4.0 of the CD that contains all the Self-Assessment Guides (SAGs) will also be released on August 1. In addition to containing all of the Self-Assessment Guides, the CD contains a PowerPoint for teaching about self-assessment as well as an e-learning course explaining how self-assessment is conducted for student learning and development.

Contact Phyllis Mable at (202) 862-1400. See latest CAS news on the [CAS website](#).

CRLA Journal in the Higher Education Abstracts!

JCRL, the CRLA journal, is now included in the *Higher Education Abstracts*. Why is this good thing? The *Abstracts*, published by Claremont Graduate University, are considered to be one of the best research tools we have in higher education. Although other abstracts do include research in higher education, none focuses solely on it. Because of that focus, it is a publication that anyone in higher education would certainly rely on for comprehensive access to research publications. As the website states, “*Higher Education Abstracts* covers more than 200 journals in the fields of education, computer sciences, management, psychology, sociology, and law; papers read at meetings of major education and social sciences conferences; books published by all major higher education publishers; and research reports issued by professional organizations, government agencies, and foundations. Coverage includes materials from the United States and Canada and from foreign publications printed in English.” (<http://highereducationabstracts.org/>)

We each might consider checking our institution’s library to see if it subscribes to either the *Abstracts* or *JCRL*. It can’t hurt to ask!

Congratulations to Diana Bell for her leadership as *JCRL* editor!

CRLA Leadership Opportunities 2009

The CRLA President and Board of Directors seek members to assume the following leadership positions in the organization. You must be a member of CRLA to apply.

Conference Sessions Evaluator

The Conference Sessions Evaluator is responsible for working with the President-Elect to create and provide evaluation forms for each breakout session and Institute at the conference. The Evaluator writes a conference evaluation report after the annual conference, analyzing the results. The term of office is three years. Position begins October 31, 2009; deadline for application is June 1st.

Executive Assistant

The Executive Assistant creates and maintains the information infrastructure to support the CRLA Board of Director's activities and actions, with a focus on smooth transitions for incoming officers. The Executive Assistant serves as the Parliamentarian for the Board of Directors and as the liaison with the Past Officer's Council in that group's role as Bylaws Committee. The Executive Assistant maintains job descriptions and a policies and procedures manual. He or she must have served as a past officer of CRLA (President preferred) and have been a CRLA member for seven or more years. The term of office is three years. Position begins October 31, 2009; deadline for application is June 1st.



Let's all pull together!

NewsNotes Editor

The *NewsNotes* editor is responsible for publication of CRLA *NewsNotes*, solicits articles, edits copy, and oversees distribution. The editor serves as an ex-officio, non-voting CRLA Board member. Position begins October 31, 2009; deadline for application is June 1st.

Region Leader for Wyoming/Colorado. The duties of Regional Leaders are those necessary to coordinate CRLA activities in the region. These duties include but are not limited to membership recruitment, communication among local members, communication between the Board and the local membership, liaison with appropriate professional organizations whose membership is similar to that of CRLA, and organization of local conferences. The term of office is three years for a Region Leader. This position will be open until filled.

CRLA Leadership Opportunities, continued

Special Interest Group Leader (SIG) for Mathematics. The SIG leader's duties include but are not limited to producing at least two mailings to the SIG membership (before and after the annual conference), soliciting input from SIG members concerning the design and agenda of the SIG meeting at the annual conference, providing information for the CRLA *NewsNotes* newsletter, and working with the CRLA conference chair to promote the conference. The term of office is two years and is renewable. This position will be open until filled.

Application Process

If you have questions about these positions, contact Gretchen Starks-Martin, Executive Assistant to the Board, at gastarks@stcloudstate.edu. To apply for a position, email these materials to CRLA President Jane McGrath at janemcgrath@cox.net:

1. Letter of application for the position;
2. Résumé or brief listing of qualifications;
3. Letter of institutional support (referencing travel funding, staff time, release time, and/or technology the department/institution will provide, as well as confirmation support for the candidate's CRLA responsibilities).
4. If institutional support is not needed, please state this in the letter of application.

Send name, address, email, phone, or institution changes or corrections to Vicki Papineau, Membership Coordinator:
vpapineau@cccneb.edu
papineau@hamilton.net

Who's That Woman in Fuchsia?

By Kate O'Dell

On page five of the January *NewsNotes*, you saw photographs of some folks who received awards at the Cleveland Conference. The one in the pink jacket is me, Kate O'Dell. I want to take this opportunity to note that I'm in the picture because CRLA bestowed on me the Robert Griffin Award for Long and Outstanding Service, permitting me to join the stellar company of 26 others who have been so honored since 1992. I'm also writing to thank CRLA members with a bit more eloquence than I achieved that night. I was so surprised that, as the cliché goes, I was almost speechless. In fact, when my name was announced, I just sat in my chair for a moment or two until my brain registered what I had heard!



Who's That Woman in Fuchia, continued

My first CRLA Conference was in 1978 when we shared the great adventure of making the newly-renovated Queen Mary into a meeting place. I quickly realized that this group was very different from others in my professional experience up to that point. Presenters not only shared their secrets, they made sure everyone carried home whole suitcases full of stuff and wrote down phone numbers. So, even though I'm extremely honored to receive the Robert Griffin Award, it's really [lagniappe](#) after all the years filled with gifts of head, heart, and spirit that CRLA members have offered me. When I look at the elegant plaque, I remember those faces and voices who have enriched my life for 30 years, and the only phrase that comes to mind is, in fact, I couldn't have done it without you.

The Chinese use two brush strokes to write the word 'crisis.' One brush stroke stands for danger; the other for opportunity. In a crisis, be aware of the danger - but recognize the opportunity
--John F. Kennedy

CRLA Members: A Special Discount Offer

The College Reading and Learning Association and the National Center for Developmental Education are pleased to continue their collaborative efforts which result in current CRLA members receiving the *Journal of Developmental Education* (JDE) and/or *Research in Developmental Education* (RIDE) at a special discount rate.

The JDE features articles specifically aimed at practitioners working to improve student learning, especially with at-risk, nontraditional, or underprepared college students. Published three times each academic year, the JDE serves as a forum for educators concerned with the practice, theory, research, and news of the postsecondary developmental education and learning assistance communities.

Research in Developmental Education is printed in a single article, newsletter format with four issues per volume. Articles summarize and synthesize research that influences practice in the fields of developmental education and learning assistance.

These excellent publications combined with the *Journal of College Reading and Learning* and the CRLA Newsletter, which all CRLA members receive, will keep you on the cutting edge of the latest developments in postsecondary reading, learning assistance, developmental education, and tutorial services. We encourage you to join us in subscribing to JDE and RIDE. At the end of this newsletter is a form you may use to subscribe. There is a June 30 deadline.

Call for Manuscripts: *Handbook for Training Peer Tutors and Mentors*

The current (2003) edition of *CRLA's Tutor Training Handbook* has been very popular. Membership Coordinator Vicki Papineau estimates that more than 2,100 copies of the 2003 revised edition have been sold. Other organizations, such as the Association for the Teaching Profession (ATP) and the National College Learning Center Association (NCLCA), have recommended the *Handbook* to their members. However, the CRLA Board more than a year ago noted the need for an updated edition.

The 2003 edition was an ambitious renovation of the original *Tutor Training Handbook*. Editor Susan Deese-Roberts not only urged citation of appropriate references and regularized many aspects of the writing but also solicited new articles to expand and improve on the first edition. Now that International Tutor Program Certification (ITPC) has updated requirements for program certification, the handbook needs to provide new training ideas for an even wider variety of activities and training modes. To this end, the CRLA Board recently approved a proposal to update and expand the handbook.

The proposed handbook will be co-edited by longtime CRLA members Karen Agee and Russ Hodges. In April, CRLA's Media Advisory Board and the executive board approved a proposal submitted by Agee and Hodges to edit a new handbook. On suggestion by President Jane McGrath and International Mentor Program Certification (IMPC) visionaries Jenny Smith and Sue Brown, this new edition will also include mentor training topics.

Ninety-six chapters are waiting to be written! See the list of chapters and instructions for submitting your one-page proposals at the Call for Manuscripts link on the [CRLA website](#). One-page proposals are due no later than June 22, so please start thinking and writing today. Share your expertise with others and author a chapter in the new, expanded handbook.



Do you have tutors that should be recognized for their work? Visit <http://www.crla.net/tutorcert.htm> for ITPC pins.

WGBH Media Library and Archives Announces Findings of Assessment for Scholarly Use

By Karen Frasca

The WGBH Media Library and Archives has made available the findings of its Assessment for Scholarly Use, an examination of the public broadcaster's television and radio holdings that date back 50 years. Funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the project sought to determine the educational value of WGBH's archival collection for academic research and instruction by designing a model assessment tool and methodology available to any organization seeking to survey its audio-visual collections.

The report and model assessment tool are now available at Open Vault, a searchable online digital library featuring 1,200 multimedia clips drawn from WGBH programming. To access the report and tool, click on "About Us" at <http://openvault.wgbh.org>. Visitors can also participate in a discussion forum where they can post comments and responses.

At the start of the evaluation, the MLA housed approximately 29,000 programs and 570,000 associated production media and documents. Through this project, staff completed the evaluation of all WGBH qualifying television programs and radio series as well as the WGBH Forum Network (an online archive of public lectures). Results show that the majority of WGBH's archived holdings assessed have enduring value for academic audiences.

"We are excited by these results and hope that WGBH's extensive media archives will make important contributions to scholarship and classroom learning in the future," said MLA Director Karen Cariani. "We also hope that other organizations will adopt and adapt this assessment tool for their collections' needs and invite them to share their feedback on our discussion forum."

This is the first stage of the MLA's Digital Library project, a proposed three-phase endeavor to create an online resource that provides scholars and educators access to WGBH archival content with research and classroom value. With the continued support of the Mellon Foundation, WGBH is currently working on Phase Two of the Digital Library, building a prototype specific to researchers' needs in order to deliver archive content to scholars. This phase will be complete in the summer of 2009.

Questions? Contact Karen Frasca at Karen_frascona@wgbh.org.



*TEACHING: the earth
doesn't move every
time, but when it does,
what a RUSH!*

*~Cameron
Beatty*

Just How Important ARE Those Conference Evaluations?

By Karon Mathews

Last year's conference evaluation was online for the first time. There was an overwhelming response with 68% of the attendees completing the evaluation.

While it would be impossible to address every comment, we are working on many, such as providing the ability to pay registration fees online by credit card, avoiding scheduling conflicts, and making the program book helpful in planning which sessions to attend. When feasible, some of the suggestions will be implemented for this year's event and others, such as credit card payment of registration fees, are being addressed by the CRLA Board of Directors. In planning the conference schedule, we are trying our best to avoid scheduling conflicts with other conference responsibilities such as SIG meetings, committee meetings, time to tour the exhibits, etc. The conference program book may see a few changes for the 2009 Richmond conference.

Evaluations offer conference planners constructive comments from year to year and we continue to address your needs and wishes. Of particular help are your recommendations for keynote speakers. Additionally helpful are your suggestions for future conference sites. Our favorite this year was the suggestion to convene in Hawaii with Oprah headlining the event!

New Reporting Process for SIG and S/R/C Leaders

In past years SIG and S/R/C Leaders were asked to submit an annual report on September 1st. Unfortunately, that form and timing was not gathering useful information at a useful time. To be more informed about and supportive of these activities, the Board is piloting a new form and two reporting dates. The first report, covering January–June, will be due to the Coordinator of SIGs and S/R/Cs on **June 15** and the second report, covering July–December, will be due **December 15**.



CRLA Executive Board

President

Jane McGrath

janemcgrath@cox.net

President Elect

Karon Mathews

k-mathews@tamu.edu

Treasurer

Joe Barnhill

joe.barnhill@avila.edu

Secretary

Ed Fernandez

malc@mail.utexas.edu

Executive Assistant

Gretchen Starks-Martin

gastarks@stcloudstate.edu

Membership Coordinator

Vicki Papineau

papineau@hamilton.net

vpapineau@cccneb.edu

NewsNotes Editor

Linda Russell

Linda.russell@minneapolis.edu

2009 Pilot Conference Discount Program for Leaders



As a small token of thanks for the wonderful work SIG and S/R/C Leaders do throughout the year, CRLA will provide a \$100.00 Richmond Conference registration fee discount for one Leader in each in geographic area and SIG. Leaders will submit a Fee Discount Application with their biannual report on June 15, 2009. A maximum of \$100 will be awarded to any Leader.

Meet Ann Wolf: 2010 President-Elect and Passionate Educator

By Karen Agee

Ann Wolf was recently elected President-Elect for 2010 and Conference Chair for CRLA's Salt Lake City conference next year. She is already making plans, and many of them are related to literacy and techno-literacy. Ann Wolf's professional passion, she said in a recent interview, "is literacy in every way, shape, and form." Whether we're teaching college students or prospective teachers, we should remember that our work is going to ripple out to benefit "not just our students but their children and their families." How vital is it that we teach literacy at the highest level? As Ann puts it, "the reading skills we provide help the next generation to be successful in the world."



Looking at the bigger picture in this way is characteristic of Ann's approach. When she served CRLA as treasurer, she considered the implications of the Board's actions on members, colleagues, and the field of learning assistance and developmental education. Ann sees the work of CRLA as to "acknowledge the work that others in higher education do. All of us need to work together to create productive citizens. That's what CRLA is all about: helping each other to be better teachers, mentors, tutors, administrators."

For Ann, we develop ourselves as professionals by attending conferences, reading CRLA's *Journal of College Reading and Learning*, and joining SIGs in our areas of interest. Now that new exigencies restrict conference travel for many members, CRLA will need to continue exploring other opportunities for CRLA members to connect with each other. Ann notes that CRLA has already begun to "explore ways that technology can be introduced to connect our members," like our conference keynote podcast last year, for those who couldn't attend the conference, and the Technology SIG's blogs.

Meet Ann Wolf, continued

“Everybody wants to attend conference institutes and sessions offered by the Brain-Based Learning SIG, and information technologies may make this possible. Great presentations at the many state/region/chapter conferences could also be shared with more CRLA members through virtual conferencing. The summer institutes of TIDE may help provide the means.”

Has Ann always been a teacher? “I started out as a pre-pharmacy major at the University of Iowa. My mom was a pharmacist, but I couldn’t see myself spending my life standing behind the counter at a drugstore. I really didn’t know what I wanted to do, but I’d been really happy with my summer job teaching sailing at a yacht club.” Family members suggested that she go into teaching as a career. At first she resisted: “Not one of those traditional women’s jobs!” She considered teaching nursing, but then decided that if she were going to spend five years of her life in school, she wanted it to count for something.

Ann’s first fulltime teaching job was in New Jersey, teaching basic skills reading and math. A large number of students had not been passing the state test, and the state legislature decided that people with elementary certifications had sufficient basic skills backgrounds to teach these middle-school and high-school students. After the first year, Ann realized, “if I’m going to do the quality of job I want to do, I have to start back to school and learn more.” In a couple of summers, she had achieved a master’s degree in reading. After several relocations for her husband’s career, she arrived in Colorado and discovered that she wouldn’t be permitted to teach elementary school there without taking at least a year of coursework. Instead, she found that the University of Northern Colorado had a doctoral program in reading. “I loved reading so much that I decided to work for a doctorate in it.” Along the path of lifelong learning, Ann also taught developmental education courses at the Community College of Denver.

While Ann was working on that doctorate, she had the good fortune to serve as graduate assistant for Jo-Ann Mullen, then Chair of a multicultural grant with USWEST at Northern Colorado and fellow literacy guru. (Longtime members of CRLA know that Jo-Ann was Executive Editor of the *Journal of College Reading and Learning*, 1987-92, chaired the 1993 conference in Overland Park, KS—yes, the one that began with a tornado—and served as 1993-94 CRLA President.) Ann says, “Through her I became a member of CRLA,” and reports that her mentor, Jo-Ann, has agreed to serve as chairperson of Lunch with a Mentor at Ann’s conference.

Ann welcomes email and phone calls and hopes you will share with her what your vision is for CRLA. She’d like us to help her “get to the point that I can be a facilitator not only in teaching but now in leading.” You can reach her at awolf@lynn.edu.

Meet Linda Russell: Secretary 2009-2011

By Karen Agee



Linda Russell was recently elected to office and will succeed Ed Fernandez as Secretary on October 31. We have great faith in Linda's ability to take notes and write Board meeting minutes because she has most recently served CRLA as a skilled and sensitive reporter and editor of *CRLA NewsNotes*.

Not that Linda intended to do any of this when she started college. Initially, she said in a recent interview, she was interested in studying language, attending the University of Minnesota because it was the only available institution with a major in linguistics. Once in the major, though, she found her English classes more satisfying than linguistics. She says, "What I really enjoyed later turned into ESL, but they didn't have ESL back then!" In graduate school, she continued to develop her interest in literacy teaching and became a teacher of reading with a minor in ESL. As she reflects on her career path, she reports, "All along, my original interest in linguistics was really more focused on teaching. Pure linguistics can be detached, but teaching is all about people. Of course, I couldn't have articulated that at the time."

Of the 20 years Linda has taught at Minneapolis Community and Technical College, 16 of them have included teaching in the Learning Center as part or all of her load. Last summer her assignment was changed; faculty development, which she had taken on six years ago, became her major responsibility. She will complete this assignment in one more year, and then she looks forward to returning to the Reading department to teach reading and study skills.

Does Linda enjoy the ambience of a downtown campus? "What I like about Minneapolis Community and Technical College is the incredible diversity in the student population. I have learned so much about the world from our students, so much about other cultures. We ride the wave of whatever group of immigrants arrives. Twenty years ago, there were many Southeast Asians in the ESL program. Then came the Ethiopians, Russians, and Eastern Europeans. Now we have a large group of Somalis. It is unfortunate that most came because of sorrowful events in their home countries. I sometimes hear them talking about the troubles back home, but they also have so much hope. They value education and see it as their way to get to a better life. It is a privilege to be part of their lives."

NewsNotes is published three times a year: January 15, May 15, and September 15.

Editorial Board:

Dorothy Bonser

Maggi Miller

Linda Russell

Diane Von Blerkom

See [Publication Guidelines](#) for submission information and dates.

Meet Linda Russell, continued

Linda mentioned other students, too, that come to her campus, including older students who decide after their children have left home that it is finally *their* turn to go to school. “It is such a rich and diverse environment here,” Linda reports.

Linda usually commutes to campus by bus but recently started riding the 10 miles each way by bike a day or two per week. She waits until spring arrives and sleet season is over before starting the bicycle commute in Minneapolis.

As *NewsNotes* editor, Linda has participated in Board conference calls and face-to-face meetings, but in her new role she realizes she must be “as accurate as possible, so as to preserve and present an important historical record.” She wants to learn more about the roles of each board member, read past minutes and the Policies & Procedures, and become more knowledgeable about the history of CRLA. “As a non-voting member, there has been less pressure to read every email and every document carefully. Now, if I’m going to cast a vote, I must be informed.”

Another aspect of Board service Linda anticipates is the “exciting benefit of sometimes representing CRLA around the country.” Because Linda enjoys meeting people from elsewhere, serving as Secretary will be the perfect opportunity to get to know more members and hear about others’ interests, and she looks forward to attending TIDE to find cutting-edge solutions to the Board’s concerns for keeping everyone connected.

We will miss Linda’s leadership of CRLA’s newsletter but look forward to her continued influence and participation in CRLA as secretary.

Thought flows in terms of stories - stories about events, stories about people, and stories about intentions and achievements. The best teachers are the best story tellers. We learn in the form of stories.

~Frank Smith

2009 Scholarship and Award Opportunities

By Leta Tyhurst

Are you looking for funding for institutes, graduate study, research, or the CRLA Conference? You can apply online at www.crla.net. Click on ‘search’ and then ‘scholarships and awards’ for all the information. Institute, graduate study, and research scholarships are available, as well as a Cengage travel award for teachers of reading at a community college. You can also nominate someone for the distinguished teaching award. The deadline is August 1, 2009. Email Leta Tyhurst at Leta.Tyhurst@mcckc.edu for further information or questions.

COE and TRIO Update

By Susan Brown

The Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) works with colleges, universities and other agencies that have TRIO programs to help low-income students be successful in post secondary education. The TRIO programs are funded through the U.S. Department of Education. Two of the TRIO programs, Student Support Services and the Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program, specifically work with students enrolled in higher education.

The task of the excellent teacher is to stimulate "apparently ordinary" people to unusual effort. The tough problem is not in identifying winners: it is in making winners out of ordinary people.

~K. Patricia Cross

Student Support Services provides tutoring, mentoring, personal and financial counseling, academic assistance, and instruction in reading, writing, study skills and mathematics. The McNair program assists undergraduate students to prepare for doctoral studies by doing such things as helping participants understand the culture of graduate school, providing a mentor, assisting them with GRE preparation, developing their research, writing and presentation skills, providing them an opportunity to present and publish their findings and assisting them in applying for admission to doctoral programs.

Hundreds of TRIO staff, students and alumni participated in COE's 29th Annual Policy Seminar in Washington D.C. in March. Together they advocated increasing TRIO funding by \$120 million in fiscal year 2010. Congress has recently increased by \$500 the maximum amount of money that low-income students can receive for their Pell Grants. An increase to TRIO will provide needed academic support to more of these low income students to better ensure their success in completing post secondary education.

The Council's 28th Annual Conference, *College Opportunity: A National Investment*, will be held September 9-12, 2009, in San Antonio, Texas at the Grand Hyatt. Information on the conference can be found at <http://www.coenet.us>.

Sue Brown is the Professional Association Liaison (PAL) for COE. She can be reached at subrown@nmsu.edu.

Upcoming Events

May 20—Supplemental Instruction (SI) Regional Conference at Texas A & M University, College Station, TX. Contact [Karon Mathews](#)

May 31—Tom Pasternack Outstanding Tutor Award Nomination deadline

May 29—North West Tutoring conference at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, OR. [Contact Jennifer Carmichael](#)

June 1—SIG and S/R/C Leaders requests for projects / activities deadline. [Contact Jane McGrath](#)

June 1—Membership deadline for "member" rates for conference registration (Membership paid after this date is applied to next membership year)

June 27-July 24—[Kellogg Institute](#) at Appalachian University, Boone, NC

July—Call to Conference posted on website

July 26-31—[Advanced Kellogg](#) at Appalachian University, Boone, NC

July 26-31—[Technology Institute for Developmental Educators \(TIDE\)](#) at Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

August 1—Deadline for CRLA Professional Development scholarship and awards nominations

August 1—Conference Program advertisement deadline including CLADEA reciprocal agreement ads; Publishers sponsorship deadline

August 1—Deadline for Robert Griffin Long & Outstanding Service Award nominations

August 15—Copy deadline for September 2009 *NewsNotes*

September—*NewsNotes* published

September 25-26—[Minnesota / South Dakota / North Dakota \(MNADE\) conference](#) in Rochester, MN. [Contact Victoria Williams](#)

Discount Subscription Form

The College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) offers discounted subscriptions to the *Journal of Developmental Education (JDE)* and *Research in Developmental Education (RIDE)* as a membership benefit. We encourage you to take advantage of this offer to expand your professional reading with this award winning publication. To subscribe, please fill out the form below, include payment in full (to the National Center for Developmental Education), and send to:

National Center for Developmental Education, Publications
ASU Box 32098
Boone , NC 28608

Journal of Developmental Education (3 issues/yr.) Volume 32

\$29.70, 1 yr. subscription (regular fee \$33)

Research in Developmental Education (4 issues/yr.) Volume 22

\$12.75, 1 yr. subscription (regular fee \$15)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Signature _____ Total

Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to: National Center for Developmental Education
Canada and international subscribers add \$6 year for shipping

Deadline: June 30, 2009